

The Spring Migration

March 1—May 31, 1981

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, ∅: 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

The spring of 1981 was generally warmer than average with each of the season's three months registering above average temperatures. Interestingly, there was no apparent trend of migrants arriving earlier than usual. Aside from a few early records, most birds kept to their schedules. The unabated mild weather in April and May created few heavy migratory pulses; rather, birds filtered north in continual although less readily discernible numbers. Observers regionwide agreed that May 25 produced the largest single flight. Additionally, noticeable numbers were observed on Cape Cod on April 18 and 30 and Rhode Island reporters recorded a sizable movement May 14th.

The migration experienced a definite western flavor this spring with an unprecedented flight of Pectoral Sandpipers, three Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, a Say's Phoebe, a Black-throated Gray Warbler and a Western Meadowlark. Conversely, southern overshoots were disappointingly few.

The Common Cuckoo on Martha's Vineyard was the season's most unexpected bird. No doubt the most significant event of the spring surrounded the astonishing numbers of Pectoral Sandpipers which frequented Massachusetts.

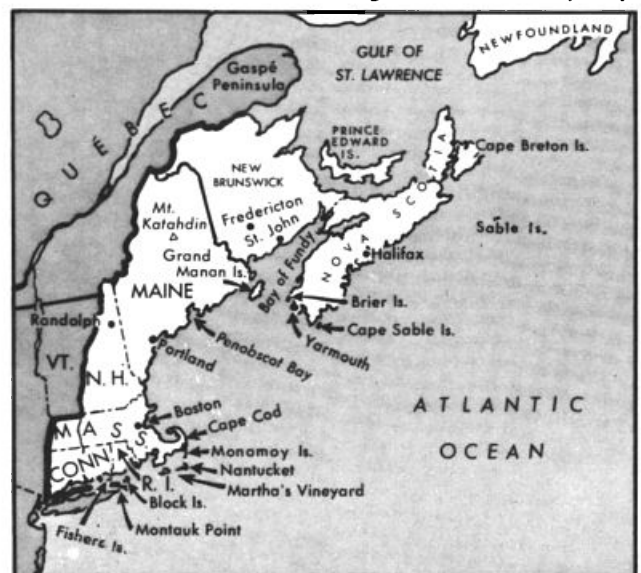
LOONS, GREBES—Approximately 125 migrant Com. Loons were noted in Cape Cod Bay Apr. 18 (*fide* RPE) while the following day 99 Com. Loons and 105 Red-throated Loons were counted passing Pt. Judith, R.I. (RLF, *fide* DLE). A single Arctic Loon was unique this season at Rye, N.H., Apr. 19 (WWF *et al.*). The only sizable flock of Red-necked Grebes reported included a meagre 90 individuals off Manomet, Mass., Apr. 14 (*fide* RPE).

TUBENOSES, CORMORANTS—Northern Fulmars on George's Banks were less numerous than in the past few years. This may possibly indicate a retreat from the large numbers observed the previous summers (*fide* RGG). Conversely, a Cory's Shearwater off Muskeget I., Mass., May 31 was startlingly early and may have presaged yet another impressive summer for this species (RSH).

A census in Boston harbor counted a record 1445 Great Cormorants Mar. 8 and established, presumably, a new

North American high (WRP *et al.*). Bob Conway's careful observations from several coastal Rhode Island localities estimated no fewer than 53,000+ Double-crested Cormorants migrating N Apr. 25 (RAC).

HERONS—Extralimital heron reports included single ad. Little Blues at West Pubnico, N.S., Apr. 16-27 and Brier I., N.S., Apr. 30-May 1 (v.o., *fide* FS). In the same province, a Great Egret was unseasonably early



as far n as Sydney Mar 19-26 while a second bird occurred at Robert I., Yarmouth Co., N S., May 9 (v.o., *vide* FS). Seven Glossy Ibises at 3 Nova Scotia localities was an above-average spring total (*vide* FS).

WATERFOWL—A Whistling Swan was unusual at Fitchburg, Mass., Mar. 26 (*vide* RPE) while a Greater White-fronted Goose was more notable at Plum I., May 2-7 (*vide* RPE). Snow Geese experienced an excellent migration throughout New England with nearly all birds noted passing N Mar. 29. On that date 1880 Snow Geese were seen over Storrs, Conn. (SS), 660 and 157 Snows passed over Sudbury and Concord, Mass., respectively (RAF *et al.*) and 1200+ were counted over various Maine localities (v.o., *vide* MKL). In Nova Scotia, Gadwall continued its increase as at least seven individuals were reported (*vide* CRKA). Three "Common" Green-winged Teal occurred at as many Nova Scotia localities while in that province a ♂ Eur Wigeon was observed at Debert May 1-8 (*vide* CRKA). Another Eur. Wigeon was found at Plum I., May 23 (*vide* RPE). Four Canvasbacks were rare spring migrants in Nova Scotia at Sydney Mar. 4-15 (*vide* CRKA). Spring King Eiders were about average, however four off Pt. Judith, R.I., Apr. 19 was a surprise (*vide* DLE). Some 2000+ Red-breasted Mergansers were observed passing Muskeget I., Mass., May 6-12 (RSH).

VULTURES THROUGH GALLINULES—Turkey Vultures continued their steady expansion throughout New England. In Maine, Townsend noted that there were "too many reports . . . to list individually."

A Swallow-tailed Kite seen over King Tom Pond, R.I., May 27 (DT, *vide* DLE) provided only a second state record but the eighth Regional occurrence in the last 3 years. Gyrfalcons were observed in Maine (one), Nova Scotia (three), and at Terra Nova N.P., Nfld. (two). MacTavish noted an average spring flight of 17-20+ individuals with just one white-phase bird of probable Greenland origin cf eight in 1980 (BMacT). Some 25 Peregrine Falcons constituted a more or less average spring flight. Merlins were quite numerous this spring in e. Massachusetts, Petersen counted ten plus birds in 2 days of hawk-watching (WRP).

Two ♂ Yellow Rails were located on territory in their traditional haunts on the Tantramar Marsh near Sackville, N.B. (SIT *et al.*) while across the border in Nova Scotia an ad Purple Gallinule, found in Dartmouth May 27, was joined by an imm. bird of the same species May 29 (*vide* FS).

SHOREBIRDS—A single Am. Golden Plover was noteworthy and early at Lawrence town, N.S., Mar. 29-Apr. 1 (*vide* ELM). In the same province two Whimbrels furnished an unusual spring occurrence, as were seven on Muskeget I., Mass. (RSH). A count of 150 Willets in Jerusalem, R.I., May 11 was probably the largest spring count ever recorded in New England (*vide* DLE).

In Massachusetts, single White-rumped Sandpipers were unusual inland at Hadley May 10 and Northampton May 12-13 (v.o., *vide* SK), while 30+ White-rumped furnished an above-average spring count at

Newburyport May 15 (RSH). Single Curlew Sandpipers were recorded in Squantum, Mass., May 16-23 (*vide* RPE) and at Woodpoint, N.B., May 25 (*vide* ELM) where at the latter locality some 10,000-20,000 Semipalmated Sandpipers constituted an astonishing spring concentration. A single W. Sandpiper was out of season at Monomoy May 25 (BN) while a Bar-tailed Godwit provided a rare spring occurrence in Revere, Mass., Apr. 12 (*vide* RPE). Single Hudsonian Godwits were unusual at Milford Pt., Conn., May 16-18 (SS) and Jerusalem, R.I., May 27 (*vide* DLE). Spring Ruffs in New England numbered seven or eight individuals with five or six of those reported from Newburyport and Plum I.

S.A.

No doubt the most significant avian event this spring was the unprecedented flight of Pectoral Sandpipers in e. Massachusetts. An early individual reported inland at Northampton Mar. 16-17 (*vide* SK) was closely followed by 15 at Plum I., Mar. 30-31. Numbers increased to 240 at Newburyport Apr. 11 when on the same date nine were as far e. as Cape Jourimain, N.B. (SIT). By Apr. 20 more than 1000 Pectoral Sandpipers were carefully counted at Newburyport (RSH, RRV); 800 were still present Apr. 30 (RSH) but numbers dropped off quickly and only 100 remained at Newburyport May 3 (RSH). Other sizable counts included 200+ in Marshfield Apr. 12, 68 in Concord Apr. 27, 46 in Boston Apr. 5 (v.o., *vide* RAF) and 45 at Card's Pond, R.I., May 2 (RAC). Interestingly, this flight did not land on Cape Cod where average numbers were observed (BN). The previous Massachusetts high count was of 85 Pectorals at Newburyport Apr. 20, 1977.

Pectoral Sandpipers—Spring 1981

Locality	No.	Date
Northampton, MA	1	Mar. 16
Squantum, MA	30	Apr. 4
Greater Boston	46	Apr. 5
Orono, ME	23	Apr. 7
Kennebunk, ME	10	Apr. 9
Trenton, ME	10	Apr. 9
Newburyport, MA	180	Apr. 10
Newburyport, MA	240	Apr. 11
Wells, ME	15	Apr. 11
Cape Jourimain, N.B.	9	Apr. 11
Marshfield, MA	200+	Apr. 12
Concord, MA	58	Apr. 12
Newburyport, MA	600	Apr. 18
Newburyport, MA	1000+	Apr. 20
Rowley, MA	30	Apr. 23
Martha's Vineyard	25	Apr. 25
Squantum, MA	35	Apr. 27
Concord, MA	68	Apr. 27
Newburyport, MA	800	Apr. 30
Card's Pond, RI	45	May 2
Newburyport, MA	100	May 3

GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS—A Great Black-backed: X Herring Gull hybrid seen and photographed on Muskeget I., Mass., May 21 only darkens the already murky waters of the Larid complex (RSH). Lesser Black-backed Gulls diminished considerably from their early winter totals; singles were

noted on Nantucket I., Mass., at Greenwich Pt., Conn., and elsewhere in s. Connecticut (*vide* TB). Thayer's Gulls should continue to be carefully reported. This spring a Thayer's Gull in first basic plumage was photographed off the Massachusetts coast at the n. end of Stellwagen Bank Apr. 25 (WRP *et al.*). New England Black-headed Gull numbers were above average with at least 17 individuals reported. Likewise Little Gulls were observed in good numbers with 15+ reports. Single ad. Franklin's Gulls were seen at Brier I., N.S., May 13-14 (*vide* RGGb) and 8 mi out of Boston harbor May 25 (WRP *et al.*). The only Ivory Gulls reported this spring, 80 of them, were seen during a NE gale at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld., Mar. 6 (BMacT). The Region's third and Massachusetts' second Ross' Gull was briefly present in Newburyport Apr. 20 (*vide* RPE). This Ross' Gull, an adult associating with Bonaparte's Gulls, was presumably a spring migrant that wintered somewhere farther s. A Forster's Tern was notable at Newburyport May 16 (*vide* RPE) but single Sandwich Terns were more surprising at Muskeget I., Mass., May 27 (RSH) and Plymouth Beach, Mass., May 30 (*vide* RPE).

Razorbills flying past Nantucket numbered 330 individuals Mar. 8 and 177 Mar. 15 (*vide* RPE). A Black Guillemot was rare off Branford, Conn., Mar. 24 (NSP). Thirty Black Guillemots off Nantucket I., Mar. 14 was a surprisingly large number s. of Cape Cod (*vide* RPE).

CUCKOOS THROUGH PICIDS—

S.A.

The rarest bird this spring was surely the Common Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*) found, netted, banded, carefully measured and photographed in hand at West Chop, Martha's Vineyard, Mass., May 3-4 (TLL-E, RRV *et al.*). Detailed examination indicated that the bird was most probably a female still retaining several juv. secondary coverts. This provided a first Regional occurrence and the first record for e. North America, previous records being limited to w. Alaska.

A Great Gray Owl was unique in Cooper, Me., Mar. 19 (*vide* MKL). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers moved S of their breeding limits early this spring. In w. Massachusetts, single birds were identified in Baldwinville Mar. 11 and E. Quabbin Mar. 12 (v.o., *vide* SK). In Maine, a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was seen on Cape Elizabeth and extensive workings at numerous localities near Augusta indicated a considerable movement into the area (PDV). Southward extensions of the species' breeding range should not be ignored. Single N Three-toed Woodpeckers in Maine occurred in Dixmont May 8 (*vide* MKL) and E. Harpswell May 15 (PK). A Red-headed Woodpecker was unusual on Seal I., N.S., May 16-18 (*vide* FS).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS—Three spring Scissor-tailed Flycatchers was more than has been seen in recent years. In Massachusetts, individuals were found in Marshfield Apr. 26-May 2 and on Nantucket I., May 22-24 (*vide* RPE). A

single adult occurred in Cushing, Me., May 15 (*vide* JCr). A Say's Phoebe photographed on Seal I., N.S., May 20 (BMacT, RRV) provided a first Regional spring occurrence for this rare, fall vagrant. In Rhode Island, undetailed and not quite satisfactory reports of Vermilion Flycatchers at Beavertail Pt., Apr. 29 (DL, *vide* DLE) and E. Providence May 14 (CW) might possibly have been correct. An E. Wood Pewee was strikingly early on Brier I., N.S., Mar. 30 (WL, *vide* JSC).

A notably tame Black-billed Magpie in Plymouth, N.H., Apr. 20-24 (*vide* DJA) and another in w. Massachusetts were thought to be escapes from a Massachusetts game farm (RAF). A Wheatear in N. Branford, Conn., Feb. 15 (NSP) provided another piece of suggestive evidence that the species may be wintering in North America. Spring Bohemian Waxwings in Maine numbered 180+ individuals (*vide* MKL).

VIREOS, WARBLERS—Southern vireos and warblers n. of their breeding ranges were fewer than usual. A White-eyed Vireo was in song in Brunswick, Me., May 26 (JP). A Prothonotary Warbler was startlingly early in Dennis, Mass., Mar. 31-Apr. 1 (*vide* BN). Additional single Prothonotaries were noted in Rhode Island and Connecticut. A ♂ Black-throated Gray Warbler in New Haven, Conn., Apr. 30 (NSP) furnished a second state record and seemed related to a number of w. vagrants occurring in s. New England. Cerulean Warblers were found in Rhode Island (two) and Massachusetts (three plus) where breeding remains a distinct but as yet unconfirmed possibility. Two April Yellow-throated Warblers in Rhode Island and one in Connecticut were fewer than usual. A ♂ Kentucky Warbler was found as far n. as Meredith Center, N.H., May 29 (WWF *et al.*), four occurred in w. Massachusetts (*vide* SK), three were noted in e. Massachusetts and

again this spring several males were found on territory in s. Connecticut (*vide* TB). In w. Massachusetts, a Connecticut Warbler was unexpected in Lanesboro May 11 and two Orange-crowned Warblers were unusual at Agawam May 16 (*vide* SK). A Hooded Warbler was notably unusual in Lower West Pubnico, N.S. (*vide* PRD).

The heaviest warbler flight of the spring occurred May 24-25. Heil counted 25+ N. Waterthrushes and 40+ Blackpolls on Muskeget I., Mass., May 24 (RSH). A day later in Provincetown, Nikula estimated 100 Canadas, 50+ Ovenbirds and 60 Am. Redstarts. The same day Seal I., N.S. birders recorded 55 Black-and-whites, 75 Magnolias, 90 N. Parulas, 200 Blackpolls, 40 Canadas, 125 Com. Yellowthroats and 110 Gray Catbirds (BMacT, RRV). Sadly, no comparative data were available from banding stations.

ICTERIDS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS—A Western Meadowlark in Squantum, Mass., Apr. 25-27 furnished the first Regional occurrence in recent years. Single Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported from Deerfield, Mass., Mar. 28, Portsmouth, R.I., Apr. 30 and Nova Scotia (two). Twenty-two Orchard Oriole reports from e. Massachusetts reflected the increase the species has experienced in the past 2 years (*vide* RPE). Eight Regional Summer Tanagers were fewer than average as were five Blue Grosbeaks, the latter all in Massachusetts. The previously reported Black-headed Grosbeak remained in Walpole, Mass., to Mar. 20 (*vide* RPE) and the Bath, Me., Black-headed Grosbeak was present through mid-April (JCr). House Finches seemed to have fully established themselves in Nova Scotia with a total of 7-10 pairs in 7 localities. Breeding is, no doubt, not far off (*vide* PRD). There was a moderate early spring Com. Redpoll flight. A Hoary was found among Commons at Plum I. (*vide*

RPE). In n. Newfoundland, MacTavish noted an average-to-poor spring redpoll flight but observed that close to 50% of the birds studied were Hoaries, which, he feels, may be typical for that area (BMacT). Two very late Com. Redpolls were carefully studied on Monhegan I., Me., May 25 (JP). An "Oregon" Junco was in Truro, N.S., Apr. 23 (*vide* PRD). A ♂ Clay-colored Sparrow was briefly territorial in New Canaan, Conn., May 10-12 (*vide* TB) while in Massachusetts a Clay-colored Sparrow was banded in Rockport May 7 and another was in song in Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge May 17 (*vide* RPE).

ADDENDA—An *ani* sp. present for two days in December 1980, in Debert, N.S. (*vide* PRD) furnished a first Regional occurrence. A W. Tanager in Westhampton, Mass., Sept. 20, 1980 was previously unreported (*vide* SK).

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QUEBEC REGION

/ Normand David and Michel Gosselin

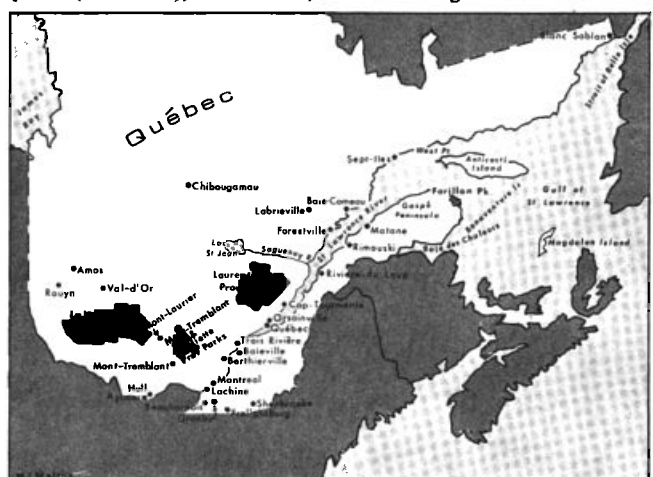
As usual, it is difficult to accurately characterize the weather of a vast region over a three month period. However, March was dry and mild, as was last winter, and this resulted in little flooding on the upper St. Lawrence and scarcely any ice on the Gulf and the Estuary.

GREBES THROUGH WATERFOWL—Two Horned Grebes at Pointe-au-Pere May 12 (CR) represented a first local spring occurrence while six Gannets off Sainte-Anne des Monts Mar. 9 (WP) set a record early arrival. In Matagami a Double-crested Cormorant May 13 (*vide* MLe) was certainly a first for the area. Southern herons were few but varied: a Little Blue Heron at Thurso May 15 (GS, PC), a Great Egret on Lamarche I., near Berthierville May 31 (GP, DP), a Snowy Egret at Matagami May 11 (*vide* MLe) and a Louisiana Heron in Hudson Apr. 25-May 1 (WG, m.ob.). Glossy Ibises, however, were widely distributed with a bird at Cacouna Apr. 29-May 10 (SL, PD) and Trois-Pistoles May 18 (*vide* GG), another at Ile du Moine

May 23 (MG) and up to seven at New-Richmond Apr. 29-May 10 (PF *et al.*). Eleven Brant showed up at Bergeronnes Mar. 21 (AB), an unprecedented date; the species was also noted at Magog May 30 (PBo). Spring White-fronted Geese had never been so numerous: records were two adults at Saint-Joseph de Beauce Apr. 4-5 (LM), an immature at Ile d'Orléans Apr. 21 (PBa *et al.*), and single adults at Portneuf Apr. 12 (CM), Beauport Apr. 26 (SM), Lauzon Apr. 30-May 6 (ND, JH), L. Saint-Paul, Labelle Co., May 6 (RLD) and Plaisance May 9 (RSc *et al.*).

Nine Snow Geese at Chandler Apr. 7 and one at Bonaventure the next day (RB, PP) were far e. of their usual staging grounds. Close examination of grazing Snow Geese yielded many Ross' Geese: one at Saint-Francois, Ile d'Orléans, Apr. 12 (JH *et al.*), two at Saint-

Pierre and Lauzon Apr. 21-May 3 (PC, JH, m.ob.), and one at Rivière-Ouelle May 10 (JH *et al.*), the first ever outside the Quebec City area. A pair of Eur. Wigeons near Berthierville Apr. 10-13 (GP, DP) and a male exhibiting traces of hybridism at Lauzon Apr. 18-21 (LF, JH) showed again that discovery of breeding evidence on this continent is long overdue; additional single males were noted



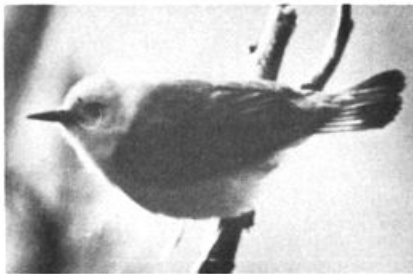
at Katevale Apr. 1 (PBo, JR), Quebec City Apr. 20 (CV), Ile d'Orleans Apr. 20-May 9 (PLe *et al.*), Saint-Fulgence May 10 (LV), Cacouna May 10 (FG) and Ile des Soeurs May 23 (YA). Twenty-five Black Scoters at Carleton Mar. 20 (LB) were exceptionally early. East of Quebec City, Ruddy Ducks were unusually numerous, and all were first local occurrences: two males and one female in Arvida May 21+ (MB), a pair at Métis May 24 (GLa, LR), two males at Barachois May 30 and a female at Capd'Espoir in early June (*vide* RB).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES—Noteworthy Turkey Vultures included a bird at Saint-Joseph de Beauce Feb. 22 (LM) and one reached Bergeronnes Apr. 12 (AB). Single Cooper's Hawks at Baie Sainte-Catherine May 2 (FG *et al.*) and Rimouski May 23 (MLa), plus a Red-shouldered Hawk at Anseau-Griffon May 23 (*vide* RB) were all e. of their breeding range. The dedication of one of our few hawkwatchers was rewarded with a light-phase Swainson's Hawk Apr. 28 near Valleyfield (BB), a fourth regional record and the first since 1925. Early Marsh Hawks included two birds near Valleyfield Feb. 21 (RY) and one at Laurier-Station Feb. 25 (JLD), while a late Gryfalcon was seen at Saint-Joachim Apr. 20 (GH). Single Sandhill Cranes from Luskville Apr. 12 (AS), Mata-gami May 13 (*vide* MLe) and Gatineau P.P., May 26 (JD) were further evidence of the species increasingly migrating over w. Quebec.

PLOVERS THROUGH GULLS—The mating of a pair of Killdeers at Gagnon May 23 (FT) leads one to speculate that the species' range is extending as far n. inland as it does along the coasts. American Golden Plovers were noted on record early dates this year, first at Baieville Apr. 11-12 (YA), then at Ile aux Fermiers May 9 (GS); in each case the possibility of Eur. Golden Plovers was carefully eliminated. Early records were also noted for Lesser Yellowlegs, Apr. 4 at Maskinongé and Baieville (YA), and for Wilson's Phalaropes at Berthierville Apr. 28 (YH) and Baieville Apr. 30 (PC). Five individuals of the latter species were also reported from Cap-d'Espoir May 29 (RB). Six Purple Sandpipers on Ile des Soeurs May 27 (BP) deserve to be recorded as does a Ruff at Rimouski May 17 (GG) and another at Cacouna May 25 (AD). An American Avocet made a brief appearance at Saint-Augustin de Portneuf May 8 (GLe) and one was at Bic May 20-27 (DP, m.ob.).

March brought two early arrivals in the Gaspé Peninsula, an ad. Pomarine Jaeger at Carleton Mar. 29 (RC) and a Bonaparte's Gull at the same place Mar. 20 (LB). Black-headed Gulls were present at Levis Apr. 18-25 (LF), Rimouski May 1 (two-CG) and Beauharnois Apr. 30 (BB). A Laughing Gull was at LaSalle May 27 (PBa) and another at Pointe-au-Pere May 31 (CG) while very early Franklin's Gulls were at Saint-Romauld Apr. 20 (LF), Saint-Gédéon, Lake Saint-Jean Co., Apr. 28 (MS), and two immatures at Pointe-au-Pere May 28 (LH). An imm. and an ad. Little Gull seen at Katevale, respectively May 13 & 14 (PBo, JR) provided first records for this part of the Appalachians.

OWLS THROUGH WAXWINGS—Snowy Owls were noted in large numbers everywhere. A Hawk Owl at Nouvelle Mar. 12, was feeding on lunch leftovers (PF) while another was on Ile aux Oies May 2 (DP). A Belted Kingfisher at Sainte-Therese de Gaspé Mar. 2 (PP) probably provided a record early arrival although the species could winter locally; in the same area, an E. Phoebe at Percé Apr. 15 (RB) was well outside its normal range. In Aylmer, a Rough-winged Swallow Apr. 14 (BD) set a record early arrival. A White-breasted Nuthatch at Bergeronnes Apr. 27-May 9 (AB) was at the e. edge of its range on the North Shore. At Ile des Soeurs, a Winter Wren Mar. 21 (BC) furnished the earliest ever known record. Among the Blue-gray Gnatcatchers reported this spring, one at Cap-Tourmente May 9 (RL) and one at Rimouski May 20 (JRP) were noteworthy, as well as a nest on Mt. Saint-Bruno May 22 (MM). Five Bohemian Waxwings at Percé May 10 (RB) were unusual as to time and place.



Prothonotary Warbler, Montreal. P.Q., May 20, 1981. Photo/Yves Aubry.

WARBLERS THROUGH SPARROWS—On Mt. Royal a Prothonotary Warbler photographed May 20 (YA) was seen by many; the same was not true of two Blue-winged Warblers at Sherbrooke May 25 (JR), one of which was briefly heard the next day. A Golden-winged Warbler was noted in N. Hatley May 27 (PBo), a Cerulean on Mt. Royal the same day (MA), and a Pine Warbler at Boischatel Apr. 17-25 (RSi *et al.*). One of the shiest warblers, the Kentucky Warbler was heard and glimpsed on Mt. Royal May 29 (JH *et al.*). In addition, a ♂ Hooded Warbler was reported from Maria May 28 (PF), needless to say furnishing a first for the Gaspé Peninsula. A record arrival was set for the Bobolink at Old Chelsea Apr. 7 (FC). The ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird seen among Com. Grackles in Arvida May 7 (FT) provided a first local occurrence. Some belated records from last winter indicated a possible wintering of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks: one male and three females in Ville Saint-Laurent Jan. 26 and two males Jan. 28 and Feb. 10 (CD). The House Finch is being noticed more and more frequently: two imm. males or females in North Hatley late February-Apr. 16 (GB, *vide* PBo), one in Cowansville until Mar. 6 (GS), one in Philipsburg Apr. 9 (CC), one in LaSalle Apr. 22 (YA), and one in Ville Mont-Royal Apr. 29 (PLY). The enigmatic European Goldfinch appeared at LaSalle Apr. 21-24 (FW *et al.*). A ♀ Rufous-sided Towhee was reported from Charlesbourg May 21 (RL), and in Mont-Laurier a Dark-eyed Junco belonging to one of the w. subspecies was present Apr. 17-20 (RLD).

CORRIGENDA—The following record of Lesser Black-backed Gull was inadvertently omitted from AB 35:161: two at Cote Sainte-Catherine Dec. 7 (BB *et al.*). In AB 30:816, the Golden-winged Warbler reported from Bromont was actually from Mansonville, Brome Co., while the Harris' Sparrow mentioned in AB 30:38 was from Wakefield not Lakefield.

—S.A.—

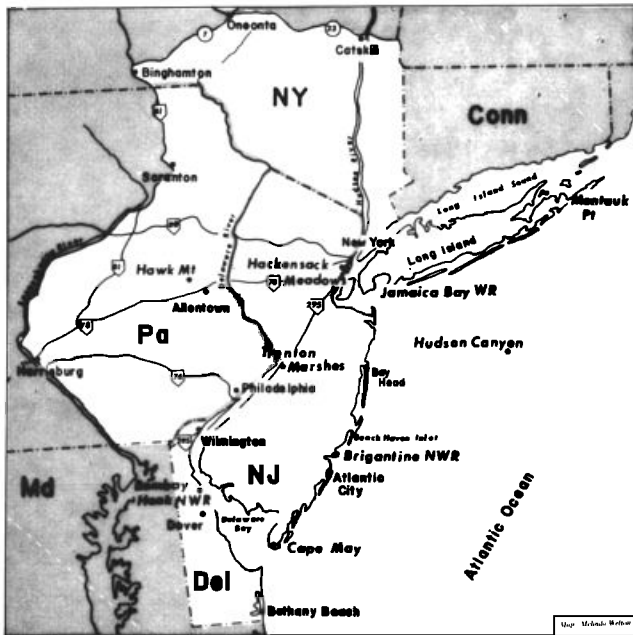
Among the records of Yellow-billed Cuckoos of last fall was one of a bird seen at Grosse-Ile Sept. 21, 1980 (AB 35:161). According to the observer, this bird was seen briefly and identified solely by its rufous primaries. A good many fall cuckoos are probably identified on the same basis. Upon examination of the specimens in the Nat'l Museum of Canada, MG and BD found that some Black-billed Cuckoos also have rufous primaries that are a close match with those of Yellow-billed Cuckoos. W.E. Godfrey pointed out that this is a feature of immature birds; it is also described by Oberholser in *Bird Life of Texas* (1:436). The tail pattern thus remains the most reliable field mark, since both species can also have yellow on the lower mandible and yellow eye-rings.

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

The discovery of a vast spring staging area in remote Delaware Bay marshes where over half a million shorebirds gather in May, and a late spring warbler fall-out of historic proportions on the outer beach May 24-25—these are some of the highlights of this season.

Following a warm, wet February, spring was precocious and migration was, for the most part, gradual and protracted. Ice left the Hudson River by mid-February, record



early, and many waterfowl slipped away without notable concentrations, except under grounding conditions such as the warm front cut off by cold rain April 5 (see loons, geese, and ducks). Similar grounding conditions, when warm fronts fed northward into rain, produced the best passerine birding in the interior (e.g., April 29—May 3, May 13-14). The way most warm fronts and groundings occurred in midweek while cold fronts predominated on weekends aroused complaints of a "poor migration." That impression was heightened when the immense coastal fall-out of May 24-25 had little echo inland. As several Changing Seasons columnists have commented, it is hard to judge a migration from the ground (a successful overflight leaving no trace), and it is rash to judge the season from one local experience.

Frequently cited locations are abbreviated as follows: B. Hook (Bombay Hook N.W.R., Del.), Brig. (Brigantine N.W.R., N.J.), J.B.W.R. (Jamaica Bay W.R., N.Y.C.).

LOONS TO TUBENOSSES—The Apr. 5 grounding left a massive 176 Com. Loons on Culver's L., Sussex Co., N.J. (IHB, FF). Red-throated Loons seemed seriously reduced, since a Lewes-Cape May ferry transect Mar. 22 revealed only 80 where 1000+ had been present a year earlier (PD, CS1). The annual spring scattering of Red-necked Grebes included some unusual inland sites, such as a quarry near Allentown, Pa., Mar. 1-6 (SS, BLM), and Hawk Mt., Pa., where one was found dead Apr. 3 (J.Brett), but the species must overfly our Region to reach the n. plains. An unprecedented report of four **Eared Grebes** at Lake Marburg, York Co., Pa. (increasing to five Apr. 4) was received from an observer familiar with the species (T.D. Heathcote); two were in breeding plumage.

The pace of pelagic birding has eased somewhat, now that pioneering days are over, and the few sea trips reported no rarities. A May 30 trip to Hudson Canyon, 75 mi e.s.e. of Barnegat Light, N.J., produced high numbers of the predictable species in

predictable ratios for that season: 2500 Greater, 8-900 Sooty, c. 50 Cory's, and one Manx shearwaters, 4000 Wilson's and seven Leach's storm-petrels (RK). But there were no N. Fulmars; perhaps the exclusion of foreign trawler fleets beyond the 200-mi limit has removed their main concentrating factor.

PELICANS, HERONS—Following last winter's Brown Pelican occurrence, another was seen from a boat one mi off Sandy Hook, N.J., May 15 and from shore off Asbury Park the next day (Marine Science Consortium, *vide* WJB). Double-crested Cormorants increased steadily. Three individuals penetrated as far inland as the upper Delaware R., in Warren Co., N.J., May 23 (P.Karner), and upland New Jersey lakes (FT, C.Kelly). On the coast, an impressive 1100+ passed Marmora, Cape May Co., N.J., Apr. 22 (JDD), but we still have no comprehensive spring sea watch data to match D. Ward's fall counts.

Great Blue Heron is one species willing to cross the mouth of Delaware Bay. A spectacular flock of 61 came in off the bay at Cape May Mar. 31 (PD, P.Hodgetts), and 54 were grounded by fog at Cape Henlopen, Del., Apr. 12 (WWF). Single ad. Louisiana Herons at Wyalusing, n.e. Pa., Apr. 2 (WR) and at Green Lane Res., Montgomery Co., Pa.; May 10 (BK) were unusually far inland.

A decade ago inland incursions of Glossy Ibis were rare. This season individuals penetrated as far as the n.w. New Jersey uplands (three in April, *vide* GH), Allentown, Pa. (five in three instances Apr. 6-May 12 — BLM), Atglen, Chester Co., Pa., Apr. 6-10 (RMS), and Berwick, Luzerne Co., Pa., May 26 (WR). A **White-faced Ibis** returned to J.B.W.R., Apr. 19 for the third straight spring (G&M Dremaux). A single **White Ibis**, New Jersey's first adult, frequented the great Stone Harbor heronry from Apr. 12, but without any evident mate (P. & C. Hausman, m.ob.).

GEESE, DUCKS—The regular handful of White-fronted Geese, presumed wild, is more common in the Susquehanna and Delaware drainages than down the Hudson R. This spring one was at L. Struble, Chester Co., Pa., Mar. 21 (*vide* AH), and another at Moore's Beach, Cumberland Co., N.J., Apr. 25 (IHB, FF *et al.*). Snow Geese were on the move throughout the Region Apr. 3-5 toward their St. Lawrence R. staging area, a bit late and e. of their usual track as rain from the west pinched off a warm front. "Thousands" moved over Whitesbog, Burlington Co., N.J. (L. Little), flocks totalling 400+ over Tobay, L.I. (AJL, ROP), 16 headed W over the Sullivan County, N.Y., reservoirs (FM), 40 near Newburgh, Orange Co., N.Y. (BS), and 65

just outside our area over Greenwich, Conn (M.F.N.).

Three Fulvous Whistling Ducks do not an invasion make, but they may be a portent One was at Cruger's I., Dutchess Co., N.Y., Apr. 9 (J&M Key, M.VanWagner, F.Germont, E.Pink, M.Yegella), and two at Moore's Beach, Cumberland Co., N.J., May 23 (BR). Two ♂ Com. (Eur.) Teal were at Mecox Bay, L.I., Mar. 22 (J.Russica, J.Clinton) and a remnant of the winter's Eur Wigeon included one at Cape May to Apr. 10 (*vide* PD), and two drakes at Little Creek, Del., Apr. 18 (C.Wilds), probably the first multiple record for that state.

Early-departing diving ducks left few spring concentrations, and some observers drew the conclusion that numbers were down. Two hundred Com. Goldeneyes at Culver's L., Sussex Co., N.J., Mar. 8 (FT) were impressive, as were 125 at Vandenberg Cove, Dutchess Co., N.Y., Mar. 15 (A.Jones). The Apr. 5 grounding left two Oldsquaws at Allentown, Pa. (SS) and seven Oldsquaws, plus seven White-winged Scoters (the commonest scoter inland) at Swartswood L., Sussex Co., N.J. (IHB, FF). Also at Culver's L., Mar. 8 was a good clean sweep of mergansers: 400 Common, eight Red-breasted, and 25 Hooded (FT).

VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES—

S.A.

Climaxing a rapid build-up since 1978, two Black Vulture chicks were found Apr. 18 in a cave between two boulders on a forested slope near Mountainville, Hunterdon Co., N.J. (R.Bailey, C.Schork, R.Garcia, ph. Art Panzer), where a pair had frequented a Turkey Vulture roost for several winters. This first New Jersey nest is probably the northernmost in the Northeast. Three other upper Delaware R. sites in New Jersey harbored small parties of Black Vultures, although nesting could not be confirmed, and one ventured N to Mahwah, Bergen Co., Apr. 10 (G.Schultze, B.Baranyay). In s.e. Pennsylvania, where the species has bred in the Susquehanna R. valley since at least 1952, they are now widespread. So far no nest has been found n. of York and Chester Cos. (AB 32:984), but a pair was near Hawk Mt. once again in March (STB). On the coast there is no comparable surge out of Delaware, although individuals were at Cape May Apr. 26 & May 17 (CS).

Each spring kites put on a more spectacular show. Two Swallow-tailed Kites were at B Hook May 17 (B&R Richel, ph. K.A.Grim), and singles at Cape May on May 7 (C.Hess) and North Sea, Suffolk Co., L.I., Apr. 19 (L.Joanas). Even more Mississippi Kites than ever were around Cape May, although none was reported elsewhere this time. By one estimate based on plumage distinctions (CS), nine individuals accounted for multiple sightings, beginning with one Apr. 19, building rapidly after May 23, and peaking with four at once June 7 (WJB *et al.*) Breeding seems only a matter of time, although so far most Mississippi Kites, most if not all sub-adults, reach this Region after



New Jersey's first known Black Vulture nest, May 14, 1981, Hunterdon County, N.J. Photo/Art Panzer.

the normal nesting date.

We have data from several spring hawk watches, both coastal and montane (see comparison in *AB* 31:980). Sharp-shinned Hawks, heavily coastal, made their biggest passage Apr. 29 on a classic warm front, when 647 passed Sandy Hook, N.J. (J.Skinner). Wolfarth's highest spring count fell the same day (50 at Hardwick, Warren Co., N.J.), although Hook Mt., on the Hudson R., near Nyack, N.Y., had its biggest passage Apr. 18 with 55 (D.Falk). As usual, Sharp-shinned Hawk migration continued into May (e.g., seven at Cape Henlopen May 13—WWF). A record 226 Cooper's Hawks were counted at Sandy Hook. Broad-winged Hawks, largely montane, moved mostly Apr. 18-23 under a large high, nearer normal than last spring's deferred early May peak. At Hook Mt., 791, more than half the season's total, passed Apr. 18-20 (D.Falk), and other localities kept pace: 75 at Newark, Del. (BR) and 150+ over Rifle Camp Park, W. Paterson, N.J. (P.Both), Apr. 18, and 85 over Central Park, Lancaster Co., Pa., Apr. 23 (T.Amico). A secondary passage accompanied the Apr. 29 warm front (e.g., 50 at Hardwick—FPW), and, once again, there were curious late groups at Cape May: 150 May 24, and 20 on June 1 (CS).

After a major Rough-legged Hawk winter, exceptional numbers lingered into spring, the latest being two at Marmora, Cape May Co., N.J., May 3 (JDD, RM), and May 16 at Gardiner's I., off e. Long Island (MW). Three Golden Eagle reports were a bit below par.

S.A.

The Chesapeake Bay Bald Eagle Survey (JMA) brought encouraging news of *four* active nests in Delaware, the most since 1936. Three chicks were fledged (none in 2 nests last year). Less happily, the one remaining pair in New Jersey, in s. Cumberland County, failed again, either owing to infertility or thinned egg shell. No other breeding pairs are known in this Region, although the usual dozen or so scattered immatures were reported this spring.

Meritt's judgment that Peregrine Falcons are "definitely on the way up" in his locality

would seem to apply to the entire Region. Up to 15 reports came from the lower Delaware R. valley, including a pair performing courtship loops near Pedricktown, Salem Co., N.J., Apr. 20-21 (N&W Lily). Nine were counted at Sandy Hook during the season (*vide* PD), and Hook Mt. counted two late: Apr. 30 & May 5 (D.Falk).

RAILS, GALLINULES, TURKEY—Three or four Black Rails were calling at the traditional B. Hook site in the nights of May 8 & 14 (C.Perry, H.Armistead, JAG, DAC). If none could be confirmed elsewhere, it was not for want of trying. Purple Gallinules drop in somewhere outlandish each spring. This season one settled at the lighthouse pond, Cape May, in May, another was brought to a Surf City, Ocean Co., N.J., rehabilitation center May 26 (B.Jones), and a third flew against a factory window in Riverdale, Morris Co., N.J., May 23 (K.Prytherch, *vide* IHB).

When New Jersey opened its first spring gobbler season in 80 years, 71 wild Turkeys were shot out of an estimated 1000+ in the n.w. uplands (GH).

SHOREBIRDS—American Golden Plover, once "one of the rarest of spring migrants" (Fables, *Annotated List of N.J. Birds*, 1955, p.31) is now annual in spring in the right habitat; 27 at B. Hook Apr. 22 (B.Cadbury, H.Alexander) was a good Delaware spring count. Elsewhere about 20 were noted, all inland (R.Barber, S.R.Lawrence, JKM *et al.*). Noteworthy concentrations of Ruddy Turnstones outside the Delaware Bay staging area included 1000 at Cape Henlopen, Del., May 28 (WWF) and 1100+ at B. Hook May 29 (JMA). In an assemblage of 125 Whimbrels at Linwood, Atlantic Co., N.J., Apr. 20 was a white-rumped individual presumed of the Eurasian race (JDD), annual there since the early 1970s and probably the same bird.

Pectoral Sandpipers, among the earliest shorebird migrants, peaked at a record 350+ in the tidal river flats at Pedricktown, N.J., Apr. 11 (RK), their capital in this Region. Elsewhere inland pool waders were low, probably for lack of rain pools. The best White-rumped Sandpiper report was a meager 13 at

S.A.

A great shorebird staging area on Delaware Bay was surveyed by air this spring for the first time (Cape May Bird Observatory). Glimpses from occasional points of access, such as Moore's Beach, had suggested that major loafing and feeding areas were hidden in the vast marshes and flats that border the bay. A careful aerial count of the New Jersey side, in Cape May and Cumberland Cos., reported **318,000** shorebirds in the third week of May, feeding on horseshoe crab eggs, principally Semipalmated Sandpipers and Ruddy Turnstones, but including 60,000 Red Knots (PD), a figure that must represent a very large proportion of the entire w. Atlantic wintering population. Assuming comparable numbers on the Delaware side, Dunne estimates that an "awesome" half million plus shorebirds stage there in May, at horseshoe crab mating season, before proceeding on to arctic breeding grounds. The lower Delaware Bay in spring clearly belongs among the major shorebird concentration points of North America.

Brig., May 5 (JDD). Baird's Sandpiper, unlike Am. Golden Plover and Stilt Sandpiper, has not become regular in spring; we still know of only one photograph in spring e. of the Mississippi (Amenia, N.Y., June 1979, *AB* 33:756), and no specimen. Singles reported from B. Hook May 2 & 26 (WJW, F&BH) and meticulously described at Shinnecock, L.I., June 1 (†PAB) were thus noteworthy.

The Haases have noticed that Least Sandpipers peak in early-middle May while the more numerous Semipalmated Sandpipers peak in late May, an hypothesis supported by figures from B. Hook (JMA) and Long Island (W.Sedwitz). Six Curlew Sandpipers was the best spring total in many years. Two were on Long Island (J.B.W.R. and Shinnecock—J&C Hastings, G.S. Raynor), three in coastal New Jersey (Brig. and Longport—JDD, KB, BMO, F&BH), and one at B. Hook (F&BH), all in May and all near the coast, as usual. Ten Stilt Sandpipers at B. Hook May (WJW) was a good spring count of another once-rare w. spring migrant. None was reported elsewhere, perhaps for lack of inland rain pools. Godwits, never very common in spring, were limited to one Hudsonian and three Marbleds seen from the plane in the Delaware Bay marshes (PD).

Ruffs exceeded even their 1980 total, with at least 12. The regular Pedricktown site held a record five, four Ruffs and a Reeve Apr. 12 (A.Brady *et al.*), beginning typically early Mar. 29 with two Ruffs (BMO) and ending Apr. 29 with one (J&R Krebs). Pedricktown thus surpasses the mid-1970s "hot spot" for Ruffs, Little Creek/Port Mahon, Del. (three in spring 1975, four spring 1976), and since there are vast stretches of inaccessible marsh at Pedricktown, who knows what is going on out there? Elsewhere, Delaware had three Ruffs (B. Hook Mar. 13 into late May—WJW, F&BH, MVB, JAG, L.Purey) and a Reeve (Newport Apr. 17—BR), New Jersey had one Reeve in the Hackensack Marshes at Kearny, May 23-25 (IHB *et al.*), and Long Island had two Ruffs (J.B.W.R., Apr. 22) and a Reeve (Hempstead Lake S.P., May 10

—S.B.Dempsey), coastal records being characteristically later than on Delaware Bay (cf. *AB* 34:760).

The usual non-breeding Am. Avocets appeared at Little Creek, Del., Mar. 14 and built to a notable 100 by mid-April (F&BH), while 43 at B. Hook in mid-April (JMA) was a more normal peak. Two at Brig., in late May were unusually early for summer dispersal. Black-necked Stilts reached only 8-10 at Little Creek May 8 (JMA), but they are more prone to wander early than avocets. At least ten were scattered in New Jersey in late May, and three others reached Staten I., May 27-28 (A Peterson, W&N Siebenheller), two of which remained until mid-June (RZE). One at the Nazareth, Pa., sewer ponds, near Allentown May 12 (ph. BK), was one of a very few e. Pennsylvania records.

The absence of rain pools probably cut Wilson's Phalarope numbers. None was reported inland, and only two on Long Island. The best count was of six, noteworthy for spring, at B. Hook May 26 (F&BH). Four N. Phalaropes at Bull's I., Hunterdon Co., N.J., May 16 (T&J Stiles) were unusual, and singles were at Collier's Mill, Ocean Co., N.J. (RJB) and Port Mahon, Del. (F&BH) the same day. As usual, the only Red Phalaropes were offshore: six off Barneget Light May 30, with three Northern (fide PD).

GULLS, TERNS—Surprisingly, the May 30 pelagic trip recorded no skuas, and only two Parasitic Jaegers. Four Lesser Black-backed Gulls were average, but, exceptionally, none was s. of New York City. Two were in w. Long Island Sound (MFN), and two up the Hudson at the Croton Pt. dump Mar. 21 & 23 (R.Lewis). For the second season in a row we have received a plausible description of a Thayer's Gull, this one an adult at Cape Henlopen, Del., May 6 (†MVB, BR); at this writing we still know of no specimen or photograph from this Region.

Four Black-headed Gulls were widely scattered—two on Long Island, one at Caven Pt., Jersey City, May 9-16 (D.Roche, RK), and one up Delaware Bay at Heislerville, Cumberland Co., N.J., Apr. 1 (D.Ward). Little Gulls outnumbered them, as usual, with eight on Long Island and a maximum of six at Caven Cove May 18 (R.Ryan). Farther s. we learned of only one at Little Creek/Port Mahon, Del., Apr. 30 (fide AH), where there were up to 25 in the middle 1970s (*AB* 29 835).

Prospecting Forster's Terns reached J.B.W.R. (two adults, May 16-17), Shinnecock, L.I. (two in sub-adult plumage May 22—PAB), and, far more exceptionally, Green Lane Res., Montgomery Co., Pa., May 19 (REW). A sub-adult Arctic Tern was onshore at Shinnecock June 1 (PAB). Strong s.e. winds brought a surge of terns ashore at Cape May on May 11: six Roseate Terns (DS, PD, WW), rarely seen s. of their great e. Long Island colonies, and a Sandwich Tern (DS), along with large numbers of Common and Least terns and 30 Black Terns (PD). Another Sandwich Tern was at Shinnecock, Long Island, June 1 (PAB), well n. of the Maryland breeding limit.

DOVES TO OWLS—A White-winged Dove at W. Cape May Apr. 24 (ph. B. Augu-

stine) represents the first New Jersey record, although it has occurred in New York. There are also multiple records from Ontario, Maine, Massachusetts, and the Maritime Provinces. Most of these records, too, came from the outer coast, but all previous e. records known to us have occurred in summer or fall. Ryan observes that there is a Federal permit which allows hobbyists to keep White-winged and Ground doves, so escape cannot be entirely ruled out.

Great Horned Owls still nest widely in this Region, but Ed Reimann, who has studied them in Delaware for 45 years, reports only one nest where normally he finds six, and where, in 1940, there were 12. He thinks woodcutting for fuel and lumbering have added seriously to older pressures. An injured Snowy Owl, a wrist bone broken by gunshot, inhabited a dense hemlock grove near Allentown, Pa., into which it managed to climb and then glide out, as it did when discovered May 19. Although incapable of taking flight, it was thought to have captured prey by gliding out of the grove, as the examining veterinarian pronounced it underweight but fit (E.Mease, fide BLM).

GOATSUCKERS TO RAVENS—The Chuck-will's-widow frontier is now n. of this Region, but it continues to fill in the gaps. One was observed on Gardiner's I., off e. L.I., May 16 (MW) and another was calling May 1 in Riverside Park, N.Y.C. (J.Nolle). A hummingbird *sp.* feeding at daffodils Apr. 1 at Wildwood, Cape May Co., N.J. (C.B. Middleton) went tantalizingly unidentified.

—S.A.

Common Ravens are breeding in this Region, after many years' absence. A nest was found in Sullivan County, Pa. (fide WR), and ravens are resident in Wyoming, Luzerne, and Bradford Cos. (WR) as well as at Slide Mt., in the Catskills. Elsewhere prospectors increase steadily. One was n.w. of Allentown in early April (K.Kranick), one at Hawk Mt., Apr. 7 (STB), and Hook Mt., N.Y., had its first spring record Apr. 30 (H. Martin, S. Thomas). Thus our mountain population is following the explosion in the s. Appalachians, although there is no sign of restoration of the New Jersey coastal population that vanished around 1905.

CHICKADEES TO SHRIKES—Following a substantial winter invasion of the lowlands, Black-capped Chickadees remained into May as far afield as Tobay, L.I. (AJL, ROP) and Carpenter's Woods, Philadelphia, May 18 (KR), and two were heard and one measured for positive identification in Delaware Mar. 29-21 (DMN). The Boreal Chickadee previously reported at a feeder in Tom's River, N.J., remained until at least Apr. 26 and disappeared only when the feeder was taken down (fide WJB).

A Varied Thrush, annual in this Region, was near the Middle Creek W.M.A., Lebanon Co., Pa., Apr. 13-14 (ph. R.Cook). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were almost universally regarded as "very numerous" (RFD) in "the best spring ever" (JT). A wintering Loggerhead Shrike lingered through March at Rosedale Park, Mercer Co., N.J., and

sang, but there is still no nesting record for New Jersey. We wonder whether shrikes nest anywhere in this Region.

WARBLERS—The warbler migration was highly uneven, in ways that call attention to interior-coast disparities. Inland there were no spectacular waves or groundings. On the coast, few migrants appeared before mid-May. Doscher had banded only 34 birds up to May 10 at Island Beach, N.J., compared to 373 the previous spring. Then on May 24-25 the outer coast was inundated with migrants, from Cape May to Long Island, and perhaps even beyond. Doscher banded 458 birds May 23-25, Paxton and Lauro 575 with only 8 nets at Tobay, L.I., and D.Ford over 700 at Fire I lighthouse, L.I., totals approached only once before in 15 years. The movement was limited to the outer coast. While Dunne described J.B.W.R. as "just sick with birds," birding was "very dull" at Allentown, Pa. (BLM)

Four species—Com. Yellowthroat, Canada and Magnolia warblers, and Am. Redstart—made up two-thirds of the totals banded May 24-25. Yet inland several observers considered Canada and Magnolia warblers down (RFD, KR), and Blackburnian Warblers, which were common on the outer beach, seemed "shockingly down" in the Hudson Valley (RFD) and "noticeably down" in Philadelphia (KR). Species seem to "bunch up" on migration in ways that make generalization from one locality risky.

Weather maps offer few obvious clues to this narrowly coastal fall-out. Two rain systems over the Great Lakes and offshore may have concentrated migrants in between. A high produced clear skies and northerly winds over the coast, hardly a day one would have picked for a wave or grounding. But Paxton saw warblers coming in off the sea at Tobay May 24, indicating that wind drift had taken place. It may be that migrants held back for some time by persistent cool fronts (including such normally early migrants as Com. Yellowthroats and Am. Redstarts) launched themselves at last into a NW wind and were drifted coastwards.

Returning to more general considerations, two Swainson's Warblers turned up well n. of their Maryland breeding limit: one at Higbee Beach, N.J., May 12 (JDD, C.Danzonbaker) provided a Cape May County record; a singing male in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, May 13 (L.Cohen, P.Prall) furnished the fifth New York City area record in the past decade. Tennessee Warblers were uncommon on the coast and abundant inland (100 at Allentown May 13—W.Culpepper). Six Orange-crowned Warblers were far more than usual one in Alley Pond Park, Queens Co., May 16, three in Orange County, N.Y., May 12-24, "the best spring ever" (JT, K.McDermott, BS), one at Hawk Mt., Pa., May 14 (A.Nagy), and one in Luzerne County, Pa., May 13 (DG). Following a trend widely noted last fall, the spruce budworm-eating warblers, Blackpoll, Bay-breasted, and especially Cape May warblers, seemed much reduced everywhere.

Two ♂ Townsend's Warblers were found on Long Island: Hempstead Lake S.P., Apr. 24-30 (E.Levine, THD, PAB *et al.*), and Alley Pond Park, Queens, Co., May 9 (H.Roth, S.Yeaton, L.Schore, O.Dunning). These rep-

resent the tenth and eleventh New York State records, and, like most of the others, were early in spring and near the coast. Several dozen Mourning Warbler records were well above average, typically concentrated at the end of May.

BLACKBIRDS TO SPARROWS—Four Yellow-headed Blackbirds was almost par. In addition to two early March records (Augustine Beach, Del.—DMN; and Willowbrook Mall, Wayne, Passaic Co., N.J., *vide* RK), an ad. male lingered suggestively late at Great Swamp, N.J., Apr. 26-late May (B.Nechin), and a female was in *phragmites* with Red-winged Blackbirds May 18-25 (IHB, RK, F.Lenik). A singing ♂ W. Tanager, almost annual but rare in spring, was at Middletown, Monmouth Co., N.J., May 16-17 (B.Sandford, GW *et al.*).

Three widely scattered Dickcissels (Staten I., Apr. 19-22, *vide* RZE; Audubon, Pa., Apr. 15—E.W.Graham; and Pittstown, Hunterdon Co., N.J., May 2—L.Reilly) were all that could be found. Following a lackluster winter finch movement, the only Pine Grosbeaks reported were two at West Point, N.Y., Mar. 28 (BS). A few Com. Redpolls lingered at feeders in Middletown, Orange Co., N.Y. (JT) and Washington, Warren Co., N.J. (A.Saunders) into March, but the species went unreported elsewhere. Pine Siskins, by contrast, lingered into early June in a number of New Jersey and n.e. Pennsylvania locations, and as far s. as Moorestown, Burlington Co., N.J. (BMo) and Newark, Del. (P. Jahn), in ways that have produced breeding records in the past (AB 32:987). Single White-winged Crossbills, a species less prone to post-dispersal lingering than is Red Crossbill, were at feeders to May 2 at Stanhope, Sussex Co., N.J. (*vide* FPW) and to May 10 at Denmeade, n.w. N.J. (GH).

A ♂ Lark Bunting, about the third Delaware record, was carefully described at Indian River Inlet May 4 (L.Jaco). Although Henslow's Sparrows could not be found at their historic Primehook, Del., breeding area (DAC), one Mar. 29 at Little Buffalo S.P., Perry Co., Pa. (C. Smith) marked a possible new location and nine singing males were present in May near Dallas, and Harvey's L., n.e. Pa. (WR).

Wayne watched what he thought was a Chipping Sparrow change into breeding plumage at Centerville, Del., and was surprised to see it develop an indistinct facial pattern reminiscent of Clay-colored Sparrow and a rufous cap divided by a pale crown stripe (†WJW). Clay-colored X Chipping Sparrow hybrids are not unknown (Bent, *Life Histories*, U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 237, part 2, p. 1200).

EXOTICS—An Andean Gull in full breeding plumage, no doubt an escape, was at a pond in Great Swamp, Morris Co., N.J., Apr. 9-17 (J. Leuzarder, ph. J.Cloughly, m.ob.). We thank J.Bull for help comparing the photos with specimens in the A.M.N.H. A Eur. Goldfinch was filmed at a thistle feeder in Centereach, L.I., Apr. 1-6 (F.File, D. Kaufman), a site not close to the breeding area of a generation ago. These common cage birds are often released accidentally or on purpose (*cf.* AB 30:822).

CORRIGENDUM—The two Mississippi Kites described in AB 35:163 as the Region's first fall records were actually the second, a single bird having been seen Sept. 19, 1978 at Cape May (P.Grant, D.J. Britton).

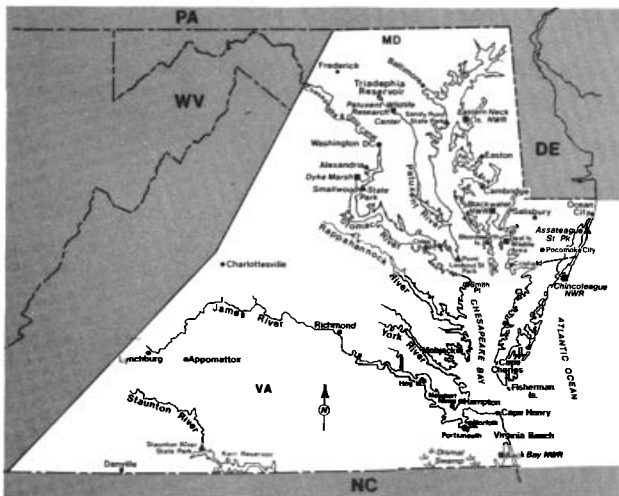
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MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/ Henry T. Armistead

Most areas were cool in March which averaged 1.17° F below normal. April was warm. All stations reported temperatures



above average ranging 1.3° to 5.7° higher than usual and averaging 2.7° above for the entire Region. May was a disappointment with readings 1.75° below normal, the first half of the month being particularly cool, and also was afflicted with strong winds, often NW, W, NE or E, and thus adverse for spring migration. Precipitation in March was 1.95 inches below normal but most areas had close to normal rain in April and May, so, essentially the drought continues. Warm weather passerines and certain waterbirds staged some earlier-than-usual appearances in late March and April but the eagerly anticipated landbird "waves" in May for the most part did not materialize. Rather, May was notable for low heron and marsh bird numbers, a fine coastal and bay shorebird passage, and many lingerers. (See especially waterfowl,

hawks, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, *et passim.*) Many birds that normally arrive in numbers during early May were late, particularly flycatchers, and warblers. Several rarities present in winter stayed on into the early spring period and the shorebirds at Chincoteague were in high numbers but top billing goes to raptors. Be sure to read the encouraging news, which could change at any time it should be stressed, about Bald Eagles, the flights at Fort Smallwood Park southeast of Baltimore, and a belated Peregrine Falcon update. If passerines seem underrepresented in this report so were they in the reports received.

LOONS THROUGH ANHINGAS—The Com. Loon flight was moderate to poor with 620 at Ft. Smallwood Park (hereafter, F.S.P.) in n.e. Anne Arundel Co., Md., Mar. 26-May 27 with highs there of 123 Apr. 18 and 120 Apr. 28 (HW, EB). As late as May 30 eight were still on L. Anna, Louisa-Spotsylvania Cos., Va. (JBB,SC). Noteworthy Red-throated Loon sightings were at Chincoteague (hereafter, Chinc.) May 9-17 (breeding plumage, DFA *et al.*, ph.), Baltimore (hereafter, Balt.) Apr. 4-7 (RFR,

m.ob.) and Yorktown, Va., Apr. 21 (BW). The sole Red-necked Grebes were also solos: Ocean City Mar. 8-21 + (JBB, PGD *et al.*), Swift Creek Res., w. of Richmond Mar. 14 (FRS, JWD) and Chinc., Mar. 26 (JMA). Horned Grebe numbers continue at a drastically reduced level, the subject of universally pessimistic commentary. Highest reports were of 150 at Chinc., Mar. 26 (JMA) and 400 at Craney I. Disposal Area (hereafter, Craney), Portsmouth, Va. (TRW). Farther inland they verged on being absent in many areas (JBB, JMA, EB, JGR, RFR, FRS, CT, MLW). Better grebe news came in the form of two **Eared Grebes** at Balt., Apr. 4-15 (EB, RFR, JS *et al.*, ph.), Maryland's fourth record and first documented one. Another was at Craney Mar. 6 (TRW). Pied-billed Grebe drew scant notice but 20 were at L. Anna Mar. 8 (JBB).

Human pelagic activity was nearly nil although six Sooty Shearwaters and 200 Wilson's Storm Petrels were off Ocean City May 16 (PO, *fide* CPW). A White Pelican was seen again at Fisherman Island N.W.R. (hereafter, F.I.N.W.R.) Apr. 20-May 11 (RLA). At L. Anna a Brown Pelican turned up May 26 (BAS, JB, *fide* JBB), a seemingly bizarre record for such an inland locality yet they have occurred there before, in mid-summer. Small numbers of Great Cormorant, mostly in March, were at Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (hereafter, C.B.B.T.), Hampton Roads, and Craney (DFA, TRW) but more surprising was one way up the Choptank R., at Denton Mar. 8-14 (SW *et al.*, *fide* AJF), a first for Caroline County, Md. Large but normal numbers of Double-crested Cormorants were 3000 on Heron I. Bar, St. Mary's Co., Md., Apr. 7 (JMA), 2600 at Craney Mar. 24 (TRW) and 1000 on Fisherman I., May 3 (BKM, SL). Farther up Chesapeake Bay good counts were of 700 at Denton Apr. 15 (SW, *fide* AJF) and 210 over Bellevue, Md., Apr. 21 (HTA). Even farther up 15 were still at Balt., May 29 (RFR) while one was at L. Anna May 30 (JBB, SC) and as of June 12 some were still in the Hopewell, Va. area (FRS). Maryland's fourth **Anhinga** was well seen over F.S.P., near Balt., May 9 by Blom and Wierenga. Six, a record Regional total, and about the 13th Virginia record, were at Stumpy L., Virginia Beach May 16-23 (RLAk, TRW).

HERONS THROUGH IBISES—Heron numbers at Chinc. were low (FRS, CPW) perhaps because the nearby colony in the marsh s. of the causeway has been abandoned (JHB). In the course of an eagle survey by plane the following pairs of Great Blue Herons were noted: 300 at Nanjemoy Cr., Charles Co., 200 at Bluff Pt., St. Mary's Co., 50 at Patuxent R. (all in Maryland) and 300 at Potomac Cr., Stafford Co., 80 at Mason Neck N.W.R., Fairfax Co. (both in Virginia) (JMA). Other colonies included 77 nests at Bloodsworth I., Mar. 28 and 22 at Deal I. W.M.A., Mar. 29 in Maryland (HTA, CP, RFR) while the huge colony on Poplar I., is down to 50-70 pairs due to erosion (JGR). Scott discovered a new site in Hanover County, Va., which only has ten pairs but represents the state's westernmost colony. At F.S.P., migrants were noted Mar. 13-May 26 totalling 146 with highs of 11 on Mar. 26 and

Apr. 16, not spectacular numbers, but how many stations have ever bothered to record such flights? Green Heron was widely regarded as both late and low (RFR, HTA, FLP, CT) while Cattle Egret drew only slightly less commentary and was less common on the Eastern Shore of Maryland (FLP, JGR, HTA).

Unusual for the Virginia Piedmont were single Snowy Egrets at Ni Res., Apr. 20 (SC, JF, first Spotsylvania County record) and Swift Creek Res., Apr. 23 (FRS)—both the earliest records for that physiographic area of the state. Scarce far up the Chesapeake Louisiana Herons were at Dyke Marsh May 6 (DFA, JMA) and F.S.P., Apr. 11 & 29 (HW). Yellow-crowned Night Herons returned to Norfolk as early as Mar. 26 (RC) and were nest building by Mar. 29, and McKee-Beshers W.M.A., Md., Mar. 28 (B&FH). Several observers considered Least Bittern less common this spring (HTA, FLP, RFR) but one at Charlottesville May 13 & 15 provided the sixth Virginia Piedmont record (PY). American Bittern was also considered scarcer (HTA, FLP, RFR) although six were at Deal Island W.M.A., Mar. 29 (CP, RFR, HTA). Glossy Ibis away from known nesting site areas included 2-24 at F.S.P., May 7-14 (HW), 2-3 at Baltimore Mar. 21-May 10 (RFR, HK *et al.*), three at Piney Run P., Carroll Co., Apr. 3 (BR, *fide* EB), two at Patuxent Naval Air Station Apr. 17 (JC) all in Maryland, and one at Charlottesville May 5 was the second Albemarle Co., Va. record (CB, PY). White Ibis sightings included an adult at Ocean City Apr. 4 (BCL, MKK), one of the few Maryland records e. of Chesapeake Bay, and another at Fisherman I., Apr. 20 (RLA) where breeding should be watched for.



"Blue" Goose, Dyke Marsh, Va., Apr. 8, 1981. First there in over 20 years. Photo/David F. Abbott.

WATERFOWL—Most were unimpressed with the waterfowl migration although there seemed to be a few more lingering divers than usual. Four Mute Swans at L. Anna May 3 provided the second record for there, the first for Spotsylvania County (SC, TW, JF) and Canada Geese also bred there for the first time, a pair with three young being observed May 30 (JBB, SC). Major flights of Canada Geese occurred on Mar. 4, 11 & 15 and of Whistling Swans Mar. 4, 11 & 22 (HW, RFR). A **(Black) Brant** was carefully studied at Chinc., Apr. 26 (TWB, JCM *et al.*). At Patuxent Wildlife Research Center a Bar-

nacle Goose flew overhead calling on May 8 (EM), its origin unknown. As late as Mar. 25 there were 2000 Snow Geese plus 25 of the blue form at Denton (RBF) while 12 Snows were at Chinc., May 9 (CPW). Single Blues were at Dyke Marsh from January-June 2 (DFA, ph.) and in Kent County, Md., May 2 (FLP). Four other late Snows were in Wicomico County, Md., May 2 (CRV *et al.*). On Mar. 29, 390 Gadwall were at Deal Island W.M.A. (HTA, CP, RFR) where three late Pintails were May 6 (JGR, DM). An even later one was in Kent County May 17 (FLP) and 121 Green-winged Teal in Dorchester County May 2 furnished a record May count for there (HTA, CP, EMW). The high count received for Blue-winged Teal was a modest 150 at Elliott I., Md., Apr. 14 (WK). The **Cinnamon Teal** remained at Blackwater N.W.R. (hereafter, Black.) at least from Feb. 16-Mar. 22 (JBB, B&FH *et al.*). A ♀ Eur. Wigeon was reported from Remington Farms, Md., Mar. 13 (JG, *fide* FLP). Lily Pons provided the high Wood Duck count with 43 on May 22 (DHW).

The general scarcity of diving birds may be seen from the totals of one Com. Loon, eight Horned Grebes and one Red-breasted Merganser on immense Kerr Res., Va., Mar. 21 (RC *et al.*), the only such seen that day. Late Canvasbacks were at Ocean City May 1 (RFR), York R., May 9 (BW) and two at Chestertown, Md., May 18 (flying, FLP). Buffleheads were even later with singles at Chinc., May 9-16 (DFA, CPW), Deal I., May 6 (JGR, DM), York County, Va., May 9 (BW) and 48 in Kent County May 2 (FLP). One-two Harlequin Ducks were at Ocean City Mar. 1-May 3 (CP, HTA, RFR, m.ob., ph.) and one remained at Rudee Inlet, Va., at least until Mar. 24 (DFA, JMA *et al.*), where the Com. Eider was also present Mar. 8-14 (m.ob.). One King Eider was at Ocean City until Mar. 22 (JBB, B&FH *et al.*). Ruddy Ducks peaked at Craney Apr. 7 when 1000 were estimated there (TRW). On the James R., 500 Red-breasted Mergansers were seen Mar. 23 (TA) and a late bird of this species latest to leave of diver species was on L. Anna May 30 (JBB, SC). On May 14, 32 were at F.S.P. (HW).

VULTURES THROUGH RAILS—There is much raptor news and it is all good. A well-seen **Swallow-tailed Kite** was over Sugarloaf Mt., Frederick Co., Md., May 25 (SS). Sharp-shinned Hawks lingered later than normally with May birds seen at Black., May 2 & 9 (HTA *et al.*), Kent County (FLP), Somerset County, Md. (CRV), and Caroline County (AJF), these latter all May 2 and on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Very late ones were singles May 28 at Charlottesville (BW) and May 30 both at L. Anna (JBB, SC) and F.S.P. (HW). Wierenga, Blom *et al.* counted raptors on 60 dates Mar. 13-June 16 at F.S.P., seeing 9828 of 14 species which averaged out to 29/hour. Notable counts were of 1186 Turkey Vultures, 5153 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 224 Cooper's Hawks, 205 Red-shouldered Hawks, 12 Bald Eagles, 509 Ospreys, five Peregrine Falcons and 71 Merlins. Individual high counts included 157 Turkey Vultures Mar. 29, 787 Sharp-shinned Hawks Apr. 29 (640 Apr. 28), 37 Cooper's Hawks Apr. 28, 50 Red-shouldered Hawks

Mar. 13, 53 Ospreys May 7, 17 Merlins Apr. 27 (13, on May 12). Interesting late records were 112 Broad-winged Hawks June 4 (two June 16) and four Ospreys June 5. Many of these counts are unprecedented for the Region in the spring either as season highs, one day counts or late records. This pioneering effort underscores the importance of the Maryland w. shore as a raptor flyway and in view of the results so far, which are the efforts of only a few people, the potential counts would probably be even more impressive.

In the Patuxent R. area Martin found an average 1.9 young /pair of Red-shouldered Hawks, the third best in 11 years of study the best being last year's 2.1. On Fisherman I., 14 small groups of 2-4 Broad-winged Hawks were seen May 3 (RLA). Record late Rough-legged Hawks for Maryland were two at Black., May 2 (HTA, EMW *et al.*) and one in Wicomico County May 2 (CRV). An imm. Golden Eagle at Bellevue, Md., Apr. 21 was at an unusual locality (HTA) and three were in Kent County Mar. 22 (FLP). On May 2, 19 Bald Eagles in Dorchester County furnished the second highest May count there by a single party (CP, EMW *et al.*) and the total of 17 Marsh Hawks May 9 provided a new May high (HTA, EWM *et al.*). Early Ospreys were at Kingsmill near Williamsburg Mar. 4 (TA), two in Talbot County, Md., Mar. 7 (JGR) and one at Eastern Neck Island N.W.R., Mar. 9 (FLP) and 59 were in Dorchester County Mar. 28 (RFR, CP, HTA), a typical count there consisting of breeding birds. There are at least ten Peregrine Falcon hacking sites in the Region now and this species is increasingly being seen at odd dates and

S.A.

The Chesapeake Bay Bald Eagle Nesting Survey revealed 95 (previous high 87) active nests with 4 Delaware, 51 Maryland, 40 Virginia; which hatched 96 (previous high 74) young with 3 Delaware, 53 Maryland, 40 Virginia, the best results in the survey's 20-year history (JMA, BC, FRS *et al.*). Especially encouraging was the nearly steady drop in abandoned nests from 85% in 1962 to 67% in 1970, 57% in 1975, and 36% in 1981. Five nests each produced three young. One eagle pair took over and enlarged a Great Blue Heron nest of the previous year. Later 20 pairs of herons began nesting at this site and a Great Horned Owl was also breeding in the area! Kepone-stricken James R., produced four eaglets from 3 nests, the first there since 1969, except for two young last year. Banders tagged three young in Delaware, 41 in Maryland and 32 in Virginia. Full details are available from Jackson M. Abbott, 3501 Dotter Dr., Alexandria, VA 22308 if one sends a legal sized SASE with 35 cents (as of July 1981!) postage. It should not be overlooked that from a low of 0.16 young per active nest in 1962 the Bay eagles have recovered to the extent that 1.+ per active nest were recorded in 1981, close to normal production, and, although there are many variables, a clear suggestion that banning of the more insidious chemicals has helped these great birds.

places. Three Merlins were at Sandy Pt. S.P. (hereafter, S.P.S.P.) on May 11 (HW).

A May 22, 1981 report notes that Ward *et al.* captured 176 Peregrine Falcons at 3 coastal sites in the fall of 1980. Three of these had been banded a few days earlier at stations farther n. He considers this almost as good a flight year as the record one of 1979 when 140 were caught on Assateague I. Since 1970, 626 Peregrines have been trapped on this island where counts of 312 Merlins, 781 Marsh Hawks and a total of 512 Peregrine sightings (vs. 598 in 1979) were made in 1980. Since 1970 both Merlins and Peregrines have shown a nearly steady upward trend here in terms of numbers seen per 100 man hours, the exception being two very low years of 1972 and 1974. Limited numbers of harmless blood samples are extracted for pesticide analysis. The feeling is that most recent Peregrine pesticide contamination occurs s. of the U.S.-Mexico border and that this is not at a level critically harmful to reproduction. Assateague is so well known as a staging area that printing this data is not considered an indiscretion. To sum up the report "... record levels of Peregrines for the second consecutive season. Every parameter studied was positive." (FPW).

There is still concern for the Bobwhite with numbers still low in some areas of the Piedmont (EB, JWE). Near Frederick, Md., a Turkey hen was seen on a nest with 13 eggs May 23 (B&FH). At Chinc., May 27 Meanley found 23 Clapper Rail nests with 7-12 eggs. The high Black Rail count was nine at Elliott I., May 24-25 (HTA, CP) when 36 Virginia Rails were also heard. Elsewhere three Blacks were S.P.S.P., in May (HW), one at Tilghman's I., Md., May 21 (JE, *vide* JGR) and one at Truitt Landing Rd., Worcester Co., Md., May 2 (RFR). Two were heard at Elliott I., 3:10 p.m. and flushed when the car stopped Apr. 26 (TRB, TWB)! Soras were scarce (HTA, RFR) as were Com. Gallinules. Three Purple Gallinules appeared in the Virginia Beach-Lynnhaven Inlet-Back Bay N.W.R. area in early May (TRW *et al.*). At L. Anna 902 Am. Coots were seen Mar. 8 (JBB).



Purple Gallinule, Lynnhaven Inlet, Virginia Beach, Va., May 5, 1981. Photo/Ned Brinkley.

SHOREBIRDS—The shorebird passage was notable for both abundance and variety. At Fisherman I., Am. Oystercatchers had 55 nests (vs. 13 in 1973; RLA) the increase probably due to a big build up of sand areas. At Chinc., Wilds made 7 thorough shorebird surveys with these highlights: Semipalmated Plover 1748 May 15-16; Piping Plover 28 on Apr. 6-7; White-rumped Sandpiper 85 May 15-16 and 92 May 25-26; Least Sandpiper

1604 May 7-8; Curlew Sandpiper one on May 20-26 (also by JHB); Dunlin 6316 Apr. 6-7; Short-billed Dowitcher 965 May 15-16; Semipalmated Sandpiper 10,462 May 25-26; Marbled Godwit one Apr. 19; Ruff one Apr. 27-28; Sanderling 1342 Apr. 6-7; Wilson's Phalarope two May 25-26; N. Phalarope five May 25-26. Concerning dowitchers she has this to say "... I have profound doubts about all visual calls on LBDs from observers who aren't aware of the immense differences between the two subspecies of SBDs that occur in these parts. They are at least as different from each other in breeding plumage as either is from an LBD." Huge numbers of Black-bellied Plovers, 4000-6000 were estimated on the lower Eastern Shore of Virginia May 18 (GR,BT) and one at L. Anna May 31 was the second spring Virginia Piedmont record (JBB). A large passage of Whimbrels was seen May 23 e. of Watts I., Va. (GR; five flocks of 35-150). In Belfast Valley, Baltimore Co., Md., 18 Upland Sandpipers were seen Apr. 25 (HK, m.ob., *vide* RFR).

An early Solitary Sandpiper was at Hopewell Mar. 29 (FRS) and 50 were at Loch Raven Res., May 12 (HK, *vide* RFR). At Black., 325 Lesser Yellowlegs was a record Dorchester County count Apr. 24 (JGR, HTA). Two Red Knots at Ocean City May 1 tied the Maryland early date (RFR). Pectoral Sandpiper high counts were of 300 in Kent County Apr. 8 (FLP), 125 at Black., Apr. 24 (JGR, HTA) with March birds noted at Hunting Creek, Va. (JBB), Lily Pons (DHW, Mar. 15) and James City County, Va. (BW). Five Long-billed Dowitchers were at Chinc., May 9 (JMA, DFA). Stilt Sandpipers were at Black., May 2-9, six and three (HTA, EMW, FLP), Chinc., May 15-16, six (CPW), Trappe, Md., May 4, one (JE *et al.*, *vide* JGR) and one in Worcester County May 2 (RFR). At Craney 9300 Semipalmated, 600 Least and 100 White-rumped sandpipers were estimated May 18 (RC, MC). Maryland Ruffs were at Loch Raven Res., Apr. 27-May 4 (BD, RFR *et al.*) and Ocean City Mar. 8 (HB). No Am. Avocets were seen, Craney being too dry for them (TRW). From one to five Black-necked Stilts were at Chinc., Apr. 26-May 20 (TWB, JHB). One was at Back Bay N.W.R., May 16 (TRW). Maryland phalaropes included a Wilson's at Balt., May 31 (RFR, m.ob.) and a Northern at Lily Pons May 20 (DHW).

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMERS

—Rare on Chesapeake Bay two Parasitic Jaegers were at Bozman, Talbot Co., Md., May 31 (JJ). Numerous Glaucous Gulls, mostly second year birds, were seen with May birds at C.B.B.T., May 10 (RLA), Lynnhaven Inlet May 2-5 (*vide* CPW), and S.P.S.P., May 9 (HW, PAD). Iceland Gulls were reported only from Arlington, Va., Mar. 6 (DFA) and Lynnhaven Inlet May 2-5 (*vide* CPW). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen at 12 localities with as many as nine period birds on the Potomac R., below Washington (DFA). A Thayer's Gull was reported from Hunting Creek, Va., Apr. 29 (JMA). The fourth Maryland sight record for California Gull was seen e. of Balt., May 10 (HK), a carefully described adult. For the fifth straight year a Black-headed Gull surfaced at Balt., Mar. 21-Apr. 7+ (EB, RFR).

Both Laughing Gull and Royal Tern were in higher numbers than usual up some of the Chesapeake rivers, possibly because of the year-long drought and resultant higher salinity levels (FRS, BW). Two Little Gulls were near Balt. (Back R. sewage treatment plant) Apr. 7+ for the fifth consecutive year (EB *et al.*). Forster's Terns showed up early and in good numbers with up to 74 in Dorchester County May 2 (EMW, CP *et al.*) and 13 breeding plumage birds at Deal I., Mar. 28 (CP, HTA, RFR). Rare terns were two Arctics at Hampton Roads May 9 (DFA, JMA) and single Roseates at Lynnhaven Inlet May 9 (DFA, JMA) and Back Bay May 16 (TRW). The first Royal Terns were two at Craney Mar. 17 (TRW), one at Ocean City Mar. 21 (JBB) and one on C.B.B.T., Mar. 22 (RLA). An early Caspian Tern was at Chinc., Mar. 26-27 (CPW) and 23 were at Hunting Creek Apr. 28, some of the latter rising off a bar very late in the day (2010 hrs.) and flying out of sight convincing Bazuin they were engaged in nocturnal migration. Otherwise the Caspian and Black tern flight was poor. A Black Skimmer at Charlottesville May 20 (BDI, *fide* CES) provided a first Albemarle County record and farthest inland one for Virginia.

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS—In Richmond, Scott banded a young Mourning Dove already off the nest by Mar. 11. In spite of massive caterpillar outbreaks on the Delmarva Pen., cuckoos were in average numbers there (HTA). A Long-eared Owl remained at Piney Run P., until Mar. 22 (RFR). Single Saw-whet Owls were at Sherwood, Talbot Co., Mar. 27 (AM, *fide* JGR) and the Nat'l Arboretum in Washington Mar. 1-7 (RFR, HW). At S.P.S.P., a Chuck-will's-widow nest with one egg was found May 9-19 (HW). Early Chimney Swifts were at Newport News Mar. 25 (M&DM) and F.S.P., Mar. 27, 29 & 31 (HW). Belted Kingfishers continue in low numbers following the hard winters of the late 1970s. Single migrant Pileated Woodpeckers were at F.S.P., Apr. 2, May 4 & 10 (HW). Ten Red-headed Woodpeckers were at Myrtle Grove W.M.A., Md., Mar. 15 (PYH, *fide* CPW). A **Red-cockaded Woodpecker** at Chinc., Apr. 10 (JHB) was new to the refuge and only the fourth locality from which they have been reported on the Delmarva Pen. The origin of such an isolated individual is difficult to explain. A singing Alder Flycatcher with singing Willow Flycatchers in the immediate vicinity was at Monkton n. of Balt., May 30 (RFR, EB). In several areas Willows did not arrive until May 14 (DFA, DHW). Flycatchers in general seemed both late and in low numbers (JMA, HTA, FRS).

Tree Swallows are thriving in the Region as breeders and 3 observers found them nesting in bluebird houses (JBB, RFR, DHW). The earliest Barn Swallow was at Linkwood, Md., Mar. 22 (JBB). Other early swallows included a Cliff near S.P.S.P., Apr. 9 (BA, *fide* HW) and 15 Purple Martins at F.S.P., Mar. 13 (three Mar. 15; HW). At L. Anna 28 Cliff Swallow nests were found May 30-31 (JBB, SC) and 75 nests were seen in the Liberty Res. area n.w. of Balt., in late May (RFR). A tremendous flight of 25,000 Blue Jays was witnessed at F.S.P. in late April-early May (EB). After an unimpressive winter showing

Red-breasted Nuthatch was widely reported in small numbers in early May at Arlington, Dyke Marsh, Frederick, Kent County, Black., Caroline County, S.P.S.P. and Chinc., the latter the last on May 9 by Wilds (DFA, AJF, FLP, HTA, HW, m.ob.). Belated but interesting is the report of 250+ House Wrens being produced from bluebird houses in the Sterling, Va. area last year (CT). Concern that Carolina Wren is still way down in Piedmont areas was expressed (EB, CT, v.ob.). The tenuous presence of Short-billed Marsh Wren in the Region was bolstered only slightly by reports from Balt. (Black Marsh), two May 10 (HK), Sterling May 1-3, (CT), Dyke May 9 (*fide* CPW), Elliott I, two May 9-25 (HTA, CP, FLP), Deal I., May 6 (JGR, DM), Saxis I., Va., May 24-29 (RPR). The latter 3 sites have diminutive breeding populations. The thrush flight was poor (JMA, JWE, FRS, CT) although there was a flurry of activity May 23-24 (SHD, HW). More than the usual number of Hermit Thrushes lingered into May with one in Richmond May 8 (FRS) and another banded n. of Washington at Adventure May 10 (*fide* EMW). Unusual locally was an E. Bluebird at Chinc., Apr. 6-7 (CPW). Cedar Waxwings are erratic and rare nesters on the Delmarva Pen., but a nest was found at Wittman, Talbot Co. and was active through at least early June (AM, *fide* JGR).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS—Observers who commented on the warbler migration were unanimously negative (JMA, JWE, AJF, PN, FRS, HTA, DHW). The normally-early warblers (Louisiana Waterthrush, Black-and-white and Yellow-throated) were late and the migration of others ended in late May without the usual few June spillovers. The better flight days were Apr. 28 & 30, May 8, 23-24. In Alexandria 15-acre Monticello P., is a recently-discovered landbird hot spot. An early White-eyed Vireo was at Charlottesville Apr. 5 (DF, *fide* CES). Also early was a Black-and-white Warbler at Williamsburg Mar. 31 (BW). As in the past 4 years Meanley found the Prothonotary the commonest warbler in Dismal Swamp with 65 along a 25 mi route May 26. Blue-winged Warbler and N. Waterthrush were both commoner than usual with ten of the latter in Richmond May 13 one of which attacked a singing Indigo Bunting at the top of a pine tree (FRS, DP). Brewster's Warblers were seen at Dismal Swamp Apr. 25-May 3 (RC, MC, BKM, SL), Patuxent W.R.C., Apr. 30 (PL, *fide* CPW), Pennyfield near Seneca, Md., Apr. 25 (*MO, fide* CPW) and Arlington May 2-4 (TB, *fide* CPW). An Orange-crowned Warbler at Dismal Swamp was well described Apr. 25 (RC, MC). Early warblers were a N. Parula at Newport News Apr. 5 (M&DM) and a Black-throated Green in Norfolk Mar. 31 (RC). Cerulean Warblers were seen in several places where normally they are very scarce: Mt. Vernon, Va., Dyke Marsh, Talbot County, Richmond, and Kent County (DFA, DFA, DM, FRS, FLP respectively). Bay-breasted Warblers were widely reported May 23-24. A Prairie Warbler at Chinc., Apr. 5 was early (MCK *et al.*). Single Mourning Warblers were at Arnold, Md., May 24 (WK) and Lewisetta, Va., May 16 (FRS). Most

Wilson's Warbler reports were May 16 Scott had 11 Canada Warblers May 23 at Richmond and Parks noted six in Kent County May 24.

TANAGERS THROUGH SPARROWS—The **Western Tanager** first seen last winter remained in Virginia Beach until Mar. 24 (DFA, m.ob.). An odd Scarlet Tanager at L. Anna May 31, "orange variant" with orange body and brown wings but with the mid and lower breast white, sang alternately like a Summer Tanager or Scarlet (JBB). A **Black-headed Grosbeak** was at a feeder in Gloucester, Va., where it was seen Mar. 24 (DFA *et al.*) The first Indigo Buntings were at Towson, Md. (BI, *fide* RFR) and Dyke Marsh (PY, *fide* CPW) both Apr. 18 Both Evening Grosbeak and Pine Siskin reappeared in late March, increased in April and lingered until untypically late dates in May at many localities. One Evening Grosbeak was at F.S.P., May 13 (HW), others were in Kent County May 14 (FLP) and four were in Lexington P., Md., May 15 (EJW). The latest siskins were five in Richmond May 15 (FRS), one in St. Michaels, Md., May 15 (JGR), an unspecified number in Fairfax, Va., May 18 (JWE) and one in Arnold, Md., May 30 (WK). There were more reports of these two species in May than there are in an entire winter some years. House Finch continues to spread, consolidate and increase with counts such as 256 at Ocean City Mar. 9 (CP, HTA) The White-winged Crossbill at Richmond was last seen Mar. 17 (SM, FRS, m.ob.)

The most cavalier of many lingering Savannah Sparrows was one at L. Anna May 31 (YBB). From two-four Henslow's Sparrows were at Elliott I., Apr. 25, May 2, 9 & 24 (CP, TRB, EMW *et al.*) and five were heard at Saxis May 24 (RPR)-two of the handful of known breeding sites for them in the Region. Very late was a Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco at Bozman, Talbot County May 15 (*fide* JGR) as was a White-throated Sparrow at Arnold, Md., May 24 (WK). Single Lincoln's Sparrows were reported from only 4 localities. The last Snow Bunting was at S.P.S.P., Mar. 6 (HW).

ADDENDA—Important records just received include four Wilson's Phalaropes at McKee-Beshers W.M.A., Aug. 9; also two Brown Pelicans and five Am. Avocets on Assateague I., Aug. 16. These all in 1980 in Maryland by B&FH.

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Lipschutz, L. C. McCrady, Aron Marshall, E. W. Marshall, Elwood Martin, Brooke Meanley, D. A. Mendinhall, Donald Meritt, Mike & Dorothy Mitchell, B. K. Moscatello, Sally Moxley, Paul Nistico, Mariana Nuttle, Michael O'Brien, Paol O'Brien, J. P. Oland, James Orgain, F. L. Parks, Carl Perry, Darrell Peterson, Betsy Reeder, J. G. Reese, George Reiger, R. F. Ringler, R. P. Russell, F. R. Scott, Jim Stasz, Steve Steimel, C. E. Stevens, C. B. Swift, R. J. Tripician, Barry Truitt, Craig Tufts, C. R. Vaughn, D. H. Wallace, F. P. Ward, M. L. Wass, Steve Westre, Hal Wierenga, C. P. Wilds, Bill Williams, E. J. Willoughby, E. M. Wilson, Todd Wilson, T. R. Wolfe, Peter Yankevich (PYh), Peter Yaukey (PYy).—HENRY T. ARMISTEAD, 28 E. Springfield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19118

SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/ Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

The drought that began in the summer of 1980 continued through Spring 1981 in the southeast. Very little rain fell in April, and not until late May did any significant rain occur. Unusually warm weather extended from late March through much of April, with May being generally seasonable in temperature. During the crucial migration period from mid-April to mid-May, a series of weak and dry cold fronts passed through the Region almost without notice.

Migrants, especially Trans-Gulf flyers, were scarce this spring, particularly warblers and thrushes, with Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes being in very low numbers. Coincident with the hot weather in late March and early April was an early influx of landbirds, and many breeding species that normally arrive in mid-April were detected by early April. The passerine migration, essentially finished by May 20 in the Region, continued well into late May, with numerous noteworthy sightings, even along the coast, from May 20 to 30. Although many reservoirs and ponds had muddy shorelines, the lack of unsettled weather apparently kept the rarer shorebirds aloft, and most inland birders recorded only the usual plovers and sandpipers. A fairly respectable list of rarities was reported, but, alas, there were no first state records.



LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS—A count of 17 Com. Loons on L. Lanier, Ga., Apr. 12 (JP) was good for an inland locale, and the always noteworthy Red-necked Grebe was reported from Morehead City, N.C., Mar. 6 (AB). Absolutely unprecedented were the 207 Northern Fulmars observed by Lee in the Gulf Stream off Cape Hatteras, N.C., Mar. 26; the previous Regional high was nine birds. Remarkable as it may seem, fulmars have been recorded somewhat regularly off North Carolina in late fall and in spring in recent years, but as yet they have not been seen even once in winter (December through February)! Only small numbers of Cory's, Greater, Sooty, and Audubon's shearwaters were noted on pelagic trips off the Carolinas from late April to late May, with the best report being two early Audubon's off Wilmington, N.C., Mar. 27 (DL). A first March record for North Carolina was of the two Black-capped Petrels off Wilmington on Mar. 27 (DL), and other Black-capped records for that state were of seven off Oregon Inlet Apr. 2 (DL), 14+ off Oregon Inlet May 14 (DL), and 18+ off Hatteras Inlet May 24 (RA, PD, MT *et al.*). Rather rare but regular in May, Leach's Storm-Petrels were reported off Oregon Inlet May 14 (two birds—DL) and off Hatteras Inlet May 24 (four or five birds—MT *et al.*), and quite early was a Leach's collected by Lee off Oregon Inlet Apr. 2. Also on the last-mentioned pelagic trip, Lee collected a Wilson's Storm-Petrel, the earliest specimen record for North Carolina. A second Regional record of the Red-billed Tropicbird was of an individual photographed 20 mi e. of Cape Lookout, N.C., May 6 (WI). Fussell noted eight Brown Pelicans at Minnesott Beach, Pamlico Co., N.C., Mar. 2, somewhat far "upstream" for the species, and a White Pelican was at Shutes Folly I., near Charleston, S.C., Feb. 27 (TME). Single Great Cormorants were of interest Apr. 2 at Oregon Inlet (DL) and Apr. 26 at Huntington Beach S.P., S.C. (PN); whereas Double-crested Cormorants were widely reported on inland lakes and ponds, but the peak counts were of just four individuals. Anhingas might be nesting in the Fayetteville, N.C., area, where four were seen at Jessup's Mill Pond May 29 (PJC), and 11 soaring over a mill pond near Newport, N.C., May 14 also seemed to indicate a breeding population there (JF). An ad. ♂ Magnificent Frigatebird was a good find at Cape Lookout May 17 (SP, CD *et al.*).

WADERS—Most species of waders are rather scarce inland (away from breeding colonies) in spring. Thus, of interest were a Little Blue Heron flying over the field during an Atlanta Braves baseball game May 27 (DG, HG, LG); single Great Egrets in n.e. Guilford County, N.C., and at nearby Burlington Apr. 11 & 14 (AB); three to four Snowy Egrets at Fayetteville Apr. 22 - May 1 (PJC); a Louisiana Heron at Eufaula N.W.R., Ga., Apr. 2 (PB); and an ad. Black-crowned Night Heron at Kerr Scott Res., Wilkes Co., N.C., May 22 (TH). A large heron roost was

found at Augusta, Ga., during the spring, and although the observers (AW, VW) did not cite breeding evidence, the waders must be nesting. On Apr. 17 they saw 322 Cattle Egrets, 135 White Ibises, and a few Little Blue Herons and Great Egrets; by late May there were 1034 Cattle Egrets, 836 ibises, 96 ad. and seven imm. Little Blues, and 11 Great Egrets. A Least Bittern was rare at Emory Univ., near Atlanta May 2-9 (LG, HG), and Patterson found two Least Bittern nests near Dublin, Ga., in late May. Also near Dublin was a Wood Stork May 16 (TKP), a species that the observer suspects of breeding in the nearby area in some years, though actual evidence is lacking. Noteworthy along the coast were an ad. White Ibis at Pea I., N.C., Apr. 11 and an immature there the following day (RC, MC), and two Am. Flamingos near Cape I. lighthouse, S.C., May 13 (THP).

WATERFOWL—Four Brants at South R., Carteret Co., N.C., Mar. 13 constituted a rare sighting for that area (JF, RCa), and one in the s. part of the county at Ft. Macon S.P., Apr. 16, was rather late (SP). A ♂ Redhead was late May 11 near Beaufort, N.C. (SG), and 200 Oldsquaws Apr. 18 seen from the Swanquarter—Ocracoke ferry across Pamlico Sound, N.C., was an excellent total for that month (WI, FI). An imm. ♂ Harlequin Duck at Swanquarter Mar. 2 (JF) and again Mar. 5 (AB) provided an excellent find and was rather far removed from the ocean. Very rare and exceptionally late were a male and four ♀ King Eiders at Price's Inlet near Charleston May 1 (JM, FH). At least five White-winged Scoters at Sunset Beach, N.C., Apr. 19 were somewhat late (KM, PJC), and rare for the Outer Banks was a ♀ Com. Merganser studied carefully in Oregon Inlet Apr. 11-12 (RC, MC).

HAWKS THROUGH RAILS—Several Swallow-tailed Kites were detected in North Carolina n. of their breeding range, as usual at this season: far inland in w. Chatham County May 22 (TH, EH, JW), and coastally at Morehead City Apr. 13 (JF), Ocracoke I., Apr. 25 (PV), and Core Banks near Atlantic May 1 (KK). A group of 8-10 on May 13 at the n. edge of the breeding range along the lower Santee R., S.C. (DF), gives hope that the population in that area is holding its own, but this kite is a Blue-listed species in our Region. The Rough-legged Hawk at Jordan Res., N.C., reported in February was seen again Mar. 14 (AB), and very rare and late for Georgia was a light-phase individual Apr. 5 near Duluth (JB). The majority of the Bald Eagle reports came from inland North Carolina (Beaverdam Res., residential Raleigh, Aberdeen, and Hoffman). Peregrine Falcons, all single individuals, were noted coastally at Pea I., Mar. 11 (McR, SG), c. Carteret County Apr. 18 & 22, (JF *et al.*), Oregon Inlet Apr. 30 (WI); and inland in downtown Atlanta in early March (DP), at nearby Chattahoochee R., Mar. 9 (JSt), and n.w. Pender County, N.C., May 15 (RD). Merlin reports at all seasons (except summer, of course) have been increasing steadily in the Region for 5 years, and this spring 5 inland sightings were made—in Georgia near Duluth Mar. 9 (JP), at Lawrenceville Mar. 31 (SB), and at Augusta Apr. 19 (AW, VW), and in North Carolina near Durham Apr. 26 (MS, MD) and

Newport Apr 25-26 (JF)

The Sandhill Crane flight over Atlanta was limited mainly to the Mar. 1-9 period, with 1000+ birds noted (*vide* TM). The crane that wintered at Dublin was joined by another Mar. 6, and eight more were at a nearby locale on that date (TKP); three were late near Griffin, Ga., Apr. 28 (JS). The North Carolina Big Day effort of Fussell, Tove, and R. Davis May 4 terminated at Cedar I., where 20 Black Rails were heard.

SHOREBIRDS—A Black-necked Stilt at Sunset Beach, N.C., Apr. 19 (KM,PJC) was a rare find for that area, and a count of 14 at North R. marsh, Carteret Co., N.C., May 11 (SG) was quite high. Good totals of Am. Avocets were 25 at the Jekyll I., Ga., causeway Mar. 6, the same number Mar. 7-8 at the s. end of that island (DB,PB), and 106 at Pea I., Apr. 12 (RC *et al.*). Extremely rare inland were two Wilson's Plovers at a pond near Columbia, S.C., Apr. 25 (JIB,LGI,JPag), but disappointingly, the only inland report of Am. Golden Plovers was of groups of nine and five near Duluth Mar. 21 (PB). Scattered reports of Upland Sandpipers were received, but totals were very small this spring. The probable Spotted Redshank at Huntington Beach S.P., S.C., observed in February, was noted again Apr. 26 (PN). [Other Charleston birders have expressed some doubts about the bird, and the apparent lack of enthusiasm of local birders in tracking down the bird and confirming it as a Spotted Redshank leaves me wondering about its true identity.—HL]

The Raleigh spring count tallied 141 Solitary Sandpipers May 2 (*vide* RJH), and always noteworthy inland Willets were near Fayetteville May 5 (PJC) and in e. Jones County, N.C., May 15 (two birds—JF). The only sighting of Wilson's Phalaropes was most unusual: three were flushed from the ocean off Charleston May 3 (PN *et al.*). Northern Phalaropes eluded pelagic birders off North Carolina, but both trips off Charleston (Apr. 26 and May 3) noted them (DF,PN *et al.*), and onshore were six at Bodie I., N.C., May 18 (CW) and one at Ft. Macon May 24 (JF). Red Phalaropes were found on 4 pelagic trips: 378 off Oregon Inlet Mar. 26 (DL), 118 out of the same inlet Apr. 2 (DL), an unspecified number off Charleston Apr. 26 (DF), and 15 off Charleston May 3 (PN *et al.*) A Com. Snipe was very late at Dublin May 29 (TKP), and unusual inland in spring was a Short-billed Dowitcher at Fayetteville Apr. 22-29 (PJC). Good seasonal totals of Long-billed Dowitchers were 20 at Bodie I., Apr. 17 (AB) and 18 at Swanquarter Mar. 2 (JF). White-rumped Sandpipers were detected inland at 4 locales, with the best counts being eight at Dublin May 23 (TKP) and seven at Augusta May 17 (AW,VW). Pectoral Sandpipers were in much higher-than-usual numbers inland, with several hundred in the Dublin area Mar. 28 (G.O.S.), 90 in the Clemson, S.C., area Mar. 21 (HL,AA), 54 at North R., near Beaufort Apr. 8 (JF), and 41 e. of Durham, N.C., Mar. 18 (BW,MW,JPag). A Curlew Sandpiper at Bodie I., Apr. 11 provided the earliest spring record for the Region, and just the second for the month of April (RC,MB,MC,KH). A good find was a Stilt Sandpiper at Augusta Apr. 11-May 2 (AW), and the third spring record for the Re-

gion (and second in 2 years) of **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was a bird near Duluth Apr. 11 (FM).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS—From Apr. 18 to May 11, 36 jaegers were observed from shore in Carteret County (JF *et al.*); none was close enough for conclusive identification, but most were believed to have been Pomarines. Lee saw two Pomarines off Oregon Inlet Mar. 26, and one was noted at Pine Knoll Shores, N.C., Mar. 15 (RJH). The only definite Parasitic Jaeger was off Cape Lookout May 6 (WI). Single imm. Glaucous Gulls were notable at Newport, N.C., Mar. 6 (JF, AB), at Huntington Beach S.P., Apr. 26 (PN), and at Cumberland I., Ga., at least to May 15 (AAT); and a Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Cape Hatteras Mar. 10 (MCR,SG). Inland Laughing Gulls were found in North Carolina at Roanoke Rapids Apr. 3 (TH) and Raleigh May 2 (JF *et al.*), and one of the few Regional spring records of the **Franklin's Gull** was of an individual on L. Lanier in n. Georgia Apr. 28 (JPag,BM). The scarcity of unsettled weather in April and May must have allowed migrating terns to pass high over inland lakes, and I received only two inland reports each for Common, Caspian, and Black terns, and *none* for Forster's. The best inland tern sighting was of two Least at Augusta May 16 (AW,VW). *Five* Roseate Terns at Oregon Inlet Apr. 12 (RC *et al.*) were reported with fair details, whereas no details accompanied a report at Huntington Beach Apr. 26. [As I have never seen a Roseate in this Region in 16 years of birding, I worry about sightings lacking full details.—HL] Fortunately, an **Arctic Tern** off Charleston May 3 (PN,GM *et al.*) was well-described; this is the second occurrence reported for South Carolina.

CUCKOOS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS—In the s. portion of Francis Marion N.F. near Charleston were an early Yellow-billed Cuckoo Mar. 22 (WB *et al.*) and three calling Black-billed Cuckoos, quite rare near the coast in spring, May 9-11 (PN). The latest Short-eared Owl report from Jordan Res., N.C., where 20± wintered, was Apr. 6 (RD), and notable for n. Georgia was one found in weakened condition near Marietta Mar. 30 (*vide* FM). Unique for the Region were three calling Saw-whet Owls in l'On Swamp n.e. of Charleston May 17 (SC,PN). The owls were in a dense stand of young pines and responded to owl tapes; however, the birds were not seen. Extremely early was a Chimney Swift at Kiawah I., S.C., Mar. 14 (SC). This season's Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, near Ellerbe, N.C., May 27, was seen by an experienced and hard-working birder (DM)! The less common *Empidonax* flycatchers passed through or around the Region almost unnoticed, with a singing Alder in Alamance County, N.C., May 9 (AB) and a silent Least at Raleigh May 2 (JC,DT) being the only ones reported. Similarly, the only sighting of Olive-sided Flycatcher was just s. of Atlanta May 17 (RG).

SWALLOWS THROUGH VIREOS—At Beaverdam Res., n. of Raleigh, were several early Tree Swallows Mar. 4 (BW, MW, JPag), and the same birders saw 1800 swallows there May 20, of which 45% (810) were Banks. Cliff Swallows were again

nesting this spring "out of range" at Moore's Landing, n.e. of Charleston (*vide* PN), the only Coastal Plain breeding locale in the Region. A Com. Raven was noted near Sunset, n. Pickens Co., S.C., May 3 (HL), the species is not known to nest presently in the state and the bird was likely a post-breeder or juvenile from North Carolina. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was late at Atlanta May 10 (JCa), and a Short-billed Marsh Wren was rare for that city May 16 (PM, TM). In this Region, House Wrens are generally restricted to the Piedmont as breeders, thus, a singing bird in the upper Coastal Plain at Fayetteville May 22 (HR, PJC) was of interest. A Swainson's Thrush at Raleigh was early Apr. 10 (GW), whereas a Gray-cheeked Thrush was very rare in spring along the coast at Cape Lookout May 23 (JF,RJH). Early Veeries were near Chapel Hill, N.C., Apr. 9 (JPag) and at Raleigh Apr. 13 (GW), but 40 Water Pipits near Charleston May 7 (PN) set a late departure date for that city. An exceptional spring report for the Coastal Plain, and one of just a few at this season for South Carolina, was of a carefully studied **Philadelphia Vireo** in l'On Swamp May 17 (SC,PN). Nearly as rare was a Warbling Vireo at Atlanta Apr. 13-24 (JG *et al.*).

WARBLERS—Although all of the non-endangered species of eastern warblers but Mourning were reported, numbers were very low, and most observers had a disappointing spring of "warblering". There were three sightings of Swainson's Warblers from the Atlanta area, with an individual near Duluth Apr. 8 (SB) being quite early. A Swainson's near Chapel Hill May 1 (MT,SG) was rare for that city, as were two ♂ Golden-winged Warblers at Fayetteville Apr. 26 (PJC,RO). A Tennessee Warbler, in winter plumage, was carefully described by Nugent, Compton *et al.* at Fairlawn Plantation near Charleston Mar. 22; could the bird have overwintered? Also exceedingly rare, but at least seasonable, were single Tennessees e. of their migration range near Rockingham, N.C., May 8 & 21 (DM). Another warbler rare over most of the Region in spring, the Nashville, was observed near Charleston May 9 (PN *et al.*) and at Raleigh May 22 (GW). Noteworthy along the coast at this season were single Magnolia Warblers near Charleston May 9 (PN) and near Wilmington May 30 (JSn), as well as two Blackburnian Warblers at Cape Lookout May 23 (JF,RJH) and another the next day up the coast at Kitty Hawk (HW,BL). Rare for the North Carolina sandhills was a Bay-breasted Warbler at L. Surf near Vass May 3 (THo), and the 60 Blackpoll Warblers in l'On Swamp May 9 (PN *et al.*) were part of a truly outstanding wave of migrants rarely seen in spring near the coast. Outside of the known breeding range were Louisiana Waterthrushes in extreme w. Carteret County Apr. 17 (JF) and in s. Pender County, N.C., May 13 (RD). It is hoped a follow-up search of these birds can be made in June to assure that they were not migrants. The narrow spring migration route of the Connecticut Warbler passes right through Atlanta, and not surprisingly, all records for the season were from this area: one near Fairburn May 16 (DeM), one along the Chattahoochee R., May 10 and three there May 17 (TM). Additional warblers very unusual for the coast at this season

were a Wilson's near Charleston Apr. 18 (GM,PN) and a Canada at Cape Lookout May 23 (JF,RJH), providing a first record for heavily-birded Carteret County.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH LONG-SPURS—The ♀ Yellow-headed Blackbird that wintered in Decatur, Ga., was last reported Mar. 16 (*vide* TM). Several birds seen at feeders in February (and previously reported) lingered into spring: the W. Tanager at Fayetteville until early April (R&MC,PJC), the Summer Tanager in the same city into early March (R&MC), and the **Lazuli Bunting** at Westminster, S.C., to Mar. 7 + (SAG, HL *et al.*). Casual in the Piedmont province was an ad. ♂ Painted Bunting at Raleigh Apr. 27 (JM). Two Dickcissels were noted near Duluth Apr. 25 (S&PC) and again the next day (m.ob.), but there was no indication whether the birds were on territory. At Jordan Res., where breeding occurred last summer, a male was singing Apr. 6 (RD) but was not relocated on several later dates. The latest Evening Grosbeak sighting was May 17 at Chapel Hill (C&DH), and locally rare was a ♂ House Finch near Ellerbe, N.C., Mar. 10 (JHC). Highly unusual for the spring season were single **Common Redpolls**, both well-described feeder birds, at Monroe, N.C., Mar. 11-15 (AO) and at Sandy Springs, Ga., Mar. 21 (BR,BT). A ♂ **Lark Bunting** in breeding plumage at a feeder in Conyers, Ga., in mid-May (SH) provided one of just a few records for that state, whereas the latest-ever Savannah Sparrow for Georgia was an individual

May 25 at Pendergrass (PB,TM). Fussell conducted an exhaustive census of wintering Henslow's Sparrow along Millis Road in w. Carteret Co., with a final tally of 15 birds (made over several trips in March). In fact, his dog flushed seven birds in 20 minutes Mar. 25! The Le Conte's Sparrow noted during the winter near Pendleton, S.C., was found again Mar. 21 (HL,AA), and another was seen at nearby Townville Mar. 8 (HL, AA,JeB). Clay-colored Sparrow is considered "hypothetical" in spring in North Carolina; a report of two near Fayetteville May 18 lacked details, so the status remains unchanged. Rare for the coast in spring were single White-crowned Sparrows at Bull's I., S.C., May 9 (SC,GM) and at Harker's I., N.C., May 10 (SP). The usual handful of Lincoln's Sparrows was noted, all from the Piedmont, with one near Pendleton Mar. 7 (HL), two near Atlanta Apr. 26 and May 3 (PM, TM), and one banded at Hillsborough, N.C., Apr. 13 (CB). Completely unexpected for the month of May was a ♀ Lapland Longspur May 9 at the Rockingham-Hamlet, N.C., airport (DM). This is the latest record for the Region by nearly 3 weeks.

CORRIGENDUM—The Smith's Longspur specimen at the North Carolina State Museum (*AB* 35:292) was not taken by Dave Lee, as reported; the identity of the collector is not known.

OBSERVERS—Robert Ake, Anselm Atkins (AAt), Alan Avakian, Susan Bagwell,

Jeff Beacham (JeB), Jimmy Beatty (JiB), Jean Bevis, Charles Blake, Mike Boatwright, Walter Borden, Donna Brisse, Patrick Brisse, Allen Bryan, Rick Carraway (RCa), J.H. Carter III, Jack Carusos (JCa), Michelle Cawthorn, Ray Chandler, Stan & Pat Chapman (S&PC), Ruth & Mosely Chesnutt (R&MC), Steve Compton, John Connors, Mark Crotteau (MCR), P.J. Crutchfield, Chip Davis, Ricky Davis, Paul DuMont, Martha Dunham, Dennis Forsythe, John Fussell, Hugh Garrett, Liz Garrett, S.A. Gauthreaux, Georgia Ornithological Society, David Glass, Lex Glover (LGI), Steve Graves, Roger Green, Joe Greenberg, R.J. Hader, Elizabeth Haggerty, Tom Haggerty, Sara Hall, Carol & Dan Hamilton, Kirk Havens, Fred Horbeck, Tom Howard (THo), Fran Irvin, Wayne Irvin, Kevin Kacer, Dave Lee, Harry LeGrand, Bruce Lord, Bob Manns, Kevin Mason, Frank McCamey, Dennie McClure (DeM), John McGrady, Douglas McNair, Ted Metcalf (TMe), Gardner Miller, Peggy Moore, Terry Moore, Jim Mulholland, Perry Nugent, Russell Oates, Anne Olsen, Jon Paget (JPag), John Paquet (JPaq), T.H. Parker, Dick Parks, T.K. Patterson, Johnnie Payne (JPay), Jeff Petit, Skip Prange, Henry Rankin, Bob Raymund, Mike Schultz, John Sneed (JSn), Jay Stolar (JSt), John Swiderski, Don Tarbet, Bill Terrell, Mike Tove, Peter Vankevitch, Bill Wagner, Margaret Wagner, Anne Waters, Vernon Waters, Gail Whitehurst, Claudia Wilds, Joe Williams, Herb Wilson.—**HARRY E. LEGRAND, JR., Department of Zoology, Clemson University, Clemson, S.C. 29631.**

FLORIDA REGION

/Herbert W. Kale II

The unusually fair weather and the driest spring in a decade combined to make spring 1981 the most uneventful migration in memory. When Florida Audubon's new Rare Bird

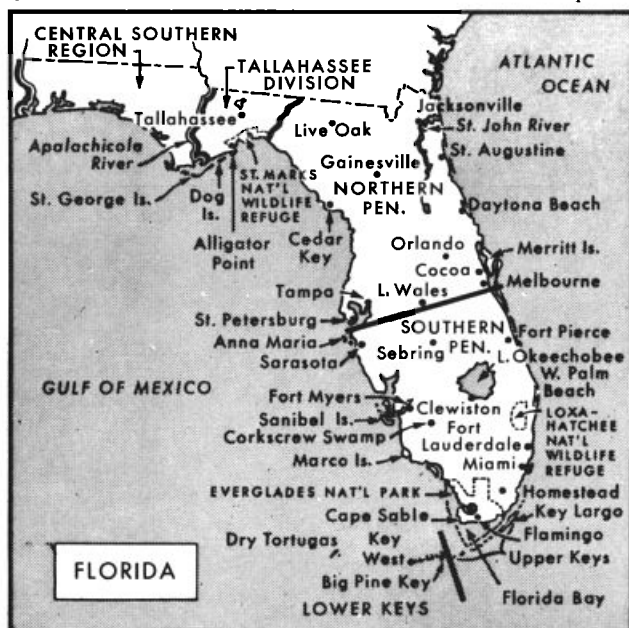
Alert phone number (305-644-0190) was dialed, the response repeated was, "No birds this week!" Even the mecca of spring bird watching—Ft. DeSoto Park on Mullet Key—was relatively disappointing, although migrants did trickle through.

Out of 14 cold fronts that hit the state (5 in March, 5 in April, 4 in May), only four (March 4-5, 22-23, 30-31, and May 20-21) were accompanied by rain, most of which fell in the panhandle and the northern peninsula. The cold front of May 11-12, unaccompanied by rain, was the only one associated with a real precipitation of birds. Jim Stevenson at St. George Island on both days recorded good numbers of Veeries, Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes, and rare Magnolia and Bay-breasted warblers, but only one each of the unusually abundant Ovenbird, and Cape May and Blackpoll warblers, suggesting that trans-Gulf species that usually migrate farther to the west were involved.

Bird banders Stan and Annette Stedman, many

miles to the south on the Gulf Coast at Casey Key near Venice (south of Sarasota) experienced this same fallout. On the afternoon and evening of May 12, they observed hundreds of warblers flying in from the Gulf and landing in shrubbery and trees, and recorded their first spring captures of Bay-breasted and Magnolia warblers and thrushes. With migrants trickling through, they felt that they had their best spring in 4 years of banding at this site (people who bird with mist nets see things from another perspective!)

Lake Okeechobee dropped to 10.8 feet above mean sea level, its lowest level since the severe drought of 1971. Wood Storks at the large South Florida colonies at Corkscrew and Everglades Nat'l Park abandoned their nests, as did Everglade Kites at Lake Okeechobee and Conservation Area 3A. The rainy season normally begins in late May or June and although occasional thundershowers have occurred along the coast, the interior of the southern half of the peninsula—the main aquifer recharge areas and the chief source of Lake Okeechobee's waters—remain in drought condition. As I sit here writing in July, the dry grass, the acrid smell of burning pinelands and muck, and the alarming drop of Lake Okeechobee—now below 10 feet—suggest trouble ahead unless a wet tropical storm hits the state this summer. Of the major land masses in the world located at these latitudes, Florida is the only one that is not a desert, but we have so efficiently drained the state that this unique situation may yet come undone.



The Florida Region report covers that part of Florida east of the Apalachicola River and is written by five editors: Lyn S. and Brooks H. Atherton—Fall Migration; Henry M. Stevenson—Winter Season; H. Kale—Spring Migration; and we now welcome Richard T. Paul, Manager/Biologist of National Audubon's Tampa Bay Sanctuaries (1020-82nd St. S., Tampa, FL 33619) as the new editor of the Nesting Season, replacing John Edscorn who is retiring after several years editing first the fall migration report and then the summer season report.

ABBREVIATIONS—C.S.M.: Clear Spring Phosphate Mine; D.T.: Dry Tortugas; E.N.P.: Everglades Nat'l Park; F.O.S.: Fla. Ornithol. Society; F.S.M.: Florida State Mus.; N. Pen.: Northern Peninsula; S. Pen.: Southern Peninsula; S.G.I.: St. George I.; T.T.: Tall Timbers Research Station; *: specimen.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS—A Red-throated Loon at S.G.I., Apr. 15 (M. Gray, S. Artery, K. Willis), the last of many that wintered in the n. Gulf, was a day short of establishing the latest date for the Tallahassee Division (hereafter, Tally Div.). Three of five Eared Grebes in summer plumage at the C.S.M., 5 mi s.e. of Bartow, Apr. 24 (CG & RD) were still there May 23 (GG, BC, PF, RD). A Sooty Shearwater 20 mi e. of Cape Canaveral Apr. 12 (JJ) was the earliest for the N. Pen., while one was found moribund on the beach 3 mi s. of Vero Beach May 25 (HK, *F.S.M.). Two Audubon's Shearwaters were between Marathon and the D.T., May 2 (PS, DF, JD) and one was off Ponce de Leon Inlet May 16 (PS *et al.*). The annual spring search for the rare **Black-capped Petrel** in the Atlantic off Ponce Inlet May 16, found one about 75 mi out on the e. edge of the Gulf stream. Three Wilson's Storm-Petrels also circled the boat (PS *et al.*), and three were 40 mi e. of Cape Canaveral Apr. 14 (JJ). An imm. White-tailed (= Yellow-billed) Tropicbird sitting on the water in Banana Cr., Merritt Island N.W.R., Apr. 8 (R. Lee, ph. to T.T.) was a rarity there. Several were sporadically at D.T., Apr. 6 (*vide* FTH), May 18 (H&WD, PL, DI). Possibly one of those two White Pelicans that wintered in Key West was still on Stock I., May 5 (BC). Three (one adult, two immature) Blue-faced (= Masked) Boobies Apr. 5 off S.G.I. (RMC & CE) were the earliest in the Tally Div., for this rarity of the upper Gulf. Up to five were on Middle Key, D.T., May 2-3 with a Brown Booby there May 3 (PS *et al.*). Brown Boobies usually occur between Key West and D.T., but even the Rebecca Shoals roost was empty during visits there this spring. A moribund imm. Brown Booby came ashore in Ft. Pierce May 3 (HK, *F.S.M.). Several late Gannets were reported, three 12 mi e. of Cape Canaveral May 1 (JJ), one sitting on the water just inside the n. jetty of Ponce Inlet May 16 (HK & PS) and three at Alligator Pt., May 30 (CW). One of several Great Cormorants that winter in Florida was seen Mar. 28 flying N off Ponce Inlet (TR). An ad. ♂ Magnificent Frigatebird at Alligator Pt., May 14 (GG) was rare so early on the upper Gulf coast.

STORKS THROUGH HAWKS—By the

end of the period only about 400 active nests of Wood Storks remained in the Corkscrew Swamp colony and with the Big Cypress and Lake Okeechobee marshes tinder dry, none of these were expected to fledge any young (R. Bantz). Meanwhile the coastal colonies of c. Florida, although somewhat smaller than in previous years, were producing young. A pink-colored White Ibis in a flock of several hundred white birds at Alafia Banks in Tampa Bay Mar. 7 (RP) must have been one of the faded Scarlet X White hybrids from Miami's Greynolds P. colony. Fulvous Whistling Ducks, now abundant in the Everglades, are still rare in Pinellas County, hence one each at the Bayway Mar. 17-Apr. 4 and the Toytown Landfill Mar. 24-Apr. 1 (LA) were of interest. Two Green-winged Teal, near St. Marks Light May 11 (FS) were very late, as was an Am. Wigeon at L. Jackson May 30 (GM). A Com. Goldeneye at S.G.I., Apr. 23 (JS) was one of the latest in the Tally Div.

From 1978 through 1980 Everglade Kite nesting in Lake Okeechobee and Conservation Area 3 was hearteningly successful, with 100-200 young produced each season. The 1980-81 winter census revealed almost 700 kites (PS) but the drought this year resulted in wholesale abandonment of nests and dispersal of kites in search of habitat with ample snails. One was found shot in Levy County in April (*vide* DM). After an absence of 2 years, a pair began nesting in the St. John's Res., w. of Vero Beach in mid-April but by mid-May the marsh was dry and barren of snails (HK). Similarly, another pair returned Mar. 2 to the Savannas Recreation area s. of Ft. Pierce where it remained without nesting through the spring (H&WD). We await with trepidation this winter's census (if there is one—Secretary Watt has already cut out most of the endangered species budget!).

A Cooper's Hawk in the Avon P. Bombing Range May 24 (CG) suggested possible breeding there. A movement of hawks over Snipe Pt., in the Lower Keys Apr. 19 included 17 Sharp-shinned, two Red-taileds and two Marsh Hawks (MB & PB). I inadvertently omitted from last year's spring migration report a record of two Swainson's Hawks, one of each color phase, circling and calling over Alexander Springs, Ocala Nat'l Forest, Lake Co., Mar. 25, 1980 (& D.C. Bryan). A dark-phase Short-tailed Hawk at this same location May 17 this year (RMC & CE) suggested a possible new locality to look for this rare Florida hawk. Spring sightings of Peregrine Falcons are rare, hence one buzzing gulls and shorebirds at Alafia Bank Apr. 11 (RP), one at St. Marks Light Apr. 23 (JS) and one at D.T., May 3-5 (BC, PS *et al.*) were of interest. Two Merlins were at the Pinellas Bayway Mar. 22 (LA), four at Ft. DeSoto Apr. 18 (B. Neville, RT), and four at D.T., May 2-4 (PS *et al.*). An Am. Kestrel was late at D.T., May 5 (BC) but one on Big Pine Key May 31 (PS) was the latest for the Lower Keys.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS—American Oystercatchers rarely occur in S. Florida. One that wintered at Black Point P., in s. Dade County was still there Apr. 7 (RT). Two Piping Plovers at Ft. DeSoto P., May 24 (PF) were the latest in the N. Pen., and one at St. Marks Light May 11-June 4 (FS, GG, HS) and one collected at Alligator Pt., June 4

(HS, *T T) were the latest for the state. Four Snowy Plovers on a huge new spoil island in n. Hillsborough Bay raised hopes of possible nesting there (RP). As people and their pets continue to increase, safe nesting habitat for Killdeer decreases. Nesting on gravel roofs is occurring more frequently in Florida, but, unlike rooftop nesting Least Terns who bring food to their young, Killdeer chicks must leave the roof soon after hatching—a drop of 30-40 feet or more. On Apr. 29 a kindergarten class in Lake Placid was thrilled to watch a Killdeer successfully lead her young, two by two, off the roof and hustle them off to a nearby citrus grove (*vide* FL). The Fred Barrys, stranded on U.S. 1 on Bahia Honda Key shortly after the explosion on the Seven-Mile Bridge Mar. 2, noticed a small plover standing nearby on a rock about 10 ft from shore. It turned out to be Florida's fifth (1st spring) record of **Mountain Plover**. Rare Am Golden Plovers were near St. Marks Light Mar. 21 (JS & P Sandberg), near St. James, Franklin Co., Mar. 22 (HS), Alligator Pt., May 1 (HS & CW) and five at a sodfarm in n. Jacksonville May 2 (JW). Upland Sandpipers were reported from Ft. DeSoto P., Mar. 20-27 (LA), n. Jacksonville May 2 (JW) and D.T., May 13 (CK & MW) and May 18 (H&WD, PL, DI). Inland records of Red Knot are rare, one at C.S.M., Apr. 24 was the first for Polk County (CG). White-rumped Sandpipers were reported Apr. 25-June 3 from the D.T. to St. Marks, including inland records of one at Lake Kanapaha P., Alachua Co., May 16 (BM) and 20 at C.S.M., May 23 (PF, BC, CG), and an unusual high of 200 ± in Rookery Bay Nat'l Estuary Sanctuary May 10-20 (TB & VB). A rare Baird's Sandpiper was at the Lakeland Sewage Ponds Mar. 24-25 (E. Slater, R. Coleman, H. Herbert), and a rare Buff-breasted Sandpiper appeared at St. Marks Light Apr. 25 (GG & F.O.S.).

Just as phosphate strip mining operations can destroy natural wetlands, they also create shallow lakes and mud flats in upland areas that are attractive to shorebirds and waterfowl, hence, birds rarely seen in many inland Florida locations are now becoming common sights on mined lands. American Avocets now winter near Bartow with up to 107 seen at the C.S.M., Apr. 24 (CG & RD), where some remained until May 20 (K. Rousch). Seven avocets were rarities at Wakulla Beach May 11 (FS). A Black-necked Stilt at the Hickory Mound Impoundment, Taylor Co., Mar. 27 (JC) was the earliest for the Tally Div. Others appeared Apr. 18 at Cedar Key (BM) and St. Marks Light (RMC, GG *et al.*). More than 200 were reported nesting at C.S.M. in April and May (CG, BC, PF) and several pairs were probably nesting at the Occidental Chemical Company site in Hamilton County (DM). Only two N. Phalaropes were reported—one far off Ponce Inlet May 16 (H&WD *et al.*), one at C.S.M., May 18 (CG, BC), while an unidentified phalarope fed in the saltponds at Key West May 13 (FH, CK, MW). The only jaegers for the period were three casualties—two injured Pomarines in Broward County in early May (B. Humphreys) and one moribund Pomarine n. of Vero Beach May 19 (HK, *F.S.M.). A Glaucous Gull on Longboat Key Mar. 2 (R&MS) may have been the same one seen a week later at Toytown Landfill (LA, ph. to T.T.), where

on Mar 24, a "probable" Glaucous X Herring Gull hybrid was photographed (LA—details to be publ.) Another Glaucous appeared at Ponce Inlet Mar. 28 (CR). An imm **Black-legged Kittiwake**, extremely rare anywhere in the Gulf of Mexico, was at Longboat Key, Sarasota, Apr. 25 (R&MS), for the latest date for the S. Pen. A tern briefly glimpsed by many as it rapidly flew by the boat off Ponce Inlet May 16 set off such a discussion about its possible identification—it either *was* or *was not* an Arctic Tern—that I am going to leave it at that.

CUCKOOS THROUGH SWIFTS—Mangrove Cuckoos can be expected anywhere dense mangroves exist along both coasts of Florida, although they remain rare n. of the Keys on the Atlantic and the Thousand Islands on the Gulf. Hence, 23 on the Long Arsenicker Key in Biscayne Bay May 1 (R. Hammer) was noteworthy. At least one was at Ft. DeSoto P., Apr. 17-May 19 (CG, SI, LA) Three Short-eared Owls that wintered on Paynes' Prairie, Alachua Co., were last seen Mar. 16 (JH, BM). Six Chimney Swifts in Tallahassee Mar. 22 (GM) were very early, and at Alligator Pt., small groups of swifts were noted flying in a definite N migration on Apr 25 (HS, F.O.S.).

EXOTICS—The tremendous traffic of pet-trade birds coming through the Port of Miami, the many privately-owned caged birds in the state, and the mild climate, all combine to insure the survival, if not feral breeding, of a wide variety of exotic species in Florida. Even so, a Rose-ringed Parakeet on Sandy Key, far out in Florida Bay Mar. 28 was a surprise (O. Bass). A thriving colony of Ringed Turtle Doves has lived for years in downtown St. Petersburg. This favorite cage bird was reported at 5 other locations this spring—four regularly frequented a yard in Cutler Ridge s. of Miami (D. Gillespie), one in Florida City Apr. 7 (L. McDonald), one in Orlando Apr. 9 and several days thereafter (DWF), two in Key West May 14 (FH), and one on Siesta Key May 21 (L. Jakubowicz). All are suspected to be local escapes or deliberate releases. A small feral population of Brazilian Cardinals (prob. Red-crested, *Paroaria coronata*) is reported successfully breeding in Maitland (*vide* M. Kuntz).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH NUTHATCHES—The fourth record (first in spring) of the **Ash-throated Flycatcher** for the state was of one observed on S.G.I., Apr. 18 (RMC, GG, T. Schulenburg). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher heard calling on the s. campus of Fla. Jr. College in Jacksonville Apr. 28 (JW), and a Least Flycatcher on S.G.I., Apr. 29 (JS, CW) were rare spring finds. Eight Rough-winged Swallows at C.S.M., May 23 possibly may have been nesting (PF, CG, BC)—if not, they were the latest migrants for the N. Pen. A Cliff Swallow at Toytown Landfill Mar. 19-23 (LA, SI, DJD) was the earliest for the N. Pen. A Purple Martin roost at the Homeland Industries Mine near Bartow contained 500 birds Apr. 20, some of which still may have been in N migration. By May 17, 1000± martins were present. An estimated 20,000 used this post-breeding roost in the summer of 1980 (C. Hancock). Last fall's invasion of Red-breasted Nuthatches spilled

over into the peninsula this spring with sightings as far s. as Brooker Creek P., Hillsborough Co., where one was seen Mar. 8 (LH *et al.*), Alligator Pt., Apr. 26 (HK, DM), Lake Jackson May 9 (HS), and S.G.I., May 13 (JS)—the latest for the entire state.

MIMIDS THROUGH WAXWINGS—A singing Gray Catbird in s. Leon County May 24 (RMC, CE *et al.*) could have been on breeding territory. The fourth Florida record of **Sage Thrasher** occurred at Hickory Mound Lake Mar. 6 (JC) and was subsequently photographed (RM & CE) and seen by m.obs. Whether this is the same bird that appeared earlier this year at Ft. Pickens near Pensacola is unknown. The cold front of May 11-12 brought with it to S.G.I., 116 Swainson's Thrushes, 22 Gray-cheeked and 41 Veeries (JS). A Golden-crowned Kinglet at Ft. De Soto P., Mar. 17 (LA) was a rarity so far s. in Florida.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS—A Yellow-throated Vireo at T.T., Mar. 4 (HS) was the earliest for the state, although one at Winter Park, reported as "Mar. 3-5, exact date not known" (Betty King) may hold that record. As usual, the Black-whiskered Vireo appeared far n. of its breeding range with one seen on S.G.I., May 4 (HS). The earliest Red-eyed Vireo for the state arrived at Greynolds P., Miami, Mar. 6 and proceeded to sing about this feat for the next 2 days (JK). Prothonotary Warblers were extremely late at Ft. DeSoto P., May 2 (PF), and at S.G.I., May 11 (JS), in both cases setting latest records for migrants in the N. Pen., and Tally Div., respectively. Swainson's Warblers were widespread with the earliest for the state seen on Loop Rd., E.N.P., Mar. 7 (MW). Others were at Matheson Hammock Mar. 24-31 (CK), Beer Can I., Mar. 29 (R&MS), 12 at Ft. DeSoto P., Mar. 27-Apr. 25 (LA, R. Hopkins, m.obs.) while F.O.S. participants listened to several males singing in dense breeding habitat in the Apalachicola Nat'l Forest Apr. 25. A singing bird n. of White Springs, Hamilton Co., May 30 (DM) was also probably on territory. The earliest date for Worm-eating Warbler in the N. Pen. was set by two birds at Ft. DeSoto P., Mar. 23 (LA, DJD). On Apr. 18, PF *et al.*, counted 28 Worm-eatings at this site along with a flurry of other West Indies migrants. A Blue-winged Warbler, rare on S.G.I., was there Apr. 23 (JS). The only hybrid warbler reported was a Lawrence's at St. Marks N.W.R., Apr. 27 (J. Brooks, C. Plockelman). The first nesting record of the N. Parula on S.G.I. was found May 21 (HS). A high count of 68 Magnolias at S.G.I., May 12 (JS) must have been a colorful sight. Usually Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Blackpoll and Am. Redstarts are the most abundant spring migrants but these species were comparatively scarce this spring, although J. Johnson reported "large numbers" of all four species at sea 20 mi s.e. of Cape Canaveral May 1.

One of the rarest of the "accidental" warblers in Florida is the Townsend's. Two previous records exist. Claire Krusko, a transplanted Californian familiar with the species, described a male in a plumage intermediate between first fall and breeding, after observing it for 10 min from a distance of 20 ft while

it was actively feeding in short grass on Pigeon Key May 5. With the recent formation of the F.O.S.'s Rare Bird Records Committee (Maggie Bowman, Secretary) this observation will be turned over to it and, if accepted, will represent the third Florida record for the species.

According to R. Thorn, early March brought "absolutely incredible flocks" of Yellow-rumped Warblers to the Miami area. Could these have been spillovers from the s. Florida invasion in February mentioned by Henry Stevenson in his winter report, or were they migrants from farther s.? A very late Yellow-rumped was singing n. of Jacksonville May 2 (J. Cocke). A Yellow-throated Warbler at Ft. DeSoto May 17 (PF, PT) may have been a late migrant, although the species breeds about 30 mi to the n. and e. All the previous Florida records of the Sycamore Warbler—the white-lored race of the Yellow-throated Warbler, *Dendroica dominica albiflora*, from the Mississippi valley, have been fall migrants, hence a close study of one at the bird fountain on Garden Key, D.T., May 3 (JD, DF) was newsworthy. Uncommon Chestnut-sideds were at No Name Key May 5 (MB), and Ft. DeSoto P., May 9 (D. Goodwin, J. Moore—latest for the N. Pen.), and near Alligator Pt., May 13 (LA, BP, BK) one of the latest for the Tally Div. Following the May 11-12 cold front, Bay-breasteds were surprisingly widespread with 122 and 43 on S.G.I., May 11 and 12, respectively; 23 at Ft. DeSoto P., May 14, while others were seen there May 7-19 (LA, BK, BP)—the latter date being the latest for the N. Pen., and two were at D.T., May 18 (H&WD, PL, DI). A Louisiana Waterthrush, rare in the Lower Keys, visited a birdbath in Key West Mar. 17-19 (FH). Another rarity was a Kentucky Warbler at D.T., May 13 (CK & MW), the latest for the Lower Keys. Connecticut Warblers were widespread, with ten reports May 3-24 from all over the Region. The Wilson's Warbler that wintered in Key West was last seen there Mar. 17 (FH) and one was on S.G.I., Apr. 23 (JS).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES—The only Yellow-headed Blackbirds reported this spring were eight on S.G.I., May 3 (J. Ward). An Orchard Oriole in full song on S.G.I., May 21 was gone when checked a few days later (HS & FS). Two ♂ N. (Bullock's) Orioles visited a feeder in Vero Beach Mar 10-11 (G. Saunders). All the Brewer's Blackbirds that wintered in Florida must have gathered at Mayo, Lafayette Co., prior to moving W, where an unprecedented 500 were seen Mar. 7. We hope the Brown-headed Cowbird at Ft. DeSoto May 2 (LH *et al.*) was only the latest migrant in the N. Pen., but they now breed in peninsular Florida and seem to be moving s. One of Florida's "regular accidentals," a ♂ W. Tanager appeared in s. Dade County Apr. 15 (L. McDonald). If not a wintering individual, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Tallahassee Apr. 3 (FS) was the earliest for the Tally Div., as was a Blue Grosbeak 5 mi s.w. of Tallahassee Mar. 31 (GM). Another Blue Grosbeak at S.G.I., May 28 (JS) was a day short of tying the latest date for the Tally Div. A wintering Dickcissel was still in Gainesville Mar. 17 (H&WD), while other single birds were in s. Jacksonville Mar 1-Apr. 5 (PP), on S.G.I., Apr. 23 (JS) and

S.A.

Last summer, three of the four ♂ Dusky Seaside Sparrows remaining in the St. John's R. marshes were captured and caged in Gainesville (with two males captured in 1979). The recent 1981 survey found no (=zero) Dusksies surviving in the wild. All five of the last living Dusksies are now housed at the Sante Fe Community College Teaching Zoo in Gainesville, where they will live out their remaining days in relative security. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has refused to allow them to be bred with ♀ Seaside Sparrows from Florida's Gulf Coast (*peninsulæ*—also a dark-colored race), which would preserve the dusky gene pool in living birds (this intra-specific cross has already been shown to be feasible) because they are afraid of the precedent that this may set for the endangered species program. Conversely, the precedent-setting event (for the Dusky) of extinction does not appear to disturb them so much, and they conveniently overlook their Peregrine Falcon breeding program that has already established the precedent for an intraspecific breeding program.

On a happier note, the annual survey of the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow in E.N.P., revealed good populations in several nesting colonies both in the park and in the Big Cypress Preserve (O. Bass). Unfortunately, the funds to complete acquisition of this preserve have been eliminated by Sec. Watt.

Lark Sparrows were in Naples Mar. 14 (P & J Ware) and Hugh Taylor Birch P., Ft. Lauderdale, Apr. 26 (WG & B Hope), the latest date for the S. Pen. A Bachman's Sparrow on Long Pine Key Mar. 8 (K. Kaufman *et al.*) may be southernmost record in the state. A Chipping Sparrow at D.T., May 2 (MB, D. Mager) tied the latest Lower Keys date and a Clay-colored Sparrow at a feeder in Vero Beach Apr. 9 (F. Graves, H&WD) was a rarity there.

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ONTARIO REGION

/ **Clive E. Goodwin**

Spring was unusually exciting with a multitude of rarities. Yet it lacked much pattern, which makes the preparation of a concise yet coherent report doubly difficult.

The warm spell which ended the winter reporting period was short, and it was not until the end of March that warmer weather returned. It too was soon displaced, and most of April was cool. The pattern repeated itself in later April and the beginning of May. Peak arrivals occurred during these warmer spells, but heavy falls of migrants were few. The warmer periods stimulated early movement, and many early and record-early dates were established—far too many for full enumeration here.

GREBES—Red-necked Grebes appeared in better numbers for the second successive spring: at both Pickering and Mississagi Light over 400 were counted, in early and late April respectively (m.ob., JN) and Cobourg loon counters had a high of 250 Mar. 28 (ERM). Horned Grebe numbers, however, continued low with 85 at Prince Edward Pt. (hereafter, P.E.Pt.) Apr. 11 the most reported (K.F.N.). Six Eared Grebe reports were in keeping with the increased numbers of this species over the past 3 years. They were n. and e. to Port Elgin and Burlington. A Pied-billed Grebe at Shippans I., May 28 (PDP, MJ, JT; hereafter, P) was far n. of its normal range.

CORMORANTS THROUGH HERONS—Flocks of up to 50 Double-crested Cormorants were widespread, and 130 were counted on Pelee I., May 10 (PAW), encouraging indications of this species' continued recovery. Two Green Herons at Gravenhurst May 14 (PT) were rare for this locality. The season was not noteworthy for southern herons, although Great Egrets wandered N and E to Spry L., Apr. 24+ (JD, PM), Algonquin P., May 7 (SF) and the Kingston area in May. Single Cattle Egrets were at Whitby May 12 (DRh) and Amherst I., Apr. 24-25 (MM); Snowies at Pelee I. and the area of Pt. Pelee N.P. (hereafter, Pelee) May 9-13 (PAW, m.ob.) and Presqu'île P.P., May 19 (JAM, HM); and a Louisiana Heron at Rondeau Apr. 25 (PAW). Most noteworthy, however, were sightings of the much rarer Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Pelee May 10-12 (m.ob.) and Selkirk May 18-28 (BL, m.ob.), possibly the

same bird. Both bitterns were scarce, and if all the Least seen were reported then there were only five for the entire Province.

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS—Waterfowl migration was unexceptional. Canada Geese moved in enormous numbers Apr. 22-May 6—13,970 were counted over 13 days at Port Hope (ERM *et al.*) and at Kingston diurnal passage alone totalled at least 44,500 birds May 2-6 (K.F.N.). The Brant flight was one of the heaviest on record, and small flocks were recorded across the s. in May with the largest numbers as usual in the e., where Kingston observers recorded 1600 May 8-14 and 8000 May 15. On James Bay there were 4000 May 26 (P), and the significance of the southern counts is not clear as most Brant passage is not visible there. The season's only White-fronted Goose was at Tiny Marsh May 9-16 (DS, PVS, FW). Early waterfowl at the end of February along the Lower Great Lakes, where these species often winter in small numbers, were less noteworthy than a string of Algonquin P.P. records: Wood and Ring-necked ducks Apr. 5, Green-winged Teal Apr. 7, and Blue-winged Teal and Am. Wigeon Apr. 9 (RT, MP). A Cinnamon Teal at Amherst I., May 10 (A & FC, AEH, LS) provided Kingston's second record in 2 years, and only the Province's third in almost 20 years. Three Eur. Wigeon sightings, a good number, were at Tara Apr. 26-28 (JWJ *et al.*), Long Pt., May 2 (RC *et al.*) and Pickering May 31 (WWS, m.ob.). Most noteworthy of five Barrow's Goldeneye reports was of a bird at Caribou I., L. Superior, May 15 (RN). There were several N. Shoveler in the n.: a Thunder Bay bird May 16 (TBFN), two at Wawa and two more at Beardmore May 11-12 (JM, RDM, WM; hereafter, M). Much rarer were two Canvasbacks off Shippans I., May 26 (P).

HAWKS—A few hawk flights were noteworthy: at Lake of the Woods 15 Rough-legged Hawks and 25+ Marsh Hawks Apr. 17 (DHE, ME, NB), and 25 Rough-leggeds along L. Temiskaming the next day (PWR). At Caribou I., 5-15 Sharp-shinned Hawks passed through daily May 6-21 (RN), and six



The Blue List for 1982 – Questionnaire

We want your input

Each year *American Birds* publishes a list of species that, in the best opinion of our reader-observers, appear to be declining in numbers, either throughout their North American ranges, or regionally. Species or races eligible for the Blue List are those apparently suffering non-cyclical population declines, but which have not reached the endangered status. In previous years we have termed it an “early warning list,” for its purpose is to alert the conservation, regulatory, and ornithological worlds to situations of concern, in time to take action.

Our Blue List has been an important annual feature, much quoted, and used in preparing “Threatened Species” lists by governmental agencies and Environmental Impact Statements. Its credibility is gained because it reflects the best judgment of the people who spend the most time in the field and are most widely represented around the continent. There is, however, one important improvement in its reliability we seek to make. **We want many more cooperators to report.**

This year the form has been simplified, but it will provide much useful information if it is carefully answered and returned to our editor. All we ask is that you supply whatever knowledge you may possess (**your own first-hand knowledge**), whether it be for one species or many—and return it to Dr. James Tate by December 31, 1981.

New simplified instructions—read them carefully

The removable self-mail questionnaire is the facing page. On it we ask simply that you provide your notations of the status of the 1981 (for 1980) Blue List Species (*American Birds*, January 1981 35 (1) 3-10), as observed in your Reporting Region **during 1981**. Even if your 1981 observations show no or little change, please so report. If you made no report in 1980, but have noted marked changes in any **breeding** species in recent years, please report. If there are species you believe should be **added** to the Blue List, please list them. If species Blue-listed last year have **increased** in 1981, please so note.

Names. We want to know the basis for your judgments: how many years’ experience in your area you have. There is a space for this. If listing other cooperators, their experience, if known, can be inserted after their names, *i.e.*, Elliott Coues (31), Robert Ridgway (16), etc.

Reporting Region. This is the *American Birds* Region in which you live or primarily bird. If your “home” area includes more than one Region, list them. Give also the area on which you are reporting. Example: Northern Great Plains Region: within 100 miles of Bismarck, N.D.—or Hudson-Delaware & Middle Atlantic Regs., Washington, D.C. If you report on widely separated Regions, use a separate form for each. Photocopies OK.

Species: Use the identifiable name of the species as published in *American Birds*. (Most names are listed by Monroe, B. in the July issue—*AB*: 35 (4) 758). If you are reporting on one race of a species, be sure to identify which race. We will accept names such as Red-shafted Flicker or Bullock’s Oriole. **DO NOT report on species not normally found in your Region.** Reports on Red-cockaded Woodpecker in Georgia would be welcome but reporting on Varied Thrush in Ohio would be meaningless. **Do not** report on species already listed as Endangered.

1981 Status: Check the one space for each species about which you have knowledge (not necessarily the entire list), that gives your best impression of its 1981 status. For species that seem to be increasing, we want information **ONLY** on those species listed on the 1981 (for 1980) Blue List. (You need not tell us that Cattle Egrets are increasing). We solicit evidence or documentation in support of your opinions.

On the form, the column entitled STATUS has 5 spaces. These are keyed as follows: **A**—greatly down in numbers. **B**—down in numbers. **C**—stable. **D**—up in numbers. **E**—greatly up in numbers. If you are reporting for yourself only, simply check the appropriate space for that species. If reporting for others as well, total the “votes” for each category. See example on reverse of form. Ignore “not known” votes.

Comments. We welcome brief, meaningful quotes from respondents. If necessary, use more than one line on the form, or attach a page. Whenever possible, refer to supporting evidence. Example: “CBC data (on resident species) shows 45% decline in last 5 years.” “No longer breeding in 6-county area surveyed (12 pairs in 1972).” Try to give known (or suspected) causes of decline, *i.e.*, increased urbanization, marsh drainage, predation, (including man’s), woodcutting, ORVs, etc.

Respondent/Compiler. Whether you are an individual respondent or a compiler for more than one person, fill out this section of the form appropriately, including your mailing address (tel. no. optional), listing others by name only. Please list names exactly as they should be printed, if published.

Mailing. When you are done, fold the form in thirds so that the return address is on one outside fold with a blank on the other. If sheets are added, place them inside. Staple or tape together, add sufficient postage, and mail. The Blue List appears in our January 1982 issue, **so promptness is essential.**

Deadline for receipt is December 31, 1981, but if you are a little late mail it anyway. We would rather have it late than never.

Thank you for your cooperation. This is one place your field work pays off.

Cooperator's Form - The Blue List for 1982

Do not use
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Where do you bird?

Your name and address

Other contributors' names.

Am. Birds Reporting Region.

Cooperator

Use extra sheet if needed

Area reported on.

Address

Years birded this area.

City, State, Zip

SPECIES OR RACE
(You may abbreviate)

1981 STATUS
A B C D E

COMMENTS (Give initials of source)

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(See reverse for examples.)

(Remove to fold and mail.)

Follow this example in completing your form: Cooperator's Form - The Blue List for 1982

Do not use () Where do you bird? Central Southern Region
 Am Birds Reporting Region. All of Alabama
 Area reported on. 32
 Years birded this area.

Your name and address Thomas A. Imhof
 Cooperator 1036 Pike Rd.
 Address Birmingham, AL 35218
 City, State, Zip

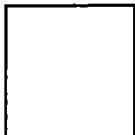
Other contributors' names. A. Wilson (21) J. Audubon (47)
 Use extra sheet if needed S. Baird (11) E. Coues (26)
A. Howell (22) C. Linné (6)
see attached sheet for 15 more

Do not use ()	SPECIES OR RACE (You may abbreviate)	1981 STATUS					COMMENTS (Give initials of source)
		A	B	C	D	E	
()	Least Tern		✓				Steady decline since 1958. 1981 bad.
()	Barn owl	15	7	0	0	0	No nests reported last 3 years
()	Grasshopper Sparrow	10	6	4	2	0	75% report fewer nestings statewide.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
 1982 Blue List Response

James Tate, Jr.
 7485 Quartz St.
 Golden, CO, 80403
 U.S.A.



(return address)

moved along the w James Bay coast May 27 (P). An exceptionally early Broad-winged Hawk was at Kingston Mar. 13 (GW). A. Maki had a Turkey Vulture and a Bald Eagle at Thunder Bay both Apr. 17 and both rare there. Two different Gyrfalcons were at Whitby, a black bird Mar. 7 and a gray phase Apr. 5 (EP, RN), and there were 16 Peregrine Falcons seen across the Province in the period.

GROUSE THROUGH RAILS—Some recovery was detected in Bobwhite numbers at Melbourne (DM), but there were none elsewhere. Sandhill Cranes arrived early on Manitoulin I., Apr. 4 (CB) and their migration was well reported: 31 at Lake of the Woods Apr. 17 (DHE, ME, NB) and birds daily off Shippings I., May 22-30, with a high of 42 May 25 (P). The species is rare farther s. but one was at Rondeau May 1-24 (PAW). Early records included a Virginia Rail at Providence Bay Apr. 17 (CB, JL), and a Sora at Kettle Pt., Apr. 7 (AR). King Rail reports from 3 different s.w. stations (*vide* AHK) from the second successive year were encouraging, as there were none in 1978-79. Yellow Rails also reappeared at their remaining Holland Marsh station (CJM) after an absence of 3 years, and four birds at Shippings I., May 25-28 (P) were early arrivals there.

SHOREBIRDS—Water levels were high again this year, but it was a bonanza shorebird season in spite of this as several sewage lagoons had ideal conditions. Along the James Bay coast Paul Pratt's party recorded 21 species of shorebirds May 25-26, including 225 Red Knots, 2000 Dunlin, one Marbled and six Hudsonian godwits and six and four Wilson's and N. phalaropes respectively. Likely these are all regular enough there in late May, but competent birders are not! A Piping Plover was at Pelee May 14-15 (AR, m.ob.) and on their remaining Ontario breeding station there were five at Lake of the Woods and seven more on Sable I., May 19 (M). Northerly Upland Sandpiper sightings were from Marathon May 11 by the same observers, and Thunder Bay May 30 (*vide* DA). A very early bird was at Morton Apr. 4 (MH), one of a host of exceptionally early shorebird records this spring. Interesting early arrivals from such localities as Algonquin P.P., and Manitoulin I., were eclipsed by the records set farther s. Pelee contributed a Whimbrel May 3 (JPK) and a Solitary Sandpiper May 5 (*vide* AHK), Smithville a Spotted Sandpiper Apr. 12 (KMCL, RW) and Whitby a Greater Yellowlegs Mar. 24 (MW). A Least Sandpiper appeared at Thunder Bay Apr. 30 (IM), a Semipalmated at Essex Apr. 30 (PDP) and a Dunlin at Erie Beach Apr. 8 (RFA *et al.*). The shorebird of the season was a **Spotted Redshank** at Lakefield May 7 (AGC, m.ob.). There is only one prior sight record for Ontario, in 1976, and at the time of writing it is uncertain whether there will be satisfactory photographs of this year's bird.

An even rarer bird—because no prior records exist—is the Redshank, and a photograph of a bird at Toronto May 2 (J. Schmelfske) does indeed appear to be of this species. Unfortunately *Tringa* species are quite similar in appearance when standing, and I am uncertain that this shot, unsupported at present by any documentation, will be con-

sidered fully diagnostic. The season also brought a good assortment of the more commonplace rarities. Eight Willet reports was an average number, but three Baird's Sandpipers were high for spring. The only Stilt Sandpiper was at Amherstview May 6-7 (RDW, m.ob.). A Marbled Godwit at Pelee May 18 (AGC *et al.*) and Hudsonian Godwits at Little Current May 22 (CB) and Bright's Grove May 24-25 (DR) were the only sightings of these species in the s. Four Ruffs in the period equalled the record set in 1977: they were at Port Hope Apr. 16-May 3 (RJ *et al.*), Amherstview May 10 (RDW, m.ob.), Bracebridge May 10-11 (AS, RB) and Blenheim May 11 (PAW). An Am. Avocet was seen at Port McNichol May 23-26 (JT *et al.*) and two others on May 19 on Sable I., site of last year's first breeding records (M).

Three shorebird species appeared in unprecedented spring numbers. Everyone was reporting hundreds of Pectoral Sandpipers from Apr. 10-11+. The highest count was of 1000 at Smithville Apr. 25 (KMCL), but the birds were everywhere—flying out of the puddles in expressway ditches and running around on lawns and golf courses! Spring W. Sandpipers are always scarce, so 4 records, including six at Bright's Grove May 24-25 (DR, AR) were remarkable. Finally, the Wilson's Phalarope success story continues unabated. At least 106 birds were in 20 locations in the s., and they appeared to be likely to breed at several sewage lagoons. One also turned up at Thunder Bay May 16 (DA). In another class were the 450+ Rainy R. sewage lagoons May 18 (M), but such concentrations may be less remarkable in this w. locality.

GULLS, TERNS—Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were carefully described from P.E.Pt., Mar. 22 (GV, RDW) and Oliphant June 5 (DR), and Kingston had its first confirmed Thayer's Gull Mar. 8 (RDW). The scattering of rarer small gulls was average for spring: Black-headed at Rondeau May 6-14 (JPK, JGH), Laughing at Wheatley Mar. 6 (PDP, TP, AW) and Black-legged Kittiwake at P.E.Pt., Apr. 11 (KFE, RKE). A Franklin's Gull at Marathon May 11 was particularly noteworthy and there were 14 at Rainy R., May 19 (M). Bonaparte's Gulls appeared in exceptional numbers away from their usual centres of abundance: 500 at Strathroy Apr. 19 (DM), 7000 at Oshawa May 10 (GAS) and 1000 at P.E.Pt., Apr. 26 (PMack). Little Gulls seemed more common in the Whitby-Oshawa area than along L. Erie but 31 along the Lower Great Lakes was a low total (perhaps the species was under-reported), and the really noteworthy reports were of seven at Moosonee May 23 and 11—possibly some of the same birds—at Shippings I., May 25 (P). Have birds been regular there in spring, a source of the s. Ontario population, or does this represent an expansion of that population? The same observers had 30 Arctic Terns at Moosonee by May 23 and 200+ to May 30. Periodically this species has been reported at Pelee in the spring but never documented satisfactorily. A bird there on May 14 was identified by observers highly experienced with this species (JC, CM, AR). Early terns included Forster's on Amherst I., Apr. 10 (MM), Common at Niagara Falls Apr. 5 (RFA *et al.*), and Caspian on Wolfe I., Apr. 5

(KFN). This last species was also seen at Moosonee May 24 (P).

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS—Mourning Doves were n. to Moosonee (P) The Owl Rehabilitation and Research Foundation received young Hawk Owls from Moosonee, Gogama, Chapleau and Kapuskasing—the first young of this species they have ever handled (KMCK). A Barred Owl was calling at Normandale May 10 (RH, BD *et al.*). A Great Gray remained at Kingston to May 24 (K.F.N.) and one was in Darlington Twp., Mar. 12 (JR). Late reports, suggesting breeding birds, of Long-eareds were from Pinewood May 19 (M) and Atikokan Apr. 8 (DHE), where there was a Short-eared Apr. 12 (TN). Others were at Terrace Bay May 11 (RDM), four in Blezard Valley Apr. 22 (S.O.S.) and 19 and 12 birds Apr. 10 and May 16 respectively on Amherst I. (K.F.N.) There were no reliable reports of Chuck-will's-widow from Pelee this spring, but a bird called at Rondeau during May (PAW)

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS—A Red-headed Woodpecker at Batchawana Pt., May 10 (M) was well n. of its range. The season's Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found by a non-birder, at Dorland Apr. 25 (D. Reynolds). Two Acadian Flycatchers had arrived at Rondeau by May 30 (PAW), and one was at P.E.Pt., May 17 (RDW). Early records included an Olive-sided Flycatcher at Pelee May 9 (*vide* AHK), a Tree Swallow at Kingston Mar. 15 (MBr), Rough-winged at Peterborough Apr. 5 (RDM) and a Barn at Pelee Mar. 29 (KJB, PDP).

CROWS THROUGH WRENS—Documentation is awaited on a Clark's Nutcracker sighting from Caribou I., May 9 (RN). There is a prior photographic record for Ontario from 1973. A House Wren at Kettle Pt., Mar. 25 (AR) was early; and in Algonquin P.P., where they are rare, one was seen May 29 (RK, JDR). Bewick's Wrens occur almost annually in Ontario, and this spring one was at Rondeau May 17-20 (PAW). Carolina Wrens showed some recovery, with two Pelee birds, three at Kingston and others at Rondeau and Toronto. A new colony of Short-billed Marsh Wrens was located at Lakefield May 20 (DCS, TB).

MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS—Mockingbirds can turn up anywhere, and northern birders were treated to birds at Rutherglen May 24 (DMCL, *vide* LdeKL), Englehart May 16 (JBW) and Moosonee May 23 (P) The season's most observed rarity was a **Sage Thrasher** Apr. 27-May 16 which spent the entire period 3 mi down the Rondeau marsh trail, and was seen by hundreds (PAW, m.ob.). The Fieldfare was seen in Toronto to May 19 (*vide* JEG) and the Varied Thrush there to Apr. 7 (TRS). Another was at Cheltenham May 13-14 (RG). Another Toronto area rarity, the Townsend's Solitaire at Pickering, was last seen Apr. 19 (ADo), and a bird appeared at Pelee Apr. 26-28 (m.ob.). Four Wood Thrushes in the area e. of Rainy R., May 19 (M) were further evidence that the species is a rare breeder there. A huge movement of Golden-crowned Kinglets at Presqu'île P.P., Apr. 17 was estimated at 2250

(RDM) and an early Ruby-crowned was at Algonquin P.P., Apr. 11 (RT). Eight Loggerhead Shrikes were reported in all, and a very late N. Shrike was on Caribou I., May 9 (RN). White-eyed Vireos were less common in the s.w. this spring, but appeared at Whitby May 15 (MB) and P.E.Pt., May 17 (RDW) and an early bird was at Pelee Apr. 4 (RDM).

WARBLERS—There were seven plus Prothonotary Warblers at Rondeau by the end of the period, and at least two at Pelee, as well as two plus Worm-eating Warblers there (m.ob.). Golden-winged and Blue-winged warblers were again widespread, Blue-wingeds outnumbering Golden-wingeds at Pelee, but the latter species was n. to Sudbury (JN), Gravenhurst May 6 (RB) and two appeared at Rainy R., May 17 & 19 (M). A Brewster's was on Caribou I., May 20 (RN) and a Lawrence's at Otter L., May 23 (RDW). Most noteworthy of a number of early warbler records was probably the Magnolia at Sibley P.P., Apr. 26 (T.B.F.N.). A **Townsend's Warbler** at Sarnia May 18-19 (DJ, DR, m.ob.), the fifth for Ontario, was eclipsed by another westerner, a **Hermit Warbler** at Pelee May 2-6 (TH, m.ob.) seen by hundreds and sought by many more unsuccessfully, Ontario's first. A Yellow-throated Warbler at Rondeau Apr. 25-May 16 (PAW, m.ob.) seemed commonplace by comparison, as the species has been almost annual in occurrence since the late 1960s. The Pratt party's Moosonee trip found Wilson's the commonest warbler, and had a Chestnut-sided at Moose Factory May 29. Kentucky Warblers were widespread with birds at P.E.Pt., May 16 (RKE *et al.*), Toronto May 12 (RP) and Ancaster May 26 (C.&S. Wood) in addition to the more routine appearances in the s.w. Other southern warblers away from these favoured locations were two Louisiana Waterthrushes at Kingston from Apr. 30 (MCE, RKE), a Yellow-breasted Chat at Caribou I., of all places, May 17 (RN) and another at Whitby May 20 (MMcE), where two Hooded Warblers also appeared May 9-26 (m.ob.). Others were at P.E.Pt., May 9 & 17 (GV, RDW), but in the s.w. the birds were in smaller numbers than usual.

BLACKBIRDS—A large single group of 150 Bobolinks May 9 at Pelee must have been a striking sight, and four at Moosonee May

24-29 were well n. of their normal range (PDP *et al.*). An E. Meadowlark heard at Emo May 14 (M) was well w. of this species' range. Both Yellow-headed and Brewer's blackbirds were more widespread than ever before. Yellow-headed are well established only in the extreme w., as 100+ males at Harris Hill May 16 (M) attested, but there were at least 13 reports from e. of Thunder Bay, including ones n. to Moosonee May 23-24 (P) and e. to Amherstview May 6-17 (m.ob.), and five in the s.w. Brewer's Blackbirds are well established s. of L. Huron only in Bruce County, and 30+ birds were in 3 nesting areas there from Apr. 7 (JWJ), but at least 12 others were seen, e. to Peterborough (*vide* DCS) and P.E.Pt. (RDW), n. to Tiny Marsh (K&WZ) and w. to Bright's Grove (AR). A N. Oriole at Lake of the Woods May 15 had a white belly and was thought to be a hybrid Baltimore x Bullock's (M). Orchard Orioles appeared n. to S. Baymouth May 3 (CB) and again e. to P.E.Pt., May 17 (GV, RDW), where a Summer Tanager was also present at the same time. Four other reports of this species May 2-17, were all from the s.w.

FINCHES, SPARROWS—A ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak was described from Port Hope May 4 (BCO). The only Blue Grosbeak reports this year were from Pelee May 11 & 16 (MBr, PDP, m.ob.) and the only Dickcissel seen was at Rondeau May 11-12 (PAW, RJa). House Finches continued in good numbers at Kingston (HQ *et al.*), St. Thomas (RKi) and Toronto (LW, DH, BDP) and eight birds were reported elsewhere, but with no news from Niagara-on-the-Lake. Both Pine Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins lingered late, the grosbeaks to May 1 in Algonquin P.P. (RK) and May 10 at Thunder Bay (JCa) and the siskins still widespread in the s. at the period's end. Algonquin Park's first-ever Le Conte's Sparrow was found May 29 (RK, JDR, m.ob.) and one was on Manitoulin I., Apr. 26 (JN). On Shippans I., there were 30+ May 24-28, although Sharp-tailed had not yet arrived; and three Clay-colored were also seen (P). Elsewhere a Clay-colored was at Cape Crocker May 24 (JWJ) and a Sharp-tailed at Pelee May 17 (RBr, JPK). A Lark Sparrow, always a rarity in Ontario, was at Bright's Grove May 9 (AR). At Caribou I., a Field Sparrow May 17 was a surprise, but

nothing to compare to a reported Baird's Sparrow May 9 (RN). Documentation is awaited on this, although unfortunately without a photograph or a second supporting observer the record would not qualify for the formal Provincial check-list, as there is no prior substantiated record. Both Lapland Longspurs—in high breeding plumage—and Snow Buntings were in large numbers all across the n. of L. Superior May 11-13 (M) and there were some 780 and 1500 respectively at Moosonee at the end of May (P).

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NIAGARA-CHAMPLAIN REGION /Douglas P. Kibbe

Weather appears to have far greater effects on birders than it does on the movement of the vast majority of our spring migrants. Reports were colored with complaints on the early leafing out of vegetation induced by unseasonably mild conditions (which made viewing difficult), the absence of weather induced grounding (certainly a stress the birds can do without), and the scarcity of mudflats (despite a prolonged drought which must have exposed far more pond and reservoir margins than usual). Indeed, it must have been an excellent spring for most migrants with the normal adversities reduced to a minimum. Man's activities are responsible for two

stresses awaiting arriving birds in the Region. An armada of salmon fishermen has greatly reduced waterfowl use of the south side of Lake Ontario during the early spring months. How critical it is for these birds to rest and forage in these shallow protected areas is, unfortunately, unknown but the stress of this unintentional harassment could easily impair the reproductive performance of these birds once they

reach the breeding grounds. Unfortunately a decline, much less a cause-and-effect relationship would be virtually impossible to document. Although direct mortality due to



fishing disturbance is assumed to be minor, it is perhaps important to note at this point that C Spies determined, based on beached bird surveys along the Lake Ontario south shore, that fishing tackle was responsible for most of the specifically attributable bird mortality this spring. The second environmental perturbation, for which man is ultimately responsible, was the massive outbreak of gypsy moths which defoliated hundreds of acres of forest in southeastern sections of the Region. Although this outbreak apparently had no noticeable impact on migrants, it is hoped that observers carefully assessed the impacts of subsequent defoliation on the normal breeding avifauna.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL—Maximum counts of loons and grebes on L. Ontario were well below normal presumably owing to salmon sportfishing crowds which forced the birds to forsake their usual concentration points. Double-crested Cormorants continued to be well reported, a reflection perhaps of the recent expansion of their breeding range into the Region. Few southern herons overflowed their normal bounds; however, Buck Pond near Rochester hosted a Snowy Egret, a Little Blue and two Louisiana herons while Ithaca had another Little Blue. Up to ten Great Egrets were found at scattered New York locations but Cattle Egrets were inordinately scarce. The latter species, seemingly on the verge of wholesale colonization of the Region less than a decade ago, has inexplicably faltered in inland New York. Single Glossy Ibises were found at Braddock Bay and Dead Creek.

The most unusual of several probable escapees reported this season was a pale (due to diet?) **American Flamingo** present for more than a week in Kings Bay on N. Hero in L. Champlain (m.ob.).

Only four Mute swans strayed NW into the Region. Although apparently doing well in coastal areas, the species shows little inclination to spread far inland. Montezuma N.W.R. hosted 85,000 Canada and 12,000 Snow geese, about normal spring peaks. Brant numbers were modest with best counts of $200 \pm$ coming from c. New York in mid-May. An Egyptian Goose that toured the Champlain valley (JD), a Mandarin Duck that spent February and March on a Manlius pond (O.A.S.), a Green-winged (Eur.) Teal at Stockport Station (RG) and a Eur. Wigeon on Rose's Marsh (MD, WL, m.ob.) gave a decidedly exotic flavor to this spring's waterfowl reports; all, however, are probably escapees. **White-fronted Geese**, for many decades also considered escapees when sighted in the Region, may now be rare migrants through w. New York. This spring's sightings included three at Biddlecomb Marsh Apr. 3 (DWC, GW) and singles at Pool's Brook Pond Apr. 10-18 (m.ob.) and Carlton Mar. 28 (MD, ST). Four Barrow's Goldeneyes were identified in w. New York in March.

HAWKS TO SHOREBIRDS—Black Vultures were sighted at three e. New York locations in late April and early May, a reflection perhaps of the species increase in regions to the s. In theory Derby Hill should, since it is on the far eastern edge of L. Ontario, get consistently higher raptor counts than Brad-

dock Bay which is located midway along the Lake. This spring however more Turkey Vultures (1694 vs. 1294), and Bald Eagles (18 vs. 10) were tallied at the bay. Other excellent totals, all from Derby Hill, included 674 Cooper's and 622 Rough-legged hawks, 15 Golden Eagles (including five on May 5), 719 Marsh Hawks, and 326 Ospreys. The latter species was reported to be nesting again at Montezuma N.W.R. Rough-legged Hawks lingered until May 7 at Newfield and May 16 at Elmira (*vide* WEB) in the aftermath of this winter's invasion. About a dozen Peregrines and two dozen Merlins and a dark-phase Gyrfalcon, the latter in Norwich, Vt., Mar. 30 (WJH), were seen. Gray Partridge reputedly enjoyed a "good winter carry over" in the Watertown vicinity (LC). Up to two Sandhill Cranes were recorded in the vicinity of Rochester on 6 occasions Mar. 24-May 23 (*vide* RS). The species may now apparently be expected annually in the Region, a reflection on the improved status of the e. Greater Sandhill Crane population. A King Rail was found in a northshore marsh on Oneida L. (FS). A Com. Gallinule atop Mt. Philo Apr. 26 (WS) was far from its normal haunts. Except for a major grounding of Pectoral Sandpipers in w. New York the shorebird migration was generally lackluster. More notable sightings included a Whimbrel near Allegany, Willets at El Dorado Shores and Biddlecomb, and single Buff-breasted and Western sandpipers near Rochester. Three Purple Sandpipers tarried at Niagara Falls until Apr. 20 (B.O.S.), very late; and Red Knots were found at Canoga and Braddock Bay. Wilson's Phalaropes were unusually scarce, only Penn Yan and Greece reported any.

GULLS TO OWLS—A host of unusual gulls and terns were reported scattered throughout the Region. A **Black-headed Gull** May 25 at Perch R. marked the third consecutive appearance. Several Thayer's Gulls were reported in the Rochester area in March and May, a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** appeared briefly in Ithaca Apr. 24, a Laughing Gull was discovered May 16 at Braddock Bay, and an ad. Franklin's Gull was identified May 16 at Oswego. The L. Ontario beached bird survey unearthed two dead Black-legged Kittiwakes, evidence that fall stragglers to the Great Lakes may pay for their mistakes. Common and Forster's terns both arrived in the Region very early Apr. 5 at Niagara Falls and Apr. 17 at Braddock Bay. Two Roseate Terns were reportedly (MD *et al.*) also present at the latter location. Perhaps the most extraordinary occurrence of the season however was Vermont's first **Arctic Tern** first seen and nearly captured May 12 in Reading (KC *et al.*) as it struggled to remove a monofilament line from its neck. Amazingly the bird was subsequently seen and later found dead in East Barnard 20 miles away May 13 (MHR *et al.*) by a V.I.N.S. field party. Both cuckoos were reported to be doing well in the Hudson R. valley where the gypsy moth outbreak was most extensive.

Only a single Barn Owl was reported at Maritou, but Long-eared, Short-eared and Saw-Whet owls were well reported. Two Long-eareds and a single Short-eared and Saw-Whet each were found on the L. Ontario beached bird survey indicating, as was expected, that these species like most nocturnal mi-

grants regularly cross the lake. A Snowy Owl at Philadelphia May 4 (*vide* KLC) was exceptionally tardy.

WOODPECKERS TO MIMIDS—Only two Red-headed Woodpeckers were sighted in Vermont; at S. Starksboro and Grand I., but a slight increase was reported in the Finger Lakes area (WEB). Although N. Three-toed Woodpeckers have still not been found breeding in Vermont the circumstantial evidence was strengthened by sightings near Island Pond Mar. 31 (CS) and Ferdinand May 11 (WS). In addition to the usual Bergen Swamp sighting, Acadian Flycatchers were also seen and, in the latter case, recorded at Eggertsville in Erie County and Connecticut Hill s. of Ithaca. Peak Blue Jay movements occurred the second week of May along the L. Ontario shore. The seasonal total from Derby Hill (15,000) seemed to only partially reflect the magnitude of migration in this species. Common Ravens continue to show evidence of their increase in New York with more sightings from Allegheny County, the Finger Lakes and the L. Ontario shore where a migrant was noted as late as May 10, long after this species has commenced nesting. Derby Hill observers tallied 42,000 Com Crows. Three-to-four pairs of Fish Crows are now present at Ithaca, and their spread up the Hudson R. valley is evidenced by more sightings at the Colonie landfill and New Baltimore. They should be listened for along other major river and lake systems throughout the Region. Ever wondered how many chickadees frequent your feeder? Three hundred sixty-eight were banded at a single feeding station in Schenectady between November and May (RY). A few extralimital Boreal Chickadees were reported, one at Derby Hill May 5 (GS) being the most notable. A single Carolina Wren in W. Rutland was the only Vermont report, but they are apparently doing well in c. New York. It is hoped that the New York atlas will give a more realistic picture of the Short-billed Marsh Wren's distribution than the handful of reports received this spring. The species frequents wet (or occasionally dry) meadows which seldom attract birders and may not arrive until after May. Gray Catbirds, normally too common to mention, were termed "insanely abundant" (MJ) in the Fredonia area.

THRUSHES TO WARBLERS—A **Varied Thrush** at Sapsucker Woods Mar. 29 (*vide* WEB) provided the fourth occurrence in the Region in the past 6 months. An E. Bluebird nest which hatched Apr. 29 (VP) was very early. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers continue to appear at more mountainous portions of the Region indicating this species is extending its range altitudinally. Although scarce this winter, Bohemian Waxwings appeared at Plainfield Mar. 16 (MM), S. Hinesburg Apr. 12 (WB *et al.*), and Coot Hill near Westport Apr. 16 (H.P.A.S.). Although scarce until the end of the period, Cedar Waxwings staged a massive invasion as reflected in a 3-hour tally of 5000+ at Braddock Bay May 30 (AK, ST). Northern Shrikes lingered through March in several locations. Eight Loggerhead Shrikes were found in New York and one appeared at Dead Creek, Vermont. A half dozen White-eyed Vireos were discovered, all in c. or w. New York. Two Philadelphia Vir-

eos May 2 (*fide* RS) and May 8 (*fide* WEB) in c. New York were extremely early. Prothonotary Warblers were seen at 4 c. New York locations besides the known breeding area at Iroquois N.W.R. Worm-eating Warblers may be expanding in the Region, particularly in c. New York where extralimital reports were several times normal. More than a dozen Orange-crowned Warblers were sighted, all in New York. The recapture of two 8-year old Yellow Warblers at Vischer Ferry (RY) during the same spring is little short of astonishing, but demonstrates one of the values of long-term banding studies conducted at a single locality. Rarities included a **Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler** at Connecticut Hill May 31 (DS, *fide* WEB), exceptionally late for a migrant; a Yellow-throated Warbler at Elmira May 16, colonization of the Region by this expanding s. stream-side inhabitant may be imminent; Kentucky Warblers at Braddock Bay (*fide* RS) May 25 and taped at Connecticut Hill May 29 (DS, *fide* WEB); and nine Connecticut Warbler reports. The latter is an extraordinary number of sightings for a species normally considered extremely rare during the spring.

ICTERIDS THROUGH SPARROWS—A W. Meadowlark was present at Pt. Breeze for the third consecutive year (RS). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were spotted at Parma (m.ob.), Ballston L. (DF), and at N. Ferrisburg, Vt. (TS & BF). The latter provided the

third Vermont sighting. A banded N. Oriole retrapped at Vischer Ferry proved to be only one month shy of 10 years old. Knowledge that the **Brewer's Blackbird** population is expanding in the lake states did little to prepare observers for the appearance of a flock of 17 males and six females at Hamlin Apr. 2-30 (MD, m.ob.). How many other occurrences go unrecognized each year? Summer Tanagers were spied at Syracuse (FS, m.ob.) and Braddock Bay (*fide* RS). Dickcissels were reported from Mt. Holly, Vt. (AB *et al.*) and Charlotte, N.Y. (*fide* RS).

Both Purple Finches and Pine Siskins staged an excellent flight into the Region, the latter found nesting in Burlington by early April. A dark redpoll with an unstreaked rump and crissum captured and banded Mar. 22 (RY) demonstrates the difficulty of specifying some individuals. Two other redpolls, reported as Hoarries were observed near Rochester (*fide* RS). Both crossbills remained extremely scarce. Grasshopper Sparrows, first reported Apr. 11, were quite widely noted in w. New York but as usual were very local elsewhere. Tree Sparrows lingered until at least May 16 at two New York locations. Rarities included a **Painted Bunting** at Orlean throughout early May (m.ob., *fide* VP), a Lark Sparrow on Seneca Army Depot May 28 (JM, *fide* WEB), a Clay-colored Sparrow courting a Chipping Sparrow the last week of May in Clifton Springs (PT, *fide* WEB), an "Oregon" Junco at Ithaca Apr. 9 (*fide* WEB), a White-crowned Sparrow of the

Gambel's race at Burgeson Sanctuary near Buffalo Apr. 12 (*fide* VP) and a Harris' Sparrow at Ithaca May 11 (WD, *fide* WEB). Perhaps the season's greatest surprise however was a **Smith's Longspur** carefully studied and sketched Apr. 25 near White River Jct., Vt. (WE, NM). Examination of the supporting details by one authority experienced with the species (WH) led him to conclude that the bird had been a first-year male moulting into its first breeding plumage.

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APPALACHIAN REGION

/George A. Hall

If lack of agreement among observers in various parts of the Region denotes a normal spring, this one was normal. As usual some areas reported an excellent migration and others found it to be rather dull. The winter had not been very hard, and there was little snowfall. In the last week of February spring began, and waterfowl began to move into the Region. March had normal temperatures throughout the Region, but rainfall was greatly deficient, continuing the drought of the fall and winter. April had normal precipitation but was much warmer than normal. Early May was cooler than normal but the month was warmer than normal at the end. In the north the precipitation in May was well below normal, but in the south and east it was wetter than normal.

Waterfowl began to arrive in late February and the main movement was earlier than normal. The mild April brought a great number of early arrivals, and there were many local "earliest seen dates" established. The cooler weather of early May brought the migration to a standstill, and many of the early May arrivals were later than normal. At Presque Isle, Pa., many waterfowl remained during this period, and 14 species of duck were listed there on the late date of May 13 (JM). The wet cool weather ended in the second week of May and for 1-12 days the main warbler migration moved through.

LOONS THROUGH ANHINGA—Hawk counters on Look Rock, Tenn., counted 25 Com. Loons flying by Apr. 11 (SJS, BS), and observers on Tuscarora Mt., Pa., saw 74 Apr. 19 (DK), and at Lock Haven, Pa., a flock of 42 was seen Apr. 28 (PS), but elsewhere reporters commented on the scarcity of the species. Red-throated Loons were reported from Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., Apr. 28 (RW & SB), and Seneca L., O., Mar. 27-Apr. 3 (JS & RP). There was a good migration of Horned Grebes Mar. 27 in n.w. Pennsylvania where 347 were counted at Edinboro L., Erie Co. (JH), and 100 were seen at Woodcock L., Crawford Co. (RFL). Five Red-necked Grebes were at Sunbury, Pa., Apr. 27 (SS) and five were seen at Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., in mid-April (DP). An Eared Grebe at Shenandoah L., Va., Apr. 27 provided the second record for the Mountains and Valleys region of Virginia (m.ob.) while one at Presque I., Pa., Apr. 11-26 was seen for the third consecutive year in exactly the same spot (JM).

Doubled-crested Cormorants were reported in larger than normal

numbers and from many more parts of the Region than usual. An **Anhinga** was seen near Front Royal, Va., May 12 (RSi).

HERONS—A newly discovered breeding colony of Great Blue Herons at 2000 ft elevation in Clinton County, Pa., had 42 nests (PS). Great Egrets were reported from all parts of the Region, which is unusual for the spring. A Snowy Egret was seen at State College, Pa., Apr. 28, the fourth local record (AF) and Little Blue Herons were reported



from near Chattanooga, Tenn., Apr. 18 (KD), from Presque I., Pa., Apr. 18 & 20 (SSt & JF), and from Dandridge, Tenn., May 29 (PP). Cattle Egrets were reported from Westmoreland County, Pa., Apr. 25 & 27 (LC & DSm), State College, Pa., in early May (KJ), Warren, Pa., May 15 (TG), Fayette County, Pa., May 21 (EC), Augusta County, Va., May 21-16 (LT), Kingston, Tenn., May 27 (BS & SJS), and near Chattanooga, Tenn., May 28 (LD). Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported from State College, Pa., Apr. 19 (DM), Erie, Pa., Apr. 14-May 1 (DRo), Salem, Va., Apr. 28 (NM), and at least one pair was nesting near Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE). The Least Bittern is generally a rarely reported bird in this Region and so the following reports were noteworthy: State College, Pa., Apr. 27 (m.ob.), Westmoreland County, Pa., May 23-26 (m.ob.), Somerset County, Pa., May 4 (RCL & RM), Pymatuning L., Pa., May 9 (RFL & ML), and Knoxville, Tenn., Apr. 27 (MA).

WATERFOWL—A peak of 16,000 ducks in the third week of March was reported from Presque I. Bay, Pa. (JM), but elsewhere observers found the waterfowl migration to be only fair or even poor. Gadwall were reported in unusual numbers for this Region, but the other dabbling ducks were generally in poor numbers. The diving ducks fared better, and some good concentrations were reported: 350 Redheads, 300 Canvasbacks, and 600 Red-breasted Mergansers at L. Arthur, Pa., in late March (GW), 500 Red-breasted Mergansers at Woodcock L., Crawford Co., Pa., Mar. 29 (RFL), 1000 Lesser Scaup at Seneca L., O., Mar. 27 (JS), and 450 Greater Scaup at Chickamauga L., Tenn., Mar. 23 (RSt).

The Whistling Swan movement came about on time, but the only large concentration reported was 600 at Pymatuning L., Pa., Mar. 22 (RFL). Swans were still present in the Lock Haven, Pa. area in mid-May (PS), and a Mute Swan was found at State College May 10 (KJ). No great flights of Canada Geese were reported. At Pymatuning L., the nesting population of geese was about 500, somewhat less than normal (RFL), but elsewhere introduced populations seem to be thriving. Nesting was reported from Clarke County, Va. (RSi). Snow Geese were reported from Pymatuning L., Pa., Mar. 14 (11 blues and two whites), and Mar. 22 (three whites—RFL & ML), from Woodstock, Va. (four white), Apr. 20 (RSi), from Seneca L., O., Mar. 27 (JS), and from Oak Ridge, Tenn., Apr. 21 (one white—WJ). White-winged Scoters were reported from 6 locations, mostly in Pennsylvania, but with a report from Shenandoah L., Va. Apr. 2 (R.B.C.), while Surf Scoters were found in Washington County, Pa., Apr. 20 (R&DE & R&MH), Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., Apr. 25 (*vide* KJ), Presque I., May 1 (JM), and Kingston, Tenn., May 2 (BS, SJS), while a Black Scoter was at Presque I., Mar. 28 (SSt).

RAPTORS—This year 4 locations made more or less systematic coverages of the N hawk flights, with some interesting results. At Tuscarora Mt., Pa., 1063 hawks were listed in 28 days of observation with 583 Broad-wingeds, 176 Red-taileds, and 134 Sharp-shinneds (CG), at Look Rock, Tenn., 949 hawks in 9 days, with 603 Broad-

wingeds, and only eight Sharp-shinneds (BS & SJS); at Presque I., Pa., 591 hawks in 20 days, with 223 Sharp-shinneds, 84 Red-taileds, and only four Broad-wingeds (JM, SSt, CZK), while 360 Broad-wingeds were listed at Massanutten Mt., Va., Apr. 19 (CZ). The peak Broad-winged day at both Look Rock and Tuscarora Summit was Apr. 19.

At a station on the shore just w. of Erie a total of 76 hawks was banded Mar. 12-Apr. 10. Seventy of these were Red-taileds (23 on Mar. 12) two were Red-shouldered and four were Cooper's (RG).

Of major import was the wide number of reports of Bald Eagles from 18 localities. Besides from the TVA lakes in Tennessee, L. Erie and the hawk-watching ridges, there were numerous reports from less favored concentration spots. At Pymatuning L., Pa., four nesting pairs were raising five eaglets. After the eggs in one nest failed to hatch an eaglet from the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center was successfully introduced into the nest (*Pittsburgh Press*). A nest with two young along the s. branch of the Potomac R., was the first confirmed nesting for West Virginia (BL).

Black Vultures in Perry County, Pa., two Apr. 11 (SS) and Mifflin County, Pa., three Mar. 28 (KS) were well n. of the usual range. The latter record was made by the pilot of a sailplane. Except at the hawk-watching stations Sharp-shinned Hawks were scarce, but Cooper's Hawks were in some better numbers than in recent years. However, the Goshawk seems to be staging a real boom in this area and there were reports of at least 30 birds from 8 locations, all in Pennsylvania.

Ospreys were in good numbers, and may have nested near State College, Pa. (*vide* KJ). Golden Eagles were reported from Frederick County, Va., Apr. 29 (RSi), the Skyline Drive in Augusta County, Va., May 22 (JA), and Salem, Va., May 12 (one adult and one immature—NM). At Tuscarora Mt., Pa., seven Golden Eagles, six Apr. 22, were counted during the period (CG). Merlins were reported from Conneaut, Pa., Mar. 8 (ML & RFL), Tuscarora Mt., Pa., Apr. 2 (CG), Roan's Cr., Tenn., Apr. 25 (LH & JMa), Laurel Hill, Pa., May 9 (RCL), Williamstown, W. Va., Apr. 16 (CB), and 6 reports totaling nine birds at Presque I., Pa., Apr. 7-May 27 (SSt, DS, & JM). Peregrines were reported from Look Rock, Tenn., two Mar. 15 (BS & SJS), Pymatuning L., Pa., Apr. 17 (ML & RFL), Massanutten Mt., Va., Apr. 19 (CZ), Presque I., Apr. 16 & 30 (CZK), and Latrobe, Pa., May 18 (RCL).

CRANES AND RAILS—About 1000 Sandhill Cranes were seen in the period Mar. 2-7 at Savannah Bay near Chattanooga, Tenn. (*vide* RSt), while at Dalton, Ga., small flocks of up to 75 birds were seen daily from Mar. 3-7 and Mar. 13, 16, 17 (*vide* AH). A Sandhill Crane was photographed near the West Virginia-Pennsylvania line in Preston County, W. Va., May 16 (W&BB), and five were seen at Knoxville Mar. 28 (BSh).

A King Rail was seen in Blount County, Tenn., Apr. 21-May 16 (m.ob.) and one at State College, Pa., Apr. 28 (MW, RW) was the second local record. Virginia Rails were reported from Lock Haven Apr. 21 (PS), and Williamstown, W. Va., May 14 (CB).

SHOREBIRDS, GULLS AND TERNS—On the L. Erie shore the shorebird migration was lower than normal (JM), as was also the case at Pymatuning L., Pa. (RFL). In n. Virginia, not usually a good shorebird spot, the flight was reported as being very good (RSi). Detailed observations were made at the Kingston Steam Plant, Tenn., but no comment was made on how this year compared with other years (SJS). The wet weather produced some good shorebirding at "inland" locations which often do not see these species.

Two Piping Plovers were seen at Presque I., Apr. 24 & 25 (JF). American Golden Plovers are unusual in the Region in spring, and so the flock of 55 in Butler County, Pa., May 11 (PH) and 60+ near Wooster, O., Apr. 22 (JB) were noteworthy. Two were also seen at Presque I., May 11 (RCL & RM).

The Semipalmated Plover and the several species of small sandpiper were more numerous than usual. Other great concentrations reported were the 1700 Pectoral Sandpipers along 1.5 mi of shore at Wooster, O., Apr. 18 (JB), and the 59 Long-billed Dowitchers at Presque I., May 11 (RCL & RM). Some of the more unusual shorebirds were: Willet at Kingston, Tenn., Apr. 17 (BS & SJS), at Shenandoah L., Va., Apr. 20 (first county record—RBC), Roanoke, Va., 15 on May 11 (MP), and Presque I., May 24 (SSt); Stilt Sandpiper, Austin Springs, Tenn., Apr. 25-May 1 (RK & SG), Marietta, O., May 2 (JS & RP), and Union City, Pa., May 12 & 13 (JM), W Sandpiper, Butler County, Pa., May 11 (PH), Watauga R., Tenn., May 12 (SG & MD), Presque I., May 13 (DS & JM), Augusta County, Va., May 13 (LT), and Kingston, Tenn., May (BS); Ruddy Turnstone, all on May 19, 11 at New Hope, Va., (MH), five at Swoope, Va. (YL), and four at Kingston, Tenn. (BS & SJS); Sanderling, Kingston May 19 (BS & SJS); N. Phalarope at Wooster, O., May 21-29 (JB); and Wilson's Phalarope, Wooster, O., May 21-19 (JB) and Presque I., May 24 & 25 (SSt, JM).

A Great Black-backed Gull remained at Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., through most of the season (m.ob.), while there were two records from L. Arthur, Butler County, Pa., Mar. 21 (CE & GW) and May 5 (DF). At Presque I., two Iceland Gulls were seen Mar. 31 and one on Apr. 16 (C&ZK). A Laughing Gull was on Nickajack L., near Chattanooga, June 1 (KD) and a Franklin's Gull was seen at very close range at Seneca L., O., Apr. 23 (JS & RP). The normally rare Forster's Tern was reported from 9 locations ranging from Presque Isle on the n., Rockingham County, Va., on the e., and Chattanooga on the s. and w. Caspian Terns were reported from 6 locations from Presque Isle to Kingston, Tenn.

DOVES, CUCKOOS, AND OWLS—The Mourning Dove continues to be present in unusually large numbers at most places. The 2 cuckoo species presented a checkered pattern of distribution and abundance. In c. Pennsylvania at State College there was a massive infestation of gypsy moths and both cuckoo species were abundant (MW). They were abundant at Lock Haven, presumably for the same reason (PS). Farther s. and w. at Marietta they were quite common, corresponding to another year of tent caterpillar outbreak (JS). On the other hand none was seen in Meadville, Pa. (RFL) nor in Morgan-

town, W Va (GAH) and they were scarce in Harrisonburg, Va. (R.B.C.).

Barn Owls were reported as nesting near Harrisonburg, Va. (R.B.C.) and at Swannanoa, N.C. (RR), and were reported from Lock Haven, Pa., and Jersey Shore, Pa. (PS & CH). A rather belated Snowy Owl was reported from Slippery Rock, Pa., Apr. 4 (RC) Short-eared Owls were present in Clarke County, Va., until mid March (RSi), and a Long-eared Owl was found in Allegheny County, Pa., Apr. 13 (DF). A Saw-whet Owl was heard at Warren, Pa., Mar. 6 (HJ), and as many as three were heard on the Tennessee-North Carolina line at Newfound Gap May 16 (J&BC).

CAPRIMULGIDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—There were 2 reports of Chuck-will's-widows in the Shenandoah Valley, Harrisonburg (R.B.C.) and Staunton (RS). Whip-poor-wills have disappeared from much of their range in this Region, so the report of at least 12 calling near State College May 29 (RW) was encouraging, as was the report of them being "locally common" at Harrisonburg, Va. (R.B.C.). One was seen at Pittsburgh on the early date of Apr. 9 (DR). At Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pa. (hereafter, P.N.R.) 47 hummingbirds, double the usual spring numbers, were banded (RCL).

Hairy Woodpeckers seem to be heading for another low population level, which periodically occurs in this species. On the other hand there were many more reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers than usual, and from Presque Isle came a report of a colony of approximately 40 birds (DF). The Red-bellied Woodpecker, which has been expanding N seemed to be in lower numbers in Crawford County, Pa., than usual (RFL), but one was seen at Sheffield, Pa., May 8 (CN). A Red-cockaded Woodpecker was found at the Catoosa W.M.A., near Chattanooga in late May (DJ & JSt).

FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS—A W Kingbird was seen at Liberty, Pa., May 31 (FW). In n. West Virginia, E. Kingbirds have become extremely scarce (GAH). At P.N.R., ten Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were banded, about 39% above normal (RCL); two were banded at Presque I., May 11 (RFL), and the species was found near State College, May 24 (RW & SB). Nineteen "Traill's" Flycatchers were banded at P.N.R. during the season, 64% above average (RCL). Both the Willow and Alder flycatchers were more commonly reported in migration than usual, but whether or not they remained to breed awaited later determination. The Olive-sided Flycatcher once nested widely through the s. Appalachians but in recent years it has been scarce. On May 23 one was heard on Gaudineer Knob, W Va., a former nesting site (GAH), and they remain regular along the Alum Cave Bluff trail in the Great Smoky Mts. (SJS, CNi) There were more reports in migration than usual.

The Tree Swallow continues to thrive. Southward it nested in Buncombe County (2nd record), N.C. (RR), and 5 nests were located near Waynesboro, Va., and one near Deerfield, Va. (RS). In nearby Rockingham County five out of 100 bluebird boxes were occupied by Tree Swallows (R.B.C.). They

were also nesting in bluebird boxes at Colyer Dam, Pa. (KJ), and at Warren, Pa., fully half of the boxes of *Operation Bluebird* were occupied by Tree Swallows (WH). A colony of 70 nests of Cliff Swallow was at Bald Eagle S.P., Pa. (RW, SB), and there was a possible new colony near State College, Pa. (KJ).

RAVENS, TITMICE, NUTHATCHES—A Com. Raven's nest in Forest County, Pa., fledged two young (WH), and another nest with two young was found at Natural Chimney's, Va., May 17 (LT). The fate of the Black-capped Chickadees that occasionally irrupt to the s., as they did last fall, is not clearly known, but this spring at least there was a N movement at P.N.R., where 55 were banded during the period (RCL). The Boreal Chickadee mentioned in the last report at Warren, Pa., remained until Mar. 26 (WH). There was a good flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches following last fall's S movement.

WRENS, THRUSHES AND KINGLETS—The Carolina Wren is slowly making a comeback after the series of hard winters. The Tennessee localities report about normal numbers and in the n. the almost universal comment was that there were a few more around than last year. On the other hand House Wren populations are booming and at P.N.R., the spring bandings were 134% above average (RCL). Once again the Bewick's Wren was almost unmentioned, with only one report coming in, from Washington County, Pa., May 28 (DF).

The Wood Thrush arrived somewhat later than normal at most places and was in about average numbers, but the other spotted thrushes were late and generally in low numbers. At P.N.R., the bandings of Swainson's Thrushes were about average (RCL), but at State College (MW), Morgantown (GAH), and Dalton, Ga. (AH) this species was in very low numbers. A Hermit Thrush was singing at Knoxville as late as May 12-14 (J&BM). A Varied Thrush had been present in Allegheny County, Pa., until late February, when it disappeared, but returned Mar. 30-Apr. 5 (EW).

Golden-crowned Kinglets have made only a little recovery from the winter mortality a few years back. At Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE), Lock Haven, Pa. (PS) and s.w. Pennsylvania (PH) numbers were reported as low, but P.N.R. bandings were above average (RCL). The Ruby-crowned Kinglet is doing somewhat better, although still low at Elizabethton, and Pittsburgh.

PIPITS, SHRIKES, AND VIREOS—Water Pipits were reported more widely than is usual, and there were May records at State College (KJ) and Jonesboro, Tenn. (RK). At Morgantown a few were present Mar. 29—at least May 3, where normally they pass through in a few days (GAH).

The Loggerhead Shrike has been a marginal species in this Region so the following reports of nesting, all from Virginia were encouraging: three nestings in n.w. Virginia (RSi), two in Rockingham County (R.B.C.), and one at Arcadia (BK). There were sightings in Allegheny County, Pa., May 9 (PH) and Butler County, Pa., Apr. 8 (MG & BSr). A N. Shrike was seen in Erie County, Pa., Mar. 7 (JM).

The White-eyed Vireo continues to appear n. of its usual limits with reports from Presque I. (m.ob.), Edinboro, Pa. (DS), Pymatuning L. (RFL), Irvine, Pa. (HJ), and Bald Eagle S.P. (RW & SB). The Yellow-throated Vireo is another species that has slowly declined over much of this Region, but May 24, 8-10 singing males were counted along a route in s. Erie County, Pa. (SSi). Bandings of Red-eyed Vireos at P.N.R. (RCL) and Morgantown (GAH) were down slightly from average, and well down from last year's high. There were more than the usual number of spring reports of Philadelphia Vireos, although none was banded at P.N.R. (RCL) One at Chattanooga Apr. 25 seems quite early (LD, RSt).

WARBLERS—The warbler flight presented its usual mixed results. Most places reported poor or only fair flights, but at P.N.R., the numbers, both seen and banded, were the best in years (RCL). At that station 17 species were banded in above-average numbers, 8 in average numbers and only 4 in below average numbers. There were no outstanding waves of migrants, and this may account for the difference of opinion between the banders and the binocular birders. The migration had been very early at the beginning, and 20 species were present at P.N.R., Apr. 29 (RCL). However the cool wet weather in early May slowed down the movement and it was not until perhaps May 10 that the migration got back onto schedule. From then until about May 25, however, the birds moved through in some numbers. Tennessee Warblers were particularly common in n. West Virginia and w. Pennsylvania, and at Morgantown there was a very large flight of Bay-breasted Warblers. A count of 80 Cerulean Warblers listed Apr. 30 at P.N.R. was remarkable (RCL & RM). Two other high counts were 300 Yellow Warblers at Presque I., May 9 (DF) and 100 at Pymatuning L., May 10 (RFL). At the other end of the scale Blackpoll Warblers were generally in very low numbers. Thirty Mourning Warblers were banded during the season at P.N.R. (RCL), and one heard singing at Mountain Lake, Va., May 31 (NM) might have been just a late migrant, but also may have represented a breeding range extension.

Southern warbler species found farther n than usual were: Worm-eating, 3 reports at Presque I. (JM); Yellow-breasted Chat, Warren, Pa. (TG), and Kentucky, 4 records at Presque I. and elsewhere in Erie County (JM) and Milton S.P., Pa., May 10 & 14 (SS). The chat was considered to be very common in n.w. Virginia (RSi), but in n. West Virginia it was almost nonexistent (GAH). The Yellow-throated Warbler continues to expand N, and was reported from Butler County, Pa., May 19 (GW) and from Presque I., May 9 (DF).

Both the Orange-crowned and Connecticut warblers were reported more commonly than is normal in the spring. A Lawrence's hybrid was seen at Athens, W.Va., May 6 (JP), and there were 7 reports of Brewster's hybrids. The most remarkable warbler of the spring, however, was a Kirtland's in Allegheny County May 23, the first w. Pennsylvania spring record (DF).

ICTERIDS AND TANAGERS—It was a banner year for Bobolinks which were report-

ed in good numbers all over the Region. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen at Danville, Pa., in late April (*vide* KJ). There were three reports of Brewer's Blackbird from w. Pennsylvania (*vide* PH).

A Summer Tanager at Fox Chapel, Pa., May 17 (DF) was well n. of the normal limits.

FRINGILLIDS—A Dickcissel remained at W. Mifflin, Pa., Mar. 5-Apr. 9 (MS) and another was at Marietta, O., Mar. 17-May 1 (JS & RP). The Blue Grosbeak continues to thrive in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, and one was seen at State College, Pa., May 5 (MLO & MW). A Clay-colored Sparrow was banded at Saegertown, Pa., May 5 (TP), and an "Oregon" Junco was seen in Allegheny County Apr. 13 (DF).

Evening Grosbeaks remained in the Region until early May. The flight of Pine Siskins was extremely heavy at most places in late April and early May. Siskins nested at P.N.R., for the first time (RCL) and at State College, Pa. (MW) and Irvine, Pa. (TG) female siskins with brood patches were captured, indicating breeding at those places. There were also several late May records from Great Smoky Mountains N.P., indicating a possibility of nesting there (SJS & BS). Of the other n. species which came S last winter the only report of Com. Redpoll came from Sheffield, Pa. (*vide* WB); a lone White-winged Crossbill was seen at W. Springfield, Pa., Mar. 31 (AE & SSt); and Red Crossbills

were reported from Botetourt County, Va., Apr. 12 (BK), Allegheny County, Pa., Mar. 14 (DF), and Johnson City, Tenn. (HD). Other reports came from the area where they nested last year on Shenandoah Mt., Va. (R.B.C.) and from Mountain L., Va., May 31 (FS *et al.*), indicating a possible nesting there. The movement of Purple Finches was good, and House Finches continue to increase in population. They have become extremely common within the city limits of Pittsburgh (KP), and the first nest was found (later destroyed by a cat) at Jonesboro, Tenn. (GE).

Henslow's Sparrow has been declining throughout its range in this Region in recent years, and so the report of a colony of about a dozen pairs nesting at P.N.R. was good news (RCL). This species was seen near Chattanooga, Tenn., Apr. 26 (m.ob.).

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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

/Kim R. Eckert

It is difficult to sum up the weather and migration of this variable and inconsistent spring. Each of this Region's three states seemed to have been reporting on different seasons, and what they had to report bordered on the incoherent. March was about the only month all seemed to agree on: the warm and generally dry conditions of the previous winter continued virtually everywhere. But by April it became confusing, with Michigan warmer than normal at first and then cooler later on, with Wisconsin mostly warm

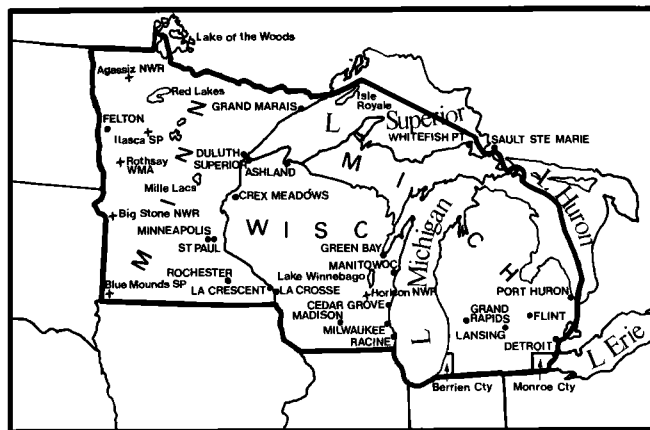
and wet the entire month, and with Minnesota dry initially and rainy at month's end while cold and warm fronts alternated all month long. Cooler than usual temperatures were the rule in May, although such conditions in Michigan were confined to the first part of the month; meanwhile May in Minnesota was mostly wet, in Wisconsin mostly dry, and in Michigan mostly normal.

Just as the weather varied from state to state, so did the migration, with little agreement as to how interesting the birding was. There was consensus that the mild weather of February and March resulted in an early migration at first (in Minnesota it was about the earliest waterfowl migration ever with all but a few species recorded by March 1), but beyond that a consistent description was lacking. Michigan reported a "basically dismal" season, although the number of species reported was more than normal and there were some exceptional rarities. Wisconsin's spring was mostly lackluster, especially among shorebirds and thrushes, with waves reported May 3 and again the last week of May. Meanwhile, Minnesota had a relatively interesting migra-

tion, although there were only a few noteworthy rarities, with a good wave May 16 statewide and an exceptional concentration of migrants grounded in the fog and rain at Duluth May 23-25. In the following report, place names in *italics> are counties.*

LOONS AND GREBES—Common Loons were relatively scarce across Michigan, with the season total of 1314 at Whitefish Pt Bird Observatory (hereafter, W.P.B.O.) down considerably from last year (MJ). Red-throated Loons have been very elusive in Minnesota in recent years, so it was of particular interest that four individuals were found on L. Superior, one Apr. 29 and two May 25 at Duluth (KE), and another May 24 at Two Harbors (J. Church). Also unusual was a sighting from inland Wisconsin May 14 in Taylor (SR). Red-necked Grebes proved scarcer than normal in Michigan, with the only reports from W.P.B.O. Eared Grebes wandered E to 4 Wisconsin locations after a hiatus of a year, and were even more noteworthy at Muskegon, Mich., Apr. 4 and May 5-16 (m.ob.) and in Berrien May 25 (WB). There was also an unusual concentration of 200 at Swan L., Nicollet Co., Minn., May 15 (JFr). Western Grebes in Chippewa, Wis., May 7 (JPo) and in Minneapolis May 6 (SC) were farther e. than normal.

PELICANS THROUGH IBISES—A White Pelican was found May 29-30 at L. Gogebic in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (hereafter, U.P.) (JM). Double-crested Cor-



morants were again noted to be continuing their "remarkable increase in numbers" in many Wisconsin areas. The usual few Little Blue Herons, Cattle and Snowy egrets were noted from all 3 states; the Cattle Egrets Apr. 11-26 in *Aitkin*, Minn. (WN) were unusually far n, and a Snowy Egret Apr. 10 at Carlos Avery W.M.A., Minn. (KL) provided a record early arrival date. The population of these three "southern" herons has seemed to level off in recent years in the Region; if anything, the number of sightings, especially at heronries, may be declining. Great Egrets again appeared at 3 n. Minnesota locations; Apr. 10-11 in Duluth (KE), May 3+ at Agassiz N.W.R. (m.ob.), and May 20 in *Roseau* (BJ). **Louisiana Herons** were reported from all 3 states: the one at Carlos Avery W.M.A., Minn., May 4-8 (R. Joarnt) furnished only the fourth state record; Wisconsin's seventh record was of one which ranged between Sheboygan May 8 (HK) and Rush L., May 27-30 (TB,TZ); while Michigan reported birds May 2 in *Allegan* (BM), May 3-8 in *Monroe* (EC,G&MB), and May 19 in *Macomb* (A&SR). A Black-crowned Night Heron Mar. 8 at Black Dog L., Minn. (SC) furnished a record arrival date, although there is the possibility that it had overwintered. Although there has not been a Yellow-crowned Night Heron nesting record in Minnesota since the colony at La Crescent disbanded a few years ago., this species has been seen more frequently at more locations in s. Minnesota recently—this spring there were seven records. Both Least and Am. bitterns appeared to be up in numbers in Michigan. The casual White-faced Ibis was seen May 30 at Breckenridge, Minn. (JP, AM) while another ibis (presumably, but not automatically, a White-faced) was spotted May 3 in *Cottonwood*, Minn. (m.ob.).

WATERFOWL—For the second consecutive spring, wild Mute Swans appeared several times in Duluth (KE), apparently wandering across L. Superior from Ashland, Wis., where a small feral population has been established for at least 20 years. Four individuals were also seen in Superior in May, with an apparently mated pair remaining into June (m.ob.). Meanwhile this aggressive swan continues to increase and spread in Michigan's Lower Peninsula (hereafter, L.P.). The Whistling Swan migration through Wisconsin was again described as disappointing, but at Duluth the concentration of 1500 Apr. 11 was the largest ever here (KE *et al.*). Several Whitefronted Geese appeared at locations in the e half of the Region, with the most surprising record May 7 in *Houghton* in Michigan's U.P. (A&DW). A very high concentration of 3000 Pintail was found May 30 at Shiawassee N.W.R., Mich. (DF), and there was a good count of 2200+ Ruddy Ducks Apr. 18 at L. Erie Metropark near Detroit (BL), other than these reports the waterfowl migration was generally disappointing even though it was extremely early. An uncharacteristically cooperative Cinnamon Teal remained in a *Douglas*, Minn., pothole Apr. 25-May 20 where it was seen and photographed by many. Scoters, especially White-wingeds, were mostly down in numbers throughout the Region, but there was a maximum of 150+ White-wingeds at W.P.B.O., May 20, and an early individual was at Mille

Lacs L., Apr. 11 (SE)

FALCONIFORMES—Michigan again reported a surprisingly good movement of Turkey Vultures, with a peak of 42 at Sleeping Bear Nat'l Lakeshore Apr. 11 (CaF). Sub-adult **Mississippi Kites** were well-documented at W.P.B.O., May 24 (MJ), a first Michigan record from an unlikely n. locality, and at Oxbow P., *Olmstead*, Minn., May 18 (V. Herring), a fourth state record. W.P.B.O. monitored a good Sharp-shinned Hawk movement with a season total of 10,000+ counted, and a peak of 2450 May 4; other season-long counts here included 2686 Red-taileds (peak of 344 Apr. 11), 24 Red-shouldereds, 1060 Rough-leggeds (peak of 218 Apr. 12-13), 275 Marsh Hawks (peak of 47 May 4), 81 Ospreys, 23 Merlins, and 601 Am. Kestrels (peak of 145 May 4) (MJ). There were the usual few reports of Broad-winged Hawk peaks in the 300-800 range in late April, none of these from the Port Huron or Duluth areas. Either these reports constitute "one of the truly spectacular bird migrations in North America" (AB 34:752), or this Region's observers have failed in their responsibility to report the drastic decline of Broad-winged Hawks which, we are told by Massachusetts experts, are supposed to have at least three "very important crossing" points in the Western Great Lakes Region (AB 34:751). Three Swainson's Hawks were seen in Wisconsin: Apr. 11 in *Marathon* (SR), Apr. 18 at Horicon N.W.R. (DT) and May 30 in *Mayfield* (DV). Three Golden Eagles in Wisconsin and eight in Michigan represented a good movement; it was also noteworthy that three Bald Eagle nests were found at the traditional, but still unusually far s., site in *Houston*, Minn. (*vide* FL).

BOBWHITE THROUGH GALLINULES—After two relatively mild and snowless winters, the reports of Bobwhites from Blue Mounds S.P., in May in extreme s.w. Minnesota (SM *et al.*), where this species has not been found in decades, is most intriguing. While there is the possibility these were escapes, the birds seen were quite wary and thus it is more likely they moved in under favorable climatological conditions from n.w. Iowa or s.e. South Dakota. In Michigan, Bobwhite numbers were somewhat higher, but still down from earlier years. Published range maps to the contrary, King Rails continued their scarce to nonexistent status in the s. half of the Region; the only record was May 16 in *Rock*, Wis. (DT). On the other hand, the elusive Yellow Rail proved less so this spring: one was found May 5 at Walkerville, Mich. (LW), another was at Fish Lake W.M.A., *Burnett*, Wis., May 23 (DT), while in Minnesota, besides the traditional McGregor site, rails were heard May 16 at Carlos Avery W.M.A. (KL), an usual s. locale, and May 23 in *Wilkin*, where they were unexpectedly found last summer (KE). A very cooperative **Purple Gallinule** remained in a marsh near Milwaukee Apr. 25-May 14, representing only the fifth Wisconsin record (EC *et al.*).

SHOREBIRDS—Two Piping Plovers Apr. 17 in *Nobles*, Minn., represented a record arrival date (BL); also very early was an Am. Woodcock Mar. 12 in *Grand Traverse*, Mich.

(LG) There was a good peak of 120 Black-bellied Plovers May 22 in *Macomb*, Mich (RL). Whimbrels were found in lower numbers than usual, especially in Michigan where the only report was May 20, the first ever for the Lansing area (m.ob.). More than the usual number of Upland Sandpipers appeared in Michigan. Solitary Sandpipers were more common than usual in Minnesota—there was also a record arrival date for Michigan of Mar. 31 in *Kalamazoo* (DP), and Willets were more in evidence than normal throughout, especially in Wisconsin where flocks of up to 40 were found and in Duluth where an unusual concentration of 12 turned up May 14 (P. Hofslund). Pectoral Sandpipers proved almost abundant in Michigan, while all 3 states recorded very early individuals within a day of Mar. 28—there was even a sighting Mar. 20 at Detroit (AK) and a peak of 500+ in by Mar. 29 at Pt. Mouillee near Detroit (BL). Buff-breasted Sandpipers are not usually encountered in spring, so the two Apr. 11 in *Ingham*, Mich. (DB) and the single May 29 in *Door*, Wis. (ST) were interesting. Marbled Godwits wandered E as far as Duluth May 15 (GP,SC), *Brown* May 17 (DT) and *Ashland* May 20 (DV), both in Wisconsin, and all the way to Michigan at Josco May 16, at the Maple River Game Area May 22 (CE) and at Seney N.W.R., May 25 (LG). Hudsonians were also noteworthy in Michigan with as many as six in *Delta* May 14-16 (C&BT,LW). Sightings of Ruffs here formerly rated particular attention, but now this species is virtually a regular visitant; this spring sub-adult males were found May 14-16 in *Chippewa*, Wis. (JPo *et al.*), and in *Macomb*, Mich., May 12-16 (A&SR,HJ). American Avocets turned up as far e. as Milwaukee Apr. 29 (m.ob.), Vermillion, Mich., May 9 (WL *et al.*), and at the Erie Marsh, *Monroe* May 8 (G&MB)—these last reports the first in Michigan in 5 springs. More than the usual number of Wilson's Phalaropes were seen in Michigan; there was also a noteworthy report from Duluth May 13 (KE).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS—Most surprising was an unidentified jaeger May 23 at Duluth (D. Hojnacki); although jaegers are regular here in fall, spring records are virtually nonexistent. Inland Glaucous Gulls appeared Mar. 1 at La Crosse (FL) and Mar. 23 at Helmer Myre S.P., Minn. (D&WM). Great Black-backed Gulls again were found along L. Michigan at 3 Michigan locations. A Thayer's Gull Mar. 15 in *Blue Earth*, Minn. was perhaps the first ever in Minnesota s of the Twin Cities (BJ). Laughing Gulls were seen at St. Joseph, Mich., May 13-17 (WB, RS) and at Milwaukee May 5 (m.ob.). After a hiatus of one year, three ad. Little Gulls appeared at Duluth May 9 & 23 (KE,DR); six adults also reappeared at the Two Rivers-Manitowoc, Wis., nesting area Apr. 27, but no nesting activity was reported (JS). Three Caspian Terns at Tawas Pt., Mich., Apr. 12 were extremely early (DP,TS).

OWLS—An unprecedented number of Snowy Owls lingered well into May at several locations: singles were found on each of 4 days May 15-18, three in Michigan and one in Wisconsin; another lingered until May 23 at W.P.B.O. (MJ), while another apparently healthy Snowy appeared in late May in *Clark*

in c Wisconsin and incredibly stayed into June (K&JL *et al.*)! Banders at W.P.B.O. had a good season, netting a Great Gray Owl May 7 (WL), a remarkable total of 142 Long-eareds, and 50 Saw-whets. A Great Gray also showed up in *Price*, Wis., in mid-May (MH *et al.*), and while the usual few Great Grays were seen in n. Minnesota none apparently remained to nest in *Aitkin* where several nests were found in 1980. A total of six Boreal Owls was heard Mar. 27-Apr. 28 in their "traditional" nesting area along the Gunflint Trail, *Cook*, Minn., but attempts to locate a nest were again unsuccessful (K&MH, TS, KE). Six is the most heard here since 1978 when 15 were heard and the only nest was found—none was heard in 1979 and one was heard in 1980. It is also important to note that although the good numbers heard in 1978 followed an unprecedented winter influx, the six Boreals this spring were definitely not "left-overs" from a winter invasion since only one was recorded this past winter. An unusual number of Saw-whets was seen and heard in s. Minnesota under circumstances that suggested possible nesting in some cases (this owl is known to nest only in n. Minnesota)—the most interesting of these reports was of one netted May 21 at *Afton* which had been banded here Oct. 19, 1980 (D&MB).

WHIP-POOR-WILL THROUGH FLY-CATCHERS—An Apr. 12 Whip-poor-will heard in *Houston*, Minn., was the earliest ever (E&MF); there were also a few others heard earlier than normal in the state. A concentration of 1500 Chimney Swifts was seen entering a chimney in *Ottawa*, Mich. (BM). Pileated Woodpeckers were again noted to be increasing in Michigan. Unusual in Minnesota were a Com. (Red-shafted) Flicker Mar. 16 in *Nicollet* (JFr), and an out-of-range Red-bellied Woodpecker May 22-24 in Two Harbors (J. Church). Also from Minnesota came 4 reports of the usually elusive N. Three-toed Woodpecker. A few W. Kingbirds turned up farther e. than normal May 22-28 at Duluth, at two Wisconsin sites, and as far as Muskegon S.P., Mich. (GW). Both E. Phoebe and Olive-sided Flycatcher were noted as scarce in Michigan. Minnesota's seventh *Say's Phoebe* record was of a singing male at the Felton prairie May 17 (KE); almost as interesting was a Willow Flycatcher much farther n. than usual in Delta County May 27 in the U.P. (C&BT).

SWALLOWS THROUGH MIMIDS—An impressive count of 10,000+ Tree Swallows was made Apr. 26 at Maple River Game Area, Mich. (A&SR), and a Cliff Swallow Mar. 30 in *Eau Claire*, Wis., provided a record arrival date (JPo). Blue Jays were described as "down from last year" in Michigan even though a peak of 1500 passed W.P.B.O. (MJ) and more than 3000 moved through *Berrien* on 6 days in early May (WB). A count of 226 Boreal Chickadees was made May 2-29 at W.P.B.O., with a peak of 32 on May 20 (MJ). The Detroit area still reported a lack of Winter Wrens—only two sightings, and Carolina Wrens—only one report May 16 (CB), but a Carolina Wren was found unusually far n. among the migrants grounded at Duluth May 23 (KL). More than the usual number of Mockingbirds was seen, especially

in the n. half of Michigan. Gray Catbirds were quite early Mar. 25 at Stoney Cr. Metropolitan, Mich. (RD), and Apr. 16 at Marshall, Minn. (HK); also very early was a Brown Thrasher Apr. 1 in *Stearns*, Minn. (NH).

THRUSHES THROUGH SHRIKES—As mentioned earlier, the migration of thrushes in many parts of the Region was weak, although in Minnesota there were three remarkably early arrivals: both Wood and Gray-cheeked thrushes Apr. 11 in *Washington* (B. Jung), and a Swainson's Thrush Apr. 10 in Roseville (RH). Eastern Bluebirds were generally scarce in Michigan, especially in *Kalamazoo* after a cold snap killed several in mid-April (RA). The Mountain Bluebird retained its rare but regular status in Minnesota with a pair seen at *Roseau* Mar. 27-30 (F&DS). Early Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were found in all 3 states: Apr. 5 in *Macomb*, Mich. (RL), Apr. 11 in Milwaukee (RG), and April in *Wabasha*, Minn. (J&SD). Gnatcatchers were also farther n. than usual with eight at W.P.B.O., May 3-19 (MJ), and unusually far w. with a pair building a nest (later abandoned) May 19 at Blue Mounds S.P. (SM). Both Water Pipit and Loggerhead Shrike were seen more often than usual in Minnesota, but in Wisconsin there were only three migrant Loggerhead Shrikes reported all season, with no nesting pairs seen anywhere: "a sudden dismal picture."

VIREOS AND WARBLERS—Five White-eyed Vireos were reported in s. Wisconsin, eight were seen in s. Michigan, but Minnesota had its usual total of zero. However, s.e. Minnesota did manage an above-average total of six Bell's Vireos. Yellow-throated Vireos were also up in numbers in the Detroit area (*vide* AK), and in Duluth, where at least four singing males were seen May 13+ (KE); a Yellow-throated was also seen May 21 in Porcupine Mountains S.P. (JM), an extremely rare occurrence for the U.P. Very early for n. Minnesota was a Red-eyed Vireo Apr. 26 at *Aitkin* (WN); also extremely early was a Prothonotary Warbler Apr. 19 near Detroit (JF). Eight Worm-eating Warblers were reported at 6 Michigan sites, six were seen at 3 Wisconsin locations, while in Minnesota, where the species is only casual, the lone report was May 5 at Austin (R&RK). Early for Wisconsin were a Blue-winged Warbler Apr. 29 in Dane County (ST), and a N. Parula Apr. 11 in *Milwaukee* (DG); parulas were also described as more common than usual in Michigan. Very unusual for s.w. Minnesota was a Black-throated Blue Warbler May 25 at Lake Shetek S.P. (A. DeKam). Fewer Yellow-rumped Warblers than normal were seen in Minnesota (almost a blessing), but most noteworthy was an "Audubon's" Warbler found Apr. 25 in *Stearns*, Minn. (NH). A Black-throated Green Warbler was very early Apr. 12 in *Ingham*, Mich. (LD). A Yellow-throated Warbler, about the 12th for Wisconsin, was seen May 21 in *Kenosha* (NC); another marginal southern species, the Prairie Warbler, was represented in Michigan by reports May 7 in *Leelanau* (MO) and May 20 in *Newago* (SM), and in Wisconsin by two singing males on apparent breeding territory in *Fond du Lac* May 9+ (TSc *et al.*). Louisiana Waterthrushes were extremely early Apr. 4 at Reno, Minn. (JP&AM), and Apr. 9 in *Mil-*

waukee (DG). The usual few Kentucky Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chats and Hooded Warblers were noted in Michigan and Wisconsin, but among these the lone Minnesota representative was a singing ♂ Hooded which returned to last year's site at Prior L.

ICTERIDS THROUGH TOWHEES—Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported from no fewer than 12 Michigan counties and were seen in increased numbers in many parts of Minnesota. Orchard Orioles were found at 3 Detroit area locations where the species is said to be very unusual (*vide* AK). Another W. Tanager was seen in Minnesota where the species is casual; a male appeared at a feeder in North Oaks Apr. 30-May 9 (m.ob.). Summer Tanagers were also reported: in Michigan at Buchanan late April-May 7 (WB), in suburban Detroit May 8-16 (JF, TH), and at St. Joseph May 25 (WB), at Superior May 24 (DT), and at Frontenac, Minn., May 9 (m.ob.). A ♀ Black-headed Grosbeak may have been seen May 16 at Benton Harbor, Mich., although most birders are unaware that many ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks can have very buffy and relatively unstreaked underparts. The rarest of the Minnesota rarities had to be the ♂ *Lazuli Bunting* in *Cook* one was photographed at a Lutsen feeder in late May, and another (possibly the same bird?) was seen 20 mi away in Grand Marais May 26 (M&KH). An undocumented House Finch was reported in East Lansing, Mich., May 18, a very late Pine Grosbeak was seen May 31 at W.P.B.O., and Wisconsin's first Gray-crowned Rosy Finch reappeared at the *Dunn* feeder after a few weeks' absence where it was seen and photographed by many (JRu). It would be well to note that a season total of 329 redpolls banded in *Marquette*, Mich., included not a single Hoary (NI). Pine Siskins, some of which appeared to be nesting, were again being seen throughout May at several s. locations in the Region. White-winged Crossbills were still present in Manitowoc May 16 (JS) and in Ashland May 31 (DV). Rufous-sided Towhees are normally rare in Duluth, but this May six were reported (*vide* KE).

SPARROWS THROUGH SNOW BUNTING—A Le Conte's Sparrow was very early Apr. 4 in Milwaukee, and also here on the same date was the earliest Sharp-tailed Sparrow ever in Wisconsin (DG, JI). Henslow's Sparrows were described as quite scarce in Michigan, but one was unusually far n. May 4 in St. Cloud, Minn. (NH). Also farther n. than usual was a Field Sparrow at Duluth May 9 (KE). Easily the most exciting rarity this season in the Region was Michigan's first *McCown's Longspur* which remained at W.P.B.O., May 27-29 and was seen and photographed by many (LT *et al.*); it was also at Whitefish Pt., last May that Michigan recorded its first Chestnut-collared Longspur Smith's Longspurs moved through w.c. Minnesota Apr. 25-26 when two were seen in *Wilkin* (JP&AM) and no fewer than 25 were seen in *Big Stone* (KE, DR). Several late Snow Buntings remained in Michigan May 16-22, and a record departure date for Wisconsin occurred May 25 in *Racine* (FL).

CORRIGENDUM AND ADDENDUM—Delete the Brant reported Oct. 12 in *Wilkin*,

Minn. (AB) A belated report of an obvious ♂ **Vermilion Flycatcher** at a Duluth feeder Oct. 26-Nov. 8 (S. Berguson), represented only the second Minnesota record.

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MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

/ Bruce G. Peterjohn

Spring migrations are enigmatic. Bird movements are dependent upon regional and local weather trends and local habitat conditions, creating a complex and often contradictory pattern of observations that defy detailed analysis. This spring was no exception. While some areas experienced exceptional birding, particularly Iowa, Illinois and south-central Indiana, other areas had a dull migration noted for a lack of concentrations of migrants.

The warm, dry weather of late February continued through March, culminating in record-breaking temperatures at the end of the month. The first half of April was similarly warm and dry, weather more typical of late May than early spring. Not surprisingly, this warm weather was accompanied by a large number of early arriving species. Strong westerly and southwesterly winds were prevalent throughout both months and undoubtedly aided the arrival of the western strays observed during these months or shortly thereafter.

Weather patterns changed dramatically during the latter half of April. The warm, dry weather was replaced by cool and wet conditions with predominantly northerly winds. These conditions prevailed throughout most

of May. While the above normal precipitation was badly needed in drought-stricken western states, it put a noticeable damper on the migration. May migrants arrived on time or a little late, moving through the Region in a steady, unspectacular stream. The routine May migration was rather disappointing when compared to the excitement generated by the April rarities.

As usual, all extraordinary sight records must be thoroughly documented at the time of observation. All documented records have been denoted by a dagger (†).

ABBREVIATIONS—S.C.R.: Squaw Creek N.W.R., Mo.; O.W.R.: Ottawa N.W.R., O.; M.M.W.A.: Magee Marsh W.M.A., O.; Spfld.: Springfield, Ill.; Horseshoe Lake, Madison Co., Ill.

LOONS THROUGH ANHINGA—Common Loons appeared in Ohio Mar. 21 and elsewhere by early April. No more than ten were reported from any location and customary small numbers of nonbreeding birds lingered into June. Reports of rarer loons included a breeding-plumaged **Arctic Loon** at Amana L., Ia., Apr. 28 (†CB, †m.ob.) and single Red-throats at Thomas Hill Res., Mo., Mar. 7 (†SS, TBk) and Monroe Res., Ind., Apr. 25-May 3 (*vide* SG). Red-necked Grebes were only observed in Iowa, singles at Waterloo Apr. 12 (†RM, †FM) and Trumbull L., May 8 (†MB). Horned Grebes were scarce at most localities;

largest concentrations were 88 at Cleveland Apr. 13 (M) and 20-35 at several inland sites. Eared Grebes were fairly numerous with reports from all states except Kentucky Mar. 20-May 31. An impressive mid-May influx brought 39 to S.C.R., May 15 (L, MRo), 18 to s.w. Iowa May 13 (T, RS), 10-14 at 3 Illinois locations May 11-15 (LH, H) and one E to

Columbus May 19-22 (†JF, m.ob.—ph.). Western Grebes appeared at 3 Iowa locations May 8-14 with a maximum of eight at Trumbull L., May 11 (MB, RC). Pied-billed Grebes were widespread but the only large concentration was of 150 at S.C.R. in April (L). White Pelicans remained in w. states where maximums of 300-400 appeared at 2 Missouri and 2 s.w. Iowa locations Mar. 31-Apr. 18. An ad. **Gannet** at Monroe Res., Ind., Apr. 18 (†TA) provided the state's third record. Double-crested Cormorant was widespread, an indication of its continued recovery. Largest concentrations were 100-250 at 4 Iowa locations and 30-60 at one Ohio and 5 Illinois sites. Lesser numbers appeared in other states. An ad. **Anhinga** at Mingo N.W.R., Mo., Apr. 19 (†SS, TW) was unusual.

HERONS—Most herons appeared in good numbers although Great Egrets were scarce in many areas. The mild early spring weather initiated an early migration; noteworthy early records included a Green Heron at Chicago Apr. 9 (RGo, PC), Cattle Egrets at Carbondale, Ill., Mar. 30 (†DR), Cook County, Ill., Apr. 2 (PD) and Cincinnati Apr. 4 (KM) and a Great Egret in Champaign County, Ill., Mar. 4 (BC).

Increased reports of Little Blue Herons included 200 at the Madison County, Ill., colony (RK) and 40 at Ballard W.M.A., Ky., May 11 (JEL, LR). Elsewhere, five or fewer were noted at 9 Iowa, 5 Ohio, 5 Indiana and 8 Illinois locations. Similar numbers of Cattle Egrets were observed. Korotev estimated 275 at the Madison County, Ill., heronry while 26 appeared at Springfield, Mo., Apr. 19 (*vide* CBo), 23 at O.W.R. in May and 10-20 at 5 other sites. Up to eight Snowy Egrets remained at single locations in the other states. Single Louisiana Herons were observed at Columbus Apr. 28-30 (†JF, m.ob.) and Gibson County, Ind., May 17 (†LH). Migrant Black-crowned Night Herons were widespread with peaks of 85 at L. Renwick, Ill., Apr. 26 (WM) and 64 at Falls of the Ohio, Ky., May 9 (LR). It was an excellent spring for Yellow-crowned Night Herons



with reports from at least 36 locations. Least Bitterns were observed at 21 sites, a normal number for spring. Greater numbers of Am. Bitterns were encountered although still scarce in many areas. White-faced Ibises invaded w. Iowa with 14 at L. Manawa May 13 (BR, †T, RS), two at Willow Slough May 19 (†BW) and two at Taylor L., May 21 (BW, RS, BR). Elsewhere, singles were reported from Swan Lake N.W.R., Mo., May 4 (SS, TBk), S.C.R., May 31 (†L) and Horseshoe L., May 16 (†PS *et al.*). Unidentified ibises were noted at one Iowa and two Ohio locations. For all *Plegadis* ibises, observers should carefully note coloration of the legs, lores and eyes. Soft-part coloration, particularly iris color, may provide the only discernible field marks for immatures or adults out of the breeding season. While White-faced are most likely in w. states and Glossy in the East, both species could conceivably occur anywhere in the Region. Hence, ibis identification should be based on field marks and not geographic probability.



White-faced Ibis, L. Manawa, Ia., May 13, 1981. Photo/T.H. Kent.

WATERFOWL—The waterfowl migration was under way by Mar. 1 and many birds had already passed through the Region. Spring concentrations were generally disappointing. Some divers appeared in good numbers, particularly Redheads, Ring-necked Ducks and Lesser Scaup. Large concentrations of puddle ducks were not reported. As expected, small numbers of most species lingered into May or early June at many areas.

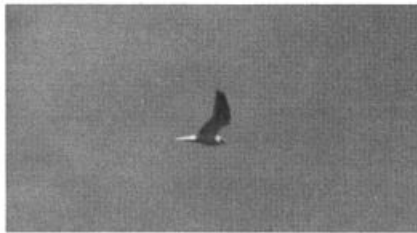
Few Whistling Swans appeared at the w. Lake Erie staging areas; the only large flock in Ohio was 1000 at L. Rockwell Mar. 27 (LRo). Elsewhere, one or two birds were reported from Illinois, Indiana and Iowa. Normal numbers of White-fronted Geese were noted in w. states including 3000 at S.C.R., Mar. 14 (L). Farther e., up to 23 appeared at 4 Illinois sites, five at Kankakee W.M.A., Ind., Mar. 21 (KB *et al.*) and three at Cleveland Apr. 5 (†TL *et al.*). Two Ross' Geese were observed at Willow Slough, Ia., Mar. 24-28 (†T, †BW, m.ob.) and singles at S.C.R., Mar. 22 (L) and Horseshoe L., Mar. 19-Apr. 1 (†CR, m.ob.). Drake Cinnamon Teals were noted at six locations: Wilmette, Ill., Apr. 4 (†JL *et al.*); two at Saylorville Res., Ia., Apr. 5-8 (RMo, m.ob.); Alton Dam, Mo., Apr. 25 (M&LS); Sunken Grove, Ia., Apr. 29-May 16 (MB, †RC); two at S.C.R., May 1 (L, KJ); Spring Run W.M.A., Ia., May 6 (DH). Single Eur. Wigeon appeared at O.W.R., Mar. 6-Apr. 20 (†JP, ET, m.ob.) and Palos, Ill., Apr. 3-10 (PD, †m.ob.). Small numbers of Greater Scaup

were regularly reported from inland locations in all states as observers have become familiar with their identification.

Oldsquaw were very scarce. The only reports were one or two at 3 n. Ohio locations Mar. 24-Apr. 29 (M, JP) and one at Indianapolis Mar. 12 (MR). Single Harlequin Ducks were noted at Chicago Mar. 5-Apr. 4 (†PC, RGo, JL) and Lorain, O., Mar. 12 (†JP) while two lingered at Cleveland Mar. 13-Apr. 29 (M). Small numbers of White-winged Scoters migrated along the Great Lakes in Illinois and Ohio. Inland, two were observed at Louisville Mar. 1-22 (AB) and one at Thomas Hill Res., Mo., Mar. 7 (SS, TBk). Single Surf Scoters appeared at Spfld., Mar. 26 & Apr. 13 (H) and along L. Michigan in Indiana and Illinois Apr. 23-May 11. The only Black Scoters were singles at Chicago Apr. 10 & 17 (JPo, RE). Few Red-breasted Mergansers were reported along the Great Lakes; the peak was only 2500 at Cleveland Mar. 27 (TL).

DIURNAL RAPTORS—The expected spring hawk flights did not materialize this year. Even at traditional areas, migrants passed by in steady streams with few large concentrations. Exemplary peaks were 60 Sharp-shinned Hawks at O.W.R., Apr. 26 (LRo), 150 Red-tailed Hawks at Palos, Ill., Mar. 15 (RB) and 122 at Spfld., Mar. 21 (H), and 350 Broad-winged Hawks at O.W.R., Apr. 26 (LRo).

Indiana's first **White-tailed Kite** appeared in Monroe County Apr. 18 (†GH, †SG—ph.). The kite was within a mile of the Gannet on the same date. While a locally severe storm the previous evening may have forced these birds down, factors causing them to appear at the same place and time are



White-tailed Kite, North Fork Ref., Apr. 18, 1981. Photo/Tom Alexander.

intriguing and not easily explained. Mississippi Kites arrived late in Illinois. Elsewhere, they were noted at Ballard W.M.A., Ky., Apr. 28 (JE) and St. Louis May 16-21 (m.ob.). Goshawks were reported at four sites, singles at Thomas Hill Res., Mar. 7 (†SS, TBk), Reading, O., Mar. 27 (†JJ), Chicago Apr. 8 (†RGo, PC) and a late bird in Kent, O., Apr. 28 (†LRo). Cooper's and Red-shouldered hawks were widely noted in small numbers. Reports of 1-4 Swainson's Hawks were received from 4 Missouri, 7 Iowa and 2 Illinois locations. Singles e. to Decatur, Ill., Mar. 28 (†SS) and Spfld., Apr. 23 (H) were unusual. Six reports of Golden Eagles Mar. 14-Apr. 18 were normal; four were observed in Ohio. Large numbers of Bald Eagles remained into early March with 532 along the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers Mar. 10 (RCo). Regular small numbers were observed elsewhere. A pair nest-building at Mingo N.W.R., Mo., in late May was an encouraging sign (*vide* JW). Ospreys were plentiful

including early birds at Upper Iowa R., Ia., Mar. 4 (*vide* DN) and Busch W.M.A., Mo., Mar. 7 (EL). Most were found in April and May. The Lawrenceville, Ill., Prairie Falcon lingered through Mar. 8 (LH). Reports of 11 Peregrine Falcons and six Merlins were normal for spring. Few were adequately documented.

CRANES THROUGH GALLINULES—Large numbers of Sandhill Cranes are normal in n.w. Indiana but this year's flight in n.e. Illinois was unusually impressive with 373 at Palos Mar. 21 (JL) and "thousands" in s. Cook County Mar. 25 (PD). Away from major staging areas, up to 40 were noted at Monroe Res., Ind., Mar. 3-21, 18 over Bernheim Forest, Ky., Mar. 4 (*vide* BM) and 42 at Glasgow, Ky., Mar. 7 (RSt). One-to-three appeared on 8 dates in Ohio and single locations in Iowa and Missouri. King Rails were reported from 11 locations Apr. 5-May 25 with none in Indiana or Kentucky. Yellow Rails were observed at M.M.W.A., Apr. 6 (†JP), Irwin Prairie, O., Apr. 28-May 2 (ET *et al.*) and Swan Lake N.W.R., Mo., May 4 (†SS, TBk). Single Purple Gallinules at Mingo N.W.R., Apr. 18 (SS *et al.*), Goose Pond, Ky., Apr. 12 (JHa) and Owsley Fork Res., Ky., May 9 (GR) were noteworthy.

SHOREBIRDS—As usual, habitat conditions and numbers of shorebirds varied considerably across the Region. From April through mid-May, low water levels in w. states created ideal habitats, attracting a large variety and number of birds. In e. states, habitat conditions were spotty at best and numbers were poor.

Piping Plovers appeared at nine locations Apr. 9-June 10 with an exceptional seven at Horseshoe L., Apr. 18 (JEa). None were reported in Indiana or Kentucky. Single Snowy Plovers were noted at St. Joseph, Mo., Apr. 10-12 (†L) and Big Lake S.P., Mo., May 21 (MRo). Good numbers of Am. Golden Plovers passed through the n. states, beginning Mar. 17 in Richland County, Ill. (LH). Concentrations of Ruddy Turnstones are expected along the Great Lakes in spring. This year, maximum counts were 82 at Oregon, O., May 21 (JF) and 64 at Chicago May 29 (RGo, PC). Inland, 15 were noted at L. Manawa, Ia., May 23 (*vide* TB) and smaller numbers at 8 other locations. Twelve Whimbrels at Findlay Res., O., May 30 (*vide* TBa) and one at Willow Slough, Ia., May 19 (†BW) were exceptional. One or two appeared at 4 Great Lakes locations in Ohio and Illinois Apr. 22-May 31. Upland Sandpipers returned in small numbers to regular nesting areas. Early Solitary Sandpipers were detected at Horseshoe L., Mar. 28 (RB) and M.M.W.A., Mar. 29 (J). Fair numbers of Willets appeared in all states except Kentucky Apr. 16-June 7. Maximum counts included 28 at Horseshoe L., May 2 (BRu) and 10-13 at 4 other locations. Small numbers of Red Knots migrated along the Great Lakes in Illinois and Ohio May 25-31. It was an excellent year for Pectoral Sandpipers including 3000-5000 in Newton County, Ind., Apr. 29 (CK *et al.*). Expected numbers of White-rumped Sandpipers were observed in all states with a peak of 111 at Thomas Hill Res., May 11 (JRa). Small numbers of Baird's Sandpipers were reported from Iowa and Missouri while one

appeared in Richland County, Ill., Apr. 28 (LH). An early Dunlin returned to Willow Slough, Ia., Apr. 2 (TB). A flock of 21 Long-billed Dowitchers at Spfld., Apr. 30 (H) was noteworthy while 1-3 were observed at 3 other Illinois locations in late April. Indiana reports included two in Parke County Apr. 27 (ABr) and six in Lake County Apr. 29 (CK, TK). Stilt Sandpipers were numerous in Iowa with 28 at Hendrickson Marsh May 23 (PM) and 25 at L. Manawa May 24 (TB *et al.*) Smaller numbers appeared E to O.W.R. A Semipalmated Sandpiper at Coralville Res., Ia., Apr. 11 (T) was early. Western Sandpipers were well reported from Illinois with ten at L. Calumet June 2 (RGo, PC) and 1-6 at 6 other locations, beginning May 5. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found at 3 sites two at Forney L., Ia., Apr. 26 (†TB); five in Fremont County, Ia., May 12 (T, RS); seven in Holt County, Mo., May 21 (MRo).

Marbled Godwits were reported from 11 locations including an early migrant at Big Marsh, Ia., Apr. 5 (FM, RM). Thirteen at Spfld., Apr. 21 (H) were exceptional. Hudsonian Godwits appeared in normal numbers in Iowa, Missouri and Illinois, beginning Apr. 19 in Wabash County, Ill. (LH). Largest flocks were 30 in Fremont County, Ia., May 12 (T) and 18 at Horseshoe L., May 19 (†PS, BRu). Single Ruffs were documented at Champaign County, Ill., Apr. 18-19 (†RCh *et al.*) and Horseshoe L., May 8-9 (†PS, BRu, m ob.). Sanderlings appeared in normal numbers, beginning with two early birds in Waterloo, Ia., Apr. 8 (RM, TS); maximum count was 55 at Waukegan, Ill., May 29 (JN). It was a record year for Am. Avocets in Iowa with reports from 12 locations including 42 at McIntosh W.M.A., Apr. 19 (*vide* JH) and 38 at L. Manawa Apr. 28 (BW). Elsewhere, 24 were noted at Potato Cr., Ind., Apr. 29 (m ob.) and 2-10 at one Missouri and 2 Illinois sites. Only small numbers of Wilson's Phalaropes were found in all states except Kentucky. Northern Phalaropes were well reported with 11 sightings of 1-4 birds in Iowa, Illinois and Missouri.

GULLS, TERNS—Glaucous Gulls lingered along the Great Lakes into April, the latest at Chicago Apr. 25-26 (JL). One in Seneca County, O., Apr. 6-10 was unusual (†TBa). Most Iceland Gulls departed by mid-March although one lingered at Waukegan, Ill. through Apr. 20 (JN). Iowa's first **Thayer's Gull**, an immature at L. Manawa Mar. 19-28 (†RS, †m.ob.), was overdue. Singles also appeared at Chicago Apr. 9 & 25 (†JPo). The only Black-headed Gull was found at Waukegan June 1-3 (GRo *et al.*). Four Laughing Gulls were reported, singles at M.M.W.A., Mar. 27 (†JP), Falls of the Ohio, Ky., May 9 (LR), Jasper County, Ill., May 12 (†LH) and Chicago May 18 (JN). Franklin's Gulls appeared in all states but were scarce in the w. Bonaparte's Gulls were also poorly reported, the largest number along the Great Lakes was 1525 at Cleveland Apr. 6 (M). Single Little Gulls were noted at Cleveland Mar. 30 (TL) and Chicago May 18-19 (RB, JL). Spring Black-legged Kittiwake records are rare. Hence, an immature at Lorain, O., Mar. 21 (†TBa *et al.*) was noteworthy. Forster's Terns at Monroe Res., Mar. 28 (SG) were early while a regionwide influx occurred Apr. 10-12. Numbers were low in w. states but

more than normal in Ohio. Common Terns exhibited an opposite pattern, being more common than normal in w. states including 600-1000 at 3 Chicago locations May 5-14. Two Least Terns appeared at Kentucky L., Ky., Apr. 21-May 4 and one at Baldwin L., Ill., May 17 (†RK). Caspian Terns returned to Cleveland Apr. 2 (D & JH). They were scarce in many areas with a maximum of 55 at Cleveland Apr. 15 (TL). Normal numbers of Black Terns were reported.

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—Both cuckoos received mixed reports but overall numbers were similar to last year. A Roadrunner in Carter County, Mo. (KK) was e. of its normal range. The only Barn Owls were noted in Normal, Ill., Feb. 26 (*vide* DBi) and M.M. W.A., Mar. 21-Apr. 12 (JP). A late Snowy Owl was found dead at Cleveland Apr. 12 (M) while another lingered at M.M.W.A. through Apr. 27 (JP). Single Burrowing Owls appeared at Ames, Ia., Apr. 1 (†T, HZ, m.ob.), Ottawa County, O., Apr. 5-6 (†SZ) and Ft. Wayne, Ind., Apr. 24 (*vide* Haw) where Indiana's fourth occurrence was a bird rescued from a building in the city's largest shopping center. Up to ten Long-eared Owls were reported from 4 Ohio, 3 Missouri and 2 Illinois locations. Similar numbers of Short-eared Owls were noted including a possible nesting attempt in Warrick County, Ind., (JC). Saw-whet Owls were only found in Iowa and Ohio with a peak of five at M.M.W.A. in early April and a late bird in Bay Village, O., May 16 (SA). Regular numbers of Chuck-will's-widows appeared at traditional locations in all states. Whip-poor-wills returned to Hamlin, Ky., Mar. 31 (JE). On Apr. 12, an enterprising Whip-poor-will looking for a cheap night's lodging in downtown Louisville flew through an open apartment window and promptly went to sleep on a bed (AB). The apartment's occupant was an understanding birder who released it in a city park the next day. Common Nighthawks were late and generally scarce. A Chimney Swift at Murray, Ky., Mar. 17 (CP) was very early; most arrived in early to mid-April. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were first observed in Illinois Apr. 11 with singles in Richland County (LH) and Chicago (DP). They returned to all states by mid-April but were scarce in many n. areas. A Com. ("Red-shafted") Flicker appeared at Des Moines Apr. 12 (RL). Good numbers of Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported regionwide, but the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker migration was modest at best.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH NUTHATCHES—Eastern Kingbirds appeared as far n. as Cincinnati by Apr. 18 (*vide* W); the only noteworthy concentration was 36 in Spfld., May 14 (H). Normal numbers of W. Kingbirds were noted in w. states. Singles wandered E to Lawrenceville, Ill., May 17 (†LH) and Horseshoe L., May 25 (†PS *et al.*). Out-of-range Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were detected in Amana, Ia., Apr. 26 (†CB, m.ob.—ph), St. Joseph, Mo., May 15 (MRo, †L) and L. Sangchris, Ill., May 20 (†H). Great Crested Flycatchers at Hamlin, Ky. (JE) and Farmington, Mo., (RLE) Apr. 13 were early. Normal numbers of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers appeared in all states. An early Alder Flycatcher was identified at Ft.

Wright, Ky., May 3 (EG), small numbers passed through all states after mid-May with five at Mahomet, Ill., May 25 (RCh). Olive-sided Flycatchers were widely encountered in May including six at M.M.W.A., May 30 (TBa). A ♀ **Vermilion Flycatcher** in Chicago Apr. 8-12 (†JL, m.ob.) provided one of very few records for Illinois.

Tree Swallows were numerous in most areas, returning to Ohio and Iowa by Mar. 15. A Barn Swallow in Pike County, Mo., Mar. 1 (BGo, SS) was very early. Cliff Swallows were widely encountered with a notable flock of 500 in Callaway County, Mo., May 10 (RW). Early Purple Martins returned to Cincinnati Mar. 16 (W) and Jefferson City, Mo., Mar. 19 (JW). Numbers remained low in many areas. Large Blue Jay movements occurred Apr. 28 with 735/hour at Cleveland (M) and 2210 in 45 minutes at Gary, Ind. (RG) and May 4 when 943/hour flew over Cleveland. Since Black-capped Chickadees were sedentary this past winter, migration of 45 on Mar. 28 and 230 Mar. 31 along L. Michigan in Indiana is difficult to explain (KB). The return flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches was modest; many birds lingered into late May including Indiana's second successful nesting record at South Bend (V & MR).

WRENS THROUGH SHRIKES—A House Wren at Dayton, O., Apr. 11 was early (BB). Winter Wrens are still uncommon with no appreciable recovery in recent years. Bewick's Wrens were reported from 3 Kentucky, 4 Missouri and 2 Illinois locations. A pair in Iowa City successfully fledged three young, providing the first Iowa record in several years (JHu). Small numbers of Short-billed Marsh Wrens were reported from 14 locations. Early thrush records included a Wood at M.M.W.A., Apr. 5 (J *et al.*) and a Veery at Des Plaines Conservation Area, Ill., Apr. 15 (JSt). Only Hermit Thrushes were found in fair numbers. Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes were late and scarce, in lower numbers than last spring, while Veeries received mixed reports. Eastern Bluebird populations exhibited a strong regionwide recovery this spring. A Townsend's Solitaire in Dallas County, Ia., Mar. 29 (†RC) was e. of its normal range. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers appeared at Hamlin Mar. 30 (JE) and regionwide by Apr. 3-5. Good numbers were noted in most areas. Golden-crowned Kinglets received mixed reports while Ruby-crowneds were "back to normal". Where were all the Water Pipits? This normally common species was rarely encountered; the largest reported flock was only 50 birds. Cedar Waxwings exhibited a typical migration pattern, fair numbers were reported in March and early April while a very strong movement through the n. states occurred during the last ten days of May. Single N. Shrikes lingered through late March in Ohio and Illinois. Loggerhead Shrikes were widespread in Iowa but observed at only one Indiana, 2 Ohio and 5 n. Illinois locations.

VIREOS, WARBLERS—The spring migration was disappointing. Defined waves of migrants did not materialize. The migration pattern of a steady stream of birds with spotty, local concentrations was more reminiscent of autumn than spring.

While this season will never be remembered

for its concentrations of migrants, it may be remembered for the number and variety of early arrival dates. Some noteworthy dates were: White-eyed Vireo at Sunken Grove, Ia., Apr. 5 (†RC) and Hamlin Apr. 6 (JE); Bell's Vireo were locally increasing in Indiana but appeared in normal numbers farther w. Yellow-throated Vireo at Hamlin Apr. 8 (JE) and Urbana, Ill., Apr. 14 (RB). Red-eyed Vireo at St. Louis Apr. 10 (RK); Philadelphia Vireo at Hueston Woods S.P., O., Apr. 22 (JJ); Black-and-white Warbler at Hamlin Mar. 31 (JE) and Sunken Grove, Ia., Apr. 5 (RC); Blue-winged Warbler at Cincinnati Apr. 14 (SB); Tennessee Warbler at Hamlin Apr. 17 (JE); Nashville Warbler at Danville, Ky., Apr. 11 (FL) and Johnson County, Ind., Apr. 18 (BG); N. Parula at Hamlin Mar. 31 (JE) and regionwide by Apr. 11; Yellow Warbler at Cincinnati Apr. 12 (*fide* W); Black-throated Green Warbler at Hamlin Mar. 31 (JE), Springfield, Mo., Mar. 31 (CBo *et al.*) and M.M.W.A., Apr. 4. (JP); ten Cerulean Warblers at Hamlin Apr. 4 (JE); Yellow-throated Warbler at Hamlin Mar. 31 (JE) and near Keosauqua, Ia., Apr. 11 (†JS); Prairie Warbler at Pickaway County, O., Apr. 13 (J); Palm Warbler at Hamlin Apr. 1 and M.M.W.A., Apr. 8 (JP); Louisiana Waterthrush at Ames, Ia., Apr. 4 (†JR); Com. Yellowthroat at Hamlin Apr. 7 (JE).

Extralimital reports of Swainson's Warblers included single birds in Osage County, Mo., May 3 (†JG, LW), Louisville May 9 (MS) and Olney, Ill., May 9-11 (†LH). Worm-eating Warbler overflights were limited to a handful of reports from Ohio and Illinois. Golden-winged Warblers were widespread including three records from w. Iowa where they are rare. A total of ten "Brewster's" and three "Lawrence's" warblers were reported. Both Tennessee and Nashville warblers were unusually common, with 200 of the former at Spfld., May 16 (H). Cape May Warblers appeared in excellent numbers including eight at Sweet Marsh, Ia., May 13 (RM) and two sightings in Missouri. Black-throated Blue Warblers were not found in w. states but appeared in normal numbers elsewhere. Increased numbers of Chestnut-sided warblers were observed in most areas. A ♀ **Kirtland's Warbler** at Chesterton May 17 (†KB) provided Indiana's third record. A Prairie Warbler in Marshall County, Ia., May 20 was unusual for that state (†BP). Few Kentucky Warblers wandered N of their normal range. Both Connecticut and Mourning warblers were widely reported in May including 5 sightings of the former in Missouri and 5 in Iowa. Hooded Warblers were noted at 3 Iowa and 4 n. Illinois locations where they are unusual.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH TANAGERS
—A Bobolink in Wabash County, Ill., Apr. 19 was early (LH). Impressive numbers of migrants included 360 in Shelby County, Ill., May 9 (KF). Small numbers of W. Meadowlarks were reported from one n. Indiana and 3 n.w. Ohio locations where they are regular. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were locally scarce in w. states as a result of the drought. Normal numbers appeared at traditional areas along the Great Lakes e. to M.M.W.A. Elsewhere, one was at Dayton, O., Apr. 22 (*fide* CM), one in Scott County, Ind., Apr. 25 (*fide* BG),

and six at Mark Twain N W R, Ill., Apr. 25 (HW). Orchard Orioles appeared in good numbers, especially in n. states. An early N. Oriole at Ames, Ia., Apr. 24 (JR) was followed by good numbers regionwide. Normal numbers of Brewer's Blackbirds appeared in w. states while singles wandered e. to New Haven, Ind., Mar. 12 (Haw, JWi), Louisville Apr. 9 (AB) and M.M.W.A., Apr. 18 (ph.—JP). Great-tailed Grackles were noted at two n.w. Missouri locations but did not nest this year (L). Single ♂ Western Tanagers appeared at Winnetka, Ill., May 3 (†JL, LB *et al.*) and Chicago May 14 (†JL). A Scarlet Tanager at Hamlin Apr. 10 (JE) was early. The Summer Tanager overflight included at least nine reports from areas n. of their normal range.

FINCHES—A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at South Bend, Ind., Mar. 30 (V&MR) was very early. Migrants appeared in good numbers. Blue Grosbeaks arrived at Hamlin Apr. 12 (JE) and elsewhere by mid-May. Expected small numbers wandered into Iowa and n. Illinois. An Indigo Bunting at Bowling Green, Ky., Mar. 17-19 was exceptionally early; most arrived in mid- to late April. Dickcissels received mixed reports, from normal in w. states to none in Ohio. One frequented at Urbana, Ill. feeder Mar. 27 (†HP). Evening Grosbeaks lingered into May with maxima of 30-100 in most states. More Purple Finches were observed this spring. Maximum numbers were 40-60 in most areas and 150 at Hamlin Apr. 10 (JE).

S.A.

House Finches are rapidly expanding W. While numbers are still small in w. Ohio, they are regularly found in all sections of the state. In Kentucky, they have spread W to Owensboro (JFo) and nested in Louisville (AB). Indiana's first documented nests were located at Decatur (JHe) and Ft. Wayne (Haw) while small numbers were reported at 4 other locations. In Illinois, the wintering bird at Urbana remained through Mar. 27 (RCh) while another appeared at Dundee Apr. 28-30 (BT).

Pine Grosbeaks lingered into March in Iowa and Indiana, latest was at Rolling Prairie, Ind., Mar. 17 (*fide* DB). Small numbers of Com. Redpolls remained in Indiana and Ohio through Apr. 1. Pine Siskins were numerous with many reports through May. Maximum counts were 50-100 in most states. While nesting was suspected in many areas, the only documented nesting attempts were in Ames (*fide* JD), Cincinnati (*fide* W) and Columbus (*fide* J). Small numbers of Red Crossbills were reported from one Ohio, one Iowa and 2 Illinois locations. Repeating last winter's trend, White-winged Crossbills were most frequently observed. Eight reports were received from all states except Kentucky with birds lingering into May at several locations.

Easterly Lark Bunting records included singles in Lake County, Ill., May 8-9 (KL) and Bremer County, Ia., May 13 (†FM, †RM). Savannah Sparrows were well reported including 103 at Cleveland Apr. 14 (M). Le Conte's Sparrows were widespread in w. states with 5-15 observed at many locations. In the e. single birds appeared at Willow

Slough, Ind., Apr. 4 (*fide* CK) and Cleveland Apr. 28 (†TL *et al.*). Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported as singles in Cleveland May 25 (TL) and Chicago May 29 and 31 (RGo, RB). A flock of 40 Vesper Sparrows in Pulaski County, Ky., Mar. 28 was unusual (JEL). Lark Sparrows were reported in normal numbers. The only Bachman's Sparrow appeared in Louisville May 15 (AB). Clay-colored Sparrows were widely reported from Iowa and Illinois Apr. 26-June 7 while single birds appeared E to M.M.W.A., Apr. 27 (†J) and Oxford, O., May 1 (banded—JI). Single Harris' Sparrows wandered E to Busch W.M.A., Mo., Mar. 1 (RK) and Illinois Beach S.P., Ill., May 9 (JN). An impressive sparrow movement Apr. 28 brought 600 White-throated Sparrows to a small Cleveland park (DC). Fox and Lincoln's sparrows were plentiful, especially along the Great Lakes. Small flocks of Lapland Longspurs appeared in many areas; larger numbers included 100 at Swan Lake N.W.R., Mo., Feb. 28 (SS *et al.*) and 50 late migrants in Newton County, Ind., May 13 (KB, SGe). One in Chicago May 27 was exceptionally late (†RGo, PC). A flock of 100 Smith's Longspurs in Johnson County, Ia., Apr. 11 (†T, †MM) provided one of very few recent records for that state. In Illinois, they were reported from 4 locations Mar. 15-Apr. 11 with a maximum of 200 at Mechanicsburg Apr. 4 (PW *et al.*). In the e., 25 appeared in Newton County, Ind., Apr. 3 (CBu) and three at O.W.R., Mar. 8 (†LRO *et al.*). Illinois' second **Chestnut-collared Longspur** appeared in Tazewell County, May 12 (†VH, LA).

CORRIGENDA—The June 3, 1980 Eared Grebe (AB 34:899) should have been from Willow Slough, Ia. not Indiana. With regard to the large number of Red-breasted Mergansers observed along L. Erie Nov. 19, 1978 (AB 33:182), Dr. Paul Springer has correctly pointed out that such large numbers over large bodies of water cannot be accurately estimated from the ground. While very large numbers of mergansers were undoubtedly present on that date, the total estimate of 250,000 may be excessively large and should be deleted.

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION /Thomas A. Imhof

Many of the spring migrants in this Region, especially near the coast, pass over undetected unless their progress is impeded. This year observers throughout the Region commented on the scarcity of visible migrants. Curtis Kingsbery at Pensacola summed it up very nicely "... for the birdwatcher this was a dismal spring migration ... worst I have ever encountered ... but for the birds it must have been great!" Other coastal observers commented, "almost a complete non-event,"—Judy Toups, Gulfport; "worst migration I've ever seen at the coast,"—Greg Jackson, Mobile; "spring migrants on the coast worst I've ever seen,"—Mark Brown, Decatur; "uniformly dull,"—Nancy Newfield, Metairie, La.

Inland observers experienced the same, "no major front, driest in memory, disappointing spring,"—Dwight Cooley, Decatur; "hasn't been much of interest through the spring,"—Tom Atkeson, Manager, Wheeler N.W.R.; "dull season, few good birding days,"—Charles Mills, Arkansas; "no effective fronts, very dry spring, 27 species of regular migrants missed,"—Imhof, Birmingham; "arrivals sparse and late,"—Ben Coffey, Memphis. Toups listed 12 species notably absent from the Mississippi coast this spring: American Avocet, Black Tern, Black-billed Cuckoo, *Empidonax* sp., Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's, Worm-eating, Cape May, Cerulean, and Blackpoll warblers, Ovenbird, and Painted Bunting.

Thus the vast majority of migrants moved through the Region rapidly and undetected.

For Birmingham, the first three months of 1981 were very dry in spite of a wet March. April and May were also very dry, but with few cold fronts they reversed the strong cooling trend from the cold January and February. April produced a record pollen count, even curtailing this asthmatic's birding time, but also producing a bumper crop of many fruits—apples, plums, peaches—due to the high percentage of fertilization. Better reproductive success and winter survival for many species is expected for this year. The Birmingham weather situation evidently applied to much of Alabama and the Central Southern Region east of the Mississippi River.

LOONS THROUGH SPOONBILL—The latest of several May Com. Loons in Mississippi was one on May 29 at Sardis Dam (B & B & LC). Four breeding-plumaged Eared Grebes were at Lonoke, Ark., Apr. 16 (FM, H&EH) and two late at Hattiesburg, Miss., May 16 (RM, PR). The most White Pelicans,

18, were reported Mar. 10 also for Hattiesburg (RM, PR). The most Brown Pelicans, ten May 21, were also in Mississippi at Ocean Springs (JT). An unusual number of Gannets, 100-150, were listed for Apr. 4 at Ft. Pickens near Pensacola (RD). If the Great Cormorant at Ft. Morgan Apr. 18 (DC, MB, G&DJ) was the same as was there Jan. 3, then this makes the second consecutive year that the species has remained for several months on the Alabama coast, which it may have been doing since the first Alabama record in 1972. Of several inland reports of Double crested, the most was of 200 Apr. 11 at Eufaula N.W.R., Ala.

(MB, BO). An earliest-ever Magnificent Frigatebird was off Ocean Springs, Miss., Mar. 28 (JT, TF, m.ob.) Encouraging heron news: Snowy Egret and Louisiana Heron returned to the Burdette heronry, Ark., May 20 (EaH); Green Heron arrived early Mar. 15 at Pascagoula (JT) and produced a high of 46 Apr. 11 at Eufaula N.W.R. (MB, BO); Reddish Egret (dark-phase) still on Dauphin I., Apr. 11 (G&DJ, B&JW). At Pascagoula Mar. 15 was a dark ibis (*Plegadis* sp.) usually difficult to identify at any distance where both forms may be expected. A juv. Roseate Spoonbill, very rare in s.e. Louisiana, was off I-10 in St. Charles Parish May 11 (N&PN).

WATERFOWL—White-fronted Geese peaked at 27+ on Mar. 14 and lingered to Mar. 28 at Big Lake N.W.R., Ark. (J&DR, EP), but the latest was at the e. edge of the Region at Eufaula N.W.R., Apr. 11 (MB, BO). Ten pair of Mottled Ducks were located on Pascagoula R. marsh May 9 (JT). The tally of 2500 Blue-winged Teal in Baldwin County Apr. 18 (MB, DC) is equalled in Alabama only in the fall in the Tennessee Valley. Equally encouraging was the count of 439 Redheads at Wheeler N.W.R., Mar. 7 (MB, DC, CrB), a state high. Latest ever for Mississippi was a Bufflehead at Ocean Springs Apr. 25 (JT, RL). Oldsquaws also did well in Mississippi with 30 at Biloxi Mar. 10 (RM, PR) and six still there Apr. 2 (JT). Five White-winged Scoters were at Bay St. Louis, Miss., Mar. 14 (JT, m.ob.).

HAWKS—A White-tailed Kite, third for Arkansas but the first photographed, was in Clark County Mar. 7 (H&MP). Swallow-



tailed Kites were reported from all coastal states with 6-8 all spring in Washington Par. (KC) and six in Gulf County, Fla., Apr. 26 (R&LD). Mississippi Kites peaked at 50 in Chicot County, Ark., Apr. 12 (NH) and 80 near Rosedale, Miss., May 23 (CIB). Two Harlan's Hawks near Decatur Mar. 24 (AM) were the latest-ever for Alabama. Bald Eagles were reported from St. Tammany Parish Mar. 14 (JT, m.ob.); Forrest County, Miss., Apr. 12 (MMo); and Hancock County, Miss., Apr. 22 (JT). A total of 17 Ospreys was listed from coastal Mississippi with eight on E. Ship I., Mar. 10 (RM, PR) and five on Horn I., Mar. 28 (JT, TF). Peregrines were late with one at Ft. Morgan May 5 (GJ, FC) the latest for Alabama since 1954 when the species last was known to breed in the state; and one May 14 at Memphis (CBu). Merlins were also late: one May 13 in Biloxi (MMo).

SHOREBIRDS—On E. Ship I., Miss., a good count of 19 Snowy Plovers was made Mar. 10 (RM, PR). Ben Coffey nicely summarized the Am. Golden Plover situation in the tri-state area near Memphis, "only a few records, a drop, possibly going over to other areas." A Long-billed Curlew at Mobile Mar. 5 (G&DJ) was, except for a winter record, the earliest-ever for Alabama. A good count of Upland Sandpipers was the 27 in Clark County, Ark., Apr. 11 (H&MP). White-rumped Sandpipers were still moving through Lonoke, Ark., in good numbers; 100 May 15 (H&EH) and 20 on May 31 in Garland County 60 mi w. (H&MP). An early Baird's Sandpiper was at Pascagoula Apr. 25 (JT, RL) and a record seven were at Wheeler N.W.R., May 8 (DC, DD). At Blakely I., Mobile, May

18 a record 75 Stilt Sandpipers was estimated (GJ). Unusual Buff-breasted Sandpipers were in Air Products & Chemicals Inc., Sanctuary, Santa Rosa Co., Fla. (hereafter, A.P.C.I.S.) Mar. 21 & May 12 (CM), the 3rd & 4th locally; five were at Foley and two at Ft. Morgan Mar. 22 (G&DJ); and one at Pascagoula May 11 (JT, JJ). The Marbled Godwit at Wheeler N.W.R., Mar. 19 & 20 (DH) was, except for winter records on the coast, the earliest-ever for Alabama. A Hudsonian Godwit photographed at A.P.C.I.S., May 2 (CM, BD, FW) was the third for n.w. Florida. Four Am. Avocets were near Stuttgart Apr. 18 (WS). **Black-necked Stilts** seem to be building up on the Alabama-Mississippi coast (GJ, JT, TF) with 60 at Blakely I., Ala., May 18 tying the previous high. Apparently the first stilt records for Tennessee were made in Shelby County: two Mar. 21 and three Mar. 25 (DP), then four more 20 mi s., Mar. 31 (RP). A Wilson's Phalarope was at A.P.C.I.S., May 14-16 (CM); Milmore noted that 9 to 12 local records were May 4-16, borne out very well in coastal Alabama and by a bird at Pascagoula May 11 (JJ, JT). A N. Phalarope was at Lonoke, Ark., May 22 (H&EH).

JAEGERS, GULLS AND TERNS—A small, very dark, imm. jaeger was in Mississippi Sound 4 mi off Jackson County, Miss., Mar. 28 (JT). A Glaucous Gull at Dauphin I., Apr. 26 (DM, GK, m.ob.) was at least the eighth for the Alabama coast. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Ft. Pickens, Apr. 22 (P&FT) called the second for n.w. Florida, may have been the same bird seen at the same place Nov. 24, 1980! A Franklin's Gull was at Pascagoula May 11 (JT). Of several inland records of Bonaparte's Gulls, three May 25 at Wheeler N.W.R. (DH) were the latest for Alabama. One to two Roseate Terns at Pinto Pass, Mobile Apr. 16-18 (MB, DC) constituted the fifth record for Alabama.

DOVES THROUGH SWIFTS —

S.A.

On Jan. 25, 1981, Samuel and Jean McMillan of Mobile visited their fifth-floor beach condominium at Vista del Mar just s.w. of Pensacola. Clinging to the sliding screen on the only open side of the balcony facing the Gulf was a dead **White-collared Swift**, *Streptoprocne zonaris*. The specimen was photographed and shipped in ice to Dr. John W. Hardy of the Florida State Museum, who confirmed the identification. He further stated that it was an ad. female of the Mexican subspecies and the "first specimen for the United States for both genus and species, and there are no known sight records." The meteorologist at Pensacola Naval Air Station, 7-8 miles n.e. of Vista del Mar reported for Jan. 23 winds aloft at 5000-12,000 ft of 20-35 knots from the SW. The straight-line distance from the nearest regular occurrence in n.e. Mexico, the mountains of Tamaulipas and San Luis Potosi, is 850-900 mi ENE, almost entirely over the Gulf of Mexico. Peterson in his Mexican Field Guide notes "wanders widely, high in air, to lowlands."

A late White-winged Dove was at Reserve, La., Apr. 17-18 (RS). In the Sipsey Wilderness, Winston Co., Ala., 13 Great Horned Owls were counted May 2 (DC, MB, CrB). A count of 180 Whip-poor-wills in this wilderness also May 2 (B.A.S.) compares favorably with the high there of 140 May 27, 1972 with comparable effort. Apparently the wilderness is working for some species.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—R. Stein reported more Rufous Hummingbirds than usual at Reserve, La., with the last one seen Apr. 17; J. Toups reported three females or immatures present at Ocean Springs since Nov. 15 with two *Selasphorus* sp. last seen Mar. 11; at Jackson's Gap, Tallapoosa Co., Ala., a ♀ Rufous was observed from 15 ft and described well (BO) for the second inland Alabama record, first in spring. The Hairy Woodpecker seems to be difficult to find these days, for instance it was missed in 61 party-hours by 22 observers in the Sipsey Wilderness May 2; however six were tallied at Big Lake N.W.R., Ark., Mar. 11 (JR, E&BP).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS AND NUTHATCHES—A W. Kingbird was seen May 10 in Washington County, Ark. (WE). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Bolivar County, Miss., May 20 was definitely associated with severe weather, tornadoes, and frontal passage (N&JH). After recording a Least Flycatcher in W. Little Rock Apr. 27, Henry and Edith Hallberg listed three other *Empidonaces* May 23 along the Mississippi R., in Phillips County, six locally-breeding Acadians, two Willows, and an Alder. Two Yellow-bellieds were noted in Mississippi, one near Hattiesburg Apr. 26 (RM, PR) and one near Biloxi May 11 (MMo). Two Rough-winged Swallows at Gulf Shores (G&DJ) Mar. 3 were, except for winter records, the earliest for Alabama. Early Barn Swallows were at Gulfport Mar. 14 (JT) and Jonesboro, Ark., Mar. 24 (JR). Red-breasted Nuthatches lingered late in most of the Region but set no records for numbers or season.

THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS—Between Ft. Pickens and Gulf Breeze May 12, 60 Swainson's Thrushes were counted (RD). A pair of Veeries, male singing, May 23 at Skyline Mgt. Area, Jackson Co., Ala. (DC) backed by 4 prior midsummer records in n. Alabama argues for local breeding. Among encouraging news of the E. Bluebird was that of a pair with young May 9 at the Bonnet Carre Spillway, La., first local nesting in 25 years (RS, MW, MA). After a good winter Sprague's Pipit was last seen May 2 at Bonnet Carre Spillway (RS, MW), the latest for the state. A Solitary Vireo at Shreveport May 9 (HJ, CL) was late for the state, while a Yellow-throated Vireo Mar. 14 at Slidell (JT, m.ob.) was early for Louisiana. A pair of Black-whiskered Vireos at Gulf Breeze, apparently in courtship behavior May 30, later than usual local occurrence (RD), may indicate breeding in n.w. Florida.

WARBLERS—An early Black-and-white and two early Prothonotaries were at Bucaneer S.P., Miss., Mar. 14 (JT, GM). Of

five Swainson's records, an early one was Apr. 3 at Jackson's Gap, Tallapoosa Co., Ala. (BO) and the most were four Apr 17 in the Tensaw Delta, Ala. (MB, DC). Two early Tennessees were at Eufaula N.W.R., Apr 11 (BO, MB). Two interesting Cape Mays were an early one Apr. 4 at Ft. Pickens, Fla (CK, FWi, MMA, GG, OF) and a female Apr 25 at Johnson's Bayou, Cameron Par., rare that far w. (VR, LH, DW, LyH). A late ♂ Blacked-throated Blue was at Ft. Morgan May 5 (GJ, FC). A Bay-breasted at Jackson's Cap Apr. 5 (BO) was the earliest for Alabama; yet Blackpolls were very scarce (see Toups' list above). Two at Ft. Morgan Apr 16 (G&DJ) were the only ones reported Palms were particularly abundant this year, 250 were recorded Apr. 11 at Eufaula N.W.R. (MB, BO). Mourning Warbler, noteworthy at any time, was seen in Phillips County, Ark, at the mouth of the St. Francis R., a male May 16 (H&MP). Noteworthy Wilson's were seen Apr. 18 at Tensaw Delta (DC, MB); Apr. 25, a female at Bellefontaine Beach, Miss. (JT) and a late one May 5 at Ft Morgan (GJ, FC).

BLACKBIRDS TO TANAGERS—Six Bobolinks at Ft. Morgan Apr. 16 (G&DJ) were early. A Yellow-headed Blackbird near Lepanto, Poinsette Co., May 12 (M&HHo) was the third for n.e. Arkansas. A late Rusty Blackbird was at Eufaula N.W.R., Apr 11 (BO, MB); and late Brewer's were the 20+ in Hancock County, Miss., Mar. 31 (JT, GM) Bronzed Cowbirds are in their fifth consecutive year near Reserve, La., and from Mar. 26 built up to 6-8 or possibly more (RS, MW). Scarlet Tanagers exceeded previous highs May 2; 20+ in Jackson County, Miss (JT, MaH, CR, MC) and 103 in the Sipsey Wilderness, Winston Co., Ala. (B.A.S.) An orange variant male was seen at Ft. Morgan Apr. 29 (GJ).

FINCHES—A ♀ Rose-breasted Grosbeak at a Gulfport feeder Mar. 22 was either early or overwintering (JT); one at Eufaula N.W.R., Apr. 11 (MB, BO) was definitely early; and one near Guntersville, Ala., May 23 (DC) was late. The earliest Mississippi Blue Grosbeak was seen Mar. 31 in Hancock County (JT, GM); the earliest Indigo Bunting was at Gulfport Mar. 24 (JT). A ♀ Painted Bunting at Metairie, La., Mar. 7, 9, & 11 was so early that it could have wintered locally (NN); a pair Apr. 3 in Bolivar County, Miss., also early (N&JH), was joined next day by two males. Dickcissels on the coast were at Biloxi Apr. 23 (MMo) and four at A.P.C.I.S., May 9, the latest ever (AS, DT) Evening Grosbeaks were well scattered through the Region but not in record numbers. A pair was at Marianna, Fla., Mar 1 (MG, MMc) after a peak of 30 in mid-February; they peaked at 20 at Baker, near Baton Rouge Mar. 1 (CW), and the most reported was 115 at the Brown's feeder in Decatur Mar. 21 (CrB, MB). A late pair of Purple Finches was at the Hulse feeders, Decatur through May 2 (DH). House Finches peaked at 51 Mar. 21 at the Brown's feeders (CrB, MB). Pine Siskins wintered in numbers but set no records.

The latest ever Savannah Sparrows were at Pascagoula R. marsh May 14 (JT, MaH, others). One Grasshopper Sparrow was in

Chicot County, Ark., Apr. 26 (NH); six at Jonesboro May 4 (C&NL); and ten (eight singing males May 16 s. of Helena (H&MP). Le Conte's Sparrows made a fine showing at the Bonnet Carre Spillway with a peak of 28, and remained, the latest ever, until May 2 (RS, MW, NN). Six Bachman's Sparrows were reported from Dallas, Hot Springs, and Clark cos., Ark., Apr. 1 & May 31 (H&MP); seven from Baldwin County, Ala., Apr. 20 (GJ); and one from Limestone County, Ala., May 31 (DC, CrB). A Tree Sparrow showed up at Ft. Morgan Apr. 16 (G&DJ) and was verified there the next day (DC, MB) for Alabama as the farthest s. latest, and first for the coast. A Clay-colored Sparrow at Wheeler N.W.R., May 4 was the first for the Tennessee Valley and the first in spring in in-

land Alabama (DH).

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PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION /Bernard Gollop

March continued the winter trend of being abnormally warm and dry. In Winnipeg all 31 days had above-normal temperatures and across the Prairies March was 4 to 9°C above normal; April was 1-2° above average and May was about normal in the south.

After below-average precipitation in January and February, March, April and May produced 25-100% of normal over much of the Prairies except that Alberta, south of Edmonton, had twice normal precipitation in May. By the end of March there was no snow on the ground across the south but much of Alberta's moisture in May came as snow up to 70 cm (28 inches) from the 4th to the 8th. Winds exceeded 100 km/hr (60 mi/hr) on three dates in April, hastening the depletion of water in ponds.

Surface water conditions in the Prairie Provinces south of Edmonton, Prince Albert and Swan River, Manitoba were the poorest in 21 years for which there are records. Survey crews from the Canadian Wildlife Service (hereafter, C.W.S.) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (hereafter, U.S.F.&W.S.) recorded 1.4 million ponds in May, 5.2 million less than the peak in 1974. Alberta ponds were up 23% over 1980 but Saskatchewan and Manitoba were down 56% and 9%, respectively. Much of the water was shallow,

overwater nesting cover was scarce, and many of the dry sloughs and the upland cover around low sloughs were being cultivated.

Major waves of migrant sparrows, thrushes and warblers occurred at Moose Jaw May 10-12 and 15-17, the latter coinciding with a wave in southern Manitoba May 13-16 (EK; HC, RK).

The spring of 1981 was exceptionally early, according to most cooperators. In contrast, 1979 was often proclaimed to be the latest on record. In an attempt to quantify differences between these extremes, the first three arrival dates, each from a different area in south-eastern Saskatchewan, were compared for the two years. (Sample sizes varied from 3 to 14 for the area north to the Quill Lakes and west to Moose Jaw.) For the 130 species available, 114 arrived earlier in 1981 than in 1979; three arrived on the same date and 13 were later. In 1981, 25% of the species had arrived by March 31 compared to 4% in 1979. All of the first 46 species arriving in 1981 (to April 8) were early. The 33 species arriving from late February through March averaged 19 days earlier; the 61 arriving in April averaged 9 days earlier; 29 arriving May 1-15 were 8 days earlier and the 7 arriving May 16-31 averaged the same dates as in 1979.

GREBES THROUGH SWANS—The largest concentration of Horned Grebes was of 450 birds at Seven Sisters, Man., Apr. 29 (PT). Western Grebes exceeded 300 at the n. tip of Diefenbaker L., May 13 (MG). The



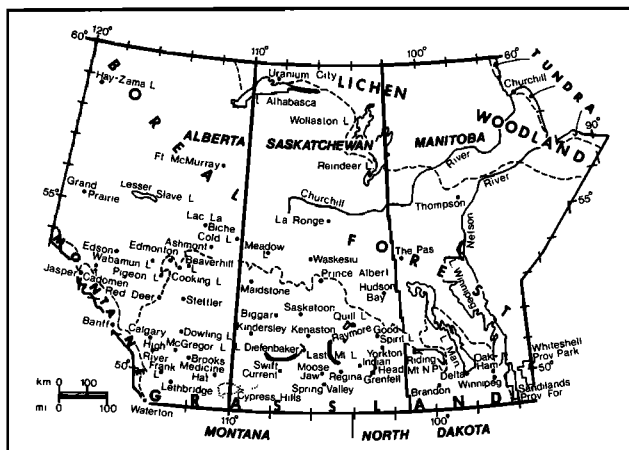
Louisiana Heron, Bashaw, Alberta, May 22, 1981. Photo/Rudi Butot.

Charleswood Sewage Lagoon, Winnipeg, hosted 130 White Pelicans Apr. 15 (GEH); there were 200 at Indian Head Apr. 13 (MWS). An ad. **Louisiana Heron** was photographed s. of Bashaw May 22, for the first Alberta record (RBU); another was studied at Oak Hammock Marsh (hereafter, O.H.M.) May 3 (RK). Whistling Swans peaked with 3000 at Irricana, Alta., Mar. 28, with 2500 at Squaw Rapids, Sask., Apr. 25 (JS; DH). Flocks of Whistling Swans with



Bewick's and Whistling swans, Strathmore, Alberta, Mar. 29, 1981. Photo/Rudi Butot.

GEESE THROUGH DUCKS—In spite of poor water conditions, Canada Geese increased by 60% over last year in s. Alberta and Saskatchewan but remained stable in s. Manitoba (U.S.F.&W.S., C.W.S.). Canadas



were migrating day and night "by the 1000s" near Moose Jaw Mar. 23-24 and there were 10,000 on O.H.M., Mar. 22 (DR; HC, RK). Field notes, sketches and photographs were taken of a **Barnacle Goose** feeding with Canadas in stubble near Croll, Man., May 3 (J&PC); this would represent the first Manitoba record. More than 5000 White-fronted Geese were estimated near Moose Jaw Apr. 11 (ML). There was a major migration of Snow Geese over Indian Head Apr. 12 and over Churchill May 17-19 (MWS; BC).

Based on U.S.F.&W.S.-C.W.S. surveys, ducks that were down significantly (20-40%) from 1980 in the s. Prairies were Mallard, Am. Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Pintail, Redhead, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup and Am. Goldeneye. Species with smaller changes were Gadwall, Blue-winged Teal, N. Shoveler and Ring-necked Duck. Bufflehead showed an increase of 35%. While "thousands" of Mallards were concentrated on Buffalo Pound L., Sask., Apr. 17, the first brood was an exceptionally early six young Apr. 23 near Glaslyn, Sask. (MR, EK, Sdo, CN). Two ♂ Cinnamon Teal with ♀ teal were seen in Manitoba, one pair at Grand Beach Apr. 26 and the other at O.H.M., through the last 3 weeks of May (RG; RK, m.ob.). Seven Redheads were rare at Churchill May 18 as was a single Canvasback May 20 and a pair May 26 (BC).

HAWKS THROUGH COOTS—A Cooper's Hawk was found dead in a Great Horned Owl nest May 18 at Good Spirit L. (SH). The Buteo migration was generally poor. A rare Red-tailed Hawk was studied at Churchill May 16 and a Broad-winged Hawk, another straggler, was seen there May 15 (BC; BM). The third report of a **Red-shouldered Hawk** in Manitoba (Spruce Sands) was dated Mar. 27 (DG). A roost of 25 Bald Eagles was found Mar. 23-29 near High R. (LY). What was apparently a wintering Marsh Hawk was seen at Wolseley, Sask., Feb. 2 (JDH) while the earliest migrants in s.w. Manitoba appeared in late February (HC). Single Prairie Falcons wandered N of Edmonton Mar. 27 and to Boissevain, Man., May 3 (JL; J&PC). A pair of Peregrines has taken up residence among the skyscrapers of Edmonton (HP). Thirteen of 14 Merlin nests in Saskatoon were successful (there were probably 4 more nests); Moose Jaw probably had six pairs nesting in the city with Regina and Prince Albert having at least 2 pairs each (JP1, EK). Saskatoon also had 5-8 pairs of Am. Kestrels nesting in the city (JP1).

At least one Turkey (a female) survived the winter near Biggar (May 17—RDW). One color-marked Whooping Crane was reported this spring; it was with six other adults near Yellow Grass, Sask., Apr. 16 (BG, DN). There were single reliable reports of Whoopers from Alberta (ine Mar. 25 near Cardston—LB) and Manitoba (two Apr. 20, L. Dauphin—WW). there was a spectacular migration of Sandhill Cranes Apr. 26 between Beaver Hill and Cooking Lakes. W.R. Koski counted 19,000 birds moving NNW 3 15-4:00 p.m. Large numbers were heard above the clouds 4:30-5:00 p.m. At Spring Valley an estimated 6000 cranes passed overhead Apr. 10 (FB). U.S.F.&W.S.-C.W.S. surveys showed Am. Coots had decreased 37% from 1980 in the s. Prairie Provinces.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH OWLS—There was a huge shorebird migration in the Calgary area May 9 (JS); O.H.M., held unusual numbers of shorebirds, possibly because there was little water elsewhere. Peak numbers and dates reported there were: Semipalmated Plover 500 May 19; Ruddy Turnstone 100 May 30-June 3; Lesser Yellowlegs 1000 May 2; Red Knot three late May-early June; Pectoral Sandpiper 600 May 10; White-rumped Sandpiper 7000 late May-early June; Least Sandpiper 1000 May 17-19; Dunlin 800 May 26-29; dowitcher 600 May 17-19; Stilt Sandpiper 300 May 19; Semipalmated Sandpiper 6000 May 29; Hudsonian Godwit 600 May 17; Wilson's Phalarope 500 May 19 (JC, GEH, IW, DF).

A Piping Plover May 9 near Cochrane, Alta., was probably near the w. limit of its range (SJ). For Black-bellied Plover 240 was a large flock near Calgary May 25 (RBU). A pair of Lesser Yellowlegs copulated near Bottrell, Alta., May 24 (SJ). No Dunlins were reported from Saskatchewan and only three from Alberta (RBU, JS). Sanderlings peaked at 500 near Raymore May 26 and 400 at Twin Lakes Beach, Man., May 30 (WH, SL; GG, GEH, RK, IW). A Black-necked Stilt appeared at Delta for the second year in a row Apr. 17 (HM). At least 2000 N. Phalaropes were concentrated near Biggar May 21 (RDW). There were 3 reports of Arctic Tern, a rarity, in s.e. Manitoba: May 16 (one bird), 17 (one) and 30 (two—GEH, RK, GG, IW). A Band-tailed Pigeon was e. of its range May 17 at Grand Cache, Alta., and a Mourning Dove was far n. May 26 at Churchill (JPd, DMC).

Short-eared Owls were reported up in s. Saskatchewan but continued to be scarce in s. Manitoba. Saw-whet Owls were down in s.w. Alberta (JPd).

NIGHTHAWKS THROUGH WAXWINGS—A rare spring concentration of 30 Com. Nighthawks was found at Good Spirit L., May 29 (W&JA). A ♀ Com. (Red-shafted) Flicker was seen at Pierson, Man., Apr. 7 (JM). A Com. Crow was carrying nest material as early as May 2 at Churchill and a Brown Creeper and a Brown Thrasher were far n. of their ranges there May 18 & 24, respectively (A&BC). A far n.w. E. Bluebird was seen near Edmonton in early April (HP). The first Mountain Bluebird arrived in s.e. Manitoba in late February and a nest at Whitemouth, Man., was e. of the normal breeding range (HC;PT). For a rarity, three Townsend's Solitaires together were very unusual Apr. 17 n. of White Bear, Sask. (SOJ).

May 18 was an unusually early date for a Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Churchill (BC). The largest flock of Water Pipits was 150 birds near Madden, Alta., Apr. 22 (SJ). A Sprague's Pipit in Waterton Lakes N.P. (hereafter, W.L.N.P.) was a rarity May 13 (TH). Most Bohemian Waxwings left s. Saskatchewan in March; there were a few April dates and the latest was May 5 at Moose Jaw (G&MZ, PK).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS—There was an influx of Warbling Vireos into W.L.N.P. (TH). The day following a heavy snowstorm, 15-20 Black-and-white Warblers congregated on the snow beside a road near Sundre, Alta., May 9 (FH). The fifth Saskatchewan record of a **Golden-winged Warbler**

was a 10-15 min. study of an ad male near Saskatoon Apr. 17, earlier than Yellow-rumped Warblers (D&AS). Cape May and Black-throated Green warblers were much more common than usual around Winnipeg, e.g., 15 Cape Mays May 16, while a single Blackpoll Warbler and Ovenbird were "record early" arrivals May 2 (RK). The first Cape May ever reported in Banff was a singing male May 29-June 1 (GLH, KVT, RW). In Saskatchewan, Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler is usually restricted to the Cypress Hills; this spring single birds were seen at Spring Valley Apr. 27 & May 1 and in Prince Albert N.P. (where they have been reported in previous years) Apr. 26 & May 2 (FB; MSy). A Townsend's Warbler May 19 near Bottrell was e. of its normal range (SJ).

TANAGERS THROUGH LONGSPURS—There was an unusual influx of W. Tanagers in the Calgary-Sundre area during May (RBU, FH, JPd, SJ). A ♂ **Scarlet Tanager** May 2 in Calgary became the second Alberta record with a detailed description (DMa, *fide* RBU). Two other ♂ Scarlet Tanagers were seen at Buffalo Pound L., May 4 & 11, also w. of their normal range (D&GS, SDu). What may be Manitoba's 14th Black-headed Grosbeak was a female May 24 near Winnipeg (MSi, GG, PH, RK). While 300 Purple Finches appeared at a feeder in Birds Hill P.P., n.w. of Winnipeg, in mid-April, a single male was seen at Churchill, far from its normal range May 16 (GG; BC). Manitoba's first **Cassin's Finch** was a female, identified in the same park Apr. 19 by comparison with Purple Finches for an hour (ph, GG, GEH). Pine Siskins were much more common than usual in s. Manitoba (HC, RK). Another February arrival in Manitoba was a flock of 20 Tree Sparrows on the 28th at Lyleton (JM). White-crowned Sparrows were among the species that died after a May 6-7 snowstorm in s. Alberta (FH). Smith's Longspurs were much more common than usual in s. Manitoba, the largest flock being 500 at O.H.M., May 10 (GEH).

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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

/Gordon B. Berkey

The spring season over the entire Region was early, warm and dry. It appears that species that migrate first are more responsive to variations in weather. At Grand Forks the Lambeths found that of the 80 species seen by April 15, 66 were earlier than in any of the three preceding years. By contrast, those arriving after April 15 were at near normal times. This is consistent with the observations in the very cold spring of 1979, when many Purple Martins died, apparently from starvation, and warblers could be seen flitting around leafless trees in early May.

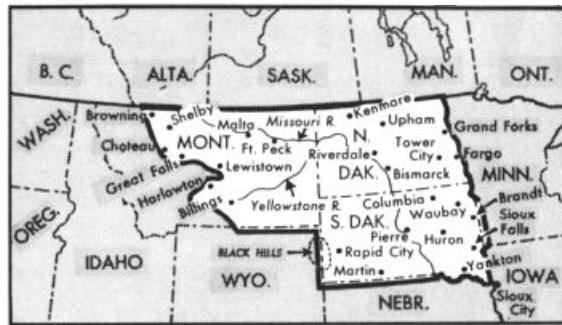
LOONS THROUGH DUCKS—Common Loons came in good numbers, including 19 on a small pond at Ft. Peck Apr. 23 (CMC) and a late one at Upper Souris N.W.R. (hereafter, U.S.N.W.R.) May 27 (IOR). Eight Red-necked Grebes were noted, with one on a nest at Aberdeen May 14 (ECM). Observers continue to report a drop in Black-crowned Night Herons, with 40 at Long Lake N.W.R. (PTS) the largest number listed. A "large flock" of Trumpeter Swans at L. Elwell in n. c. Montana, just s. of the Cypress Hills in Saskatchewan, where the species nests, was seen Mar. 10 (HMM). Peaks of 20,000 White-fronted Geese Apr. 5 and 360,000 Snow Geese Mar. 26 (TKK) staged at Sand Lake N.W.R. (hereafter, S.L.N.W.R.) Early dates for ducks should be of considerable interest following the mild winter, but the Region is just too diverse to give an adequate picture here. Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Am. Wigeon, N. Shoveler, Redhead and Ring-necked Duck had all arrived at Ft. Peck by Mar. 12 (CMC) but many of these species may have wintered in the Region. The peak of Ring-necked was 350 in Ward County, N.D., Apr. 5 (GBB). Several Greater Scaup were carefully compared with Lessers at Grand Forks Apr. 17 (DOL). Single Oldsquaws Apr. 5 in Yankton County, S.D. (WH, JEW) and Mar. 7 at Ft. Peck, and a Black Scoter at Burke L., Gregory Co., S.D. (GLS) were particularly unusual for spring.

RAPTORS—Fifty Turkey Vultures were soaring over the Missouri R., in Hughes County, S.D., Apr. 12 (RLS). Goshawks were noted in all 3 states and a pair was at a nest in the Bearpaw Mts., s. of Havre Apr. 12 (SJG). An exceptionally early Swainson's Hawk was n. of Mandan Mar. 7 (KJJ). A Swainson's nest was found only 6 ft off the ground in a caragana hedge n. of Chester, Mont. (MEK). Eighteen Rough-legged Hawks were reported in the period with a late one at Grand Forks May 17 (SOL). Experiences of South Dakota observers indicated that Ferruginous Hawks abandon nests at the slightest interference (RLS, RDM, GLD). Six Golden Eagle nests were reported from e. Montana (MWH, DSS, NCF). A pair in Custer County, S. D., returned to a tree used previously for 12 years until the nest blew down during the winter of 1979-80; the pair was unsuccessful in a new location last summer (BMN). A pair of Ospreys was incubating at Decker Coal Mine in Montana during May (NCF). Most falcons

are rare enough that all sightings are reported. There were two Gyrfalcons noted from Montana, including one harassing Sage Grouse Mar. 7 (BAS). Eleven Prairie Falcons were noted; those from the e. Dakotas, where sightings are less frequent, were in Kidder County, N.D., Apr. 2 and Aberdeen May 8. Peregrine Falcons were at Fargo Apr. 27 (†MAB, CAS) and L. Ilo N.W.R., N.D., May 3 (DNS). There were 3 other reports, all from North Dakota. In all ten Merlins were noted from all over the Region.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS THROUGH RAILS—Native grouse populations were lower at several sites, with Greater Prairie Chickens off 50% on leks in Stanley County, S.D. (RLS), Sharp-tailed Grouse off 50% at U.S.N.W.R. (IOR) and Sage Grouse down an unspecified amount in Butte County, S.D., (AS) and Spring Cr. Coal Mine, Mont. (MWH). Ruffed Grouse, whose population cycle is well-documented, were also on the decline; do cycles occur for these others, or are the losses due to habitat degradation, drought, or some other cause? In contrast pheasants, partridge, Turkeys and Bobwhite were all noted on the increase in South Dakota. Four Whooping Cranes made a rare showing near Rapid City Apr. 19, where they were viewed at leisure by Black Hills Aud. Soc. members at a distance of 200 yards (EMS). The only other confirmed report was of two s. of Minot, N.D., Apr. 13 (DCA, MBW) along the normal migration route. A single Yellow Rail May 16 in Kidder County, N.D. (CAF) was the only occurrence reported of this elusive species.

SHOREBIRDS—The Great Plains provides some of the most interesting and varied shorebirding on the continent. Yet many observers make no mention of the group or restrict notes to the larger, more conspicuous species. Birders are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. Thirty-four species were reported. Semipalmated Plovers moved through Apr. 26-May 24, with the largest number 38 May 16 at Jamestown. Large flocks of Am. Golden Plover were 1500+ at Argusville, N.D., May 10 (DOL) and 3000-5000 at Fargo May 19 (CAS). Black-bellied Plovers were present May 6-24 with the largest number 14 at Ft. Peck May 14. Ruddy Turnstones peaked at 12 each May 17 at Long Lake N.W.R., and May 22 at Fargo (m.ob.). There was only one other report of this rare but striking bird. Long-billed Curlews were in Meade, Pennington and Haakon cos., S.D. (JLB, EEM, DLB) where they had apparently been absent for some time. A flock of 65 Upland Sandpipers resting on an island in Canyon L., in Rapid City was an unexpected treat (JLB). A Red Knot was at Fargo May 22 (MAB). The common but rarely mentioned Pectoral Sandpiper moved through North Dakota Mar. 27-May 22 (CAS). White-rumped Sandpipers are described as locally uncommon in field guides and some area checklists indicate that the species is not to be expected, but it proves common every spring. It may be missed



because it migrates later than the other peeps. Reports ranged from May 1 in Clay County, S.D. (KJH) to June 9 at Minot (GBB) with a peak of 1000 at Fargo May 29 (MAB). Baird's Mar. 15-May 20, and Least's Apr. 16-May 9, are common but not often reported. Tewauckon N.W.R., had 250 Dunlin May 15 (DGP).

Short-billed Dowitchers were noted by 6 observers from the c. and e. Dakotas. Some regional editors have considered them doubtful but the species occurs every spring and identification is not difficult if the birds are vocal. All reports were from May 7-17 with the maximum of nine below Oahe Dam May 9 (RLS). The much more common Long-billed Dowitcher was reported Apr. 18-May 31+ with 50+ at Fargo May 13 the peak, although larger flocks certainly were present. Stilt Sandpiper dates were Apr. 18-May 29 with the largest number 225 in Ward County May 12. Five Semipalmated Sandpipers were very early Mar. 29 at Ft. Peck (CMC) and both largest number and last date reported were 1000+ at Fargo May 29. Western Sandpipers are rarely reported and probably rarely seen but three were at S.L.N.W.R., May 9 (†RHE,PRE). Two other sightings from South Dakota and one from North Dakota were undocumented. Buff-breasted Sandpipers included five at Rolla, N.D., May 3 (PCH) and one in Cass County, N.D., May 16 (CAF). Sanderlings were in all 3 states in May with 100 at Ft. Peck the largest number (CMC). A Black-necked Stilt was observed Apr. 28 at the Amoco Oil Refinery, Mandan, N.D. (†W.A. Burns).

GULLS AND TERNs—An imm. Thayer's Gull Apr. 16 at Jamestown (†CAF) marks the third North Dakota record; all are from the past 2 years. Good numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls were 155 in Yankton County, S.D., Apr. 14 (WH) and 150 at Fargo May 6 (MAB). A single Arctic Tern, a first state record for North Dakota, was at Long Lake N.W.R., May 11. No further details were submitted to the editor but documentation is on file with the N.D. Ornithological Records Committee (†CAF). The only Caspian Tern notes were of a pair at Ft. Peck for several days in early May (CMC) and singles in Grand Forks May 16-17 (GSL).

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—Spring is the nesting season for Great Horned Owls, and 23 nests were reported. Burrowing Owls continued a long decline. In w. South Dakota where government-supported poisoning of prairie dogs is widespread, birders find owls present in older colonies, but it takes them a few years to take up residence in new ones (EMS). Long-eared Owls are rarely

noted but one was seen regularly throughout April in a Grand Forks cemetery (PS) and 3 nests were found within 5 mi of Woodworth, N.D. (CAF). Whip-poor-wills are infrequent in North Dakota but were in both Jamestown and Grand Forks May 17. Poor-wills are regular in s.w. North Dakota but four in the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt N.P., May 24 (†DGD) were about 80 mi n. of normal range. A total of six Ruby-throated Hummingbirds was recorded at Fargo May 7-23 (MBB, AJL). Among the three Red-bellied Woodpecker listings, all from South Dakota, was one in Mellette County at the extreme w. edge of its range. Lewis' Woodpecker has declined in the Black Hills, with modern fire prevention the likely culprit. At Deadwood Hill, where as many as six pairs have nested in recent years, only two individuals were found May 4 (DLB). Six Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, and a ♀ Hairy Woodpecker which had been banded 16 years ago were netted by bander NJH in Brookings County, S.D. A N. Three-toed Woodpecker was photographed May 23 in Lawrence County (NRW).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS—Kingbirds are rarely mentioned, but a tight flock of 100+ each of Easterns and Westerns May 24 at U.S.N.W.R., was unusual (GBB); they were distributed along 100 yards of a multiple-row shelterbelt, taking advantage of an enormous insect hatch. At least six Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in North Dakota and five Willow Flycatchers in South Dakota were noted, with two of the latter banded near Brookings (NJH). Most references indicate that Willows are common-to-abundant, but even on Breeding Bird Surveys when the birds should be singing, numbers seem to be quite low. Earliest dates for swallows were normal: Violet-green at Ft. Peck Apr. 18, Tree Apr. 6 and Rough-winged and Barn Apr. 10 at Yankton, Bank Apr. 28 at S.L.N.W.R., Cliff Apr. 26 at U.S.N.W.R., and Purple Martin Apr. 1 at Burke, S.D.

CORVIDS THROUGH WRENS—Pifion Jay fledglings were evident in Rapid City May 24. Reports of White-breasted Nuthatches were about twice as many as of Red-breasteds, even though most observers fail to record the familiar resident but are careful to note the less common transient (which also nests regularly in the Black Hills). Two Dipper nests were located in Spearfish Canyon in May (NRW). The only reports of Short-billed Marsh Wren were of singles May 3 at L. Ilo N.W.R. (DNS) and May 20 at Aberdeen (ECM). True to the ways of the species, a Mockingbird was far out of range May 9 at Ft. Peck (JCC). Gray Catbirds and Brown Thrashers arrived in Montana and North Dakota at about the same dates, but in South Dakota early dates for thrashers were about 2 weeks earlier. A Wood Thrush in Bismarck May 17 (CIB) provided one of the most westerly records in North Dakota for this species, which has become a regular migrant in the Red R. Valley. From w. South Dakota came reports of E. Bluebirds Apr. 11 in Mellette County (RAP) and Apr. 26 in Lawrence County (AS). Three pairs of Mountain Bluebirds were nesting in the dead trees at Little Missouri Bay of L. Sakakawea (BCP). Peaks of kinglets were 20 Golden-crowned

at Fargo Apr. 1 and 19 Ruby-crowned in the Black Hills May 2. A very early Water Pipit was at Grand Forks Mar. 24 (†DOL), and Sprague's Pipits arrived ahead of normal Apr. 1 at Zahl N.W.R., in n.w. North Dakota (SWB). A Bell's Vireo was studied carefully at a distance of 12 ft in Hyde County, S.D. (JHH). The eight Solitary Vireos in Bismarck were an unusually strong showing May 17 (RNR).

WARBLERS—While ranges of dates were normal, it was a better-than-average year for numbers and variety, with 27 different species reported. May 17 was one of the best warbler days that long-time observer RNR has seen in Bismarck, with 18 species found by members of the Bismarck-Mandan Bird Club on their annual May field trip. Those of interest included ten Magnolias, one Cape May (DMR), two Blackburnians, one Chestnut-sided (RLQ, JCS), four Palms (RNR) and two Mourning warblers. Golden-winged Warblers were seen in e. North Dakota at Valley City May 2 & 17 and at Grand Forks May 16. A Nashville was a window casualty in Perkins County, S.D., Apr. 30 (A&GH). A Magnolia Warbler at Ft. Peck May 17 provided about the tenth record for Montana (†CMC). Adding to the handful of Pine Warbler sightings for North Dakota was one May 12 at Valley City (†CAF). A Connecticut Warbler at Minot May 17 was unusual so far w. (†GBB). The latest Mourning Warbler noted was June 2 at Valley City (DLK). Hooded Warblers were in Brookings May 16 (RB) and Fargo May 8-10 (†MAB). The pair in Fargo furnished the third record from that city since 1964. American Redstarts were "abundant in Stanley, N. D., May 12, with one seemingly in every bush" (BCP).

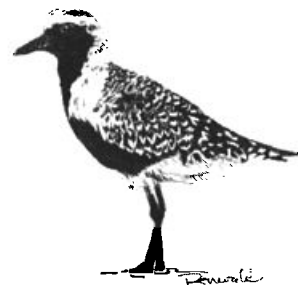


Hooded Warbler, third North Dakota record, Fargo, N.D., May 10, 1981. Photo /Greg S. Lambeth.

ICTERIDS THROUGH LONGSPURS—Western Meadowlarks came about 2 weeks early to North Dakota; the earliest date was Mar. 3 at Fargo (PPF). Fifty Yellow-headed Blackbirds on territory at Burke L., were the first nesting attempts for the area (GLS). At least five nesting pairs of Orchard Orioles in Ft. Peck was a new high. This species was first recorded nesting in Kenmare, N.D., in 1960 and is still expanding N. and W. The fifth Scarlet Tanager record for Montana was of one at Ft. Peck May 17-18 (JCC, †CMO, ph.). Another, as yet undocumented, was reported from the Chester area May 20. A ♂ Summer Tanager was seen at Valley City

Apr. 29 (CAF). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found to the w. in Butte County May 4 (AEM, ph.) and at Ft. Peck May 17. Fifteen Black-headed Grosbeaks were seen in Bismarck and neighboring vicinity May 17, with 2 nests found (m.ob.). The only report of a Dickcissel was of one s. of Brookings May 8 (NJH); the species was seen as in real trouble in South Dakota. A House Finch in Bismarck Mar. 15 (RNR) may be a resighting of the second state record of the past winter. Pine Grosbeaks left in mid-March, after a good winter showing, as did Com. Redpolls. Pine Siskins remained to nest in numbers throughout North Dakota, as they have been known to do after an invasion winter. A very early Grasshopper Sparrow arrived w. of Kenmare Apr. 26 (AMG). Five Le Conte's Sparrows from Grand Forks May 13 (DOL) were the only ones reported. All three "crowned" sparrows showed well, Harris' Mar. 13 in Brookings County to May 17 in Minot, White-crowned Apr. 5 in Butte County to May 20 in Fargo, and White-throated Apr. 21 in Butte County and Grand Forks to May 30. Unusual for South Dakota were the ten McCown's Longspurs at Buffalo Gap Nat'l Grassland and 16 at Wind Cave N.P., Mar. 3 (MJP). The only other report of this species was the arrival date of Apr. 19 at Chester (HMM).

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J. David Renwald

SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

/Frances Williams

"One of the most uneventful spring migrations that I can recall." "The worst migration in all my years of birding." Few rarities, very little conspicuous migration, many common migrants hard to find." "Generally disappointing." "Rather dull." The preceding comments reflect the opinions of all Southern Great Plains contributors except Scott Seltman in west central Kansas, Elizabeth Hayes at Tulsa and Keith Arnold at College Station. Possibly local weather conditions at those localities caused more grounding of migrants.

Generally, temperatures were extraordinarily mild. The migration period was longer than normal, beginning earlier and ending later, the migrants straggling through with few evident peaks. The main impact of the balmy weather was the early development of plant and insect life and the consequent early nesting of many bird species.

LOONS THROUGH ANHINGA—A Com. Loon was still present on L. Conroe, Montgomery Co., Tex., May 25. Two Horned Grebes in Graham County, Kans., Apr. 13 were unusual at that locality. Large concentrations of Eared Grebes included 52 at Quivira N.W.R., Kans., May 29 and 150 on a playa near Amarillo May 10. The W. Grebe which wintered on L. Conroe remained until Apr. 29. Nearly 2000 Double-crested Cormorants congregated on Oologah Res., n.e. of Tulsa Apr. 18. Six Anhingas were sighted in Henderson County, Tex., Mar. 27 and one was at Waco Apr. 28.

HERONS THROUGH IBISES—Little Blue Herons appeared in Sarpy County, Neb., Apr. 18 & 22. Approximately 10,000 Cattle Egrets roosted for the night in a Muskogee County, Okla., heronry May 25. One Cattle Egret in Dawes County, Neb., May 23 provided a first record for the Pine Ridge (RL) and one was found in Sarpy County Apr. 11, and May 9. Three flocks of Cattle Egrets, totaling 46 birds, were present along the Rio Grande in Brewster County, Tex., Apr. 11. A Great Egret visited Crescent Lake N.W.R., Neb., May 2-9. Vagrant Louisiana Herons appeared in Crockett County, Tex., Apr. 24, Balmorhea L., Reeves Co., Tex., May 24 and Washington County, Okla., May 26. Yellow-crowned Night Herons were nesting in a park in Wichita May 14 (DV). Least Bitterns were discovered at Tulsa May 30 and in Douglas County, Kans., May 26. White-faced Ibises were observed throughout the Region Apr. 26-May 31+ with a peak of 50 at El Paso May 3.

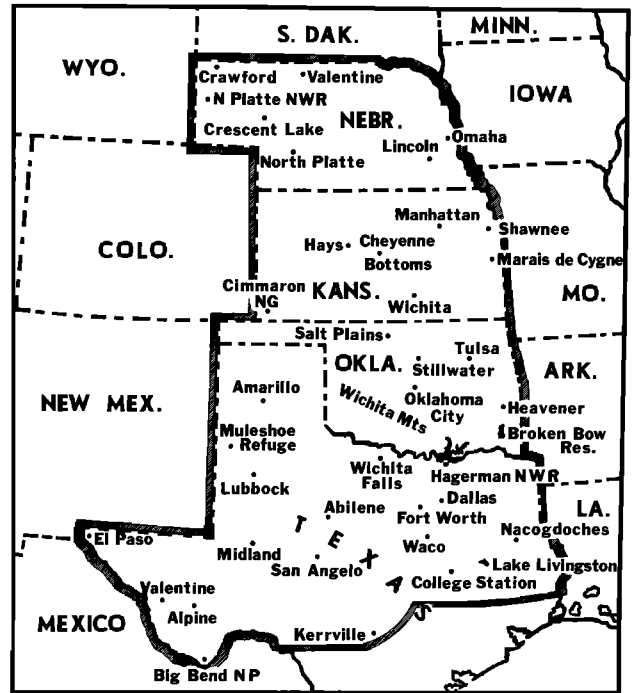
WATERFOWL—A pair of Mute Swans nested near Valley, Neb., where the cob attacked boaters who came too near the nest area. The origin of these swans is unknown (*vide* RGC). The resident pair of Trumpeter Swans at Crescent L., was joined by two sub-adult birds in March and a family of three in April. By May only four of these could still be located on the refuge (FZ). At Hagerman

N.W.R., Tex., about 50 geese died in early March of undetermined caused. The fatalities included White-fronted, Canada and two Ross' geese. A brood of Canada Geese goslings was observed at Crescent L., Apr. 10, the earliest brood date on record there. The newly organized Val Verde Nature Club, of Del Rio, Tex., reported that Black-bellied Whistling Ducks are regularly present April-July in Val Verde County and that last summer ducklings were observed (SMS, m.ob.). Black-bellied Whistling Ducks were reported at Dallas Apr. 11 (WP *et al.*) and in Brazos County, Tex., throughout the period (WAI). Two pairs of Mexican Ducks were

present on a small suburban lake at Alpine, Tex., Apr. 3 (GOW). Four Wood Ducks visited the same pond Apr. 5. Something special always seems to turn up at the annual meeting of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union. Last year it was a Burrowing Owl; this year, May 16 at Grand I., it was a pair of Eur. Wigeons. A Cinnamon Teal was sighted in Douglas County, Neb., Mar. 8. Greater Scaup were located in Tulsa County Mar. 14 (JCH), Wichita Mar. 31 (DV) and in Cimarron County, Okla., on the late date of May 19 (JG).

VULTURES THROUGH FALCONS—A Black Vulture in Crosby County, Tex., Apr. 10 provided one of the very few records for that area (KH). White-tailed Kites graced Dallas County May 26 (DJ) and Brazos County May 8 (HH, JMC). Mississippi Kites appeared at their El Paso nest site May 10, a month early, and one was incubating at Midland by May 28. Mississippi Kites in Big Bend N.P., May 18-19 were unusual, but not as surprising as one in Johnson County, Kans., May 31 (MLM). A pair of Cooper's Hawks was nesting in the Davis Mts. S.P., Tex., in April (JS, m.ob.). The Rosches observed 90 hawks of nine species around the Nebraska Pine Ridge Apr. 4. The only other hawk flight reported was in Nacogdoches, Tex., also Apr. 4, when over a thousand Broad-winged Hawks sailed by in less than one hour. A Broad-winged Hawk was incubating at Red River Ref., Grayson Co., Tex., during May (RRY). At Muleshoe N.W.R., Tex., a Broad-winged Hawk seen Apr. 26 provided a first record (KH, DS). A Swainson's Hawk in Randall County, Tex., Mar. 15 was the earliest on record (PA). A Zone-tailed Hawk was discovered in the Davis Mts., May 16 (JA). A Ferruginous Hawk was on a nest in Logan County, Kans., Apr. 11 (SK). A sub-adult Gray Hawk was in a cottonwood grove near the Rio Grande, Big Bend N.P., May 9 (RS). A Black Hawk flew over a residential area of San Angelo, Tex., Mar. 28 (CCW).

Two new Bald Eagle nests were found in



Texas, one in Red River County and one in Limestone County (*vide* JY). An imm. Bald Eagle was observed eating a freshly killed jack rabbit near Ft. Davis, Tex., in April and two Bald Eagles were seen just n. of Ft. Davis June 6 (PE). Seventeen Ospreys were reported, on dates ranging from Mar. 29 at Dallas to May 4 at Oklahoma City. A Carolina was observed in Navarro County, Tex., Apr. 1 (FB, TG). In Big Bend N.P., some mountain trails and some Rio Grande canyons were closed to protect nesting Peregrine Falcons. Elsewhere, 14 Peregrines were reported, more than in any recent year.

PRAIRIE CHICKENS THROUGH RAILS—An estimated 80 Lesser Prairie Chickens were present at Pratt Sandhills W.M.A., Pratt Co., Kans. Whooping Cranes visited Quivira Apr. 7-12, with five birds present on the first date, seven on the latter. Soras arrived at Crescent L. by Apr. 17, the earliest date on record, but by late May none responded to taped calls. A Black Rail was heard at Crescent L., May 29 (FZ).

PLOVERS THROUGH PHALAROPES—The best shorebird migration in years was reported at Omaha and at L. Rayburn in e. Texas. Ten Semipalmated Plovers rested on a mud flat near Cushing, Okla., Apr. 22. Piping Plovers were present at Oklahoma City Apr. 28 and May 1 (JN) and at Oologah Res., Apr. 18 and May 10 (JCH). At Quivira, a total of 59 Snowy Plovers was counted May 30. Seven Mountain Plovers stopped in Crosby County Mar. 20 (KH). Two pairs of Mountain Plovers were nesting within 6 mi of Ft. Davis, but several miles apart. On the other side of the Davis Mts., Mountain Plovers had young by May 31 (PE). Both Am. Golden and Black-bellied plovers were present in many areas where they are considered rare migrants. Ruddy Turnstones were noted at 6 localities, with a peak of 24 in Rogers County, Okla., May 24. An Am. Woodcock performed its evening display flights at Tulsa Apr. 5-21 (m.ob.) and six were seen in Geary

County, Kans., May 2 (OR). A Red Knot was photographed in McClain County, Okla., May 10 (JG). Two Red Knots remained at Quivira May 28-31. White-rumped Sandpipers were common at several locations May 8-31, with a peak of 150 at Arlington, Tex., May 18. At least 500 Pectoral Sandpipers fed along the shore of Oologah Res., Apr. 18. Counts of 50 Dunlins at Oologah and 35 at Tulsa, both on May 10, were high for this species. Sanderlings were common on the Nebraska Pine Ridge Apr. 20-May 31+. Short-billed Dowitchers were carefully identified in Sheridan County, Neb., May 2 (R&DR) and at Midland May 17 (DW). At Arlington, 40 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were counted May 20 (RLN).

A flock of 25 Marbled Godwits rested at Crescent L., Apr. 25. Small groups of Hudsonian Godwits visited Rogers, Cleveland, Osage and Tulsa counties during May and 50 were present at Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Kans., in late April. High counts of Am. Avocets included 120 at Oologah Apr. 26 and 115 at Copan Res., Washington Co., Okla., the same day. Two Black-necked Stilts visited Val Verde County Apr. 13 (GB). Eighteen N. Phalaropes in Cimarron County, Okla., May 1 (JG) and four at Crescent L., May 27 were late. A concentration of 10,000 Wilson's Phalaropes rested at Lubbock Apr. 26 (CS).

GULLS AND TERNS—A Glaucous Gull visited Cheyenne Bottoms for several weeks in March (EM). A very white gull on L. Conroe May 11-12 was much photographed and studied but was finally identified as a Herring Gull (KB, TGa). A Laughing Gull was also present there. The usual enormous flocks of Franklin's Gulls were missing. Unusual numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls were seen, including 23 in Sheridan County, Neb., Apr. 20 and 24 in Palo Pinto County, Tex., Mar. 15. A **Black-legged Kittiwake** caused birders to flock to Lincoln's Oak Lake P., Apr. 20-21 (RW, m.ob.). Reports of the "uncommon" Com. Tern came from Great Salt Plains N.W.R., May 16 (JCH), Bartlesville May 17 (ED), Cowley County, Kans., May 9 (DV *et al.*), Midland May 10 (RMS). The small nesting colony of Least Terns on a sandy island in the Arkansas R., within the city of Tulsa had a minimum of 6 active nests May 31 (JCH). There were 29 Least Terns at Quivira May 29, ten at Great Salt Plains May 16 and single birds at Oologah May 17 and Cowley County May 9. An amazing 95 Black Terns graced a Payne County, Okla., lake May 11.

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—An early Yellow-billed Cuckoo appeared at Sherman, Tex., Apr. 3. A Black-billed Cuckoo was banded at Huntsville, Tex., Apr. 17 (RM) and one was seen at Quivira May 31 (JS). Groove-billed Anis were found in Val Verde County Apr. 8-15 (BP) and Kinney County May 9 & 14 (I&DB). A Barn Owl nest with two chicks was found in a quarry in Tulsa County May 30. A pair of Burrowing Owls with six owlets lived on the campus of Midland College. A lone Long-eared Owl frequented the headquarters area of Crescent L., Apr. 10-14 and one was found in Sedgwick County, Kans., Mar. 28. Birders at the Kansas Ornithological Society spring meeting had a rare treat on the evening

of May 2. From one spot s of the Smoky Hill R., Geary County, they heard all four Kansas Caprimulgids, including the normally rare Poor-will. A Poor-will was captured at Oklahoma City Mar. 30 and one was heard in w. Tarrant County, Tex., Mar. 27-May 31. A Poor-will nest was found in Eastland County, Tex., Apr. 8 (TG,FB). A Chuck-will's Widow was heard in Sarpy County May 16. Rufous Hummingbirds normally visit the Plains only in fall, so one at Tulsa May 10 (E&KH) and one at Midland Apr. 3 (J&DM) were noteworthy. A ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird enjoyed a feeder in Comanche County, Okla., Apr. 20 (JM). A ♀ Red-bellied Woodpecker which wintered at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Tex., was still present May 31. Another was sighted at Lubbock May 3 (ML). A Red-headed Woodpecker which spent the month of May in Big Bend N.P., provided the first record there since 1964 (m.ob.).

FLYCATCHERS—Eastern Kingbirds visited Midland May 2 and Lubbock May 15. A pair of Kiskadees was nesting s. of Del Rio in late May (SMS). A Wied's Crested Flycatcher was observed in Big Bend N.P., June 6 (JA). A pair of **Olivaceous Flycatchers** seemed to have established a territory in the Chisos Mts., Big Bend N.P., during May (JA,RS, m.ob.). There are very few records of this species in Texas, and no nesting records. A Say's Phoebe in Denton County, Tex., Mar. 22 was rather far e. (MM). Both Willow and Alder flycatchers were heard at Tulsa May 16. Western Wood Pewees were nesting at Alpine and in the Davis Mts., May 31. A ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher brightened Montgomery County Apr. 6 (TGa) and a female was reported in Tarrant County Mar. 27 (L&AB).

SWALLOWS THROUGH NUT-HATCHES—Nesting **Tree Swallows** were photographed at Oologah Res., Nowata Co., Okla., Apr. 18 and two other nests were found May 23. This is apparently the first documented record of nesting Tree Swallows in Oklahoma (JCH). By May 31, 258 adult and ten nestling Bank Swallows had been banded in Ottawa County, Okla. (PWW). Rough-winged Swallows were nesting in Jeff Davis County, Tex., for the first time (PE). Purple Martins were sighted in El Paso May 17; this species is continually expanding in w. Texas. Black-billed Magpies visited Pratt County Apr. 12 (SK) and two were seen at Quivira in late May (RB). Fish Crows were found in Nowata County Apr. 5 & 26 (JCH).

Five Bridled Titmice were studied closely in the Chisos Mts., May 12 (HW). There are no specimens of this species for Texas, and only two previous sight records. In late May, Bushtits were nesting at Big Spring, Tex., providing a first record there (PM). White-breasted Nuthatches were present at Crescent L., Apr. 28-May 30. Red-breasted Nuthatches remained in Brazos and Montgomery counties until late April.

WRENS THROUGH MIMICS—In Comanche County, Okla., a singing House Wren built nests in 3 houses, but it had no mate (L&EB). At Alpine, a Rock Wren built a nest in a wood pallet and hatched five young. The Rock Wren chased away a Cactus Wren which approached the nest, but after

the Rock Wren departed the Cactus Wren delivered an insect to the nestlings and then removed a pebble from near the nest (*vide* GOW). Two Long-billed Marsh Wrens were vocalizing at Crescent L., Mar. 5, 5 weeks earlier than the previous arrival record. Mockingbirds at Denton had fledged young by Apr. 3. A Gray Catbird in Val Verde County Apr. 8-15 was noteworthy (BP). A Long-billed Thrasher was found in Big Bend N.P., May 21 and June 6 (DW,JA). Reports of Bendire's Thrasher continue to come from Texas, but to date no one has described the color of the ramus of the lower mandible or the shape of the gonydeal angle. A picture published in a newspaper of a purported Bendire's Thrasher obviously portrayed a Curve-billed Thrasher. Several Curve-billed Thrashers inhabited a cemetery in Morton County, Kans., in late May (SS). This species had nestlings at Midland by Apr. 8. At least one singing ♂ Crissal Thrasher was present in Irion County, Tex., the last 2 weeks of May (TM). This is the second report of what appears to be one of the very few populations of this species e. of the Pecos R.

THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS—In El Paso, the Davis Mts., and Midland, Am Robins had fledged young by May 31. This species seldom breeds in dry w. Texas. A Wood Thrush ventured to Pottawatomie County, Kans., May 2 (MS). A Gray-cheeked Thrush at Midland May 10 was the first in 20 years (J&DM). One was discovered at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., May 17 (KS) and five were banded at Huntsville Apr. 26-May 12 (RM). A Veery was banded at Crescent L., May 5. In Cowley County, E. Bluebirds had fledged young by May 8. At Lubbock, a Mountain Bluebird lingered until May 3. Sprague's Pipits were located at Plattsmouth, Neb., Apr. 11, Norton County, Kans., May 21 and Crosby County Apr. 11. A single Bohemian Waxwing accompanied a large flock of Cedar Waxwings at Tulsa Mar. 25. The Gray Vireos which summer at the roadside park w. of Sheffield, Tex., on US 290 were nest building May 8 (HW). The new I-10 highway will bypass this site, diminishing the disturbance and traffic there. In the Ft. Worth-Dallas area, Bell's Vireo was formerly considered a "common summer resident". Now it nests there very rarely if at all, and few were seen this spring (RDC). However, the species was present in excellent numbers in Nowata County, Okla. (JCH) and Gillespie County, Tex (E&KM), while good riparian habitats in the w. part of Texas nearly always host a nesting pair or two. Yellow-throated Vireos graced Wichita May 16 and Tulsa Apr. 18 & May 13. It was the best spring ever for Philadelphia Vireos at College Station, Tulsa and Wichita

WARBLERS—At Tulsa, 424 warblers of 28 species were tallied and at Huntsville, 527 of 20 species were banded. At Omaha 27 species were counted May 9, while at Bartlesville 26 species were seen during the period. Elsewhere it was a very poor warbler year, with few rarities discovered, most uncommon species absent and some common species scarce.

Worm-eating Warblers appeared in Kinney County Apr. 11, Tulsa May 10, Sarpy County Apr. 29 and Plattsmouth May 9. A Golden-winged Warbler visited Sarpy County May 9. Four Blue-winged Warblers were banded

at Huntsville in April (RJ) and one was seen in Kerr County May 7 (RS). A N. Parula strayed to El Paso May 28 (SW). A Virginia's Warbler was seen at Buffalo L., Apr. 19 (KS), and a Tennessee Warbler was noted at Lubbock May 2 (CS). Magnolia Warblers brightened Baldwin City, Kans., May 28 (RLB), Pawnee County, Kans., May 19 (SS), Bartlesville May 9, 13, 17 (m.ob.) and Buffalo L., May 10 (KS). A Cape May Warbler appeared at Omaha May 10. A Blackburnian Warbler visited Pawnee County, Kans., May 19. A Yellow-throated Warbler sojourned in Sarpy County May 2-16 and one rested in Johnson County, Kans., May 8. Grace's Warblers strayed to Hemphill County in the Texas Panhandle Apr. 12 (RR) and to Hueco Tanks S.P., Tex., Apr. 26 (m.ob.). Blackpolls were reported at Oklahoma City May 13 & 18 and at Waco May 9. A Pine Warbler was noted in Val Verde County Apr. 8-15. A Prairie Warbler at Oklahoma City May 13 was newsworthy. Palm Warblers were discovered at Tulsa May 5, Bartlesville May 2, Amarillo May 10 and Collin County, Tex., Apr. 26. Northern Waterthrushes made an excellent showing May 2-18. A **Kentucky Warbler** netted and photographed at Crescent Lake N.W.R., Apr. 28, provided a first record for the Nebraska panhandle (FZ). Mourning Warblers strayed to Kinney County Apr. 21 & 29 and Sedgwick County May 19. A Hooded Warbler netted and photographed at Crescent L., May 2 provided the first refuge record. A Canada Warbler stopped in Pawnee County, Kans., May 19.

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS—In Stafford County, Kans., 28 ♂ Bobolinks were singing on territory May 31. Several were seen at Tulsa May 10, one lingered in Kaufman County, Tex., May 3-9, and six were seen at Nacogdoches May 10. A Scott's Oriole wandered to Big Spring May 13 (PM). In Irion County, a Scott's Oriole nest with three eggs was discovered May 19 (TM). Great-tailed Grackles appeared in Pottawatomie County, Kans., and in Lawrence, Kans. A W. Tanager wandered to Real County, Tex., May 12 (SW). An Hepatic Tanager was discovered at El Paso May 13. A Scarlet Tanager at College Station Apr. 16 was very early. Six additional records in the Region ranged May 3-17.

FRINGILLIDS—Cardinals in Comanche County, Okla., had fledged young by Apr. 15. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks made an excellent showing May 2-20, with a peak of 15 in one tree in Washington County, Okla., May 8. Black-headed Grosbeaks stopped in Irion County May 23, Huntsville S.P., Tex., Mar. 13, Comanche County May 11-15, Wichita Apr. 24. An Indigo Bunting in Montgomery County Mar. 5 was very early. Indigo Buntings wandered W to Crescent L., May 7 and Hueco Tanks May 2. Lazuli Buntings graced Pawnee County May 19, Geary County May 3, Big Spring May 13 and Midland May 2. At Tulsa, 15 Evening Grosbeaks were counted Apr. 12. A small flock remained in Sarpy County until Apr. 28. At Baldwin City, 172 Purple Finches were banded Mar. 1-Apr. 5 (KK). A ♀ House Finch visited a feeder in Chadron, Neb., Apr. 16. Pine Siskins remained until the end of May throughout the Region. At Baldwin Ci-

ty, 301 were banded Mar. 1-May 31. A Red Crossbill in a mesquite tree near San Angelo, Tex., Apr. 30 was a surprising sight (IW,MC), as was a White-winged Crossbill in a sweet-gum tree at Tulsa Mar. 10 (WW). A Red Crossbill in the Chisos Mts., Apr. 20 was in suitable habitat (JT). Birders looking at nests of Cave and Cliff swallows under a bridge near Alpine, Tex., were amazed to find a big scrappy nest of a Brown Towhee on a concrete ledge.

In s.w. Texas, abundant fall and winter rains caused a luxuriant spring growth of forbs and a superlative hatch of insects, leading to unprecedented nesting by Lark Buntings. In May, Wiedenfeld found 4 Lark Bunting nests in Crockett County. He reported many widely scattered Lark Buntings on the open prairie in both Crockett and Irion counties and surmised that thousands were nesting. On June 4, Arvin saw a pair carrying food to a nest 3 mi n. of Alpine. The only previous nesting record in Texas, other than a very few in the panhandle, was in Schleicher County in 1931.

A Lark Bunting in Gardner, Kans., May 19 was very far e. (RLB). Common species of sparrows were scarce but there was an excellent showing of species normally classified as "uncommon." Grasshopper Sparrows were abundant in Pratt County, Tulsa, Gillespie County, Midland and Big Spring. They were nesting in Gillespie County May 21. A Baird's Sparrow was carefully identified at Muleshoe N.W.R., Apr. 26 (KH,DS). Le Conte's Sparrows were found during April at 6 Texas localities and until May 24 at Tulsa and Rogers County. Sharp-tailed Sparrows were discovered in Geary County May 2 (SS) and in Washington County, Okla., May 1 & 3 (ED).

Like Lark Buntings, Cassin's Sparrows took advantage of the lush growth in s.w. Texas and nested early and in numbers. Adults were feeding fledglings at Midland by May 17. It is not surprising that Seyffert in the Texas panhandle asked, "What has happened to the Lark Buntings and Cassin's Sparrows? They arrived very late and were extremely difficult to find." Migrating Chipping Sparrows were abundant in April and May from San Angelo to Midland. Two ♂ Field Sparrows were on territory in Irion County May 21-31 (TM). Swamp Sparrows were located in Ellis County, Okla., Apr. 4 (JG) and El Paso May 2. A ♂ Lapland Longspur in breeding plumage was found in Ness County, Kans., Apr. 11. A Smith's Longspur was carefully identified in Crosby County Mar. 13 (ML,CS).

CORRIGENDUM: In *AB* 35:200, the Flammulated Owl reported sent to the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection at Texas A&M proved not to be that species.

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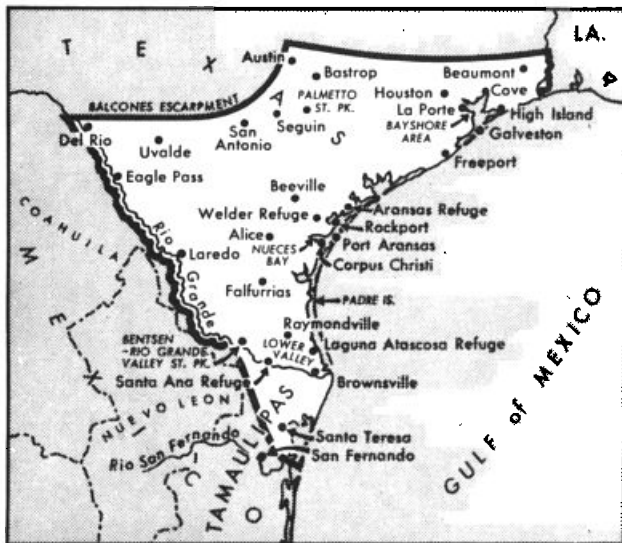
Delap, Joe Grzybowski, Elizabeth & Ken Hayes, J.C. Hoffman, Dee Isted, Janet McGee, John Newell, Wally Whaling, Paul W. Wilson. **Texas:** Peggy Acord, Keith Arnold, John Arvin, Mike Austin, Landon & Ada Beaver, F. Becker, Irene & Dave Blair, Ginny Bolland, Charles Brown, Lillian Brown, Kelly Bryan, J.M. Campbell, R.C. Coggeshall, Mary Creel, Pansy Espy, Tony Gallucci (TGA), T. Gollob, Kelly Himmel, H. Hobart, W.A. Isbell, D. Jackson, Ray Jo-chetz, Rick LoBello, Mark Lockwood, Terry Maxwell, Polly Mays, Joan & Don Merritt, Ralph Moldenhauer, M. Moore, Ernest & Kay Mueller, R.L. Neill, Bob Pope, Warren Pulich, Rena Ross, Rod Rylander (RRy), John Schmidt, Kenneth Seyffert, Sylvestre M. Sorola, Rich Stallcup, Darleen Stevens, Cliff Stogner, Rose Marie Stortz, J. Trochet, Barry Vermillion, Henry West, Geth O. White, C.C. Wiedenfeld, Iris Wiedenfeld, Scott Wilson, David Wolf, Jim Yantis.—**FRANCES WILLIAMS, Rt. 4, 2001 Broken Hills Rd. E., Midland TX 79701.**



Pat Lynch

SOUTH TEXAS REGION /John C. Arvin

Many observers commented on the consistently strong SE winds and consequent dearth of grounded nocturnally-migrating passerines during March and the first three weeks of April. The first real break in this pattern came April 23 as a low pressure trough and trailing cold front swept across coastal areas. In Corpus Christi by afternoon Kay McCracken reported that "birds were falling out of the sky." The entire Corpus Christi North Padre Island area was "loaded with everything." Similar conditions were experienced all along the coast from the Lower Rio Grande Valley (hereafter, L.R.G.V.) to the "migrant traps" around Galveston and High Island.



On the Upper Texas Coast Feltner and party, working the wooded patches along the coast between Galveston and Sabine Pass April 23-25, yielded the following totals: Gray Catbird 1500, Swainson's Thrush 500, Gray-cheeked Thrush 1500 [!], Black-and-white Warbler 400, Tennessee Warbler 1500, Black-throated Green Warbler 170, Northern Waterthrush 200, Ovenbird 600, Hooded Warbler 150, Northern Oriole 650 and Indigo Bunting 1500.

A series of fronts accompanied by rain continued to ground migrants through the first half of May. May 4-6 perhaps edged-out April 23-25 as the "best all-around" grounding of the spring of 1981. A strong front May 9-11 brought record low temperatures and a noteworthy "fallout" to the Upper Texas Coast (hereafter, U.T.C.).

Jim Morgan reported that following the passage of a squall line May 14, he recorded 100 Eastern Wood Pewees, 175 Magnolia Warblers, 115 Canada Warblers (a new U.T.C. record) and 80 American Redstarts at High Island. This movement was the last major grounding of migrants reported for the season.

Precipitation in the Region ranged from near normal to deficient through March and most of April but was ample-to-excessive in May. Surface water was restored to normal-to-high levels in most areas and conditions going into the breeding season seemed excellent.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS—A Red-throated Loon was reported at Offat's Bayou U.T.C., Mar. 1 (BF *et al.*). Rarer still, an Arctic Loon was found and photographed Apr. 3 at Rockport (AW) and was located independently Apr. 4 (CC). The Am. Flamingo that sojourned on islands in the upper Laguna Madre in recent springs was back again Mar. 17+ (JS). A Brant of the black race was found near Sabine Pass Mar. 15 where it remained at least through Apr. 11 (WG). The same, or a similar bird, appeared at the Bolivar Flats Apr. 17-18 (BL, RC *et al.*, ph. to T.P.R.F., GL). Two Surf Scoters were noted off High I., Apr. 9 (AW *et al.*).

RAPTORS—A few reports of migrating Swallow-tailed Kites are received almost every spring, but s. Texans and visitors were

totally unprepared for the unprecedented flight of 1981. One can trace the path of this conspicuous species N from the L.R.G.V., through the c. coast and E to the U.T.C., where it becomes diffuse, probably owing to the spreading of birds from the coastal prairies into the humid forests to the n. Reports came from Brownsville (up to 10 in a flock, *fide* NB), Harlingen (WP), Laguna Atascosa (GB) and Santa Ana N.W.R., and Bentsen S.P., in the L.R.G.V., Falfurrias (AO), and many sites in the Rockport-Aransas N.W.R. area where Clark compiled sightings of 49 individuals. At least one flock of 12 at Aransas N.W.R., was not included in his totals (SL). In all, the flight extended from about Mar. 9-Apr. 18. Are Swallow-tailed Kites explosively increasing in numbers and expanding their range as have White-tailed and Mississippi kites? If not, what influences funneled Swallow-tailed Kites along the Texas coast in numbers in 1981, a route only scattered individuals have elected to follow in the past?

Most observers omitted mention of Broad-winged Hawks so we must assume that no breathtaking concentrations were seen. Three thousand at Beeville Apr. 4 (JR, *fide* VG) seems to be the largest group reported. One hundred at Bentsen S.P., May 3 seems late for that many (JA).

QUAILS THROUGH GULLS—Scaled Quail occupied the coastal prairies from the c. coast to the Rio Grande in historic times but quit these areas about the turn of the century. It is with interest then that we note five Scaled Quail reported along US Hwy. 77 between Raymondville and Sarita Apr. 15 (JL). At Aransas N.W.R., Whooping Crane numbers dwindled from 72 adults and five immatures on Mar. 25 to two adults Apr. 27. One adult was still present June 25 (SL). Virginia Rails, although apparently fairly common migrants through the L.R.G.V., are seldom reported there. One was seen on S. Padre I., Apr. 11 and another at extensive flooded areas left by hurricane Allen w. of Mission Apr. 12 (JA). The two Jacanas present at these same flooded areas since December 1980 remained until about Apr. 26 (m.ob.). Much farther out of range was a single Jacana found near Gonzales Apr. 5 (DC) and still present Apr. 12 (EK).

The most intriguing report of the season, perhaps the year, was a very carefully detailed sighting of 23 birds believed to be **Eskimo Curlews** at Atkinson's I., Chambers Co. The birds were found by N.A.S. biologist David Blankinship and U.S.F.&W.S. biologist Kirke King. The date, May 7, is 4 days later than the latest spring date reported in Oberholser (1974, *The Birdlife of Texas*, Univ. of Texas Press, Austin). Details of the sighting will be published elsewhere. A remarkable 750 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported from w. Harris County May 10 (JE). A mixed

concentration of shorebirds near Anahuac Apr. 28 included 2000 Stilt Sandpipers, 2000 Long-billed Dowitchers, 1500 Lesser Yellowlegs, 100 Hudsonian Godwits, 50 Pectoral, 30 Baird's and 20 White-rumped sandpipers (RS).

Two Glaucous Gulls were in the Bolivar area well into May (ph., RS, m.ob.). Two others were recorded in early April at Port Aransas (CC), and a lone bird was sighted at Boca Chica beach, Cameron Co., Mar. 21 (P&JW). This species has become regular in very small numbers along the entire coast in the last 5 years. Perhaps part of the same trend, a **Great Black-backed Gull**, reported from Kemah on Galveston Bay Apr. 16 may have been the controversial bird seen there since November 1980. Although several birds have been reported as this species at various points along the coast in recent years, there seems to be no officially accepted record for the state. Details are said to be available (DH). Two **Thayer's Gulls** were very carefully and knowledgeably described from the Bolivar Flats Apr. 7 (AW).

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—A Red-billed Pigeon at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., Feb. 12 provided the refuge's first record in many years (ph., SJ). Elsewhere in the few riparian woodlands along the Rio Grande where the species still hangs on in minuscule numbers it seems to be down slightly from last year's encouraging count (JA). A **Green Violet-ear**, *Colibri thalassinus*, surprised and delighted upper coast observers by appearing at a feeder in Brazoria County May 26 (FH). It remained well into June for the eighth state (and U.S.) record and the first record for the U.T.C. The Buff-bellied Hummingbird may be extending its range NE along the coast. Its continued presence in the Corpus Christi area was noted (KM) and several birds have been present with nesting suspected at Aransas N.W.R. (SL). The present n. limit of the regularly occupied range is approximately Sarita, Kenedy Co. A Pileated Woodpecker, very rare visitor to the c. coast, was at Rockport Apr. 28 (CC). A Red-headed Woodpecker at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., May 6 seems to have been the southernmost of a major flight of this species S and W of its normal range (ph., SJ). It was also the first *documented* record for the L.R.G.V. A Downy Woodpecker in Corpus Christi Mar. 18 provided an unusual record (PR).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH MIMIDS—Apparently the sixth record for the state, a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** was found near Austin May 16 (EK, FSW *et al.*). It could not be relocated the following day. A Say's Phoebe was carefully studied at Hale Ranch S.P., Brazoria Co., Mar. 16 (G&BL). This U.T.C. site is considerably e. of the species' normal range. A wave of Least Flycatchers was noted along the Rio Grande estuary at Boca Chica May 2 (JA, RS). At least 40 were counted in a small area. Conversely, the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, normally the most common of the migrant *Epidonax* in spring in the L.R.G.V., was noted in singularly small numbers through the season (JA). A few Blue Jays, remnants of last fall's flight, lingered in the Corpus Christi and Rockport areas through the period. Perhaps these birds were the pioneers of a W range extension such as

the species has been undertaking in the plains states. The Brown Jay population in Starr County appeared stable, but no recent sightings of this species have been reported from the San Ygnacio, Zapata Co. area, where a few were seen off and on. A Com. Crow near Pawnee, n.w. Bee Co., May 24 was somewhat w. of that species' normal limits in our area (JA). Mexican Crow numbers dwindled from > 2000 in late winter to six by Apr. 25 at the Brownsville landfill. The species had retired to its breeding colonies in Tamaulipas entirely by May 1 (JA). A Curve-billed Thrasher, far n.e. of its usual haunts (except for the one or two that have frequented Galveston I., for several years), was found near High I., and carefully described by the Wolfs Apr. 23.

PIPITS THROUGH WARBLERS—Three Sprague's Pipits at Boca Chica Apr. 16 were the last seen in the area for the season (JA). Late was a Golden-crowned Kinglet at High I., Apr. 19 (BBe), a Ruby-crowned Kinglet May 11 in Houston (WC) and 25 Cedar Waxwings June 4 in Laredo (JB). Black-capped Vireos arrived Mar. 26 in the Austin area (EK). A **Black-whiskered Vireo**, furnishing Texas' second record, was present on Galveston I., Apr. 30-May 3 (PDH, SS *et al*). Full details were submitted. Another rare vireo, the Yellow-green, also turned up in its old haunts this spring at Santa Ana N.W.R. Four were mist-netted and banded May 20-June 1 incidental to a study of Bronzed Cowbird brood parasitism (MC). None of these birds was seen before or after capture and no singing was heard in the area. They are presumed to be "floaters" at the periphery of the species' range.

A Swainson's Warbler, first ever for Webb County, was "forced down by a heavy thunderstorm" May 24 (JB). It was held for recuperation 2 days and released. The date is

surprising as most of Texas' breeding Swainson's are on territory by mid-April. Another Swainson's Warbler attracted attention in the Austin area when CS found a singing bird May 3. A pair of Tropical Parulas was located at Bentsen S. P., Apr. 11 (JA) and thereafter (PN, m.ob.). If breeding occurred, it would mark the first known breeding attempt in the L.R.G.V., since 1966. All known breeding in the United States since that date has been by the too-well-known Sarita rest stop pair. Three Cape May Warblers on N. Padre I., May 1 (RS) and two Black-throated Blue Warblers at Galveston Apr. 22 (TG) were the best individual sightings of these normally Antillean-route migrants. One or two Townsend's Warblers appear every migration season as s. Texas is located very near the main route of this species. A female was at Santa Ana N.W.R., Apr. 15 (PN), and another female was seen on N. Padre I., May 1 (RS). Golden-cheeked Warblers arrived on territories Mar. 8 in the Austin area (BL).

ICTERIDS THROUGH FINCHES—Bobolinks were relatively commonly reported on the upper coast with flocks of up to 75 in the Galveston area (m.ob.). Five males were at Austin May 9 (EK). The Austin area also hosted flocks of 250 Yellow-headed Blackbirds Apr. 23 and 150 May 15 (GL). The major grounding of May 3-5 produced "thousands" of N. (Baltimore) Orioles throughout the Corpus Christi area (KM, PR). Large numbers of Com. Grackles moved into the Rockport area in March, peaking at 900 Mar. 25 (CC). A large nesting colony, surely the southernmost in the state, is located in the Guadalupe R. bottoms about 50 mi n.e. of Rockport. A flock of 70 Com. Grackles in Falfurrias through February and March were O'Neill's first in that area. Reports of Black-headed Grosbeaks were widespread with birds at Beeville (VG) and Corpus Christi in

March (KM) and a very late bird at Bolivar May 25 (TG). Lasley reported flocks of 150-200 Pine Siskins moving through the Austin area in March. Single siskins Apr. 26 at Bentsen S.P. (JA) and May 6 at Houston (RP) were the last reported this season. Very late were a Le Conte's Sparrow near Austin May 16 (GL) and a Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Bolivar May 20 (TG). Song Sparrows are rare from the c. coast s. Therefore Clark's repeated sightings of one to two birds through middle and late March are of interest. A ♂ Chestnut-collared Longspur in "almost breeding" plumage was reported in gratifying detail from Anahuac N.W.R., Mar. 21 (HK). There are very few records for this species on the upper coast.

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NORTHWESTERN CANADA /Helmut Grünberg

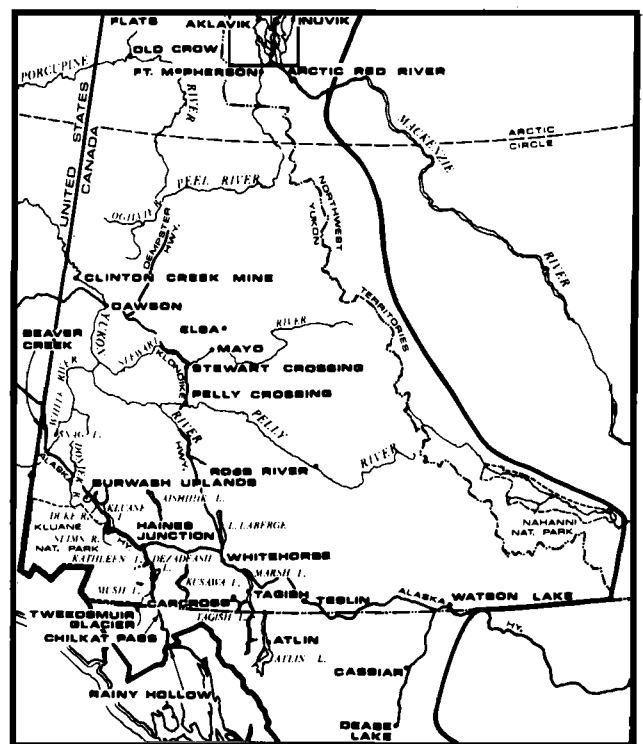
What a spring season! About one fourth of the bird species reported here were new for the area or consisted of accidental species. The reason for this influx of rarities may have been related to the weather conditions in areas south and southeast of the Region in this and in previous seasons. The total number of species reported by contributors was "only" 188 and would probably have been higher if the observers from southern parts of the Region had submitted complete species lists.

This report does not include observations from the far north because the observers in those isolated but rich areas had not returned to civilization at the time this report was prepared. Instead, we are pleased to include a substantial number of observations from the area around Fort St. John, northeastern British Columbia, an area that is located between three reporting Regions of *American Birds* and has therefore been neglected in the past. We appreciate having received the first set of valuable contributions from Chris Sidde.

The relatively warm months of January and February allowed the snow cover to melt early. A cool March and April may have stalled a few species south of our area and caused them to migrate through later and more quickly than usual. Waterfowl seemed to have been just about on time. Late migrants were apparently not affected at all by the weather pattern.

Habitat destruction and disturbances by industry and by motorized residents have drastically reduced the numbers of shorebirds observed near Fort St. John.

PELICANS THROUGH RAPTORS—Two White Pelicans were spotted at the confluence of Pine and



Peace R., May 14 (B & DC, *vide* CSI) The observation of an imm. **Double-crested Cormorant** at the s. end of Charlie L., Fort St. John area B.C., May 28 may have been the first Peace R. area record for this species (CSa, CSI). Since there were many areas of open water at the end of March and in April, swans were scattered over many lakes and rivers in the s. Yukon and were seen by many observers. A flock of 5000+ swans, presumably mostly Whistling Swans, was noted flying N at the Yukon Game Farm, n.w. of Whitehorse (BD, DN, US). The total number of Trumpeter Swans in the s. Yukon was probably a few hundred (m.ob.). The unusual sighting of an e. Brant (*Branta bernicla hrota*) was reported from km 80, Dempster Hwy., c. Yukon, where it was seen for several days in late May (NB, JO, *vide* RF). The first record for the Yukon of a **European Wigeon** came from the Yukon Game Farm as one ♂ bird was observed May 3 (BD, DN, US). The large influx of Redheads this spring in the s. Yukon was surprising. Redheads were observed in groups of 2-25 in many areas by many observers in April and early May.

A pair of Red-tailed Hawks including one of the Harlan's subspecies, was on territory in an area 10 km n. of Whitehorse May 29 (MBe, HG). The locally rare Broad-winged Hawk, stretching its range limit to the w., was observed 4 times (at least three different birds) in the Fort St. John area May 2-10 (CSI *et al.*). A Swainson's Hawk was seen near Whitehorse Apr. 26 (RCar). A few Gyrfalcons were reported from the Yukon Game Farm and the Haines Rd., during migration (BD, DN, US) while only one Peregrine, observed on the Haines Rd., was seen this season (SFL, *vide* DN).

COOTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—Yukon observations of the uncommon Am. Coot were as follows: one along the Klondike Hwy., c. Yukon May 5 (DMO, *vide* RF), one on a pond n. of Carcross May 11 (RCar, NW) and four on Swan L., 20 km n. of Whitehorse, May 24 (MBe, LE, HG, TM). Five Baird's Sandpipers were seen in Whitehorse around May 10 (MBe), and two were observed at Swan L., May 24 (MBe, LE, HG, TM). A Short-billed Dowitcher was noted at Klaune L., near Duke Meadows May 14 (WH). Swan L. had up to ten or more individuals May 24+ (MBe, LE, HG, TM). Five Hudsonian Godwits, considered to be casual migrants in the Peace R. area, were reported from Cecil L., Fort St. John area Apr. 29 (CSI). Yukon observations of the rare Wilson's Phalarope were again made at Swan L., where this species is known to nest. It was noted May 15+ and outnumbered all other shorebirds May 30 with 18+ individuals (MBe, HG). The uncommon California, Ring-billed and Franklin's gulls were reported in small numbers from Charlie L., Fort St. John area (CSI). Two Ring-billed Gulls were also noted at Hay Camp Prairies, Ft. Smith area, N.W.T., May 1 (SO).

Snowy Owls were reportedly fairly regular near the Yukon/N.W.T. border along the Dempster Hwy. (BS, *vide* RF). A rare observation of one individual was made in Wood Buffalo N.P., Mar. 16 (SO). The first report for the Region of a **Saw-whet Owl** was obtained this season as one was calling near

Telegraph Cr., n.w. B.C., Apr. 17-18 (HG).

The first Rufous Hummingbird arrived at Graham Inlet, n. B.C., in its nesting area May 1. One male and one female were reported thereafter (MBr). A Pileated Woodpecker was seen in Wood Buffalo N.P., Mar. 9 (SO), and one was noted at Liard Hotsprings, n. B.C., May 27 (RCan, SC, LV). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers appear to have been fairly common in the s. Yukon. Two individuals of the *ruber* race were seen near Telegraph Cr., n.w. B.C., Apr. 18 (HG, PM).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS—Confusion reigns again with respect to Alder and Willow flycatchers. RF and HG observed independently in c. and s. Yukon that the birds which were assumed to be Alder Flycatchers called the two-syllabled "fits-bew", and only occasionally did they sing a slurred "fee-be-o" that sounded more like "fee-beer" as indicated in Godfrey's *The Birds of Canada* (1966). From Liard Hotsprings, a Hammond's Flycatcher was reported without details May 28 (RCan, SC, LV). Another *Empidonax* flycatcher was identified as Dusky Flycatcher by voice and habitat 10 km n. of Whitehorse May 24 & 30 (MBe, HG).

Seven swallow species in the Yukon was certainly a new record for one season. A Rough-winged Swallow was briefly seen near Whitehorse in late May (MBe). Among a cloud of swallows at Swan L., a **Purple Martin** was picked out and identified beyond doubt (second record for the Yukon) May 30 (MBe, HG).

One to three Mountain Chickadees was observed in Whitehorse at the same feeder as reported in fall 1980 and winter 1980-81. The three were seen throughout March and until Apr. 17 (D & LS). A **White-breasted Nuthatch** ventured N of its normal range and appeared at the mouth of the Halfway R., Fort St. John area, where it was observed for over an hour Apr. 26 (CSI). The report of a flock of 50+ Cedar Waxwings along the Atlin Rd., Mar. 28 (DS) sent the Regional Editor to the telephone, only to have confirmed that the observer was sure he had not mistaken it for a flock of Bohemian Waxwings.

VIREOS THROUGH SPARROWS—Two Solitary Vireos were noted at Liard Hotsprings May 27-28 (RCan, SC, LV). Two singing Red-eyed Vireos were seen at Beaton P. P., Fort St. John area May 23. Thereafter, the species became common in the area (CSI). About three Warbling Vireos were observed near Swan L., 20 km n. of Whitehorse May 29-30 (MBe, HG). Three were noted at Liard Hotsprings May 27 (RCan, SC, LV). The uncommon Magnolia Warbler made its appearance at Liard Hotsprings May 27 (RCan, SC, LV). A ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler, rare in the Fort St. John area, was "squeaked out" of white spruce and balsam poplar at Beaton P. P., May 23 and was seen here again May 28, very close to the place where this species had been observed July 10, 1980 (CSI). A Palm Warbler and Ovenbird were observed at Liard Hotsprings May 27 (RCan, SC, LV). The latter species was also seen and heard in several places near Fort St. John May 18+ (CSI) and was noted less than 10 km s. of the Yukon border along the Alaska Hwy., in

B.C., May 28 (SC) Who is going to report the Ovenbird for the Yukon for the first time?

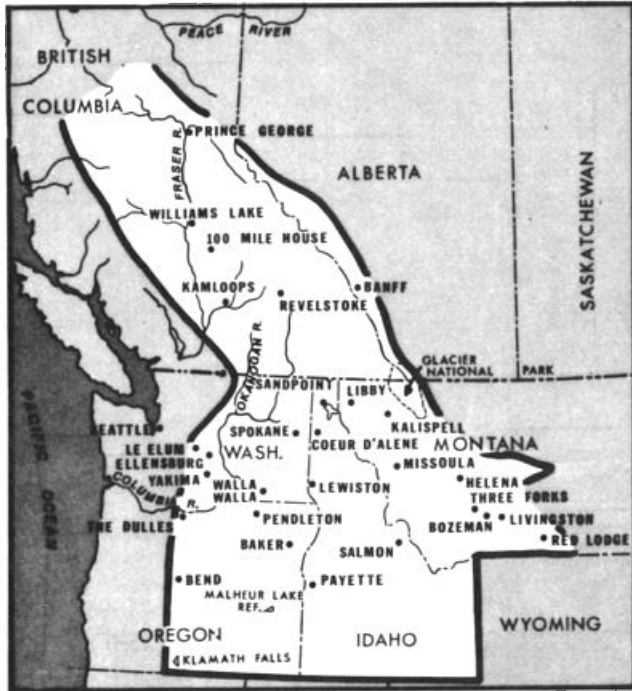
Two singing ♂ N. (Baltimore) Orioles, at least two pairs of Brewer's Blackbirds, a W. Tanager, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak and several Evening Grosbeaks were observed at Liard Hotsprings May 27-28 (RCan, SC, LV). These are all species that are accidental or unreported in the Yukon which is only 60 km farther n. The first observation of a **Northern (Baltimore) Oriole** in the Yukon in 1980 should be mentioned in this connection. One ♂ bird was seen and heard singing (SFo) June 11, 1980, at the Yukon Game Farm and was observed for 2-3 weeks thereafter. The observation was confirmed by 5 other people (B&PF, DFO, DN, US). The suspected but unconfirmed observation of a group of Cassin's Finches at a feeder in Teslin, Yukon, mixed with a group of Purple Finches (LG) is mentioned here to encourage birdwatchers to document rare sightings by photographs and/or detailed descriptions. The second and third record for the Yukon of a **Clay-colored Sparrow** was obtained this spring. SC heard and saw two or more males in willow scrub at Teslin Airport beside the runway May 28. Independent from this observation, MBe and HG heard and saw one male in arctic dwarf birch scrub at Swan L., May 30. If only one of the 10 photos taken from 8-10 m distance turns out well, we will have a well-documented record of this species. The observation of Song Sparrows was reported from Atlin, B.C., May 27 (KJ).

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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

The extremely mild "nonwinter" carried over into March, although precipitation varied from very wet to very dry in the subregions. April varied from cold and wet to normal temperatures and normal to low precipitation but May was cool and wet practically Region-wide. Bozeman, Montana



reported an unusually large number of record-early arrivals in May. Fortine, Montana, had many early arrival dates for March and April and the South Okanogan Valley of British Columbia also listed several early arrivals among the earlier migrants. Elsewhere timing apparently was near normal. Heavy May precipitation appeared to make up for the severe moisture deficiency of the winter.

LOONS AND GREBES—An Arctic Loon was photographed on Carty Res., at the power plant at Boardman, Ore., May 5 (RJK). A pair of Red-necked Grebes was nesting at Wilmer, B.C., May 28 (LH) and a pair was on Spectacle L., Okanogan Co., Wash., May 12 (JD). Seven of this species were back on their Upper Klamath L., Ore., breeding area by Apr. 4 (SS) and on the same date the birds had returned to Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida. (LDN). The species appeared to be 2-3 times as numerous as in 1980 in Lincoln County, Mont. (CW). One at Salmon, Ida., May 7 was the second ever there for Roberts. Lake Windermere, B.C., had at least 1100 W. Grebes May 11 (LH) and Moses L., Wash., had 57 nests of the birds May 14 (JT).

PELICANS THROUGH IBISES—White Pelicans numbered 100 on Am. Falls Res., on the Snake R., in Idaho Apr. 23 (CHT) and four were at Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, Ida., May 23 (EB). Up to 35 were along the Portneuf R., below Pocatello, Ida., in May (DT). About 30 were present on Frenchman Hills Wasteway w. of Potholes Res., s.w. of Moses L., May 8 (RF). A Brown Pelican flying along the Boise R., Mar. 19 furnished the third sighting for the area from near Eagle, Ida., to Lucky Peak Res. (LK). Potholes Res., listed ten nesting pairs of Double-crested Cormorants May 2 (RF). Mann's L., near Lewiston, Ida., listed a single bird of this species May 31 (R & GB) and the Kootenai R., above Libby, Mont., harbored a pair May 21-28 (CW). Six were at the mouth of Ladd Cr., near La Grande, Ore.,

Apr. 24-May 4 (BR, GS et al.).

A Great Blue Heron colony discovered at the e. end of Moyie L., w. of Cranbrook, B.C., comprised 13 nests May 5 (MVV). The colony at Otter L., near Armstrong, B.C. comprised 41 birds Mar. 8 (JG) but the heronry at Wilmer, B.C., was unoccupied (LH). Potholes Res., listed about 400 nesting pairs of Great Blues and 800 pairs of Black-crowned Night Herons (RF). A Cattle Egret appeared near Hermiston, Ore., Apr. 23 (C&MC, NB) and four were in the Rupert, Ida., area (WHS). A single bird was at Calispell L., Pend Oreille Co., Wash., March-May 10 (JN) and up to three in breeding plumage were

s. of Merrill, Ore., May 8-9 (SS). Nine Great Egrets were back at Potholes Res., Apr. 26 (SJ) and one was along the Columbia R., near Umatilla, Ore., Apr. 23 (MC) and Apr. 25 (B.M.A.S.). A single bird upriver from Walter's Ferry, Owyhee Co., Ida., May 6 was the first ever recorded there in spring and only the second ever (JSM) and one in the Rupert area was noteworthy (WHS). One appeared at Pend Oreille L., just s. of Sandpoint, Ida., May 11 (KH). Snowy Egrets in the Pocatello area were down to only three; Mexican pesticide use was suspected (CHT). Three White-faced Ibises fed in an irrigated pasture along Hwy. 28, 4 mi e. of Winchester, Wash., June 3-8 (RF).

WATERFOWL—The largest concentration of Whistling Swans reported was 1000 at Calispell L., in early April (*vide* DD). Trumpeter Swans at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., were down to four birds (JRR). Ennis L., near Ennis, Mont., listed perhaps 50 in a flock of about 500 swans (PDS). Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., censused 247 Trumpeters in Centennial Valley May 5 for a 25% decrease from last year but nesting there looked good with 42 active nests (RRS). Many Canada Geese were nesting on boxes set up for them at Wilmer Wildlife Area, Wilmer, B.C. (LH). Canadas peaked at 7000 at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash.; 250 at Turnbull; 415 at Kootenai N.W.R., and 150 at Deer Flat N.W.R. A field near Carty Res., had four White-fronted Geese Apr. 28 (RJK). Some 15,000 Snow Geese were migrating over Council Valley, Council, Ida., Mar. 28 (G.E.A.S.). A Snow Goose stopped at Carty Res., Mar. 26 (RJK). Kootenai N.W.R., had an unusual visit by two Snow Geese in April. They were joined for a week in late April by a Ross' Goose (LDN). One sub-ad. Snow Goose and two Ross' were near Reardan, Wash., Apr. 26 (WH & BW) and another Ross' joined them Apr. 29; one Ross' was still there May 3 (JA). One Ross' with a

broken leg was at Ladd Marsh W.M.A., La Grande May 5 (JE).

Ducks peaked at 15,000 in March at Columbia N.W.R., the late May breeding pair survey there indicating a 10% increase over 1980 (JC). At Turnbull N.W.R., duck pair counts indicated 30-40% more pairs than before the May 1980 ashfall. Duck production there last year was 50-60% below that expected (JRR). The pair of Eur. Wigeons that wintered at Walla Walla, Wash., was last seen Apr. 5 (B.M.A.S.). A male was at Armstrong, B.C., Mar. 31 (EL) and another was on W. Medical L., Spokane Co., Wash., Apr. 15 (JA). One of this species appeared on Carty Res., Mar. 26 (RJK) and a male was seen at Kootenai N.W.R., Apr. 9 & 19 (LDN). Four vagrant Ring-necked Ducks stopped at Grays L., Apr. 23 (DT). A Greater Scaup appeared on L. Entiat, Entiat, Wash., Apr. 8 (PC). Harlequin Ducks in the Libby, Mont., area were at least 3 times as numerous as in 1980 and more widespread (CW). A pair appeared on the Chewelah, Wash., sewage ponds Apr. 18 (JN). Three ad. males were sighted on upper McDonald Cr., Glacier N.P., Mont., Apr. 30-May 4. One wore a red band on the left leg and another, a yellow band on the right (JDe). The only White-winged Scoters reported were two on the duck count, Hatch L., Colville, Wash. (first spring record in 5 years' counts—(SZ, W.D.G.); two males and a female on the Colville sewage ponds May 25 (JN), and a female on the Link R., Klamath Falls, Ore., May 9 (SS). A pair of Hooded Mergansers was nesting in a Wood Duck nest box near Cardwell, Mont., in late May for the first breeding record for that area (RLE). A ♀ Red-breasted Merganser was carefully observed on the Columbia R., at Priest Rapids Dam e. of Yakima Mar. 17 (EH) and a female was in the Link R.-Ewauna, Ore. vicinity May 2-9 (SS). One was on Carty Res., May 5 (RJK). Several of the species were on the Snake R., below Am. Falls Res., Apr. 2 and three males were on Blackfoot Res., Apr. 25, both in Idaho (DT). Alkali L., Grant Co., Wash., had four males and two females Apr. 19 (JA).

VULTURES AND HAWKS—A Turkey Vulture n. of Eureka, Mont., Apr. 12 and again a week later was one of very few ever reported for Lincoln County (CW). Five active Goshawk nests were found in Lincoln County (CW). Three sightings of Swainson's Hawk were in the Yakima area (Y.A.S.), one near Telford, Wash. (W.D.G.) and two in s.w. Idaho (G.E.A.S.). Four nesting pairs were in the Walla Walla vicinity (B.M.A.S.) and two active nests were located in the Boardman area (RJK). Ferruginous Hawks had two nests in the Boardman vicinity (RJK) and 18 nesting pairs were reported in Franklin County, Wash. (W.D.G.). Sixteen active Golden Eagle nest sites were found in Okanogan County, Wash. (W.D.G.). A few Bald Eagles, including three pairs at nests, were noted in the Brisco-Radium Hot Springs-Wilmer, B.C., area (LH). Four pairs of Ospreys were also nesting in that area (LH). A rare sighting of an Osprey was made at Columbia N.W.R., Apr. 6 (JR) and two appeared near Crow Butte S.P., w. of Pater-

son, Wash., Apr. 27 (REW) The Okanogan R., below Oroville, Wash., had three nesting pairs (RF) and a pair was nestbuilding on the Salmon R., near Salmon, Ida., for apparently a new breeding locality (HBR). Only one Peregrine Falcon was reported.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS—Sharp-tailed Grouse numbers in Lincoln County, Wash., were comparable to last year's, despite volcano and heavy rain problems (JN). About 100 were near Twin Springs C.G., Oneida Co., Ida., Apr. 16 (DT). In the Eureka, Mont., area the species' numbers were about double those of 1980 (CW). A Sage Grouse lek, one of many in the Shoshone, Ida., area, had 20 birds Apr. 4 (JR). The lek at Virtue Flat e. of Baker, Ore., had a peak population of about 75 Apr. 20 (JE) and five were seen on Crescent Valley Ranch s. of Wilbur, Wash. (JHi). At Rupert, Sage Grouse numbers were believed to be one third of last year's (WHS). A pair of Scaled Quail was sighted Mar. 14 just n. of the Juhiper Forest n.e. of Pasco, Wash., Mar. 14 (WH & REW) and a single bird was found there May 25 (REW & CWO). Scattered reports of 1-30 Turkeys came from Lincoln County, Mont. (CW) and up to 23 were seen in the Prairie, Ida., area (PCo).

CRANES THROUGH COOTS—Three ♂ Whooping Cranes were back at Grays Lake N.W.R., s.e. Ida., by Apr. 23. Plans were for a female to be introduced from the captive flock at Patuxent Research Ref., Md., (DT). A banded imm. Whooper, presumably from Grays L., dropped in with Sandhill Cranes at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., in mid-April and remained into May (RRS). A rare occurrence was of 200 Sandhills feeding on Columbia N.W.R., for about 5 weeks (JC). Pleasant Valley between Libby and Kalispell, Mont., had two pairs of ad. Sandhills plus a single bird. One pair was feeding an imm. bird. Last year only three adults were seen and their young were killed by vandals (CW). Ladd Marsh W.M.A., the only e. Oregon locality with Sandhills, saw about five of the birds arrive Mar. 3 (JE.). Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., had a **Common Gallinule** May 23 (AC). American Coot numbers peaked at 11,000 at Turnbull N.W.R., Apr. 10.

SHOREBIRDS—A remarkable occurrence of an **American Oystercatcher**, described in detail, was 3 mi n. of Fruitland, Ida., Apr. 18 (D & JS). A flooded field s. of Merrill, Ore., hosted a flock of 100 Black-bellied Plovers May 3 (SS). A pair at the Yakima R. mouth Apr. 29 provided Bob Woodley's second-ever spring record and one at Rupert, Ida., was Shillington's first-ever. On the Black Canyon nesting grounds in the Snake R. valley n.w. of Caldwell, Ida., only 69 Long-billed Curlews were counted., vs. 350 three years ago. Agriculture has made some encroachment; the Bureau of Land Management has sponsored a study during the last three seasons (G.E.A.S.). The species was believed to be stable in the N. Okanogan Valley from Vernon to Grindrod, B. C.; 46 adults and two chicks were counted May 18 (N.O.N.C.). Two **Whimbrels** were sighted s. of Merrill, Ore., May 9 (SS). No more than two Upland Sandpipers were sighted on the nesting grounds in the Spokane Valley e. of Spokan

(JA, JAd) Three Solitary Sandpipers at the Joseph, Ore., sewage ponds were noteworthy (FC). A Pectoral Sandpiper at a marsh 7 mi s. and 5 mi e. of George, Wash., May 9 was the first in spring for that area (PA). The Yakima R. mouth had up to 70 Dunlin with the peak Apr. 5 (REW); one, with a Sanderling, at the Joseph sewage ponds, was unusual (FC). A flock of 30 Short-billed Dowitchers stopped in a flooded field s. of Merrill, Ore., May 3 (SS). Two Semipalmated Sandpipers at Fortine, Mont., May 6 were Weydemeyer's first since 1928 and provided only his second record ever there. Nine at Indian Creek Res., s.e. of Boise May 3 apparently furnished the second record for s. Idaho (J & NH). Fifty Am. Avocets at the Yakima R. mouth Apr. 19 were Woodley's highest number ever there and one s. of Chewelah, Wash., May 23 was the first for that latilong (JN). A remarkable 33 Black-necked Stilts appeared n. of Winchester wasteway w. of Moses L., May 10 (JT) and four were s. of Frenchman Hills wasteway s.w. of Potholes Res., May 2 (RF). Seven were sighted at the Potholes Res., Apr. 12 (Y.A.S.). Two were near Hermiston, Ore., Apr. 23 for Corder's first n.e. Oregon record; four were near Boardman Apr. 15 (RJK), and nine were at Ladd Cr. mouth, La Grande May 26-28 for n.e. Oregon's second record (JE). Two were seen Apr. 30 at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., for a rare sighting (RRS).

Priest Rapids Dam on the Columbia R., had an imm. Glaucous-winged Gull Mar. 17 (EH). A Herring Gull at the Joseph sewage ponds May 20 was n.e. Oregon's first (FC) and a Franklin's there May 12 & 17 provided the county's second and third sightings (BJ, FC). Four Bonaparte's Gulls, unusual in spring in Idaho, were on Stone Res., near Holbrook (CHT) and three were at Fortine May 6 for the second spring record there (WW). Unusual were two Caspian Terns at Enterprise, Ore., and three at Joseph's sewage ponds both Apr. 26 (FC). Rare sightings were of four Black Terns at La Grande May 5 (JE, GS) and three at Joseph May 14 (FC).

PIGEONS AND OWLS—Sightings of Band-tailed Pigeons increased. One was 3.5 km n. of Bruneau Sand Dunes S.P., Owyhee Co., Ida., Apr. 28 (JSM). In Oregon four appeared in a city park at La Grande May 2 (JE) and the species was seen near Hermiston Mar. 25 (CC). Washington Hardy Canyon along Wenas Cr., s.w. of Ellensburg had one Apr. 28 (PH & MR) and one was in Cheney Apr. 18 (FBH). Vernon, B.C., had one May 16 (MCo).

A Barn Owl nesting burrow in the Okanogan R. bank at the river's mouth, n.c. Washington, with five young May 27 and a nesting burrow in a bank above Chief Joseph Dam to the s.e., Apr. 9 provided the first conclusive evidence of breeding in that area (VM, PF). The only Flammulated Owl reported was of one heard May 12 at Freezeout Saddle s.e. of Imnaha, Ore., sec. 19-20, T2s R49E Wallowa Co., Ore., (JAp). A pair of Great Horned Owls was found Mar. 9 nesting in a hole in a clay bank along the Columbia R., near Athamer, B.C. (LH). Burrowing Owls in the Boise-Nampa area were reported suffering from offroad vehicles and a last year's nesting area in now a feed lot (G.E.A.S.). A Barred Owl was found about

May 1 and again May 7 & 9 just outside Mountain Lakes Wilderness, 19 mi w. of Klamath Falls, for the first county record and apparently the southernmost for the Pacific states (EF, SS). One was calling on Mt. Harris near Elgin, Ore., Apr. 4 (RR) and a fledgling was picked up near Sherman Pass, Ferry Co., Wash. (*vide* JN). In Montana one was heard at Glacier N.P. headquarters Apr. 29 (JD) and seven pair locations in Lincoln County were confirmed (CW). A Great Gray Owl appeared on several dates in March-April near Pinantan, n.e. of Kamloops, B.C. (GB). A lone bird was at the nesting area on Spring Cr., n.w. of La Grande; the nesting platform there has been continually vandalized this spring while U.S. F. & W.S. personnel attempt to restore it (JE). Saw-whet Owls appeared more common than previously thought in Lincoln County, Mont., where firewood cutters were falling dead trees and finding helpless young (CW). Three nesting pairs occupied nest boxes put out for Am. Kestrels in Cold Springs Canyon, n.c. Ore., (PD, LC, SM). At Boise-Cascade C.G., on Wenas Cr., s.w. of Ellensburg, three young perched near a nest hole May 24 (Y.A.S) and two adults were being scolded by smaller birds in Davenport, Wash. cemetery May 9 (JA). The species was believed breeding in the Chewelah area (JN).

POOR-WILLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS—A Poor-will was calling at Kinny Cr., Bannock Co., Ida., Apr. 30 (DT) and two were near Brooks Memorial S.P., Satus Pass, Klickitat Co., Wash., May 20 (Y.A.S) for the only reports. The third sighting of the Black Swift for n.e. Oregon was at Imnaha May 15 (JAp) and a probable sighting of one over Bozeman would be only the second for that latilong (JS & RW). White-throated Swifts appeared again around the cliffs along the Spokane R., just below Spokane; three were sighted May 23 (JA). Ten were seen in Snake R. Birds of Prey Natural Area s.w. of Nampa Apr. 25 (NH) and several appeared near Twin Falls, Ida., May 16 (JR). Up to four Black-chinned Hummingbirds were reported in the Boise-Nampa area in May (LM, J & NH, BS). A very rare sighting of the Broad-tailed Hummingbird was of a male at a La Grande feeder May 19-20 & 30 (J & WB *et al.*).

WOODPECKERS AND FLYCAT-CHERS—Lewis' Woodpecker numbers looked encouraging, with possible increases in the Rupert, Ida. area (WHS) and apparently steady numbers in e. Washington, n.c. Oregon and n.w. Montana. One at Fortine May 10 was the first sighted in about 10 years; they formerly were common breeders there (WW). Two singing ♂ Least Flycatchers were carefully observed and their songs recorded May 10-31 at Sun Mt. Lodge 8 mi s. of Winthrop, Wash. (EH) and one was found at Okanogan Falls, B.C., May 22 (SRC). Three ♂ Gray Flycatchers were heard May 23 on the Colochkum Pass road n.e. of Ellensburg for a new locality for the species (EH).

JAYS THROUGH THRUSHES—A Blue Jay lingered at a feeder near Chewelah, Wash., until early March (JN) and one was heard and seen in Omak, Wash., Mar. 11 &

13 (SJo). One was sighted near Fortine May 4 (WW) and one stayed at Half Round Bay 10 mi n. of Harrison, Ida., for a month in late March-early April (GN). Plain Titmice were common in the Rupert area for the only report (WHS). a pair of Bushtits was nest-building May 16 along Poison Cr., 42 km s. of Grandview, Ida. (JSM). On the Birds of Prey Study Area along the Snake R., s.e. of Swan Falls Dam, Owyhee Co., Ida., a **Mockingbird** was sighted for the third record there (JSM). Many sightings were made of both Mountain and W. bluebirds in the Yakima area, particularly in the foothills to the w. Nest boxes in the Wenas Cr. area were major attractions. Mountain Bluebirds appeared to be doing well in the Kimberley, B.C. area (MVW). However, W. Bluebirds were completely missing in Lincoln County, Mont., and Mountain Bluebird sightings there were down 75% from last year (CW).

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH BLACK-BIRDS—A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher appeared at Massacre Rocks S.P., Power Co., Ida., May 3 & 21 (DT) and a pair was seen near Twin Falls May 17 (JR). A ♂ Black-and-white Warbler near Fortine May 11-12 was the first ever for that part of Montana (WW). A ♀ Black-and-white and one or two Tennessee Warblers appeared at Malheur N.W.R., May 22 (AC) and a Tennessee was near Vernon, B.C., May 11 (MCo). Single Virginia's Warblers were sighted at Kinny Cr., Bannock Co., Ida., Apr. 30 & May 17 (DT) and at least a dozen were observed at Silent City of Rocks, Cassia Co., Ida., May 29-30 (JSM). A Black-throated Blue Warbler showed up at Malheur N.W.R., May 19 (NB). An ad. ♀ Black-throated Green Warbler at Bozeman May 17 was the first for mountainous Montana (PDS, RW, JS) and an ad. ♂ Blackburnian Warbler s. of Bozeman was the second for Montana's mountains and the state's sixth (JS, PDS, RW, ETH, SC, WB). Ovenbirds were found in summer habitat at Bozeman May 31 (PDS) and one was sighted along the Bruneau R., 2 km n.w. of Bruneau May 28 (JSM). Common Yellowthroats were reported only from the Nampa area (G.E.A.S.), Rupert (WHS), and

the mouth of the Walla Walla R., near Wallula, Wash., (B.M.A.S.).

Very unusual was a ♂ Bobolink near Trail, B.C., May 17 (ME). In Montana two males were on territory, one in Tobacco Plains n. of Eureka and one near the Clark Fork R., near the Idaho-Montana border (CW). One near Twin Falls, Ida., was apparently the first for the latilong (JR).

FINCHES AND SPARROWS—A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak near Nakusp, B.C., May 16 was highly unusual (GD). One was sighted in Bozeman May 16-17 (ETH, SC, JS, PDS, RW) and a male was photographed in Boise May 25 (BK & JSM). A Blue Grosbeak was reported near Buhl, Ida., in May (*vide* JR). Two Indigo Buntings, one with some white in its breast, were in flocks of Lazulis the third week of May at Pocatello (JJ, CHT) and one visited a Rupert feeder for 3 days (WHS). A Purple Finch was noted in Helena where it is very rare (PM) and near Dixie, Wash. (PD, SM). One or two appeared at 3 locations in the foothills w. of Yakima (Y.A.S.). House Finches were reported as uncommon at Helena (GH) and were seen May 2 near Fortine (WW).

A Green-tailed Towhee in La Grande May 3-4 was the first in more than 10 years (JE, GS). One was observed s.w. of Oreana, Ida., May 23 (A & HL). A field near Libby, Mont., hosted an ad. ♂ Lark Bunting in mid-May (CW). A singing Baird's Sparrow on the Tobacco Plains n. of Eureka May 10 was the first ever for the latilong (WW). An ad. Black-throated Sparrow at Wallowa L., Joseph May 9 and 12-13 was the first ever for n.e. Oregon (BJ, LG *et al.*) and a sagebrush area near Ephrata, Wash., had a singing male May 27 for apparently the third state sighting (RM & PE). Mink Creek R., s. of Pocatello had two Gray-headed Juncos May 7 (DT). Clay-colored Sparrows arrived at Vernon May 16 (JG) and a singing male was closely observed in La Grande May 26 in the company of many Brewer's Sparrows, which normally are only vagrants there (JE). An imm. Harris' Sparrow at Walla Walla May 10 (SM) and an adult at Pullman, Wash., May 19 (JW W) were the only ones reported. A few

Golden-crowned Sparrows migrated through e. Washington, with sightings in the Yakima area, at Boise-Cascade C.G., Wapato, Davenport, and Richland. They were also seen at Hermiston, Ore.

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MOUNTAIN WEST REGION

/Hugh E. Kingery

This year adumbrated a normal spring: below average numbers and variety. The season "came in like a lion and went out like another" (BR). Yet, by May 31 the Region reported one new state bird and three new state breeding birds (two of which failed to fledge young). The Boreal Owl population in the northern Colorado Rockies finally yielded confirmation of nesting, the second in the coterminous 48 states. On the northeastern Colorado plains, a pair of Vermilion Flycatchers nested, and the Common Grackle continues to spread west, abetting a two-pronged assault on the Region by two species of grackle.

March and April produced hot temperatures and little moisture; then May cooled off and produced lots of moisture. In Denver, even though May was the 66th consecutive month with above average temperatures, it was also the wettest May since 1973 (3.76") and the first month since 1972 in which the sun shone less than 50% of daytime hours (actually 47%). If weather affects the character of bird migration in our Region, it re-



sulted in earlier migrant arrival dates, less variety, and lower numbers.

Species counts in the four states reflect this analysis: the Region had its second lowest total in 7 years. We reported 364 species: 313 from Colorado, 264 from Utah, 260 from Wyoming, and 257 from Nevada. The four states had 175 species in common. Regional variety seems to depend on Colorado: although Wyoming had its highest tally in 7 years and Utah and Nevada had their second highest counts, Colorado, like the Region, had its second lowest.

RARE BIRDS—The *raison d'être* of *American Birds* relies on field observations—and the valuable information which amateur birdwatchers can provide. Our birding fraternity gets excited about rare birds—and it's easier for Regional Editors to write about them than to discern trends and patterns.

The Regional Editor's hardest chore is handling reports of rarities. Even though we ask for written descriptions, many records of interest come in with no details, some with passable details, but most with quite good descriptions. These descriptions are like legal briefs: they must convince a detached observer.

(The irony of this problem is that in the long run I think one rare bird has far less significance than a collection of observations of a species or a group of species . . . if only we had data to quantify that sort of material, on a timely-enough basis for *AB*.)

To address this, I have adopted a new notation this season for records received either without, or without persuasive, descriptions or photographs. The symbol "†" next to the observer's initials will signify that the report submitted did not include a description received by my deadline.

GREBES TO IBISES—A Red-necked Grebe among 92 Westerns at Granby, Colo., May 31 gave Colorado its first W. Slope record in some years (†DJ). The Denver area recorded numbers of Horned Grebes Mar. 1-May 3 with peak 150 Apr. 5. In contrast, Utah had its usual big concentrations of Eareds: 200 at Minersville and 2000 on Great Salt L., Apr. 4 (SH, MW), building up to a peak of 100,000 at Great Salt L., May 31 (JB). Sheridan, Wyo., likewise reported many Eareds—324 May 10 (HD). For the first time, observers reported 'light-phase' W. Grebes, from Bear R., Denver, and Pueblo, Colo. (U.F.O., HK, RB). The A.O.U. may recognize the two phases as separate species; we encourage our observers to try to separate them, since both occur in the Mountain West. According to Kaufman, "The face-pattern is the most diagnostic point of difference: in dark-phase birds the black of the crown extends down to below the eye and lores, while the light birds have white extending up onto the lores and to above the eye. This difference is accentuated by the bill color, dull greenish yellow in the dark birds and rather bright yellow-orange in the light ones. Both forms are deep black on the crown and on the stripe down the nape, but light birds have narrower nape stripes (thus appearing more extensively white on the sides of the neck) and tend to be paler (*i.e.*, grayer, less blackish) on the back and more extensively white on the flanks." (*Continental Birdlife*

188, see also *Auk* 96 573 and *Living Bird* 4.59). Ranges of the 2 forms are unknown.

Pelican L. near Randlett, Utah, hosted the first reported colony of nesting Double-crested Cormorants in n.e. Utah, with 10 nests May 2 and 18 on June 27 (R&ES). A **Little Blue Heron** at Bondurant in May provided Wyoming its second sight record (TA, *fide* †BO). Observations of Green Herons dropped (only eight from the Region) while those of Cattle Egrets continued to increase. Utah reported 45, ranging from St. George to Fish Springs to Vernal. Colorado mentioned 16, all in the Front Range except one at Monte Vista N.W.R., in April (JK). Nevada reported only seven migrants, at Las Vegas. The Great Egret May 7 at Jackson furnished Wyoming's fifth record, all in the last 3 years (BR†). Regional reports of White-faced Ibis increased by 50% this year; they are nesting at Bear R., Ruby L., and San Luis Valley, Colo. Wyoming reported unusual flocks such as 87 at Big Piney May 2 and 25 at Laramie Apr. 18 (JRo, DM).

WATERFOWL—In Utah ducks maintained numbers comparable to last year; the peak of migration saw 336,185 ducks in the state's refuges Mar. 1-15, 40% of them Pintails. Whistling Swans peaked at 25,021 during the same period. A few appeared in s. Wyoming where they are uncommon—three at Hutton Lake N.W.R., Mar. 29-Apr. 4 and four at Laramie Apr. 3 (DM, MSt). A Trumpeter was at Price, Utah, Mar. 7 (†JB). Ross' Geese appeared at 3 widely-spaced sites: nine at Mendon, Utah, Mar. 1-15 (†SV), three Apr. 1 at Washington, Utah, with four Snows (MBr, BPa, MWa), and six at Delta, Colo., Mar. 10-12 (†MJ). Blue-winged Teal have become regular, though sparse, migrants in Utah; this year we had reports of over 50. A Eur. Wigeon visited Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo., Apr. 5 (†SW). The two Wood Ducks at Dubois May 18 gave that latilong its first record (†TF). The two ♂ Barrow's Goldeneyes at Delta Mar. 5 filled a gap in another latilong (†MJ). The White-winged Scoter found during the winter at Antelope I., Great Salt L., stayed through Mar. 6 (JB) and one passed through Las Vegas May 4 (VM).

HAWKS, EAGLES—Utah observers continued to conduct informative hawk studies. A "hawk reconnaissance" by U.F.O. along a 90-mi e.-w. transect through Salt Lake City involved 21 volunteers, 123.5 party-hours, and 4 weekends. It concluded preliminarily that a "discernible N migration of hawks [occurs] through this part of Utah, by w. hawk-watch standards significant: 782 birds observed. This migration occurs on a broad front along the entire transect." Opportunistic, the raptors forage in the valleys but "they concentrate and move along spur ridges. When wind conditions are right the birds may overfly the area entirely; on days with E to S winds birds were seen largely at high altitudes, 'slotting' N." The 782 hawks were half Buteos (172 Red-taileds) with 68 Accipiters, 108 Golden Eagles, 178 falcons, and 64 Marsh Hawks, (JB). Another hawk study in the Cedar City area revealed few migrants in the hills but more in the valleys (SH).

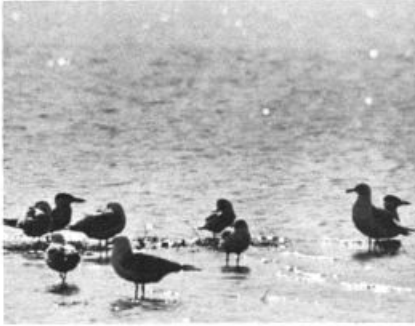
The Region had an upsurge in hawks reported shot; these probably only skim the surface of this still prevalent problem. A

Broad-winged Hawk found injured on the U of Wyoming campus May 31 was treated and released; it gave the Laramie latilong its first record (DH, ph.). Last Rough-leggeds of the season were moving N at Last Chance, Colo., and Colorado Springs May 10 and Ft. Morgan, Colo., May 12 (D.A.S., RB, JCR). Colorado reported two nesting pairs of Bald Eagles. Although Osprey reports declined, the birds seem to maintain fair numbers, the Denver Birdathon counted six Apr. 25-26, and they appeared throughout Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah.

GROUSE, CRANES—Impressive numbers of Sage Grouse performed May 11 at 2 Laramie leks—560 birds, half of them hens (DM). The San Luis Valley had 13 Whooping Cranes Mar. 13; in all, 18 stopped there during the migration, but one died after striking a power line (JK). The valley also had 17,000 Sandhills the same day by helicopter count (JK). To the n., numbers were largely typical, although 306 Apr. 4 at Delta caused comment (MJ). Ruby L. reported 30-50 pairs nesting with the first young out by mid-May. A Com Gallinule somehow landed at Loveland, Colo., Apr. 30 (DL).

SHOREBIRDS—High water and few shorebirds characterized the spring. Denver reported a spring total of 21 species and, in gross numbers, 1725 individuals—1186 summer residents (Killdeer, avocet, Wilson's Phalarope) and 539 migrants (KK). Spring Counts, held after the peak of the shorebird passage, had more species and more birds than last year. The Longmont/Lyons/Berthoud/Loveland area (hereafter, L.L.B.L.) had the most with 18 species and 656 birds. Utah reported almost 100 Snowy Plovers, most significant were a probable migrant near Cedar City Mar. 31 and four of uncertain status near Randlett May 2 (SH, R&ES). The three near Casper, Wyo., May 26 suggest an interesting potential (†JH). Laramie observers found Mountain Plovers in 3 widely separated areas, a good sign for a species facing habitat shrinkage (DM). Each state reported a group of 1-3 Whimbrels (rare transients), at Las Vegas, Randlett, Sheridan, and Denver (M&JC, MW, HD, KH). Spring Counts found fewer Spotted Sandpipers (111 *cf.* 577 last year); whether they moved through late or early is uncertain. Flocks of 11 Pectoral Sandpipers and 100 Dunlins were at Kaysville Apr. 11, rare Utah records (LM, U.F.O.). Dunlins also appeared at Randlett May 2 (R&ES) and at Logan, Utah (no date). Bear R. had 150 Marbled Godwits Apr. 12 (LM, U.F.O.). Among a fallout of several thousand shorebirds near Randlett May 2, seven **Hudsonian Godwits** stood out, reduced to two by May 5 (†R&ES), Utah's second sight record. Near Loveland, 1000 Wilson's Phalaropes spun their whirlpools May 9 (B&VG)—the highest regional count this spring. As observers check more carefully, reports of N. Phalaropes have increased. This spring, they included Zion N.P.'s second, six May 7 (JG); 400-500 at Duchesne, Utah May 9 (MW); and twice last year's count during the spring (120) at L.L.B.L. (JC).

GULLS, TERNS—A juvenile Parasitic Jaeger picked up and released in Spring Valley, White Pine Co., Nev., in September,



Two Caspian Terns, Chatfield S.P., Colo., May 13, 1981. Photo/Don Johnson.

1980, received a definitive identification this spring from photographs (GW, *vide* MCo). Utahns reported the only spring Glaucous Gulls: one at Farmington Bay Mar. 15, the same one mentioned in the winter, and one at Amalga May 2 (JB, †AG). Mew Gulls were found at L. Mead Mar. 8 (VM) and Pyramid L., Nev., Mar. 26 (†WT), the latter the first record for n. Nevada. C.F.O. is reviewing reports of another at Longmont Apr. 28 (†TFW, †MHo, †MM). Bonaparte's Gulls scattered across the Region. New locations included Zion's first, four Apr. 18 (JG) and two there May 24 (MMS), 14 at Ft. Duchesne, Utah May 2 (R&ES), two at Delta Apr. 30 and one there May 19 (MJ), and one at Lindon, Colo., Apr. 17 (F&JJ). Two Caspian Terns near Denver May 13-14 provided Colorado its eighth report, and the first documented by color photographs (†DJ).

OWLS—The Utah D.W.R. program of placing nest boxes in unused silos produced 140 young in the Provo area (DS). A Flammulated Owl was found dead in Colorado Springs May 14 (LHa). Great Horned Owls continue as the most successful large bird of prey; a state park 10 mi from downtown Denver had eight active nests (F&JJ). Late spring records of Pygmy Owls from Sedalia, Golden, Lyons, and Grand Jct., Colo., and from Heber City and Zion, Utah, suggested possible nesting. Years of field work finally proved that **Boreal Owls** nest in Colorado: a female was recorded sitting on eggs in a nest



Female Boreal Owl near nest, May 2, 1981, Cameron Pass, Colo., first Colorado nest. Photo/David A. Palmer.

box at Cameron Pass near Red Feather L. The nest failed, apparently a frequent problem with this species. Ever since a juvenal collected in 1963 piqued their interest, Coloradans have searched for additional proof of nesting. This year saw a massive effort led by Palmer and Ryder to confirm nesting in this species.

HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS—By the last week in May one Zion area feeder complex had 240 hummingbird patrons. Broad-taileds responded to the warm weather by arriving in mid-April in Colorado foothills areas like Eagle, Evergreen, Eldora, and Lyons. Flickers and Hairy and Downy woodpeckers seem to maintain steady numbers, but as Speers put it, only a fraction of the number "B.S.—before Starlings." Western-most Red-headed Woodpeckers were at State Bridge and Radium, Colo., May 26 & 28 (†DJ). Utah produced 4 reports of ten Lewis' Woodpeckers.

FLYCATCHERS TO WRENS—Arrival dates for E. and W. kingbirds were consistently about a week early. Cheyenne recorded two E. Phoebes May 25 & 30-31 (FK†), the fifth and sixth records from Wyoming reported in 10 years. A Black Phoebe appeared on the Durango Spring Count May 16 (†). The **Vermilion Flycatcher** extended its breeding range N by 500 miles when a pair built a nest, laid eggs, and hatched young n. of Akron, Colo. Then a severe hailstorm struck, killing the female and the young. The male remained in the vicinity, at least temporarily (FC, †HD; * to D.M.N.H.). Denver saw the first regional migrant swallows, Trees Mar. 22; Violet-greens arrived first in Carson City, Nev., and Zion Mar. 27. The L.L.B.L. counted 5185 Cliff Swallows on the Spring Count May 16. Cactus Wrens were found May 1 at Rhyolite, Nev. (LB), and Beaver Dam Wash, Washington Co., Utah, May 16-17 (U.F.O.). An out-of-range Bewick's Wren visited Dubois, Wyo., May 13, the eighth observation in 14 years (MB).

MOCKINGBIRDS TO VIREOS—A Mockingbird wintering at Zion stayed until Apr. 11, when the property owner pruned his pyracantha (JG). Gray Catbirds visited Ely, Nev., May 17 (MCo†) and Salt Lake City May 22 (†SC). A Brown Thrasher was at Ogden, Utah, Jan. 7 & Mar. 28 (MK). The Bendire's Thrasher at Las Vegas May 11 was the first in 6 years (VM), and one appeared in Cedar City Apr. 22 (SH). A Gray-cheeked Thrush was at Ft. Morgan May 10 (†JW); three others reported lacked good descriptions. A contretemps by an E. Bluebird occurred in a Laramie cemetery May 23, "Flying from stone to stone giving everyone a good look. Unfortunately he chose the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, and was chased away by the traffic" (DM). Another visited Cheyenne May 28 (FK). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers appeared at Steamboat Springs Mar. 20 & Apr. 9 (CA), Roxborough Park near Denver Apr. 26 (KH), Rocky Mountain N.P., May 9 (JC), and Cheyenne May 23 (PW). The description of a Black-tailed Gnatcatcher at Ruby L., May 2 relied on the tail and calls for the identification (†KD). Water Pipits appeared in an unusually large flock of 500 in a freshly-mowed field at Las

Vegas Mar. 28 (VM) and in an average-sized flock in an unusual habitat—an arid grassland near a cattle watering trough at Delle, Utah, Apr. 26 (JB). The third Sprague's Pipit for Dubois occurred Apr. 23 (†MB). A few Bohemian Waxwings lingered as late as May 23. A Lakewood yard attracted Colorado's sixth White-eyed Vireo Apr. 26 (†MEI). Eight Bell's Vireos sang their wheezy songs May 19 at Crook, Colo., their most n.e. nesting site. The wildlife area in which they nest faces threats from 'habitat improvement' (brush-clearing) and sale to a local rancher for grazing (JR). Nevada's first **Philadelphia Vireo** came to the bird bath in a Las Vegas yard May 6 (†CL).

WARBLERS—Mowbray enjoyed a fallout of warblers at Las Vegas on May 11, a rare experience in the West, "just after sunrise on a clear day with winds of 15-25 m.p.h. Coming out of the E was wave after wave of warblers amounting to several hundred in a matter of minutes, all coming into the trees over the ponds. Almost immediately after coming in the birds began to bathe along the small stream that runs between the ponds. The great majority were Wilson's (150), Yellow (30-50), and MacGillivray's (15)" plus Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, Hermit, yellowthroat, and chat. Most locations reported fewer warblers, although the 10 species found Apr. 25-May 24 was a creditable showing at Laramie (DM). Spring Counts, all in Colorado, had fewer species, and half as many individuals (100/count *cf.* 219/count last year). Denver's Birdathon tallied only 44 of 3 species Apr. 25-26 and the Denver Spring count had a paltry 133 birds of 10 species. Among the common species, Orange-crowns seemed particularly scarce. Spring Counts found one/count *cf.* 11/count last year. The gross total reported in the Region was only 63.

The season still brought reports of some rarities: three Black-and-whites May 12 at Laramie (DM) and one at Beaver Dam Wash (CD, SH, †ML, †LM); Wyoming's second **Worm-eating Warbler** at Casper May 11 (†JH), Nevada's third May 9 at Boulder City (†PLO), plus one each at Boulder and Aurora, Colo. (JHo, MOS); Golden-winged at Lyons May 16 (†MF); Blue-winged at Boulder May 26 (OW†); N. Parulas at Story, Wyo., May 4 (MC, †HD), Lida, Nev., May 25-27 (†GM, †JL), and three in Colorado including a pair acting territorial at Golden May 29 (PH); Cape May at Ft. Morgan May 10 (†JW); Black-throated Blue at Cheyenne May 30 (†PW); three Black-throated Greens in Wyoming-Laramie May 7-11 (†DM), Casper May 12 (†JH), and Cheyenne May 16 (OKS *et al.*†); Blackburnian at Fountain, Colo., May 30 (J&RW); Chestnut-sided at Dyer, Nev., for the second year in a row (†GM, †JL); Palm at Grand Teton N.P. (†CS), a first latilong; Nevada's second **Kentucky Warbler** May 23-28 (†PL, †GM, †JL); a ♀ Hooded at Dyer May 27 (LK, *vide* JL) and one at Boulder May 22-24 (BWE *et al.*).

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS—Two new latilongs in e. Colorado produced E. Meadowlarks with records from Limon Apr. 15 (F&JJ†) and Two Buttes May 14 (†JR). A ♂ Hooded Oriole at Zion May 7 furnished the

second record there (†JB). Two-three pairs of **Scott's Orioles** exhibited nesting behavior Apr. 28 at Pleasantview, Colo.; if nesting is confirmed, the state's second breeding location (†CB). Northern (Baltimore) Orioles visited Bonny Res., Colo., and made rare appearances in Wyoming at Cheyenne and Sheridan (D.A.S., PW, †JRa). Great-tailed Grackles have spread N to Ruby Valley and Sunnyside, Nev. (MCo, SB), are established in s.w. Utah (U.F.O.), and reached Bicknell in c. Utah Apr. 18 (K&MJ) and Ignacio, Colo., Apr. 11 (*vide* EF) and Pueblo, Colo. (RB). Hedges confirmed Com. Grackles breeding in Utah by finding 3 nests May 22-23 at a colony at the museum in Vernal, where they have occurred since 1976. At Eagle, Colo., they arrived for the first time—four pairs strong (JM). A pair of Hepatic Tanagers stayed at Las Vegas May 4-9, for the fourth record in 10 years (VM).

FINCHES, CROSSBILLS—While Rose-breasted Grosbeaks have become regular migrants in most of the Region, the male found May 17 at Beaver Dam Wash was the only one reported from Utah in 10 years, perhaps the fifth state record (U.F.O., †LM, †ML). At Sheridan ♀ Rose-breasteds and Black-headed visited a feeder together, giving observers an educational comparison of their field marks (LW). Two observers in s.w. Utah felt that Blue Grosbeaks were noticeably scarcer this year (JG, SH). Pushing both from E and S, Indigo Buntings now occur throughout the Region; individuals in Laramie and Glenwood Springs, Colo., had penetrated farthest into the Region. In Logan, Utah, Stokes has banded "Lazuli Buntings for 8 years in his backyard. This year he banded 310 males, 15-20 more than last year; 82 were returns wearing his bands. Two of the returns were from 1974" (KA). Evening Grosbeaks played their spotty distribution game this spring: numerous and nesting in portions of the foothills of the Front Range, tremendous numbers in Jackson and Cody, not many but still present in most of the rest of the Region. Cassin's Finches were well distributed throughout the Region. Rosy Finches go to the high country as soon as the snow clears, but often drop down during late spring storms. Still, those Gray-crowns on

Casper Mt., in mid-May were late in migrating to their nesting territory (JH) and the flock of 3200 Brown-capped May 9 at Estes Park, Colo., was unusually large (WR). Pine Siskins occurred abundantly this spring throughout Colorado and Wyoming; they find dandelions gone to seed quite attractive. Most surprising was the report from Sheridan of "many fuzzy young" May 3-12 (ME, TP). Of the early spring flock of 50 Red Crossbills at Zion feeding on ponderosa pine cones, "half were streaky-breasted juveniles, indicating very recent nesting" (R&JT). Around Boulder observers are still waiting for evidence of nesting to begin (LH). Several were at Lida, Nev., May 27 (BB, JB, *vide* JL). Jackson reported two White-winged Crossbills Mar. 25 (RJ).

SPARROWS—A Rufous-crowned Sparrow on May 6 gave Las Vegas its first record since 1973 (VM). Beginners in a bird watching class spotted a Black-throated Sparrow at Denver May 2 (AS, FW, HK, JJ). Two Sage Sparrows reached Colorado Springs Mar. 27 (RB) and Sheridan May 4 (HD, MC). Harris' Sparrows, like several other e. and midwestern species, have become regular inhabitants of the Mountain West; the one which wintered through Mar. 29 at Gardnerville, Nev., was as far w. in our Region as it could get (W&BC). White-throated Sparrows exhibit the same regularity in lesser numbers; one feeding with White-crowns in mid-April provided Zion's fourth record (CP, *vide* R&JT). The two Fox Sparrows in the LaSal Mts., of s.e. Utah, May 24-25 were in a new location and the two at Provo, Utah, May 26 were unusual (R&ES, MW). McCown's Longspurs were migrating through the Cheyenne area May 12-13, with none May 11, thousands May 12, and many fewer May 13 (MSt).

CORRIGENDA—Sheridan also had a Snowy Owl last fall (AB 35:210), Nov. 27 (LF, MFI). The Hepatic Tanager at Cheyenne (AB 35:211) was probably the third Wyoming record, not the first (HD).

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SOUTHWEST REGION

/Kenneth V. Rosenberg, John P. Hubbard and Scott B. Terrill

Observers throughout the Region generally agreed that weather patterns were "normal" for the spring and seemed to bear little relation to the numerous unusual bird records reported. Notable exceptions were two severe storms that swept across northern Arizona in mid-May, bringing near-freezing temperatures, strong easterly winds, and some snow, even to lowland areas. Consequently, a single trip to northeast Arizona "oases" May 16-20 recorded tremendous numbers of grounded migrants, including many significant records of shore- and other water birds. The same

system may have contributed to the excellent shorebird migration and other unusual occurrences at Zuni in west-central New Mexico.

To many birders the most noteworthy birds of the season were concentrated along the borders of the Region. The first regional record of Anhinga in over 100 years came from the extreme southeast corner, whereas Arizona's first-ever Red-necked Grebe appeared in the far west. Detailed below are New Mexico's first documented Lucifer Hummingbirds, the



fourth United States appearance of Black-capped Gnatcatcher, and probably the first regional occurrence of Royal Tern. Bizarre is the best term to describe the wayward albatross rescued from downtown Yuma, certainly for birders, the outstanding event of the season.

LOONS TO ANHINGA—The imm. **Red-throated Loon** at Albuquerque remained through Mar. 31 (m.ob., ph.), extending the stay of New Mexico's first confirmed record of this species. Another loon, probably this species, was present just southward at Isleta Apr. 1-9 (Who *et al.*). A first for Arizona was a breeding-plumaged **Red-necked Grebe** on lower L. Havasu Mar. 23 (CR, ph., MK).

S.A.

The bird of the season was a **Laysan Albatross** found on a Yuma, Ariz., street May 14 by Milton Haderlee. The bird survived on fish for two days until it was taken to San Diego's Sea World. There, it was photographed, and upon recovering fully was to be released in the Pacific Ocean (*vide* G. McCaskie). This phenomenal occurrence is not without precedent, however; another Laysan Albatross was seen flying over the s. California desert May 5, 1976 (AB 30:888).

An imm. Olivaceous Cormorant at L. McMillan Apr. 28-May 10 (†WCH) represents perhaps the best-documented record for the lower Pecos Valley (hereafter, L.Pec.V.). Of 13 Double-crested Cormorants at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Mar. 23, at least five had black nuptial plumes; this suggests that an e. race occurs in the L.Pec.V., whereas the w. *abociliatus* seems to be the form of the lower Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico (JH). The wintering birds persisted at Morgan L., N. Mex., with three there Mar. 17, and one at Farmington May 9 was a first for that city (AN).

A ♀ **Anhinga** at Hobbs, N. Mex., Apr. 25 (†C. Levine, R. Russell) was most unusual; the only documented record for New Mexico (and the Region) was obtained in the 1850s.

HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL—Cattle Egrets fanned out in small numbers over the w. part of the Region Apr. 15-May 21, including in such unlikely areas as Virden (JH), Alma (T.A. Gatz), Zuni (JT), and Santa Fe (R. Gonzales) in New Mexico, and Richville (ST), Superior (SW), Green Valley (J Saba), and Phoenix (KR) in Arizona. This species has not yet become firmly established in the Region.

Single herons thought to be Louisianas, but with dark underparts, were seen at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Apr. 25-29 and Loving May 19+ (WCH *et al.*). Could these be hybrids with Little Blues in an area where both species are rare? A Little Blue Heron at Espanola, N. Mex., May 17 (B&W West) was n. of the usual range. Two Great Egrets and two Snowy Egrets at Many Farms L., n.e. Ariz., May 19 were in an area from where few records exist (ST, LT). An Am. Bittern at Zuni, N. Mex., May 16 (JT) was unusual and late.

Late Snow Geese in New Mexico typically involve single birds (probably injured or ill), so two at Fenton L., Jemez Mts., May 12-31

(M Swain) were more unusual. A lone White-fronted Goose at Parker in the lower Colorado valley (hereafter, L.C.V.) Mar. 28 provided the first spring record there in many years (ST *et al.*).

Black-bellied Whistling Ducks were widely scattered in s.e. Arizona, including e. of Portal where they are very rare (RS). More than normal numbers of "Mexican-type" Ducks were recorded in the L.Pec.V., with at least five birds between Roswell and Loving Mar. 16-18 (WCH *et al.*). A ♂ Eur. Wigeon was on the Colorado R., at Parker Mar. 20-28 (ph., MK, KR). One of two wintering ♀ Wood Ducks lingered until May 20 near Nogales, Ariz. (DS, KK *et al.*); others were present near Albuquerque, including a male through May 25 (Who *et al.*). The two White-winged Scoters on L. Havasu stayed until Mar. 12, and the Black Scoter remained at Parker Dam until at least Mar. 30, when it was acquiring ad. male plumage (MK).

RAPTORS AND PTARMIGAN—Mississippi Kites again returned to the Roswell area, where largely unreported in recent years, with seven there May 25 (WCH). An ad. and imm. Goshawk near Arivaca, Ariz., Mar. 1 (DS), and three near Albuquerque Apr. 1-15 (Who *et al.*) were unusual for lowland localities. An active Ferruginous Hawk nest near Kingman was among the few ever found in Arizona (BM). Notable Broad-winged Hawks in New Mexico were an adult Apr. 20 and an immature May 26 near Albuquerque (Who *et al.*), and an adult May 3 at Zuni (JT). Harris' Hawk continues to be seen at San Simon Cienega, extreme s.e. Arizona, with one there Mar. 31 (T. Supplee).

Eleven pairs of White-tailed Ptarmigan from Colorado were liberated in the Pecos Wilderness of n. New Mexico in late May, in an effort to restore this species to ancestral range in the Sangre de Cristo Mts. (JH).

SHOREBIRDS AND LARIDS—Paired and defensive Am. Avocets at Many Farms L., Chinle, and Petrified Forest N.P., in n.e. Arizona in late May suggested local breeding, which has been noted at few localities in the state (ST, LT, KR, DS). Two Snowy Plovers at Many Farms L., May 19 (ST, LT) and one near Holbrook May 31 (KR, DS) were perhaps first n.e. Arizona reports. Unusual plovers in New Mexico were a Mountain at Zuni Mar. 22 (JT), an Am. Golden at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Apr. 5 (†N&DJ), and the state's second report of **Piping Plover** at Bosque del Apache N.W.R., also on Apr. 5 (†D&SH).

Two Whimbrels over L. Havasu Mar. 28 (ST, LT) were a bit early, as was a Willet at Phoenix Apr. 4 (ST *et al.*). New Mexico's third **Ruddy Turnstone** was at Zuni May 10 (†JT); the previous records were in the L.Pec.V. Another of this species dropped down at Ganado L., Ariz., during a severe storm May 20 (ST, LT). Sanderlings appeared in good numbers for spring in New Mexico, including 21 at Morgan L., San Juan Co., May 17 (AN *et al.*). Two Short-billed Dowitchers were heard at Phoenix May 5, where very rare in spring (ST, RW).

Pectoral Sandpipers, exceedingly rare in the w. part of the Region in spring, were reported early this season at Zuni, N. Mex., Mar. 20 (JT), Morgan L., N. Mex., Mar. 22 (AN), and Tucson, Ariz., Apr. 4 (SG *et al.*).

A Stilt Sandpiper at Zuni May 12-14 was w. of the usual range in New Mexico (ph., JT). Usually rare in spring, N. Phalarope made a better-than-average showing in New Mexico and n.e. Arizona, including six at Chinle May 19 and 15 at Ganado L., May 20 (ST, LT, ph.).

Unexpected was an ad. **Thayer's Gull** at Zuni, N. Mex., on the late date of May 5 (†JT). Easterly California Gulls were one at Morgan L., N. Mex., Apr. 26 (AN), two at Zuni May 9 (†JT), one at Luna L., Ariz., May 13 (TG, M. Delamore), and ten at Ganado L., Ariz., May 20 (ST, LT). An ad. Franklin's Gull with very pink plumage was at Bill Williams Delta in the L.C.V. Mar. 28 (ph., KR *et al.*); there are very few spring records there. Another adult was at Page, Ariz., May 19 (ST, LT).

Four Forster's Terns May 20 at Ganado L. (ST, LT), and two at Luna L., May 13 (TG, M. Delamore), furnished the first spring records for n.e. Arizona. Even more unusual in spring was a Com. Tern May 20 at Lyman L., n. of Springville, Ariz. (ST, LT). Four birds identified as **Royal Terns** were at Tucson briefly May 15 (WD, GG, DS *et al.*, ph., SG). Photos are still being circulated among experts to positively eliminate the possibility of Elegant Tern; either species would be new to Arizona and the Region.

OWLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS—A Flammulated Owl calling at Cottonwood Gulch, Zuni Mts., Mar. 15 (DM) was very early. A Ferruginous Owl was at a desert tank near Ajo, Ariz., in April (BM). More surprising was a Saw-whet Owl in mesquites at another tank in that area in April (BM), lowland records are very few and are primarily from in mid-winter.

A Chimney Swift was well seen near Phoenix May 20 (†DS). Several swifts, identified as Vaux's, were in extreme e. Arizona near Eagar May 22 (Bjo, MH); any *Chaetura* species is very rare there. With these, was a larger all-black swift, most likely a Black (Bjo, MH). Although amazingly early, another reasonably well-described swift identified as a Black Swift, was seen Mar. 31 at Cave Cr Canyon, Chiricahua Mts. (†R.F. Koes *et al.*), despite persistent sight records, Arizona lacks documentation of this species in the state.

Lucifer Hummingbird was verified for the first time in New Mexico, as at least two males and three females were present in the Peloncillo Mts., near Rodeo Apr. 5+ (RS *et al.*, ph.). A ♂ Costa's in Antelope Pass, Peloncillo Mts., Apr. 23 (W. Baltosser, * to Smithsonian) represents the northernmost verified record for New Mexico.

Two Rufous Hummingbirds in the Chiricahua Mts., Apr. 5-15 & 25 add to the now-annual records there in spring. Two White-eared Hummingbirds in Rose Canyon, Santa Catalina Mts., May 6 (J. Bock) and one at nearby Summerhaven May 23-June 7 (F&W Hopf *et al.*) were the only ones reported from Arizona this spring. Broad-billed Hummingbirds persisted at such peripheral locations as Portal and Superior, Ariz.

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS—Downy Woodpeckers were present in moderate numbers in cottonwoods in the Albuquerque area, with the southernmost nest yet for the area Los Lunas Apr. 28. In contrast,

Hairy Woodpeckers were very rare in that area (WHO *et al.*).

Although not a significant record, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Benson Apr. 21-23 (BF) was the only Arizona report of this species. A well-seen and calling **Great Crested Flycatcher** at the Navajo town of Tes Nez Iah, n.e. Ariz., May 19 (†ST, LT) represented only a third state record, but close on the heels of the second record last October at nearby Kayenta. Four E. Phoebes were present Apr. 24 near Villanueva, San Miguel Co., a known breeding locale in New Mexico. Three Black Phoebes, including a nesting pair, were also present (JH); nesting overlap between these 2 species has not previously been demonstrated in the state. Black Phoebes were also found breeding in the Zuni Mts., N. Mex., where seven birds and 2 nests were found at Bluewater L., Apr. 17-May 31 (DM). Two migrant E. Phoebes were noted in Arizona where very rare in spring; Apr. 20-24 at Portal (SS, R. Morse) and May 16 at Fredonia (GR).

Forty-six Willow Flycatchers was a high count at Teec Nos Pos, n.e. Ariz., May 19 (ST, LT). [Were these singing birds?—Ed.] Two reports of calling Least Flycatchers were received; May 13 at Albuquerque (†WHO) and May 19 near Chinle, n.e. Ariz. (ST, LT); this species is very rare in spring in the Region, especially westward. Five Gray Flycatchers, including two pairs and three singing birds, were found near Soldier Spring, Guadalupe Mts., May 31 (WCH, SW) and 5-7 singing Dusksies were found on Alegros Mt., Cantron Co., May 11-13 (DM *et al.*). Both of these locations, if nesting areas, are well s. of the known breeding range of these species in New Mexico. A pair of Buff-breasted Flycatchers in Cave Cr. Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., Apr. 16 into the summer (J&G Maender *et al.*) were in an area from which few recent records exist. Coues' Flycatcher is becoming well established in canyons s. of Flagstaff at the n. limit of its range in Arizona (JC, R.P. Balda). A rare lowland migrant was noted in residential Tempe Apr. 28 (ST).

SWALLOWS THROUGH THRASHERS—A large concentration of swallows at Ganado L., n.e. Ariz., during a severe storm on May 20 included 1000+ Violet-greens, 500+ Trees, and 2000+ Cliffs (ST, LT); this is late for large numbers of migrants in this area. Tucson's Cave Swallow returned for its third summer by Apr. 13 (L. Lavine). Rumors of a pair together there remain unconfirmed. Migrant Purple Martins in n.e. Arizona are of interest; this season, six were at Many Farms L., May 19 and four were among the swallows at Ganado L., May 20 (ST, LT).

Blue Jays persisted in the L.Pec.V., with birds at Ft. Sumner Mar. 27-29 & Apr. 25, and singles near Roswell Apr. 11 and at L. McMillan Apr. 6 (WCH *et al.*). A Red-breasted Nuthatch at Teec Nos Pos, n.e. Ariz., May 19 (ST, LT) was very late for a lowland migrant. The only migrant Brown Thrasher in the w. part of the Region was at Mesa, Ariz., Apr. 28 (KR).

THRUSHES TO VIREOS—A Rufous-backed Robin near Hereford, Ariz., Mar. 28 (†J.M. Bealer) was among the few reported in recent years. A probable Gray-cheeked

Thrush was at L. McMillan, N. Mex., May 12 (†WCH), this is the rarest *Catharus* thrush species recorded in the Region. Eastern Bluebirds again bred in the Pecos Valley region, as evidence by a nest with eggs and an adult with a fledgling at Rattlesnake Springs Apr. 25 (SW), and a pair carrying nesting material at Ft. Sumner Mar. 27-29 (WCH). More unusual was a male at Cottonwood Gulch Apr. 13 (DM); a first record in New Mexico w. of the Rio Grande and n. of the Gila Basin. A pair of Mountain Bluebirds was found using a nest box along a "bluebird trail" in the Sonoita grassland, s.e. Ariz., May 10, and young were noted May 19 (J. Church *et al.*). These birds were well out of the normal breeding range.

S.A.

Causing a stir nationwide was the discovery of a nesting pair of **Black-capped Gnatcatchers** in Chino Canyon, Santa Rita Mts., Ariz., May 17 (†Bruce Barrett, KK *et al.*). Well into its nesting cycle, the pair seemed oblivious to the many who came to see and photograph it (including a TV news team); four young were successfully fledged May 24 (*vide* S. Mills). This represents the fourth occurrence and second nesting n. of the Mexican border; details will be published elsewhere.

An ad. ♂ Black-tailed Gnatcatcher at Lee's Ferry on the Colorado R., near the Utah border May 16 was far from the usual range and represented the farthest n. occurrence of the species (†LT, ST). Another ad. male was seen the same day at Tuzigoot N.M., in the upper Verde Valley, where also previously unrecorded (LT, ST).

Two Red-eyed Vireos were seen in Arizona; in Garden Canyon, Huachuca Mts., May 26 (LT, ST) and Chino Canyon, Santa Rita Mts., May 30 (P. Vickery, G. Porter). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at Bell L., May 20 (N&DJ) for about the fifth New Mexico record.

WOOD WARBLERS—Of the rare-but-regularly occurring species in the Region, two Black-and-white Warblers, two N. Parulas and four Am. Redstarts in Arizona were below average, although six Tennessee Warblers and 11-12 N. Waterthrushes were slightly high for the state in spring. An additional four Tennessees and at least 19 N. Waterthrushes were in the Albuquerque area in May (WHO). A Prothonotary Warbler was banded and photographed at Albuquerque May 2 (WHO, ph., SH) and another was at Sabino Canyon near Tucson, Ariz., May 22-24 (B. Koenig, J. Coxhead *et al.*, ph., ST). First verifications were obtained of the **Worm-eating Warbler** in New Mexico, with single birds at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Apr. 23 (ph., L. Marlatt) and Ft. Sumner Apr. 24 (T. Hildebrandt, * to Smithsonian). Another bird was seen in Hondo Canyon, Sandia Mts., May 3 (GP, HS), and an additional two returned up in Arizona, at Cave Cr. Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., about May 21 (R. Rowlett *et al.*) and near Eagar May 23 (†BJo, MH). Also verified for the first time in New Mexico was the **Golden-winged Warbler**, based on a male that lingered in Albuquerque May 8-18 (M. Deutman *et al.*, ph., DH). Amazingly, a

singing **Blue-winged Warbler** turned up in the same city during that period May 14 (WHO *et al.*), for about the third state sighting. Other very rare warblers included a Cape May at Bloomfield, N. Mex., in the period (†J&J Rees), a singing Yellow-throated near Eagar, Ariz., May 22-June 7 (†BJo, MH), and a ♂ Bay-breasted found dead in Albuquerque May 13 (N. Hight, * to U. New Mexico). In addition, New Mexico recorded two Chestnut-sideds at Albuquerque May 4 & 16 (WHO) and two Palms, at Sandia P., Apr. 22 (HS) and at Albuquerque Apr. 24 (WHO).

An incredible *five* Kentucky Warblers were seen in the Region, with different birds at Tucson May 2 (E. Bessler) and May 24-25 (PN), a singing male at Albuquerque May 12 (SH, WHO), another near Eagar, Ariz., May 18-21 (†BJo, MH, ph., ST, LT), and a bird at Cave Cr. Canyon May 28 (RN). Two ♂ Hooded Warblers were also found in Arizona, at Cave Cr. Canyon May 8-10 (T. Goldsmith *et al.*) and at Guadalupe Canyon May 11 (F. Oatman). Two different Olive Warblers s. of Flagstaff, Ariz., in March (C. Benkman, J. Brawn) and individual Painted Redstarts in the Sandia Mts., N. Mex., Apr. 9 (GP) & 22 (HS) were at the periphery of their ranges. Among the large numbers of common warblers grounded in n.w. Arizona, 50+ MacGillivray's at Teec Nos Pos May 19 was a high count (ST, LT).

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS—Two singing ♂ Bobolinks at Teec Nos Pos, Ariz., May 19 (ph., ST, LT) were among very few spring records in the state. Eastern Meadowlarks were present on the Zuni Reservation with 1-5 birds there Mar. 13-May 23 (JT); one was also at Cottonwood Gulch Apr. 20 & 30, two were near San Rafael May 25 (DM), and four in the Albuquerque area Apr. 15-May 27 (WHO *et al.*). These localities are at the n. limit of the species' range in w. New Mexico.

An ad. male, sub-adult male, and female Hooded Orioles were present together at Lee's Ferry, Ariz., May 16 (ST, LT), and the ad. male was there May 24 (GR). This spot near the Utah border is far n. of any known areas of occurrence in this region. A ♂ N. (Baltimore) Oriole at Zuni, N. Mex., May 11 & 21 (JT) was also unusual. Most unexpected was a ♀ Rusty Blackbird at Springerville, Ariz., on the late date of May 21 (†ST, LT). Great-tailed Grackles continue to advance on the n. frontier of their range with n. Arizona sightings in May at Lee's Ferry (four), Tuba City (four), Marble Canyon (five adults, 2 fledglings), and McNary (eight adults and nests—all ST, LT, GR), and another male at nearby Zuni, N. Mex. (JT). Common Grackles were present in New Mexico at Artesia, where they were seen carrying food in May (WCH *et al.*), and they also returned to Farmington (AN). A ♀ Scarlet Tanager at Lee's Ferry May 24 (†GR) furnished only a tenth Arizona record. A ♂ Summer Tanager, thought to be the s.w. race *cooperi*, was well n. of its usual range at Petrified Forest N.P., Ariz., May 20 (ST, LT). This species again returned to the Ft. Sumner-Roswell, N. Mex. area with ten there in April and May (WCH *et al.*).

FRINGILLIDS—Indigo Buntings were also very widely reported, with possible male hybrid Indigo X Lazulis noted on Fossil Cr.,

near Strawberry, Ariz., May 10 (KR) and near Albuquerque May 19-30 (J.N. Durrie *et al.*). A singing ♂ Purple Finch at Ganado May 31 (DS, KR) was the latest on record for the Region and the first ever in n.e. Arizona. Its song suggested the nominate race, which is casual in the Region. Also lingering late in the lowlands of n.e. Arizona were large numbers of Pine Siskins and Am. Goldfinches, although this may be a regular occurrence. An exceptionally high count of 130 goldfinches at Ganado May 20 (LT, ST) was down to five birds by May 31 (KR, DS). Ten or more Red Crossbills were present in the s. Guadalupe Mts., May 31, including an adult with a fledgling (WCH, SW).

In the L.Pec.V., singing Rufous-sided Towhees were largely restricted to the Artesia-L., McMillan area, with two fledglings there May 18 (WCH *et al.*). Singing Grasshopper Sparrows staged an influx into that area, with at least 40 between Artesia and Loving, and two at Ft. Sumner Apr. 17-29 (WCH *et al.*). Only a single non-singing bird was noted in May near Artesia. Extralimital Cassin's Sparrows in Arizona were a "sky-larking" individual near Poston Apr. 24 (†MK) for a first L.C.V. record, and another

singing bird in Mesa Apr. 28 (†KR). A Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco was seen e. of Roswell Mar. 4-9 (WCH, RM); far s. of the usual range in New Mexico. A Clay-colored Sparrow at Teec Nos Pos May 19 (ST, LT) provided the only Arizona report, and an ad. Black-chinned Sparrow at Phoenix Apr. 19 (KR) furnished one of very few lowland records. A late Harris' Sparrow was at Benson, Ariz., Apr. 23-27 (BF). A count of 10-12 Chestnut-collared Longspurs at Zuni, N. Mex., Mar. 22 was a first sighting for that area (JT). The only McCown's reported in the period were singles at L. McMillan Mar. 1 (WCH) at Ft. Sumner Mar. 29 (RM).

ADDENDUM—The White-tailed Tropicbird specimen from Scottsdale, Ariz., August 1980, has been identified as the race *P. l. dorotheae* which breeds on s. Pacific islands and in Hawaii *fide* G. Watson, Smithsonian). This represents the first specimen of this race from North America.

CORRIGENDUM—The imm. Gray Hawk reported at Artesia, N. Mex., in September-October 1980 (*AB* 35:212) was actually a Broad-winged (*fide* Richard Glinski). [Al-

though this correction was sent to *AB* in time to have been revised, it was inadvertently omitted from *AB* 35:212—Ed.]

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ALASKA REGION

/D.D. Gibson

Another early, mild spring resulted in an often unexciting migration, with few waves of birds, interspersed with very early individuals of species that subsequently arrived on time. There were some very exciting records too: four additions to the State list, three of them coming from elsewhere in North America, one from Asia, and another two (one Palearctic, one Nearctic) await receipt of substantiating information.

SHEARWATERS, PELICANS, HERONS—The fourth Alaska record of **Manx Shearwater** was furnished by a bird seen between the Barren Is. and Homer May 17 (†CH). There is yet no specimen or photograph of this species in Alaska waters. A **White Pelican** present at Petersburg, s.e. Alaska



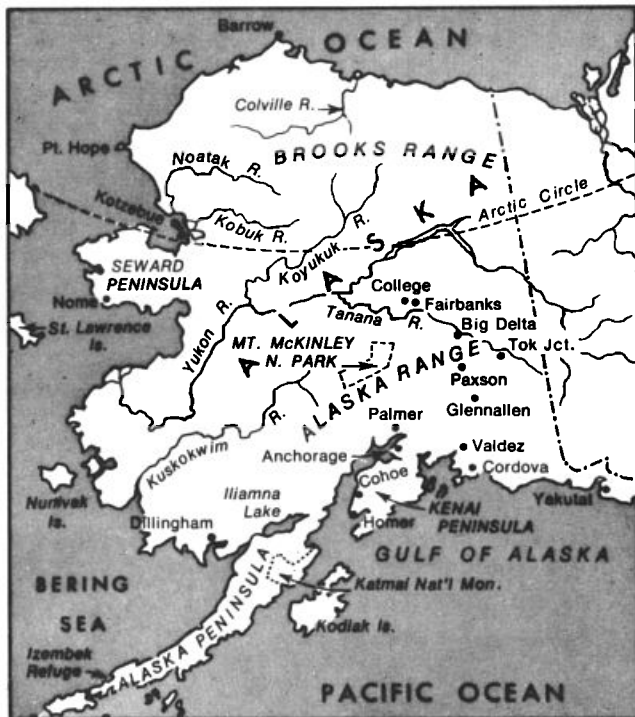
White Pelican. From the Petersburg Pilot, Petersburg, Alas.

May 2+ (TOO *et al.*) became quite an attraction and made the local newspaper; it provided the first substantiated Alaska record of a member of this family. An ad. **Black-crowned Night Heron** studied at Shemya I., w. Aleutians Apr. 25 (†TGT & GBR) provided another first substantiated record for Alaska, although there have been 2 other recent, undoubtedly correct, Alaska sightings (see *AB* 33:798). All three records are probably referable to nominate *nycticorax*, the Palearctic race.

WATERFOWL—Two Whooper Swans at Attu I., w. Aleutians May 2-3 and one adult there May 5 (TGT & GBR) number among few Aleutian records as late as May. A ♂ Eur. Wigeon at Petersburg Mar. 16 (SK) was record early, and another at Girdwood, near Anchorage Mar. 29 (CA, *fide* DFD) and subsequently was record early as well. The first spring bird at Kodiak I., was a male noted Apr. 16 (RAM). A pair of Am. Wigeons at Shemya Apr. 29 (TGT) adds to very few w. Aleutian records of this bird. Blue-winged Teal in small numbers were widespread in southeastern, southcoastal, and central Alaska this spring (m.ob.). A ♂ Cinnamon Teal present

at Middleton I., Gulf of Alaska, with Blue-winged Teal May 10-22 (JSH *et al.*) was one of few southcoastal records; it was the only report received this spring.

Canvasbacks were widely commented on, from Juneau—where the species was fairly common, in flocks of up to 11 birds May 8+ (RJG)—w. and n. Eighty birds at Safety Sound, Seward Pen., June 7 paralleled numbers seen there last spring (RWS); a nest with 8 eggs near the Tutakoke R. mouth May 29 (REG, GVB, TA) may be only the third



Yukon-Kuskokwim R. [hereafter, Y-K] Delta breeding record since 1950; and a pair on the Colville R. Delta in late May (JWH) may be the first n. Alaska record. A ♀ Com. Pochard was well described at Homer Mar. 22 (†TGT, †JLD, †LJO), the first mainland Alaska record. The date is perplexing, since no winter record is known in the Region, and since a male at Shemya Apr. 24-28 (TGT) provided the earliest-ever Aleutian record. There were no additional reports this season. Redheads were fairly common at Juneau, where they occurred in flocks of up to 15 Apr. 18+ (RJG); three at Middleton I., May 13-22 (DDG *et al.*) demonstrated trans-Gulf of Alaska movement in a species that was unknown on the Alaska Pacific coast a few years ago; and five May 6 and three May 13 at Kodiak "were not birds that had wintered in the area" (RAM). Two males were seen at Safety Sound June 7, fewer than at the same time last year (RWS, JLD). A ♂ Tufted Duck May 15 & 23 at Anchorage (†DWS *et al.*) provided the first local record.

OSPRESY, EAGLES, FALCONS—An Osprey at Salt Lagoon, St. Paul I., Pribilof Is., June 11-13 (RWS *et al.*) numbers among very few Bering Sea island records of this species; it does not regularly occur beyond tree limit. At least two ad. White-tailed Eagles were seen in the Temnac and Massacre bay areas of Attu at intervals May 3+ (TGT *et al.*), as in the past few years. A ♂ European Kestrel carefully studied at Attu May 4 & 7 (†TGT & GBR) was totally unexpected. It furnished the first spring record in Alaska.

COOTS—In the face of another year of "prairie" ducks in Alaska, it is of interest that no Am. Coots were reported in the Interior, where they bred in 1980. Single birds at Juneau Apr. 18 (RJG *et al.*), e. of Cordova May 1 (SH *et al.*), and at Binkleys Slough, Stikine R., June 5 (KB) were the only reports; they form no geographic or phenologic pattern that I can see.

SHOREBIRDS—In the Bering Sea, some regularly-occurring Palearctic or Aleutian shorebirds were scarce as always or scarcer than usual (Ringed and Mongolian plovers, Dotterel, Black-tailed Godwit, Terek Sandpiper, Polynesian Tattler, Rufous-necked Sandpiper, Long-toed Stint, Ruff) and others were more numerous than usual (Am. Golden Plover [*P. d. fulva*], Whimbrel [*N. p. variegatus*], Greenshank, Wood and Common sandpipers—m.ob.). Most were on time or slightly late. To the e., 13 other shorebirds arrived at Kodiak this spring May 2, on time or slightly early, following a day of W winds (averaging 16 m.p.h.)—Semipalmated, Am. Golden (*P. d. dominica*), and Black-bellied plovers; Marbled Godwit; Whimbrel (*N. p. hudsonicus*); Ruddy and Black turnstones; N. Phalarope; Short-billed Dowitcher; Western, Least, and Rock sandpipers; and Dunlin. At Kodiak only Greater Yellowlegs (Apr. 16) and Com. Snipe (Apr. 24) arrived, on time, earlier (RAM & JBA).

An American Avocet reported with dowitchers on mud flats at Valdez for a week in mid-May (MLW, RW, JP *et al.*) was astonishing. After Anchorage observers were annoyed a few years ago by a wooden avocet deliberately set out to deceive, this feeding and

flying bird provided an addition to the Alaska list, our first Recurvirostrid. One molting Am. Golden Plover at Shemya Apr. 24 (TGT) was at the early end of the normal arrival period for the Alaska Pacific coast; a max. of 97 birds at Attu May 22 (TGT *et al.*) was an unusually high count in spring. The rare, annual Marbled Godwit was recorded on schedule at Kodiak—six May 2 and eight May 4 (RAM & JBA); one May 16 at Seward (†BS & SS) was late and provided a local first record. Whimbrels were more numerous than usual in the westernmost Aleutians this spring; first seen May 21, on time, they occurred in numbers through June 1, max. a flock of 25+ on 21st (TGT *et al.*). Small numbers of Bristle-thighed Curlews were observed at Middleton I., May 11-22, one or two birds every few days (DDG *et al.*), providing further evidence that many (?) of these birds arrive on the Alaska coast to the east of the breeding grounds. Flocks of 25 on June 4 and of 17 on June 17 near the Tutakoke R., Y-K Delta (REG) are hard to explain. . . nonbreeders? feeding aggregations of local breeders? Although this species arrives on or near the breeding grounds as early as the first week of May (see AB 34:806), it is conceivable that mid-June flocks are of just-arrived migrants. One Bristle-thighed Curlew at St. Paul June 12 (†RWS *et al.*) numbers among very few Pribilof records.

Wood Sandpipers arrived at Attu May 20 (late), but there was a good passage, max. 84+ May 22. As in prior years of heavy passage, copulation and territorial displays were observed; at least two displaying birds were present in the Massacre Bay area through the observers' departure June 7 (TGT *et al.*). Common Sandpipers were numerous this spring; 11 birds, including a flock of 10, May 24 at Attu was max. (TGT). At least eight Temminck's Stints arrived at Attu May 22; the species was present through the 31st, max. 14+ on May 26 (TGT). This bird had been seen previously only in ones or twos. At least one was studied at Gambell, St. Lawrence I., June 2-5 (†RWS *et al.*). A ♀ Wilson's Phalarope studied at Anchorage May 30-June 1 (†BS, ph., DWS, †JLT *et al.*) was new to southcoastal Alaska and was the only report received this spring. A breeding-plumaged



Wilson's Phalarope, Anchorage, Alas., May 31, 1981. Photo/D.W. Sonneborn.

Stilt Sandpiper observed at St. Paul June 12 (RWS *et al.*) was amazing. The only other Bering Sea record of this species is from nearby St. George I., June 6, 1968 (*Auk* 86:748, 1969).

GULLS, TERNS—An ad. Ring-billed Gull was seen at Homer Mar. 21-22 (†TGT, †JLD, †LJO). This bird is a scarce visitant along the Alaska Pacific coast, but it is recorded most every year. An ad. Franklin's Gull at Anchorage May 16-17 (†CH, †JCP, †JLT *et al.*) provided only the fourth Alaska record. Two Ross' Gulls, only one of which was an adult, were seen at the Colville R. mouth June 16 (JWH). The only other report this season was of one bird at Gambell June 10 (MS *et al.*). Four Caspian Terns described well at Ketchikan June 2 (†FAG) and one seen at close range there June 4 (†REW) became the first substantiated Alaska record of the species.

OWLS—A Hawk Owl observed at the Colville R. mouth May 8 (JWH) provided the first n. Alaska record far beyond timber. In light of a few Southeastern records last winter (q.v.), a calling Pygmy Owl at Halleck Harbor, Kuiu I., Mar. 10-13 (SK) was of interest. Saw-whet Owls were found in small numbers this spring at several locations on the n. Kenai Pen. (MAM, TGT, JLD, LJO) and as close to Anchorage as Girdwood (TGT, JLD, LJO), where Boreals and Saw-whets were heard in the same area. This is apparently the w. end of the species' range.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH PIPITS—A "Red-breasted" Sapsucker seen May 2 at Lydick Slough Trail, near Cordova (SH *et al.*) furnished the first spring record in the State w. of Southeastern, where the species is partly migratory. As they are each spring, Eye-browed Thrushes were scarce in the w. Aleutians—singles at Attu May 23 & 26 (TGT *et al.*) were the only records. A White Wagtail at Attu May 1 tied the State arrival record. A Yellow Wagtail there May 2 was 10 days earlier than past arrivals, but, after May 4, none was seen until the 20th. The earliest yet, a Gray Wagtail at Attu May 23-25 supplied the eighth Alaska record (four of them a single phenomenon—May 29-June 11, 1977, in the w. Aleutians). Indian Tree Pipit arrived at Attu May 21, and one or two were seen thence through 31st. Both Red-throated and Water pipits arrived in the w. Aleutians May 21, over a week late; no member of this family was seen in numbers there this spring (TGT *et al.*).

STARLINGS THROUGH SPARROWS—Starlings were seen about the town of Kodiak at intervals—two Mar. 10., four Mar. 15, one Apr. 16, and two May 28 (RAM, SW, MV)—but, remarkably, none was reported from Anchorage or other southcoastal areas. A Tennessee Warbler at Sheep Cr., Juneau, May 29 (RJG) constituted the first Regional report in several years. A Townsend's Warbler at Petersburg Apr. 14 (SK) was record early in the State; the species was first recorded at Juneau Apr. 26 (RJG), on time. A ♀ Brambling at Attu May 22 was earliest (TGT), and late; nothing approaching spring 1980's abundance (AB 34:807) was seen in 1981. Pine Siskins were common to abundant

in s. Alaska this spring. They were "abundant and clearly nesting" at Kodiak in mid-May (RAM), and small numbers were present as far n. as Fairbanks (BK). White-winged Crossbills were ubiquitous in southcoastal Alaska this season, but their abundance varied from place to place (m.ob.). A Rustic Bunting at Attu May 20 was earliest (TGT), and late. Few were seen this year. The Harris' Sparrow that overwintered at Homer was

present at least through Mar. 23 (TGT, JLD, LJO).

ABBREVIATIONS—m.ob.—many observers; †—details on file U.A.M.; ph.—photograph on file U.A.M.

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NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

March was several degrees warmer and slightly drier than usual at the Medford, Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver weather stations. Then during April and May rainfall in Vancouver was about twice normal. Farther south, however, there was less than normal rain throughout the period.

Passerine migration was particularly noted May 2-13, with unusually large numbers of Warbling Vireos, Orange-crowned Warblers, Wilson's Warblers, and Western Tanagers being widely reported. The unusual Regional records of White-faced Ibises, Common Gallinule, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, and Black-throated Sparrow should indicate very dry conditions to the south and east of us.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES—Only two Yellow-billed Loons were reported; one at Orcas I., in the United States San Juans Mar. 3 (TW), the other a breeding plumaged bird in Satellite Channel near Victoria, V.I., May 8 (WC, *fide* VG). Arctic Loons were noted moving in large numbers in early May, with "thousands" off Pt. Roberts, Wash., May 6 (MMc, VN, *fide* WW), 700+ off the S.J.C.R., May 9 (DFi), and "large numbers" just offshore from Westport, Wash., May 10 (BHT). One *light phase* Western Grebe at Seattle Apr. 18 (†WHO) was the first report of this form we have received for the Region.

A Laysan Albatross 14 mi s.w. of Tofino, V.I., May 21 provided one of very few Regional records within the continental shelf (MaS, *fide* VG). TW's 3 early May pelagic trips off Westport found good numbers of the regular tubenoses, closely comparable to the high counts of last spring. Two dark N. Fulmars May 5 provided the first spring reports here in several years. The one-two Flesh-footed Shearwaters each trip represented a minor comeback for that species, which has been unreported in the Region in spring since 1978.

Nineteen Brandt's Cormorants lingered at Active Pass in the Georgia Straits until May 28 (RS, MiS, *fide* VG), and 40 remained at Olympia, Wash., May 16 (BHT). Very few remain to breed n. of the Columbia R. The scant winter Green Heron numbers were augmented throughout to s. British Columbia by migrants arriving in early April. Definite re-

ports of nesting came from near Portland (DFi) and from Seattle (ER, MD). Eighteen Great Egret reports were received from 7 Oregon localities. All were before Apr. 6, except one May 2 on the Pistol R., in extreme s. Oregon (*fide* HN). Coos Bay's Snowy Egret stayed through Apr. 5 as usual (*fide* AMc). The seven White-faced Ibises May 25 at Eugene, Oreg. (SG, SSu, CW), furnished an extraordinary Regional record.

GEESE AND DUCKS

—DFi estimated the Black Brant migration at 500/hr passing N off the Lincoln County, Oreg., coastline Apr. 5. A peak count of 10,000 came from Willapa Bay Apr. 11-12 (DAI, KBe, KH, *fide* WW). The few wintering White-fronted Geese departed by early April. Late April saw a passage of birds from farther s., with the high count of 200 over Leadbetter Pt., Wash., Apr. 29 (RWi). The 3000 Snow Geese wintering at Reifel I., near Ladner, B.C., departed about Apr. 26 for their Wrangell I. breeding grounds (WW).

A Gadwall brood e. of Ladner, B.C., Apr. 26 was very early (WW). Five "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal were reported, with one wintering bird remaining in Seattle until Apr. 26 (ER). Blue-winged Teal reports continued to increase. They were widely noted after Apr. 24, with peaks of 86 May 23-25 in Saanich, V.I. (RS, *fide* VG), and of 157 May 21 on Sea and Iona Is., B.C. (WW). Blue-wingeds now outnumber Cinnamon Teal in spring n. of the Columbia R., almost 10:1. A hybrid of these two species was described from Iona I., May 14-22 (BK, DK, *fide* WW). One ♀ Tufted Duck turned up in Vancouver's Stanley P., Mar. 18-30 (†BK, †WW *et al.*). Harlequin Duck pairs on the Kalama R., and the s. fork of the Toutle R., both draining Mt. St. Helens' w. flank, were likely nesters there (BL *et al.*, *fide* SSa). The two King Elders at Seaside, Oreg., were last reported Mar. 8 (JGi, HN).

KITES TO GALLINULES—White-tailed



Kites again proved scarce in spring. Six individuals were reported at 5 Oregon sites n. to the S.J.C.R. The single bird present there Mar. 1 (DFi), may have been moving S, as all later reports were from s. of Eugene. Accipiters made another strong showing, although slightly off last spring's totals. Eight Goshawks and 48+ each of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks were reported from throughout the Region. A Goshawk pair nested in a remnant gallery forest along the Black R., in Renton, Wash., at a site scheduled for development (KBN). Pairs of Cooper's Hawks nested at Victoria (HA, *fide* VG) and at Pitt Meadows, e. of Vancouver, B.C. (WR, *fide* WW).

The Red-shouldered Hawk has established a beachhead in the Region as up to five birds were seen Mar. 22-Apr. 26 at the Winchuk R. mouth at Brookings, Oreg., just n. of the California border. Another individual was 20 mi farther n. at Pistol R. (TC, JGi, OSc, DAN, TM, DE). The Swainson's Hawk, a rare spring migrant, was reported Apr. 23 at Sutherlin, Oreg. (MHu, *fide* CW), and Apr. 26 on Whidbey I., Wash. (†PA, RR). The last Rough-legged Hawk lingered at Ocean Shores until Apr. 26-May 2 (KBN, KBo). Golden Eagles had young in the nest by Apr. 23 in Douglas County, Oreg. (MHu, *fide* CW). Six Bald Eagle nests were reported

from Siletz Bay, Oregon, to Victoria and Vancouver, B.C. This represented only the tip of the iceberg as a survey of Washington in the early 1970s counted 100 active nests (Grubb *et al.*, *Murrelet* 56:2-6, 1975). Sixteen active Osprey nests were reported, including one in a Seattle city park (EH, BMe, DHu) and 7 about Victoria (*vide* VG). A gray Gyrfalcon in C. Saanich, V.I., was observed repeatedly Mar. 1-21 (AK, LR, *vide* VG). Another gray Gyrfalcon was seen at Tillamook, Oregon, Apr. 5 (DFi, HN, DHo). The 17 Peregrine and 26 Merlin reports were slightly below last spring's record totals.

Captive Sandhill Cranes have been released at Pitt Meadows to augment the frail breeding population there. A Common Gallinule photographed at Iona I., B.C., remained there May 26-June 3 for a first Regional record (†BK, †WW *et al.*).

SHOREBIRDS—Territorial Black Oystercatchers on Dungeness Spit, Wash. (D&SS), Chuckanut Bay near Bellingham, Wash. (GG, *vide* DV & TW), and in Lighthouse P., W. Vancouver, B.C. (WW), may mark a range expansion in this area. The Blue-listed Snowy Plover is holding on. One was incubating at Newport, Oregon, Apr. 4 (OSW, FR, DFi, *vide* EE). Eleven pair nested on Leadbetter Pt., Wash., in late May. This success was attributed to the strict beach closures imposed on their behalf (RWi). One pair was at the species' n. outpost at Ocean Shores Apr. 19-May 2 (G&WH; CB, *vide* TBo). Eight Am. Golden Plover, rare in spring, were noted at 4 locations, Apr. 26-May 30. Two Long-billed Curlews Apr. 19 at Coos Bay, Oregon. (AMc), was the sole report. An **Upland Sandpiper** May 31 on a stretch of lawn at Lightning L., Manning P.P., B.C., high in the Cascades, was definitely displaced (WS). Oregon observers reported 18 Solitary Sandpipers, including seven at Gaston, w. of Portland, Apr. 26-27 (JGa, *vide* HN), and one very late bird May 28 at Eugene (SHi, *vide* AC). The **Spotted Redshank** at Reifel I., B.C. (†WW, †RC, †DK) stayed with a flock of Greater Yellowlegs generally far out on the tide flats until Apr. 1 (RF), at which time it had molted into partial breeding plumage.

Red Knots refueled in s.w. Washington as usual, with 400 on Bottle Beach, e. of Westport, Apr. 24 (G&WH), an early date. The 275 near Westport May 10 (BHT), and the 550 on Leadbetter Pt., May 13 (RWi) marked the usual peak. The high count in Oregon was the 15 at Tillamook May 10 (LP, *vide* HN). The single at Reifel I., Apr. 20 (MPr, *vide* WW) was the only British Columbia report. Most W. Sandpipers passed through Apr. 12-May 10, with high counts of 30,000 on Roberts Bank, w. of Ladner, B.C., Apr. 19 (DAI, BK, *vide* WW) and 100,000 Apr. 26 at Bowerman Basin on Grays Harbor (KBn *et al.*). The only Semipalmated Sandpipers this spring were seven-ten individuals on Iona I., May 10-28 (BK, DJ, WW). The usual few Baird's and Pectoral sandpipers were sighted. Baird's were at 4 locations Apr. 12-29 with a high count of eight, and Pectorals were at 4 locations Apr. 29-May 24 with a peak count of six.

The Short-billed Dowitcher passage was concentrated on salt water shores Apr. 12-May 14, with a peak Apr. 19 of 200+ on Boundary Bay, B.C. (BK, *vide* WW) and

800-1000 at Ocean Shores (KBo) Long-billed Dowitcher migration in the Region is more protracted and less habitat specific. The 200 in Seattle May 13 (ES, ER) was the maximum. A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** with a flock of Whimbrel Apr. 12 (†MSm, *vide* HN) provided the first spring record for the West Coast of North America (Roberson, *Rare Birds of the West Coast*, p. 181, 1980). A storm apparently precipitated the flock of 145 Marbled Godwits at Ashland high up on the Rogue R. valley in s. Oregon, Apr. 25-26 (MMo, VZ, OSw). Otherwise the high count was of 25 at the more typical coastal location of Waldport, Oregon. (R&JK, *vide* EE).

S.A.

Black-necked Stilts invaded in unprecedented numbers. There were six at Brownsville, near Corvallis, Oregon, Apr. 15 (*vide* CW), then 11 were found at Finley N.W.R., Apr. 18-23 (DP, TBl, *vide* EE), and three found their way to Medford Apr. 18 (MPa, *vide* MMo) and Ashland Apr. 26 (OSw, VZ, MMo). Two appeared on the Nisqually N.W.R., Wash., Apr. 17 (JSI, *vide* TBo) for only the second record for w. Washington. Three came to Reifel Ref., in s.w. B.C., where they remained Apr. 21-May 4 (†WW *et al.*) for the fourth Provincial record. At least 24 individuals were involved. The 1977 invasion of Black-necked Stilts into e. Washington resulted in persistent breeding colonies. That movement was correlated with extreme drought conditions w. of the Rocky Mts., earlier that year (Rohwer *et al.*, *Murrelet* 60:67-71, 1979).

American Avocets were likewise more numerous than usual, with eight individuals reported from 4 locations. Two were on the Nisqually N.W.R., Apr. 17-20 (JSI, BHT, SHR), one-two at Dungeness Apr. 27 and May 17-18 (WS), and four were at Iona I., and Reifel I., May 20-24 (ST, BK *et al.*, *vide* WW).

JAEGERS THROUGH PUFFINS—Four Pomarine Jaegers Apr. 24 in Hecate Strait n.e. of Sandspit, Queen Charlotte I., furnished an early date for so far n. and constituted the only report received (MiS, *vide* VG). Parasitic Jaegers were noted only at Grays Harbor May 5-10 (TW, EH). The five Glaucous Gull reports matched last year's total. The first Bonaparte's Gulls returned to Clover Pt., Victoria, Mar. 24 (RS, *vide* VG), and to Iona I., Apr. 1 (*vide* WW). Peak counts of 2000 were made at Active Pass Apr. 29 (J&RS, *vide* VG) and on the lower Fraser R., May 9 (BK, WW). Smaller numbers continued past Victoria throughout May. Seattle's Green L., had hosted 100+ on the early date of Mar. 14. This built to 500 Mar. 18-25, and declined sharply thereafter (EH). With the flock Mar. 18-24 were one-two ad. **Little Gulls** (E&NH, m.ob.) for only the third Regional spring record. Another ad. Little Gull was in Tacoma, Wash., Mar. 25 (CC).

Common Tern migration was brief. The species passed May 2-17, with the 500 at Ocean Shores May 9 the peak count (EH). Early Caspian Terns were reported along the

Oregon coast Mar. 21-22 (HN, DI, TC), and one at Pt. Roberts, Wash., Apr. 12 (BK, *vide* WW) was early for so far n. The species is known to breed in the Region only in Willapa and Grays Harbors on the s. Washington coast. However, two pairs were copulating May 9 at the S.J.C.R. (DFi), and groups of one-three dozen were observed daily near Bellingham and Iona I. (TW, WW), in addition to more widespread reports of one-six birds. One Black Tern was at Sumas Prairie, e. of Vancouver, B.C., May 13 (MiS, *vide* VG). An Ancient Murrelet persisted in courting a Pigeon Guillemot until Apr. 5 off Yaquina Head, Oregon. (CM *et al.*, *vide* EE) A Horned Puffin appeared off Smith I., n.w. of Whidbey I., May 30 (J&SVN, PCa). This location is very near the Protection I. site frequented the past 2 summers.

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The last Snowy Owl sightings were of a single at Dungeness Spit Mar. 21 (BMc, *vide* DS), four in Delta, B.C., Mar. 28 (AG, *vide* WW), and one at Iona I., Apr. 12 (BK, *vide* WW). Single Barred Owls spent the spring at 2 locations near Victoria (*vide* VG), and possibly in Stanley P., Vancouver, B.C. (*vide* WW). A pair was seen often in Discovery P., in Seattle (m.ob.), and a possible young bird was found there May 30 (J&MW). Another Barred Owl was rescued from tangled fishing line at Nolte S.P., King Co., Wash., Mar. 2 (*vide* TBo). Spotted Owls remained elusive. D&SS reported none found on 9 trips this spring into the n. edge of the Olympic N.P., although the U.S.F.S. has "recorded a fair number" on the Park's periphery (*vide* D&SS). The Long-eared Owl that wintered at Sea I., B.C., were last seen there Mar. 15 (*vide* WW).

Black Swifts checked in early, with singles noted May 3 along the Umpqua R., Oregon (MHu, MSa, *vide* CW) and near Victoria (BHs, *vide* VG), and another May 8 over Tatoosh I., Wash. (BP). Vaux's Swifts were seen first in Corvallis Apr. 14 (EE), with many over Portland Apr. 17 (MHo, *vide* HN). Two were along the N. fork of the Snoqualmie R., Wash., Apr. 25 (EH) and 48 were noted at Saanich and Metchosin, V.I., May 1 (BHs, LR, *vide* VG). On May 6, 1000 were at a Corvallis chimney roost (P&KC, DM, *vide* EE) and a large flock plugged a house chimney in Portland (MU, *vide* HN).

A **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was reported at a feeder in N. Bend on the s. Oregon coast Mar. 28 (AMc), and two were there Apr. 21-24 (EW, *vide* AMc). One present for 3 weeks in April at Ashland, Oregon. (D&MN, *vide* MMo), was closer to the species' normal breeding range. The first nest of the Anna's Hummingbird in Oregon has been located at last, in Portland. The nest held two young Mar. 30 (JMo, *vide* HN), and they fledged Apr. 18 (m.ob., ph., OSc). Fifty Allen's Hummingbirds were counted Mar. 21-22 from the California border n. to the Pistol R., with six at Arizona Beach the northernmost (TC, JGi, TM, *vide* HN). No Rufous Hummingbirds were noted there, but they were common at Coos Bay, 50 mi n. A ♂ Calliope Hummingbird was at a Poulsbo, Wash., feeder May 11 (JoC). A freshly dead Williamson's Sapsucker was found Mar. 15 in Seattle (PN, *to U.W. Museum) for one of very few w. Washington records.



View of ♀ Anna's Hummingbird near nest, Multnomah County, Ore., Apr. 4, 1981. Photo/Owen Schmidt.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH DIPPER—The W. Kingbird rarely nests n. of the Rogue R. valley of s. Oregon. Twenty-two individuals were noted this spring, Apr. 20-May 27, n. and w. of the Rogue R., compared to ten in 1978, 15 in 1979, and nine in 1980. Black Phoeebes were found nesting at a new location near Central Point, Jackson Co., Oreg. (MPa, OSw, *fide* MMo). Twelve individuals and one nest were located along the coastal strip from the California border n. to the Pistol R. (TC, JGi, OSc, DAN, *fide* HN). A Say's Phoebe was observed May 17 on Iona I. (†BK, †WW *et al.*). The first Hammond's Flycatchers were noted Apr. 21 at Portland (RSm, *fide* HN), Apr. 25 at Reifel I., B.C. (GA, *fide* WW), and Apr. 26 at Sequim, Carnation, and Issaquah, Wash. (WS, ME, EH). First arrival dates for W. Flycatchers were Apr. 15-19 in Seattle, and Saanich and Coquitlam, B.C. Both species were widespread by the end of April. A singing ♂ Least Flycatcher at Pitt Lake, B.C., May 31 (WW) furnished only the second valid Vancouver area record. Very early W. Wood Pewees were reported at Mt. Erie, near Anacortes, Wash., Apr. 19 (SA, FSA) and in Seattle Apr. 23 (JV, *fide* DHu). Otherwise arrival was in early May as is more typical.

One Bank Swallow straggled through Seattle Apr. 24 (†AR), and three were on Iona I., May 21 (WW). A Rough-winged Swallow Mar. 26 at Victoria (AMA, *fide* VG) was 2 weeks ahead of the main influx. The first Barn Swallow was one Apr. 1 at Seattle (SA, GVV). The species was widespread within 2 weeks. Two Cliff Swallows Mar. 29 at Nehalem meadows on the n. Oregon coast (JGi, *fide* HN) were 2 weeks ahead of the main influx. Two pairs of Purple Martins arrived at Fern Ridge Res., w. of Eugene Apr. 9 (TL, *fide* DFe), but the species was not noted in Washington until Apr. 24 when three pairs were at nest boxes in Redmond (FE, *fide* DFe).

A Clark's Nutcracker May 3 along the Rogue R., w. of Grants Pass, Oreg., was well w. of the Cascade crest (*fide* HN). Bushtits were nest-building near Vancouver, B.C., by Mar. 11 (MMc, VN, *fide* WW), near Seattle by Mar. 14 (K&PM), and at Saanich by Mar. 26 (J&RS, *fide* VG). Two Wrentits n. of Corvallis were at the n. vanguard of the species' expanding Willamette Valley range (AS, *fide* EE). White-breasted Nuthatches were noted Mar. 28 at the n. edge of their range near Tacoma, Wash. (NC). Red-breasted Nuthatch numbers were considered low in s. Oregon (*fide* MMo & AMc) and on s. V.I. (VG). Dippers were constructing an early nest in Gold-

stream P.P., V.I., Mar. 13 (EF, *fide* VG).

THRASHERS THROUGH WARBLERS—A stray Sage Thrasher turned up at Tillamook Bay May 17 (DHo, *fide* HN). A Mockingbird built a nest at Medford, Oreg., during May, but failed to find a mate (MMo). Three other Mockingbirds were reported in Oregon, all in early March, and another was in Manning P.P., B.C., May 27 (RH, RWe, *fide* WW) for the first record for the park. The robin's reputation as an early bird was upheld by a pair defending a newly fledged young Mar. 11 near Seattle (MD). Varied Thrushes were "very scarce" on s. V.I. (VG) and little noted elsewhere. Swainson's Thrushes at Gaston, w. of Portland, Apr. 11 (JGa, *fide* HN), on the U.B.C. campus in Vancouver Apr. 16 (JSm, *fide* WW), and at Salem Apr. 18 (TC) were several weeks early. The first substantial nocturnal passage was noted May 8-12 over Corvallis and Portland (DI, HN). Western Bluebirds maintained their foothold. Three nests were found at Agate L., near Medford (MPa, *fide* MMo), 8 pairs were nesting by the end of April along the Corvallis bluebird trail (*fide* EE), and four pairs plus one nest were found this spring on Ft. Lewis, near Tacoma, Wash. (BHT). Some two dozen individuals were reported, but no nests, at various locations in the Victoria area (*fide* VG). Two Loggerhead Shrikes straggled W of the Cascades. One was found Mar. 22 at Crescent Beach, s.e. of Vancouver, B.C. (†BK), and the other Mar. 27 at the Nisqually N.W.R., Wash. (HC, LK).

Fifteen Hutton's Vireos were counted Mar. 8 on the monthly Discovery Park census, Seattle, and a nest was under construction there the same day (EH). Red-eyed Vireos had just arrived by the end of May, with two along the Coquitlam R., B.C. (WW) and one at Sultan, Wash. (ME), all May 30.

Oregon again attracted the vagrant warblers for the Region. Two Black-and-white Warblers were well described. Single males were at Cornelius, w. of Portland, Apr. 23 (GW *et al.*, *fide* HN) and May 20 near Ashland (†MMo *et al.*). A wave of Tennessee Warblers hit the Portland area May 3-8, with six individuals found in 5 days. Five were in Portland itself (†PT, RSm, MHO *et al.*, *fide* HN), and was one 30 mi s. in Salem May 8 (TBI, *fide* HN). There is but one previous spring record for either w. Washington or w. Oregon, and most spring vagrants are found much later in the season. A Palm Warbler, scarce in spring, was closely studied Apr. 4 at Newport, Oreg. (m.ob.), and another was near Leadbetter Pt., Wash., Apr. 12 (DAL, KBe, JMc, *fide* WW). About 50 Townsend's Warblers were found at Corvallis Mar. 31 (EE). Farther n., about 40 were at Pitt L., B.C., Apr. 26 (MPr, *fide* WW). Black-throated Gray Warblers arrived in force on the s. Oregon coast Apr. 11-12 (*fide* HN), and in the Puget Sound, Victoria, and Vancouver, B.C., area Apr. 15-19 (m.ob.).

BOBOLINK THROUGH BUNTINGS—Three ♂ Bobolinks were reported: one May 25 at Iona I., B.C. (†BK, RP), and one May 26 on the U.W. campus in Seattle for the third year in a row at this season (ER), and one May 31 at Reifel I., B.C. (†MPr, WK). A N. (Baltimore) Oriole May 30-June 2 at Saanich, V.I., supplied one of very few Regional

records for this near species (JMa, EC, RWI, *fide* VG). A ♀ Rusty Blackbird at Westham I., B.C., Mar. 21 (†BK) provided a most unusual spring report.

Evening Grosbeaks exhibit an odd migratory pattern, not yet adequately defined. They appear in Seattle each year by the hundreds within a few days of May 1 to feast on flowering ornamental maples. Reports from Oregon this spring suggested an earlier influx there, after Apr. 10 at Corvallis (*fide* EE), Apr. 18 at Portland (DFi), and Apr. 19 at Ashland (*fide* MMo). The question is where do these large numbers of Evening Grosbeaks winter? Christmas Bird Count data indicate that it is not to the s. of our Region.

Pine Siskins were reported in good numbers throughout the Region. Red Crossbills nested at Philomath, near Corvallis (R&JK, *fide* EE), and at Eugene (JiC, *fide* EE). The species was reported as very scarce in w. Washington (DS, BHT, EH), and as absent on s. V.I. (VG) and in the Vancouver, B.C., area before May 31 (WW).

Vesper Sparrows arrived at nesting sites in the Willamette Valley Apr. 7-18, and were "abundant" s.w. of Tacoma, Wash., by Apr. 19 (BHT). A Lark Sparrow, rare w. of the Cascades, nested at Agate L., near Medford, in early May (VZ, *fide* MMo). A Black-throated Sparrow strayed to Medford May 20 (CR, *fide* HN) probably as an overshoot from the n.w. periphery of its range in the Malheur basin of e. Oregon. Wintering White-throated Sparrows were last seen at Newport, Oreg., Apr. 18 (FSr, *fide* CW), at Corvallis Apr. 26 (K&SL, *fide* EE), and at Eugene May 2 (TF, SG, *fide* CW). A few Lapland Longspurs were noted in passage at Ocean Shores Apr. 19-May 2 (KBo) and at Seattle May 5-14 (ER, B&PE). The last Snow Bunting was at Delta, B.C., Mar. 28 (AG, *fide* WW).

CITED OBSERVERS and ABBREVIATIONS—With sub-regional editors boldfaced.—Dave Aldcroft (DAL), David Anderson (DAn), Harvey Anderson, Gerry Ansell, Pete Arcese, Scott Atkinson, Carla Baugher, Kevin Bell (KBe), Tim Blount (TBl), Thais Bock (TBo), Ken Brown (KBo), Ken Brunner (KBn), Wayne Campbell, Richard Cannings, Jim Carlson (JiC), Joan Carson (JoC), Paul Cassidy (PCa), Chris Chappell, Nathan Chappell, Ed Coffin, Paul & Kathy Coleman, Alan Contreras, Tom Crabtree, Herbert Curl, Michael Donahue, Francis Edwards, Mark Egger, Elzy Eltzroth, Dick Erickson, Bob & Pat Evans, Dave Fehling (DFe), Tad Finnell, David Fix (DFi), Ethel Fogarty, Roger Foxall, George Garlich, John Gatchett (JGa), Jeff Gilligan (JGi), Steve Gordon, Vic Goodwill, Al Grass, Bill Harrington-Tweit (BHT), Bob Hay (BH), Steve Heil (SHi), Steve Herman (SHr), Wendell Hoag (WHo), Keith Hobson, David Hoffman (DHo), Glen & Wanda Hoge (G&WH), Beryl Holt (BHo), Mike Houck (MHo), Rick Howie, Nancy Hunn, Matt Hunter (MHu), David Hutchinson (DHu), David Irons, Dale Jensen, Brian Kautesk, Lois Killewich, Walter Kiryck, Anne Knowles, Rick & Jan Krabbe, Doug Kragh, Kristi & Swede Larson, Bob Lucas, Tom Lund, Jo MacGregor (JMa), Alan MacLeod (AMa), Chris Marsh, Debbie Martin, Karen Mattocks, Bob McCormack (BMc), Mar-

jorie McFeat (MMc), Alan McGie (AMc), John McMahon (JMc), Brien Meilleur (BMe), Marjorie Moore (MMo), Joe Morawski (JMo), Terry Morgan, Pam Negri, Harry Nehls, Verna Newson, Don & Marjorie Newson, Mike Paczolt (MPa), Bob Paine, Dick Palmer, Leonard Paul, Roy Phillips, Michael Price (MPr), Fred Ramsey, Ellen Ratoosh, Alan Richards, Robyn Ricks, Craig Roberts, Leila Roberts, Wilma Robinson, Joy & Ron Satterfield (J&RS), Susan

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Varekamp, Terry Wahl, Glenn Walthall, Clarice Watson, Robin Weber (RWe), Wayne Weber, Ralph Widrig (RWi), Ray Williams (RWI), John & Marilyn Wingfield, E. Wisti, Vince Zauskey, (†) written description on file; S.J.C.R.-South jetty of the Columbia R., Oreg.; V.I.-Vancouver I.—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

/Jules Evens and Ron LeValley

The warm, mild winter weather continued into the spring season, but except for comments about the slightly less than normal rainfall, most observers from the interior seemed not to have noticed the weather. Along the coast, ocean waters began the period 1-2°C above average but due to the onset of northwest winds and the associated upwelling, ocean waters cooled rapidly until late April and May found them 1-2°C below average. These northwest winds occur annually along our coastline, generating the very important mixing of ocean waters that brings nutrients to the surface. This year these winds appeared a month earlier than normal. As a result of this influx of nutrients, prey availability around Southeast Farallon Island (hereafter, F.I.) increased in mid-May and the breeding seabirds responded with heavy egg-laying in mid-May (CS†).

The northwest winds and associated clear skies were blamed for the lack of landbird migrants along the central coast and on F.I., where "it may have been the slowest May yet experienced by Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory (hereafter, P.R.B.O.) personnel" (BBo). The only waves at F.I., were Apr. 14-19 (mostly

Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, Lincoln Sparrow) and May 28-29 (mostly Western Wood Pewee). On the north coast, a "massive fallout" of western migrants (Western Flycatcher, Orange-crowned and Wilson's Warblers) descended on Crescent City May 8 (RAE, GSL, GS). Spring migration is most apparent amidst the moist oak canyons of the inner-coast range where transients can depend on cyclical insect emergence. Large concentrations of migrants were encountered in such habitat at Mix Canyon, Solano County, May 3 (TBe), Mt. Burdell, Marin County, May 9 (IT) and Harbin Springs, Lake County, May 12 (CB). Somewhat earlier were large numbers of Nashville, Hermit, Townsend's and Black-throated Gray warblers in a narrow yellow pine belt on the east side of Mt. Hamilton April 24 (CB, DH). Arrival and departure dates were closely monitored on the coast, in the Central Valley (hereafter, C.V.), the Sutter Buttes (WA) and at a few select locations in the Sierra (DAA). For comments on the effects of such close scrutiny see the introductory remarks in last spring's report (AB 34:810).

Early arrival dates of selected key species: Common Nighthawk May 25, Lake Almanor (DAA); Vaux's Swift March 31, Del Norte County (BED); Western Kingbird March 28, Tulare County (RHG); Ash-throated Flycatcher March 23, Marin County (DS); Western Wood Pewee April 9, Marin County (DS); Olive-sided Flycatcher April 14, Siskiyou County (RLeV); Bank Swallow March 17, San Francisco (JRI); Swainson's Thrush April 17, Pt. Reyes (RS); Solitary Vireo April 2, Marin County (IT); Warbling Vireo March 20, Colusa (WA); Yellow Warbler April 5, Marin County (DS); Black-throated Gray Warbler April 1, Marin County (DS, IT); Hermit Warbler April 13, Siskiyou County (RLeV); MacGillivray's Warbler April 13, Madera County (DBr); Yellow-breasted Chat April 21, Trinity County (RLeV); Wilson's Warbler March 20, Pt. Reyes (DS); Hooded Oriole March 21,

Alamo (JRI); Northern Oriole March 20, Sonoma County (DEI); Western Tanager April 3, Santa Clara County (DH); Black-headed Grosbeak April 8, Marin County (IT); Lazuli Bunting April 17, Monterey County (DRo); Grasshopper Sparrow April 1, Pt. Reyes (JE); Chipping Sparrow March 28, Sonoma County (DEI). Extremely early dates are in *italics*.

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

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS—A concentration of 40 Com. Loons on L. Almanor, Plumas Co., Apr. 12 (DAA) was at the normal peak of spring migration for an inland locality. Common Loons formerly bred in the n.w. corner of the Region, but their status presently is unclear. Seventy-two Red-necked Grebes Mar. 11 were concentrated in the same Marin County coastal area where large numbers were detected during fall migration (JE). A Red-necked Grebe at Eagle Lake, Lassen Co., Mar. 15 (DE) was unusual, but most of our inland records have come during migration. The relative distribution of the light and dark phases of W. Grebes in our Region are being elucidated; observers are encouraged to continue reporting sightings and ratios of these two forms.

A Laysan Albatross at the Cordelle Banks Mar. 23 (BDP) and one off of Humboldt Bay May 30 (J. Sterling, S.W. Harris) were at localities where they occur with some predictability. Flesh-footed Shearwaters are rarer in spring than in fall, therefore one at Cordelle Banks Mar. 23 (BDP) and one seen from Pt. Pinos Mar. 27 (DRo) were of special interest. A Manx Shearwater flying N past Pigeon Pt., Apr. 30 (PJM) was the only report this spring. A tantalizing report of Solander's Petrels (*Pterodroma solanderi*) was received from an oceanographic vessel offshore from our Region (R.L. Pitman). We are awaiting further details of these sightings after the return of the ship to land. A Leach's Storm-Petrel was heard in the early morning of May 2 at Pt. St. George by an observer very familiar with its calls (GSL). This species is extremely unusual within 15 mi of shore during the daylight hours despite its presence at nesting sites on islands as close as 100 yds from shore during the night!

White Pelicans lingered around San Francisco (hereafter, S.F.) Bay later than usual; late May records include 38 in South S.F. Bay May 28 (RWL), 50 at the Vallejo Salt Ponds



on the same day (B&HK), and 70 at Coyote Hills Regional P., May 29 (CSw). Brown Pelicans arrived during May in average numbers but one imm. at Hunter Rock, Crescent City, Del Norte Co., Mar. 21 (GSL, RAE *et al.*) was very early for such a northern locality.

HERONS—Green Herons seem to be increasing in the Mendota W.M.A., Fresno Co., as a result of the planting of willow and cottonwood trees by the Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game (RH), but the increase on the refuge and in suburban areas around Fresno may also have been owing to lack of water in many of this species' normal haunts. The only concentration of Cattle Egrets reported was of 11 in the Arcata Bottoms May 2 (RAE, RLeV). Elsewhere, a single individual in Novato, Marin Co., May 8 (*fide* DS) provided a late spring record and another at Lower Klamath N.W.R., May 9 (KVV, RE, MRo) was in an area from which there are very few records. Great Egrets still seem to be increasing in the n. Sacramento Valley (SAL, BED) A high count of 64 at L. Talawa, Del Norte Co., Mar. 30 (BED) was notable and parallels the presence of early spring concentrations n. of our Region in coastal Oregon. A Snowy Egret at L. Almanor, Plumas Co., Apr. 24 was possibly a trans-Sierran migrant (DAA). This species again failed to nest at Gray Lodge W.M.A., Butte Co. (BED); the last year of successful nesting there was 1975. The same story is true of Black-crowned Night Herons at Gray Lodge W.M.A. (BED). Least Bitterns returned to breeding sites at Lava Lakes Nature Center, Siskiyou Co., by Apr. 17 (RE, MRo). A Mar. 7 sighting at L. Merced, Golden Gate P., was the first S.F. record since 1925 (DM). Twenty-four White-faced Ibis at Mendota W.M.A., Fresno Co., through the period raised hopes for possible breeding there (RH, JB).

WATERFOWL—Swans and geese apparently departed their wintering areas earlier than usual; all wintering geese were gone from Gray Lodge by Mar. 17 (BED). The endangered Aleutian race of the Canada Goose seems to be growing in numbers. A high count of 1932 at L. Talawa, Del Norte Co. (SU) was encouraging. The peak number of Brant at Drake's Estero this spring was 2272 Apr. 17 (JE). A sub-adult Emperor Goose at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Mar. 15 (N. Clark, RE, MRo) produced our first spring record since 1978. Although this species is slightly more common inland than on the coast, most interior records are from October-November. A report of 12 "Blue" Geese with 100,000 Snow and Ross' geese at Twelake N.W.R., Siskiyou Co., Mar. 7 was intriguing (RE, MRo). These birds are studied closely and identified by plumage and bill characteristics as eight "Snow", three "hybrids" and one Ross' A Ross' Goose at L. Talawa Apr. 24-29 (RAE) established one of the few Del Norte County records. The same bird was apparently in the Smith R. bottoms May 2 (TM)

This spring brought the first Regional records since 1978 of Fulvous Whistling Duck. A pair was at the Orange Cove Sewage Pond, Fresno Co., Apr. 24 (RGH) and a single bird was at Mendota W.M.A., Apr. 28 (CP). Mallards were reported enjoying their most successful breeding season in 6 years at the Au-

burn Stabilization Ponds (BBa) with 4 clutches totaling 37 chicks. The first Sonoma County breeding record of Pintail was a hen with five young May 16 at the Lakeville Hwy. Sewage Ponds near Petaluma (DE). Blue-winged Teal were well reported with 55+ individuals found in nearly every county in the Region. Two very late Eur. Wigeon were at Lower Klamath N.W.R., May 9 (KVV, RE, MRo). Two different Blue-winged X Cinnamon Teal hybrids were well described, one from Merced N.W.R., Mar. 9 (RB) and one from the Arcata Marsh, Humboldt Co., Apr. 9 (RLeV, LD *et al.*).

Redheads continue to nest at the Woodland Sugar Ponds, Yolo Co., despite massive habitat destruction in the surrounding wetlands; five pairs were there May 26 (TBe). Large numbers of Scaup gathered at Doolittle Pond, Alameda Co., prior to migration; 1315 Greater Scaup were there Apr. 5 and 4000 scaup sp. were there Apr. 20 (ER). This is a favored roosting locality during windy weather. A Barrow's Goldeneye at Deer Cr. Meadows, Tehama Co., May 2 was "quite unusual" (SAL). Many of last winter's Oldsquaws were found this spring, the largest concentration was of four at Tiburon, Marin Co., Mar. 5-10 (BL). Two-three Oldsquaws at Moss Landing were seen by m.ob.; there were last recorded on the late date of May 9 (DRo). A migrant gathering of 350 Black Scoters near Fort Funston, San Francisco Co., May 23 (DM) was an impressive number for our Region. Red-breasted Mergansers appeared inland slightly more than usual, two were at Eagle L., Lassen Co., Mar. 15-22 (DE, OKH), seven were at Copco L., Siskiyou Co., Mar. 11 (RE, MRo), and two were at Lost Lake P., Fresno Co., Mar. 7 (KH, BW).

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS—Turkey Vultures, absent from most of the n. part of the Region in winter, returned to Somes Bar, Siskiyou Co., Mar. 5 (RLeV) and L. Almanor Mar. 22 (DAA). The Region's third **Mississippi Kite** record was of an immature photographed May 31 at Mono Lake County P. (MM). This was possibly the same individual seen in Death Valley just prior to this sighting (see Southern Pacific Coast Region). Determining the migration periods of the two smaller accipiters is difficult owing to the fact that a few remain in the Region as nesters. The last Sharp-shinned Hawks reported from coastal Marin County were in Olema Valley Apr. 22 (JE) and at Palomarin Ranch Apr. 26 (P.R.B.O.), but sightings in Novato in interior Marin County s. of known nesting areas continued until May 9 (SC). Cooper's Hawks departed Palomarin by May 13 except for an immature present the last 2 weeks of May (P.R.B.O.). Swainson's Hawks were reported in normal numbers from most of the traditional interior sites, but observers in Butte Valley, Siskiyou Co., suggest that they may be increasing there (RE, MRo). Both Golden and Bald eagles were reported in average numbers at normal localities, which is another way of saying that no discernible trends are evident from the *American Birds* reports in our Region. Adult ♀ Marsh Hawks returned to coastal Marin County by Mar. 10 (JE). It seems that much could be learned if observers recorded the age and sex of all Marsh Hawks throughout the year. The Osprey populations in the Region continue in

their healthy condition, nearly all observers report good news for this species. Prairie Falcons are not normally considered migratory, yet fall and winter reports outnumber spring and summer reports by a ratio of about 4:1 in our Region, more than would be accounted for by simple dispersal of juv. birds. Peregrine Falcons were well reported from coastal Marin County but one observer (JE) still does not think that they are nesting there. Elsewhere, an immature was in South S.F. Bay May 28 (*fide* RWL), a rather late sighting for that locality. Most of our Regional Merlins had left the area by early to mid-April but one near the mouth of the Smith R., Del Norte Co., May 18 (MMo) was very late.

Blue Grouse were reported from 10 different localities in our Region, more than ever before. Particularly interesting were 3 localities in Sonoma County near the s. limit of this species' coastal range; six along Rockpile Rd., Apr. 4 (BDP, JP, LCB), three along Thompson Ridge w. of Cloverdale Apr. 4 (BDP, JP, LCB) and one near Cazadero Apr. 26 (DE). Ruffed Grouse were found n. of Somes Bar, Siskiyou Co., Apr. 7 & 13 (RLeV), near Dry L., Del Norte Co., Apr. 17 (TBr, D. McClung), and near Ironsides Mt., Trinity Co., Apr. 21 (RLeV). The Sage Grouse lek at Schaeffer Mt., Lassen Co., had 12 grouse at it Mar. 14 (BED) & 29 (JML) These are the same numbers reported last year but many fewer than the numbers during the early 1970s when 40-50 were present.

Sandhill Cranes had mostly departed wintering areas in the C.V., by mid-March so a "Lesser" Sandhill at Kesterson N.W.R., Merced Co., May 28 (LR) was unexpected. A "Greater" Sandhill Crane was on a nest in Hager Basin, Modoc Co., May 13 (BED) where such activity is to be expected. In last year's spring report the question was asked if Black Rails were not really more common than their "rare" status indicates. Apparently DE answered the question by finding at least 65 calling territorial Black Rails at the Port Chicago Marsh, Contra Costa Co., this spring, and estimating a population of 150+ at that locality! Elsewhere, two were at Beneficia S.P., Solano Co., Mar. 17, two were in Hudemans Slough, Sonoma Co., Apr. 26 and one was near the Petaluma R. mouth, Sonoma Co., May 16 (all DE). An Am. Coot found its way to F.I., May 12; there are few spring records.

SHOREBIRDS—Spring arrival of Black-necked Stilts to breeding grounds were Mar. 14, Creighton Ranch Preserve, Tulare Co (KL), Mar. 19 Gnos Field, Marin Co. (DS, SCa), and Apr. 5 Honey L., Lassen Co (DAA). Humboldt County was treated to its 3rd record for Black-necked Stilt by an individual present around Arcata Mar.-17-mid April (J. Sterling, RAE, LD, RLeV). Arrival dates of Am. Avocets on breeding grounds were the same as the Black-necked Stilts in Tulare and Marin cos., but they didn't arrive until Apr. 21 at Honey L. (DAA). Snowy Plovers were reported nesting at L. Talawa, Del Norte Co., May 27 (GSL, RAE), Año Nuevo, San Mateo Co., May 27 (PJM), Coyote Hills, Alameda Co., in May (PJM), Hayward Regional Shoreline, Alameda Co., Apr. 27, and Kesterson N.W.R., Merced Co., June 4 (LR). At least eight Am. Golden Plovers remained on Pt. Reyes until May 3

(*vide* DS) Elsewhere, four were at Dillon Beach, Marin Co., Mar. 27 (DS) and one was n of L. Talawa, Del Norte Co., Apr. 29 (RAE).

A major migratory movement of thousands of Marbled Godwits flying N along the coast took place Apr. 16-19 at the Mad R. mouth, Humboldt Co. (LD, RLeV). Fifteen Long-billed Curlews at L. Almanor, Plumas Co., Mar. 20 established one of the few records from that area (DAA). Lesser Yellowlegs were well reported along the coast with 26+ individuals being detected (m.ob.), but the big shorebird news was this spring's invasion of Solitary Sandpipers. Over 24 were reported from the following locations: Smith R bottoms, Del Norte Co., 13-15 individuals Apr. 16-May 2 (BED, RAE, GSL *et al.*); Terwer Valley, Del Norte Co., one Apr. 28 (RAE); Klamath R. estuary one Apr. 28-29 (GSL); Arcata Bottoms, Humboldt Co., two May 2 (RAE, RLeV); Happy Camp, Siskiyou Co., one Apr. 18 (SAL, MRO, RE); Lava Lakes Nature Center, Siskiyou Co., one Apr. 17 (RE, MRO); Yreka, Siskiyou Co., one Apr. 24 (RE, MRO); Mines Rd., Alameda Co., one Apr. 24-25 (JRI, BL); BelMarin Keys, Marin Co., one May 4 (JE); Los Vaqueros Reservoir Site, Contra Costa Co., one Apr. 7 (DSch, B. Richmond); Mendota W M.A., Fresno Co., one Apr. 21 (JB). Solitary Sandpipers averaged 4 records per spring in recent years. A Wandering Tattler on levee rip-rap near the e. end of the Dumbarton Bridge, Alameda Co., Apr. 29 (PJM) was unusual so far inside S.F. Bay. Ruddy Turnstones may prove to be regular in spring at Lower Klamath N.W.R., one was there May 16 (BED, MRO, RE). More unusual was an individual at the n.e. shore of Mono L., May 21 (CSw). A Wilson's Phalarope, considered casual along the coast in spring, was at Abbott's Lagoon, Marin Co., May 22 (DS). Red Phalaropes went unreported this spring.

A Sanderling at Lower Klamath N.W.R., May 12 and three others there May 16 (SS, BED, MRO, RE) provided the only inland reports. Two well described Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported, one from the n.e. shore of Mono L., May 21 (†CSw) and one from the Emeryville Crescent, Alameda Co., May 24 (†SFB). This species is very rare in the spring. Baird's Sandpipers were again detected at Lower Klamath N.W.R., this spring with four present Mar. 15 (S. Summers) and an unprecedented 14 present Mar. 29 (RE, MRO). The only other report of this rare spring migrant was one at Bolinas Lagoon, Marin Co., Apr. 8 (*vide* DS). A Pectoral Sandpiper, also quite rare in spring, was in the Smith R. bottoms, Del Norte Co., May 4-6 (RAE).

GULLS, TERNS—Western Gulls have become regular visitors at the Martinez Yacht Harbor, Contra Costa Co., in the last few years; 12 were present May 20 (LF). This species is rarely reported this far into S.F. Bay.

A Ring-billed Gull was on F.I., Mar. 3; this species is extremely rare seaward of the immediate coast. The Little Gull at the Stockton Sewage Ponds was apparently present through May 31 (*vide* SFB). Heermann's Gulls were apparently visiting last year's nest site on Alcatraz I., in early May (*vide* CSw).

Forster's Terns are rare in spring n. of So-

S.A.

With the California Gull colony's uncertain future at Mono L., it is particularly exciting to report the establishment of a breeding colony with 42 active nests May 31 in s. S.F. Bay (M. Rigney, *vide* RWL). This is the first evidence of nesting of this species west of the Sierra Nevada Mts., except for some eggs collected in 1910 in the "Sutter Basin" (Dawson 1927, *Birds of Calif.*). This colony was apparently present in the summer of 1980 but was not investigated until this spring. Also of interest was a pair engaged in bill-tossing display at Pope Beach, S. Lake Tahoe, May 11 (HLC) as there are no known nesting areas near that locality.

noma County so the following Crescent City, Del Norte Co., records are noteworthy: one Apr. 17 (BED), three Apr. 24 (RAE) and one May 19 (GSL). In contrast, 50 Com. Terns in Crescent City May 17 was probably normal (RAE). A Least Tern was well described from Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co., Apr. 23 (†JH). They are rare n. of s. S.F. Bay. Elegant Terns moved into the Region somewhat early with three at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, Alameda Co., May 25 (KFC) and seven at the Pajaro R. mouth May 28 (PJM, J&RW). Caspian Terns continued their early arrival at Regional localities; most observers reported them up to 2 weeks earlier than normal. By May 31 the Caspian Tern colony in the S.F. Bay N.W.R., San Mateo Co., had 1000± breeding pairs (M. Rigney, *vide* RWL). Black Terns were reported in lower than normal numbers in the Woodland (TBe) and Yuba City (JH) breeding areas. Two **Black Skimmers** were reported at Elkhorn Slough, Monterey Co., May 17 (*vide* WB). More details will be included in next season's report.

PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS—Band-tailed Pigeons first returned to the n. coast Mar. 20 (RAE) and were "fairly common" at Crescent City by Apr. 1 (BED). In e. Humboldt/w. Trinity cos., they were relatively scarce where they had been thought to be a common breeder (RLeV), and in the foothills near Auburn, none was noted until early May, which is unusual (BBa). Numbers increased at Pt. Reyes in mid-May, apparently in response to the *Sambucus* (elderberry) crop (JE). Along lower Mines Rd., Alameda Co., Roadrunners are "still present despite people playing tapes in the breeding area" (AE).

Barn Owls were found breeding in "good numbers" in e. Alameda County (AE), but on Pt. Reyes 2 nests successfully fledged only two young between them (JE). In Lafayette, Contra Costa Co., the species is "faltering" (LF).

Of 14 Pygmy Owl reports, eight were from the inner-coast ranges, 5 were in the low foothills along the e. rim of the C.V., and one was the aforementioned bird in w. Siskiyou County. Although considered fairly common on the w. slope of the Sierra, no reports from that locale were received. Five previously unknown pairs of Spotted Owls in the Almanor District of Lassen N.F., brought the period total there to 7 pairs (DAA). Burrowing Owl numbers were disturbingly low with only 5

S.A.

Western Siskiyou County includes within its boundaries the extensive woodlands of the Klamath and Salmon Mts., characterized by a mosaic of coniferous montane forest types and, at lower elevations, mixed evergreen and broadleaved forests. While studying the distribution of Spotted Owls in the area, S. Laymon encountered the following densities of some of the more nocturnal Strigiformes: Flammulated Owl, 23 locations, with the first May 3; Spotted Owl, 50+ new territories bringing the total to 180+; the final total may exceed 260 pairs in w. Siskiyou County alone; Saw-whet Owl, 43 locations, in all habitats. In the same area, during the same time afield, only three Screech Owls, three Great Horned Owls and one Pygmy Owl were heard.

sightings; this species is clearly in trouble as a breeding species within the Region. The only Long-eared Owl report was of a successful breeding attempt on the San Joaquin Experimental Range (hereafter, S.J.E.R.), Madera Co., where six young were discovered May 15 (DBr *et al.*). Short-eared Owls were also sparse with only seven reported. Single Sawwhets were found in the Diablo Range at Hall's Valley, Santa Clara Co., Apr. 26 (DH *et al.*), at Cazadero, Sonoma Co., Apr. 26 (DE) and along upper Mill Cr., Tehama Co., Apr. 17 (DAA); other reports were from areas of known occurrence.

Poor-wills, reported in substantial numbers, "arrived" early at Oroville, Butte Co., Mar. 14 (SAL), N. Butte, Sutter Co., Apr. 6 (WA) and near Happy Camp, Siskiyou Co., Apr. 18 (RE, MRO). Early and extremely rare on the coast were two Lesser Nighthawks at Bolinas Apr. 19 (Barbara Deuhl, Patsy Cristaeuh) with one seen there again Apr. 21 (CSw, DDeS, EG). Most coastal records are from F.I., between mid-May and early July with a peak in early June.

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—Migrating Black Swifts were encountered May 5-31 (m.ob.) which is normal. Vaux's Swift made an early passage with three at High Prairie Cr., Del Norte Co., Mar. 31 (BED) and 40 at Mokelumne R., Lodi Apr. 4 (BK); four at Millerton L., Fresno Co., Apr. 15 (KH) eclipsed the previous s. C.V. arrival date by 2 weeks (RH). Peak movement was noted at Arcata and the Mad R., May 18 (RLeV). A vagrant Costa's Hummingbird visited San Rafael, Marin Co., Apr. 12-14 (I Tait, K. Whiteside) coinciding with the arrival of two males at Mines Rd. (KFC) at Montebello Ridge, Santa Clara Co., *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were counted at the rate of 50-100/hr, Apr. 4; only two could be identified to species, and they proved to be Rufous (DH). At P.R.B.O.'s research station at Palomarin, the first juv. Allen's Hummingbird was caught in the nets Apr. 30, nearly 2 months later than in 1980; numbers were low with a total of 21 juvenals netted as compared to 82 in 1980. Although known to wander upslope after breeding, 4700 ft near Chester, Plumas Co., was a high elevation for a singing Anna's Hummingbird Apr. 11 (DAA). A Calliope Hummingbird visited Drake's Beach P.R.N.S., May 21 (RS),

coastal records are rare in the Region, clustered toward late April-early May.

Acorn Woodpecker numbers were considered "bare bones" around Lafayette (LF); because this species avoids the humid coast n. of S.F., one in the Terwer Valley, Del Norte Co., May 27 was out of place (GSL, RAE, LB) Lewis' Woodpecker is no longer found regularly at lower Mines Rd., where Starlings have usurped nest holes (AE, HLC), but are still present in San Antonio Valley, Santa Clara Co. (AE). A "Red-naped" Sapsucker (*S.v. nuchalis*) 10 mi w. of Happy Camp, Siskiyou Co., Apr. 14 (SAL, NC, RE, MRo) was most unusual w. of the Cascades. A "Red-breasted" Sapsucker (*S.v. ruber* or *daggetti*) found F.I., Apr. 19 for one of very few spring island records. Numbers of Downy Woodpeckers seemed strong coastally (JE, DM), but at Gray Lodge in the C.V., "there has been a marked decline in the last 8 years, although riparian habitat has increased" (BED). Apparent migrant Downies were noted in Fresno: one was flying over with Violet-green Swallows Apr. 1 (KH) and one was "downtown" Apr. 23 (RH). Nuttall's Woodpecker seems to be expanding its range (coincident with a decline in Downies?): a pioneer male was excavating in Menlo P., Apr. 5 for the first spring record there (WB) and a female at Olema Mar. 27 was slightly w. of the normal range (JE). The only White-headed Woodpecker report was of a heard bird at Horse Mt., Humboldt Co., May 2 where it is rare (RAE *et al.*).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS—Western Kingbird is unusual along the c coast in spring, becoming more common farther n. Of 32 coastal sightings Apr. 11-June 4 (m.ob.), 22 were in Del Norte County with a high of seven at Klamath Apr. 27 (RAE). Curiously, peak movement along the c coast was later, May 3-May 10. Two montane records are noteworthy, both at 4500 ft; one at L. Almanor May 6 (DAA), one along Hwy. 32, Tehama Co., May 23 (KVV). Cassin's Kingbird returned to Shirttail Canyon, Monterey Co., Mar. 22 (DRo); this is the only report received of this rare breeder. A single **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** at Lafayette May 3 (LF) was early, the majority of records being in July. The E. Phoebe, present in Monterey since Dec. 29, was last seen Mar. 28 (AM, EM); although commonly thought to be a "fall bird", this species has been detected with increasing frequency late February-early April in recent years. Black Phoebes are very local in the mountains; one along the N. Fork of the Feather R. at 4500 ft in Chester May 23 was unusual for the Almanor area (DAA). Only four migrant Willow Flycatchers were reported May 21-22: one at Gray Lodge N.W.R. (BED), two just n. of Klamath (GSL, RAE), one at S.J.E.R., Madera Co. (RH). The only report from a breeding location was of one bird at Hodgdon Meadow, Yosemite May 29-30 (SFB). Dusky Flycatcher was found to be a more common than expected transient through the oak woodland foothills of S.J.E.R. (1000 ft elev) in May with birds recorded on 5 of 10 days afield (RH). The earliest Dusky was one at China Camp, Monterey Co., Apr. 14 (DRo) with all others from the n.w. counties May 7-20 (RAE, RLeV, GSL, GS). Migrant Gray Flycatchers were at Smith R. bottoms,

Del Norte Co., Apr. 24 (RAE), Crescent City May 9 (RAE, GSL) and Fresno Apr. 30 (KH, JS). The 35 W. Flycatchers at Crescent City May 8 (RAE, GSL, GS) accompanied a massive fall-out of other w. migrants (see Orange-crowned Warbler below). Early W. Wood Pewees at Burdell Mt., Marin Co., Apr. 9 & 14 (DS) were the earliest dates recorded in the regional files, but may prove close to average for moist oak woodlands (DS). An average arrival date for the c. coast is more like Apr. 19-20. An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Bean's Ridge, Siskiyou Co., Apr. 14 (RLeV) was about 2 weeks early for the n. counties; elsewhere, arrival dates were fairly typical. The Region's sixth **Vermilion Flycatcher** was at Clovis, Fresno Co., Apr. 16-17 (EL, *fide* KH); this is the same location from which there is an old undated specimen (McCaskie *et al.*, 1979, *Birds of Northern California*).

Swallow arrival corresponded to the expected pattern. Bank Swallow colonies were active at Año Nuevo (RS), Fort Funston, S.F. (JRi), Fall R. Mills, Shasta Co. (BED) and in reduced numbers at Pajaro R., Monterey Co. (BE); previously unreported colonies were found near King City, Monterey Co., Apr. 16 (DRo) and 5 mi n. of Alturas, Modoc Co., May 12 (BED). At Palomarin Cliff Swallows were nesting later and in reduced numbers compared to last year (P.R.B.O.). Purple Martins were found nesting near Five Brooks, P.R.N.S. (GH *et al.*), At Cobb Mt., Lake Co. (JPM) and in reduced numbers at two traditional coastal locations s. of S.F. (BE). Sightings in Sacramento (BK, HK) along Skyline Dr., San Mateo Co., (DH) suggested nesting at those locations as well.

CORVIDS THROUGH NUTHATCHES—Scrub Jay flocks are occasionally noted in autumn and assumed to be normal down-slope movements or a response to concentrated acorn crops. Spring flocks are most unusual, so the following localized movements were of interest: 60 at Paynes Cr., Tehama Co., Apr. 28 (KVV, KC), 80 at Horseback Ridge, 8.5 mi s. of Paynes Cr. Apr. 29 (DAA), 47 moving NW along the w. shore of L. Almanor Apr. 30 (DAA). Thereafter, there were only two sightings of individuals in the L. Almanor area (DAA). A "migrant" Scrub Jay was at Gold Bluff Beach, Humboldt Co., May 18 (GS). Most vagrant Yellow-billed Magpie records are in winter, but one at Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co., May 31 was w. of its normal range eating a dead skunk (SC). In Carmichael, 79 was a high concentration (JML). The only Piñon Jay report was of 25 s. of Honey L. (JML). Red-breasted Nuthatches continue to be conspicuously absent; of two reported, one was at Palomarin May 26 and one was along Skyline Rd., San Mateo Co., May 30-31 (DH *et al.*).

DIPPER THROUGH WAXWINGS—Ten + Dippers were along the N. Fork of the American R., Apr. 24 (TBe). Canon Wren Wren avoids the n. humid coast belt, so singles in the vicinity of the Klamath R. Mouth Apr. 5 (JGH), May 7-9 (GSL, LB, RAE) and May 17-21 (GSL, RAE) were odd; another at Bluff Cr. s.e. Del Norte Co., Apr. 4 (BBb, JGH) was unusual. A Sage Thrasher, present in Salinas since late November, lingered until Mar. 22 (DRo); winter records

from the coast are rare. The first report from the n. Great Basin was of seven at Honey L., Mar. 29 (JML). One was netted at Palomarin May 8 (BY, P.R.B.O.).

Late lingering Varied Thrushes were found at Plaskell Meadow, Glenn Co., May 2 (KVV, KC) and Mt. Burdell, Marin Co., May 9 (SC). A **Veery** was seen at F.I., May 27 (†BBo, P.R.B.O.). This species is extremely rare in California, with three other records (one for the Region) Oct. 12-Nov. 5. If accepted by the California Records Committee, this will constitute the first spring occurrence. Single coastal Mountain Bluebirds were at Montebello Open Space Reserve, San Mateo Co., Apr. 8 (DH) and L. Earl, Del Norte Co., Apr. 4 (DG). One e. of Hwy. 99, Madera Co., Mar. 28 (JS) was late on the San Joaquin Valley floor (RH). Five migrant Townsend's Solitaires were found along the n. coast Apr. 2-20 (BED, D. Scott *et al.*). A wave of 65 Ruby-crowned Kinglets descended on F.I., Apr. 15; the last migrants were on the coast at Pt. Reyes Apr. 30 (DS), in the C.V., at Gray Lodge May 8 (BED) and one very late individual at Lafayette May 15 (LF).

PIPITS THROUGH SHRIKES—Water Pipits leave their wintering grounds by early May, so one near Palo Alto May 31 (MRi) was very late. Cedar Waxwings were found in strong numbers during April and May at areas of common occurrence, but ten at Crane Flat Lookout May 16 (TBr) was unusual for the Yosemite Sierra. Of five N. Shrikes, during March, two were in coastal Del Norte (RAE *et al.*), one was near Orleans, Humboldt Co. (RLeV), one was in Sierraville, Sierra Co., and the last was at Honey L., Mar. 21 (DAA). A Loggerhead Shrike was at the Klamath R. mouth Mar. 30 (BED *et al.*), but more unusual was a very late one May 5 at Pt. Saint George (Jim Rooney).

WARBLERS—Six Black-and-white Warblers were reported from Mar. 28-May 30, five from the coast, one e. of the Sierran divide at Lundy Canyon near Mono L. (MM). Of seven Tennessee Warblers, five were migrants along the c. coast Apr. 30-May 17; one at Golden Gate P., S.F., Apr. 3 (NB) may have wintered and one was at Crescent City May 8 with 350 Orange-crowned Warblers (RAE, GSL, GS). Although there were several earlier reports (most of lingering winterers), Nashville Warblers arrived in synchrony Apr. 14 at a wide range of locations (m.ob.). The Lucy's Warbler, present in Pacific Grove since Dec. 30, was last seen Mar. 23 (DRo). Of four N. Parulas May 9-June 1, two were at F.I., May 29-June 1, one was at Lincoln P., S.F., May 17 (JM *et al.*), one was at Anadel S.P., Sonoma Co., May 9 (R. Aijala, *fide* Gull). Quite early single Yellow Warblers were at Olema Cr., Marin Co., Apr. 5 (DS) and farther n. at Happy Camp, Siskiyou Co., Apr. 17 (SAL). Encouraging numbers were reported from Yosemite (SFB) and the n. Sierras (JH). A ♂ Cape May Warbler was missing most of its tail-feathers at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse May 20 (DS) and another male was seen there May 25 (MG *et al.*).

Townsend's Warbler migrants were reported in strong numbers, especially through oak woodlands of the inner coast ranges (TBe, CB, DH, WB). At Gray Lodge

N W R , six May 7-8 was "many more than usual," (BED) and in the Sutter Buttes the migratory peak May 5 was consistent with previous years (WA). Townsend's wintered in w. Siskiyou County (RLeV, SAL); one at Lost L. Park near Friant, Fresno Co., May 20 was late on the valley floor (KH) and the Region's last report. Hermit Warbler migration (mid-April to mid-May) corresponded closely to Townsend's migration; a single bird in Terwer Valley, Del Norte Co., Mar. 27 wintered (RAE) and a female at Lost L. Park May 20 was late on the valley floor (KH). Hermit Warbler migration (mid-April - mid-May) corresponded closely to Townsend's migration; a single bird in Terwer Valley Mar. 27 wintered (RAE) and a female at Lost Lake P., May 20 was late on the valley floor (KH). A ♂ Chestnut-sided Warbler was at Pt. Saint George May 28-29 (GSL, RAE, *et al.*), and a male was singing at S.J.E.R., May 31 (†DBr). The last wintering Palm Warbler was on the n coast Apr. 25 (RAE, GSL, PR). The unprecedented number of inland records this winter was complemented by a single Palm in e Vallejo May 12 (G. Sears, *fide Gull*). Four Ovenbirds were along the c. coast with two at F.O., May 28, one at Mendoza Ranch, P.R.N.S., May 25 (MG *et al.*) and one at Lincoln P., S.F., May 31 (NB). Also during the last week of May there was an Ovenbird in Reedley, Fresno Co., found dead June 1 (RHG). Interior spring records of Ovenbird and N. Waterthrush are more common than coastal records in s. California, however, to the n., coastal sightings predominate. One N. Waterthrush was singing in Inverness, Pt. Reyes May 25 (RS). A singing **Kentucky Warbler** in Lincoln P., S.F., May 16 (AH, m.ob.) provided the Region with its eighth record (15th for California) six of which have been on F.I., May 11-July 3 with another in Eureka Nov. 21-23, 1972. Numbers of MacGillivray's Warblers were considered generally low (compared to last year) at Pt. Reyes (JE) and along the American R. (TBe), however five along Langley Hill Rd., San Mateo Co., May 30-31 (DH) were considered good numbers there. Common Yellowthroats returned to the n. coast (from which it retreats in winter) by Mar. 29 (GSL, RAE, BED). A ♂ Hooded Warbler at Western Mountain gas station in Lee Vining was fueling-up on insects at a recently uncovered woodpile May 20-28 (C. Schwarz, †KH *et al.*). As with Ovenbird and N. Waterthrush most spring records from n. California are coastal, but s. records predominate from the interior. Wilson's Warbler migration peaked in early May with 25 at Mix Canyon, Solano Co., May 3 (TBe) and 45 at Crescent City May 8 (GSL, RAE, GS). Two Am. Redstarts were reported, both imm. males: Drake's Beach, P.R.N.S., May 31 (JM *et al.*) and F.I., June 1

ICTERIDS AND TANAGERS—Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found coastally with singles at Bolinas Apr. 3 (CSw, EG), Arcata bottoms Apr. 28 (JHG) and Smith R. bottoms May 8 (RAE, GS, GSL). An imm. ♂ N. (Bullock's) Oriole at Santa Cruz Mar. 8 (JLu) probably wintered; otherwise arrival dates were about average. The S.F. pair of Great-tailed Grackles was again sighted Apr. 5 (K. Hainebach) and the male was seen May 9+ (*fide Gull*). Extensive field

work along the n fork of the American R., Yosemite and Sagehen Cr., w. of Truckee revealed "high numbers" of Brown-headed Cowbirds at those locations (TBe). A ♀ W. Tanager at Santa Cruz Mar. 8 (JLu) wintered; one at Steven's Cr. County Park, Santa Clara Co., Apr. 3 (DH) was about 2 weeks early if it did not winter. Migration of W. Tanager through the Sutter Buttes Apr. 18-May 24 (WA) mirrors the pattern throughout the Region. An adult ♂ Summer Tanager at Hastings Natural History Reservation, upper Carmel Valley, Monterey Co., May 2+ (D. Good, B. Hastings *et al.*) was apparently of the e. race, *rubra* (*fide Gull*).

FRINGILLIDS—A ♀ Black-headed Grosbeak at Los Altos Mar. 17 through the end of March (J&SL) was early coastally and may have wintered locally. Two ♂ Indigo Buntings were reported: one w. of Cazadero, Sonoma Co., May 25 (DB, PC) and one at F.I., May 26 (P.R.B.O.). Evening Grosbeaks were generally conspicuous and at lower than usual elevations (m.ob.) with 350 Paynes Cr., Tehama Co., Apr. 28 (KVV, KC) the high count. An influx into e. Humboldt/w. Trinity County Apr. 23-May 31+ (RLeV) was well documented. A ♂ Purple Finch at Camp Richardson in the Tahoe Basin May 11 was "unusual in being e. of the Sierran crest in spring; vagrants into this Region, where *cassinii* breed, are usually found from mid-summer-fall" (HLC, G. Hall). Pine Siskin, usually rare in the Sutter Buttes, was encountered there regularly in April with a high of 40 Apr. 4 (WB); three at S.J.E.R., May 22 were low (1000 ft) for that date (RH). Lawrence's Goldfinch was well reported, especially in the inner coast ranges from Monterey up through the Diablo Range (m.ob.) and in the southern C.V., where "the number was greater than normal with most records in the foothills, some as high as 6000 ft at Dinkey Cr." (RH, KH). On the immediate coast, small numbers were clustered in late May with sightings at Pt. Pinos and the Carmel R. mouth May 29 (DRo) and two at Pt. Reyes May 30 (MG).

"Healthy numbers" of Red Crossbills continue to be found in the mountains from Yosemite to Lassen (m.ob.), extending down into Ponderosa Pine forests (TBe, SGr). The only coastal reports were of six plus s. of Eureka Apr. 28 (JGH), four at Pt. Reyes Apr. 16 (JE), two at Arcata Bottoms May 19 (JGH) and seven at MacKerrich S.P., Mendocino Co., May 31 (JH). No Green-tailed Towhees were found around Fallen Leaf L., and the S. Tahoe area where the species was formerly common (HLC). One at Chawana-kee Flats (3000 ft) on the w. slope of the Sierra Apr. 23 was low (SG), however small numbers migrate through atypical habitat in spring (Gaines D., 1977, *Birds of the Yosemite Sierra*). One at Mt. Diablo May 6-10 was unusual (M.A.D.S.). Quite rare in spring, a ♂ Lark Bunting was near the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse Apr. 30 (†DS, Laura Graffineus). A Grasshopper Sparrow at Pt. Reyes Apr. 1 (JE) was the Region's earliest ever, but further field work may prove this close to the normal arrival date along the coast if locations of known occurrence are checked regularly. Vesper Sparrows were last seen at the Sutter Buttes Apr. 5 (WA), the same day one arrived on the n. coast at L. Earl (RAE,

BED), where four remained through the period (RAE).

Two Black-throated Sparrows 4 mi n of Shaver L., e. of the San Joaquin R., Apr 23 (SG) were unusual there on the w. slope of the Sierra. One was at Kilgore Hills near Yreka (where they have nested irregularly) May 24 (RAE) and a vagrant was at Gold Bluff Beach, Humboldt Co., May 18 (JGH, GS *et al.*). A slightly early Clay-colored Sparrow at F.I., Apr. 29 was at the same location as every other spring-summer record Brewer's Sparrow, a rare migrant w. of the Sierran divide, was found coastally with singles at Drake's Beach, P.R.N.S., May 10 (DTo) and F.I., May 27-30 (P.R.B.O.), and in the s. C.V. foothills at Lost L., Fresno Co., Apr. 24 (RH, F.A.S.) and S.J.E.R., Apr. 24 (DBr), May 5 (RH), and May 19 (DBr). More than a single Black-chinned Sparrow was at Foresta, Yosemite N.P., May 14 (KH, RH). This was one of very few records within park boundaries, although known to breed nearby. A single Black-chinned at Lava Beds, N.M., May 16 (JS, LD, SH *et al.*) was rare there. Of three Harris' Sparrow reports, singles at Honey L., Mar. 22 (JLu) and Kerman, Fresno Co., Apr 16 (H&M Roup, *fide RH*) were lingering winterers; one at Arcata Apr. 28 & May 7 (JGH) was a coastal vagrant. Hybrid White-crowned X Golden-crowned Sparrows are rarely encountered, so two reports this period were most unusual: one at Lafayette Apr 23-27 (†LF) and one at Crescent City May 8 (RAE, GSL, GS). Most Golden-crowned Sparrows departed during late April (normal) with the last report of three on Mt. Diablo May 15 (DS). Three White-throated Sparrows were reported Apr. 23-30 from various locations, and another was singing at Bear Valley, P.R.N.S., May 9 (R. Sinchak & K. Hinsu, *fide Gull*). Most Fox Sparrows leave the coast in late April; singles at Arcata May 8 (GSL, RAE) and Pt. Reyes Lighthouse May 17 (JE) were stragglers. Coastal passage of Lincoln's Sparrow peaked Apr. 14 with 20 at F.I.; late individuals were at the fish docks, P.R.N.S., May 28 (†KFC) and near Palo Alto May 31 (MRI, TRI). Of the Swamp Sparrows that winter in Olema Marsh near Pt. Reyes, one remained until Apr. 27 (DS), as late a date as has been reported for the Region; further field study may prove this to be the normal date of departure.

CORRIGENDA—*AB* 35 (March 1981) lists some observer errors: the cuckoo at Pt. Reyes Sept. 8-14 (pg. 222) was sighted by JLu, MW *et al.*; the observer who reported large numbers of Com. Flickers in the Fresno area was FRG (not RFG); the Bay-breasted Warbler at Mendoza Ranch, P.R.N.S., was well described by BrB (not BB); Ron LeValley was the waterbird editor and Jules Evens the landbird editor, not the opposite. The "Oregon" Junco mentioned in the summer 1980 report (*AB* 34:928) should be deleted. Subsequent information revealed that the Roeding Park Zoo released a captive. Brewer's Sparrow was *not* confirmed breeding at L.V.R.S., Contra Costa Co., as stated in *AB* 35:224. The sentence should read: "A ♀ Black-chinned Sparrow feeding a juvenal at L.V.R.S., Aug. 5 confirmed breeding there (RAE)". The Le Conte's Thrasher listed (*AB* 34:929) in the addenda need not have been

boldfaced. Subsequent information indicates that this species maintains a small population in the Kettleman Hills extending n. to Panoche Canyon, about 40 mi n. of Coalinga (Jay Sheppard).

ADDENDUM—A Red Crossbill was found dead beneath a tree in Davis, Yolo Co., in the fall of 1980; the exact date is not available (*vide* TBe).

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Guy McCaskie

A few fronts from the north during March and April gave us some rain but we entered the dry season in early May with a below-average rainfall for the year. Most observers felt that migration was early. Large numbers of migrant landbirds passed through desert oases during mid-April with Warbling Vireos and Nashville Warblers being exceptionally numerous. Along the coast migrant landbirds were most conspicuous during the latter half of April, with Townsend's Warblers more common than usual. The influx of vagrants during late May not only included a larger-than-usual number of birds normally found in the southeastern United States but also included a great variety of wood warblers, resulting in the recording of 34 species during the period!

The early arrival dates for some of our key migrants were: Wilson's Phalarope Apr. 5, Salton Sea; N. Phalarope Apr. 5, Salton Sea; Com. Tern Apr. 23, Ventura; Least Tern Apr. 13, San Diego; Elegant Tern Mar. 14, San Diego; Black Tern Apr. 18, Antelope Valley; Lesser Nighthawk Mar. 25, Ventura County; Vaux's Swift Apr. 4, San Diego; Black-chinned Hummingbird Mar. 22, Los Angeles; W. Kingbird Mar. 5, Orange County; Ash-throated Flycatcher Mar. 31, Orange County; Willow Flycatcher May 2, San Diego; Hammond's Flycatcher Mar. 27, San Diego; W. Flycatcher Mar. 10, Los Angeles; W. Wood Pewee Apr. 10, San Diego; Olive-sided Flycatcher Apr. 10, Orange and San Luis Obispo counties; Swainson's Thrush

Apr. 18, San Diego; Bell's Vireo Mar. 22, San Diego; Solitary Vireo Mar. 24, Orange County; Warbling Vireo Mar. 10, Santa Barbara; Nashville Warbler Mar. 27, Whitewater Canyon; Yellow Warbler Mar. 29, Ventura County; Black-throated Gray Warbler Mar. 21, San Diego; Hermit Warbler Apr. 7 (early), Santa Barbara and Apr. 18, San Diego and Orange counties; MacGillivray's Warbler Mar. 26, Ventura County; Yellow-breasted Chat Apr. 8, San Diego; Wilson's Warbler Mar. 15, Palm Springs and Ventura County; Hooded Oriole Feb. 27, San Diego; N. (Bullock's) Oriole Mar. 11, San Diego; W. Tanager Apr. 11, San Diego; Black-headed Grosbeak Mar. 24, Orange County; Blue Grosbeak Apr. 17, Antelope Valley; Lazuli Bunting Apr. 1, Orange County; Black-chinned Sparrow Apr. 1, San Jacinto Mts.

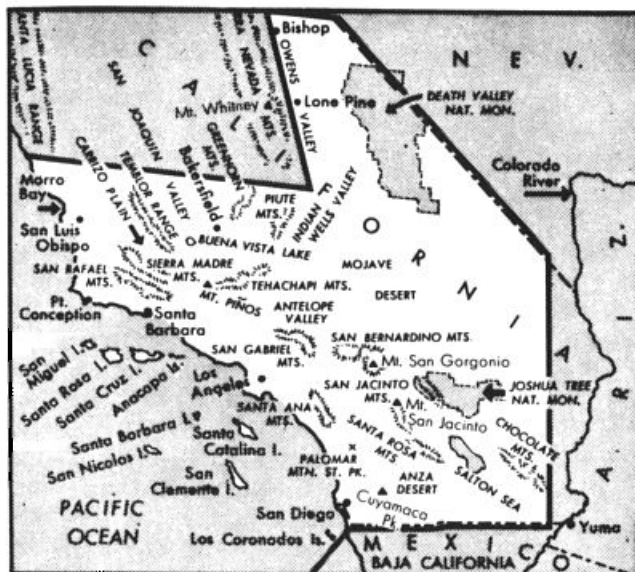
LOONS, GREBES—A flock of 93 Com.

Loons on L. Henshaw in the mountains of San Diego County Apr. 18 (GMcC) was an exceptionally large concentration for an inland locality; one at Little Lake, Inyo Co., May 22 (PEL) and another at Oasis, Mono Co., May 23-25 (PEL) were in areas where few are recorded. An Arctic Loon on L. Henshaw Apr. 8 (RH) was unexpected since few are recorded inland away from the immediate vicinity of the coast. A Red-necked Grebe in Santa Monica May 23-26 (KLG) was exceptionally late. A Horned Grebe at the north end of the Salton Sea (here-

after, N.E.S.S.) Apr. 5 (RMcK) was the only one found in the e. part of the Region.

ALBATROSSES, SHEARWATERS, STORM-PETRELS—A Black-footed Albatross one mi off Pacific Beach, San Diego Co., May 16 (EC) was exceptionally close to shore. A N. Fulmar found dead in Santa Barbara Mar. 19 (LRB) was the only one reported. A Flesh-footed Shearwater, rare off California, was 3 mi off Goleta, Santa Barbara Co., May 29 (JA) and two were seen off San Diego May 16 (EC). Six Ashy Storm-Petrels off San Diego May 16 (EC) were in an area where few are recorded.

HERONS—The wintering imm. Little Blue Heron in San Diego remained through Mar. 17 (GMcC); an adult in Santa Barbara/Goleta May 6-14 (LRB), another in Ojai, Ventura Co., May 1 (JG) and a third at N.E.S.S.,



May 10 (JO) fit the pattern set by spring vagrants to California (see *Western Birds* 8:151-154, 1977). Two Cattle Egrets at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley (hereafter, F.C.R.) May 28 (JML) and single birds in the Antelope Valley near Lancaster Apr. 26 (DRW) & May 25 (JLD) were the only transients found away from the coastal lowlands. A sub-adult Reddish Egret, rare in California, was near Oceanside, San Diego Co., Apr. 17-May 3 (LS). One of the wintering Louisiana Herons near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., was still present May 9 (EAC); an adult in Goleta Apr. 30 and in nearby Carpinteria May 1 (LRB) was quite far n., another on San Clemente I., May 20 (WTE) along with one at Bolsa Chica, Orange Co., May 25 (JA) were late, and two at N.E.S.S., May 10 (AS) were inland. A sub-adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron, a casual straggler to California, was at the Santa Clara R. estuary near Ventura (hereafter, S.C.R.E.) Apr. 30-May 3 (REW). Two transient Least Bitterns at F.C.R., May 24-28 (JML) were in an area where small numbers are found each spring, but one in Arcadia, Los Angeles Co., May 8 (B. Cohen, *vide* GSS) was unexpected.

GEESE, DUCKS—As usual a few Brant were found inland during March and April with high counts of 110 at N.E.S.S., Mar. 10 (BW) and 18 on L. Henshaw Apr. 8 (RH); these are birds moving N from winter grounds in the Gulf of California. Eleven White-fronted Geese flying N over Mt. Palomar, San Diego Co., Mar. 13 (RH) were at an unusual locality and two at N.E.S.S., May 10 (JO) were late. A Ross' Goose near Lancaster Apr. 5 (DLD) was the first to be found in the Antelope Valley, and one at N.E.S.S., Apr. 12 (DP) was somewhat late. Unexpected were four Fulvous Whistling Ducks near Lancaster May 16-17 (KLG) since wild birds are accidental away from the vicinity of the south end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, S.E.S.S.). A ♂ Eur. Wigeon on L. Cuyamaca in the mountains of San Diego County Apr. 4 (DP) and another on San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co., to Apr. 19 (JO) were the latest reported this spring. A ♂ Eur. x Am. Wigeon was at S.C.R.E., Apr. 10-26 (REW). A ♀ Barrow's Goldeneye, a casual straggler to the coast of s. California, was at Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co., Mar. 29 (REW). An Oldsquaw near Ventura remained May 25 (DSt), and another was at Redondo Beach, Los Angeles Co., Apr. 24-27 (H&NS). The ♂ Harlequin Duck found in Carlsbad in 1977 was still present at the end of the period (EC). Up to 49 Surf Scoters were present on L. Henshaw Apr. 2-9 (RH); these are birds moving out of the Gulf of California to the Pacific. A flock of 12 Red-breasted Mergansers on L. Henshaw Apr. 8 (RH) had probably moved N out of the Gulf of California.

KITES, HAWKS, FALCONS—A White-tailed Kite at N.E.S.S., Apr. 5 (RMCK) was somewhat outside the species' normal range. An ad. **Mississippi Kite** at F.C.R., May 24-25 (JO) was only the tenth to be found in California, but five were at F.C.R., on dates ranging between May 21 and June 14. The only Broad-winged Hawk was an adult at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co., Apr. 30 (EAC, ph., S.D.N.H.M.). Swainson's Hawks were rare with five in the Antelope

Valley Apr. 8 (KLG) and five at Yucca Valley, San Bernardino Co., Apr. 24 (RMCK) being the largest concentrations reported; this is a far cry from the "hundreds" seen migrating through this Region 30 years ago. An ad. Bald Eagle over Topanga, Los Angeles Co., Apr. 27 (KLG) and a sub-adult on L. Cachuma, Santa Barbara Co., May 3 (PEL) were somewhat late. An ad. Peregrine Falcon at N.E.S.S., May 2 (EAC) and another on San Clemente I., Apr. 22-23 (HF) were the only ones found away from known nesting sites. A Merlin in Santa Barbara Apr. 13 (PEL), another near Ventura Apr. 24 (REW), and a third at S.C.R.E., May 4 (REW) were the latest reported this spring.

CRANES, RAILS—A Sandhill Crane at San Jacinto L., Riverside Co., Mar. 7 (EAC) was away from areas of normal occurrence, and 100± flying N over N.E.S.S., Apr. 5 (RMCK) was clearly a migrant flock, probably moving N from wintering areas near S.E.S.S., or in n.w. Mexico. A Sora at Pt. Mugu May 19 (REW) was somewhat late for along the coast. Six Black Rails calling from marshes bordering Morro Bay May 12 (JR) were in the only area along the coast of s. California known to regularly support this elusive bird.

SHOREBIRDS—A Black Oystercatcher in Goleta Apr. 22 (N. States, *vide* PEL) and another in Carpinteria Apr. 24 (J. Chamberlain, *vide* PEL) were wanderers in areas outside the species' normal range. Four Am. Golden Plovers near Santa Maria Apr. 26 (PEL) and one at Seal Beach Apr. 18 (AFP) were the latest of the wintering birds to depart. Twelve Black-bellied Plovers near Lancaster Apr. 8 (JLD) were unusual since this species is rare inland away from the Salton Sea. Solitary Sandpipers are normally rare in spring so reports of six come as a surprise, with an exceptionally early bird on Baldwin L., in the San Bernardino Mts., Apr. 3 (KLG), three found in the Antelope Valley Apr. 21-May 16 (JLD, KLG), and single birds around Tecopa, Inyo Co., Apr. 8 & 23 (JT). A Ruddy Turnstone, exceptionally rare inland away from the Salton Sea, was near Lancaster Apr. 8 (KLG), and a high count of 37 was made at the Salton Sea May 3 (EC). Five Short-billed Dowitchers in the Antelope Valley Apr. 8-21 (JLD) were the only ones found inland away from the Salton Sea. Red Knots were constantly present on the Salton Sea Mar. 28-May 10 with a high count of 45 Apr. 12 (GMCK); one near Lancaster May 16 (B.Obst, *vide* KLG) was the only one found inland away from the Salton Sea. A Sanderling, a rare bird anywhere inland away from the Salton Sea, was near Tecopa May 8 (JT) and five were near Lancaster May 12 (KLG). Eight Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported with single birds in Goleta May 5 & 29 (PEL), four at S.C.R.E., May 3-20 (REW), one near Lancaster May 18 (JLD), and one at S.E.S.S., May 3 (GMCK). A Baird's Sandpiper, rare in spring, was at the Santa Maria R. mouth May 14 (REW) and another was at S.C.R.E., Apr. 29 (REW). A Pectoral Sandpiper, also rare in spring, was at Pt. Mugu May 9 (REW) and another was at S.C.R.E., May 15 (REW). The only Stilt Sandpipers to be found were two at S.E.S.S., May 3 (JO).

A ♂ Ruff at Pt. Mugu Apr. 11 (REW) was definitely a migrant as this area was checked regularly throughout the winter.

GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS—A first-winter Glaucous Gull was present in Goleta Mar. 14-Apr. 18 (JLD, ph., S.D.N.H.M.). A



First-winter Glaucous Gull with Western Gulls, Goleta, Calif., Mar. 14-Apr. 18, 1981. Photo/Jim Greaves.

first-winter Thayer's Gull near N.E.S.S., Mar. 28 (GMCK) was in an area where the species is rare, but a second-winter bird near Lancaster May 18 (JLD) was the first found inland away from the Salton Sea and Colorado R. The first-winter **Black-headed Gull** wintering in Redondo Beach was last seen Apr. 20 (KLG). A Laughing Gull, rare along the coast, was on Laguna L., near Morro Bay Mar. 6-May 15 (JR), one was at Pt. Mugu May 2 (REW), another was in Redondo Beach May 4 (H&NS), and the first-winter bird found in San Diego Feb. 3 was still present Apr. 11 (JO). An exceptionally early ad. Franklin's Gull at the S.C.R.E., Mar. 15 (REW) and another on Baldwin L., Mar. 21 (KLG) were followed by five along the coast May 6-12 (PEL, JR) along with one at F.C.R., May 24 (JSL) and another at N.E.S.S., May 3 (EC). An ad. Heermann's



Adult Franklin's Gull near Santa Maria, Santa Barbara Co., Calif., May 6, 1981. Photo/Paul Lehman.

Gull, a rare straggler to the interior, was at N.E.S.S., Apr. 12 (JO) and the first-winter bird found wintering at S.E.S.S., was still present May 30 (RH). An ad. Sabine's Gull near Lancaster May 17-25 (FH, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) was the first to be found inland in spring away from the Salton Sea and Colorado R. As usual a few Arctic Terns passed close to the coast in May, with 15 off San Diego May 16 (EC) and one off Goleta May 29 (LB). Totally unexpected was a Least Tern at F.C.R., May 27 (JML); this species is a casual straggler to the Salton Sea, accidental along the Colorado R., and was previously unrecorded elsewhere from the interior of s. California. Black Skimmers were found to

the n. of San Diego Bay, the only place along the coast where this species nests, with one near Oceanside May 3 (DP), another near San Pedro May 31 (JA), and at least seven at S.C.R.E., Apr. 17-Jun. 3 (REW).

ALCIDS—A Pigeon Guillemot off Goleta May 29 (LB) and three off San Pedro Apr. 12 (B. Obst, *vide* KLG) were in areas where the species is considered rare. A Horned Puffin, a casual straggler to California, was at Santa Monica May 23-26 (KLG,*U.C.L.A.).

PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS—More than the usual number of Band-tailed Pigeons wandered to the coast of San Diego County with 25± found on Pt. Loma during May; one near Tecopa May 9 (JT) and another in Superior Valley of e. San Bernardino County May 13 (ASE) were both far from areas of normal occurrence. Two White-winged Doves on Pt. Loma May 5 (GCE) and single birds there May 25 (EC) & 27 (DP) were the only ones found along the coast. A Ground Dove near Saticoy, Ventura Co., Apr. 29 (JM) was somewhat to the n.w. of the species' normal range. A Screech Owl at F.C.R., May 27 (JML) was believed to be a migrant since this species does not normally occur at this location. A Flammulated Owl on Mt. Palomar May 24+ (RH) appeared to be on territory. A Long-eared Owl near Imperial Beach Mar. 21 (GMcC) appeared to be a migrant. A migrant Short-eared Owl at Pt. Mugu Apr. 25 (REW) was considered very late. The Whip-poor-will found wintering in Pacific Palisades was last heard Mar. 17 (B. Wilets, *vide* GSS). A Poor-will in Coronado, San Diego Co., Apr. 28 (EC) was clearly a migrant.

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—An exceptionally early Black Swift at the Ventura R. mouth Apr. 19 (REW) was followed by three over Goleta May 19 (JLD), three over Griffith P., in Los Angeles May 27 (KLG), and one over San Elijo Lagoon May 19 (JO) along the coast, along with two at L. Henshaw May 18 (RH) and three at Finney L., in the Imperial Valley May 3 (GMcC). Two Chimney Swifts over Burbank, Los Angeles Co., May 29 (D. Koepfel, *vide* GSS) were the only ones reported this spring. A ♀ Downy Woodpecker in San Diego Apr. 11 (JO) was a little s. of the species' present range. A ♂ Ladder-backed Woodpecker at F.C.R., Mar. 31 (LN) was a little out of range.

FLYCATCHERS—A Tropical Kingbird at Morro Bay Mar. 20-23 (BE) had probably wintered nearby, and the bird present in Goleta all winter was still present on the remarkably late date of May 23 (LB). Nesting Wied's Crested Flycatchers returned to Morongo Valley Apr. 30 (R&MW). An E. Phoebe near Corona, Riverside Co., Mar. 16 (DRW) was undoubtedly wintering locally. A Willow Flycatcher near Imperial Beach May 2+ (GMcC) was somewhat early but on territory; the bulk of these birds are not seen along the coast until the end of May. A Least Flycatcher, casual in spring, was at Oasis May 21-22 (DR). Thirteen Gray Flycatchers were reported along the coast Apr. 11-May 21 indicating that a few migrants reached the coast this spring.

TITMICE THROUGH VIREOS—Two Plain Titmice in Morongo Valley May 4 (DRW) were a little out of normal range. A White-breasted Nuthatch at F.C.R., May 24-28 (JSL) was far from the nearest area of normal occurrence. Three Brown Thrashers were reported with one near Morro Bay Apr. 21 (JR), another near San Diego Apr. 10 (DWP), and the third in Kelso, San Bernardino Co., May 21 (ASE). A Bendire's Thrasher in California City, Kern Co., Apr. 4 (GWP) was appreciably n.w. of the species' normal range. A Townsend's Solitaire on Pt. Loma Apr. 18 (DP) was unusual since few reach the coast of California in spring. A Phainopepla at Pt. Mugu May 9 (REW) was in an area where very few are recorded.

Most unusual was a ♂ White-eyed Vireo in Whitewater Canyon, Riverside Co., May 9 (HLJ) followed by another in Malibu, Los Angeles Co., May 24-27 (J. Szabo, *vide* KLG, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) for there are only 4 previous records of this species in California. A



White-eyed Vireo, Malibu Cr., Calif., May 26, 1981. Photo/Donald R. Hoechlin.

Hutton's Vireo near Lancaster Apr. 18 (FH) was some distance away from areas of normal occurrence. Another real rarity in California, a Yellow-throated Vireo, was in Long Beach May 16-17 (BD) with a second at Deep Springs, Inyo Co., May 22 (DLD). A Solitary Vireo of the gray race, *plumbeus*, on Mt. Palomar May 10 (RH) was a migrant moving to the W of this form's normal range. Unexpected were three Philadelphia Vireos, casual stragglers to California in spring, with one at Oasis May 23-29 (JML), another there May 25-28 (BD), and the third at the same spot May 29-31 (BD).

WOOD WARBLERS—Nine Black-and-white Warblers in the e. portion of the Region, along with ten along the coast, Apr. 16-June 6, gave us an average number for the spring migration period. A ♀ Prothonotary Warbler at Oasis May 28-29 (JML) was the only one found this spring. A Worm-eating Warbler, a casual spring straggler to California, was at Oasis May 26 (REW). A ♂ Golden-winged Warbler, another real rarity in California, was at Oasis May 25-26 (P.S. Gordon, *vide* REW). A Tennessee Warbler in Ventura Mar. 28 (GAG) and another in Ojai Apr. 9 (JG) were believed to have wintered nearby; the 20± spring vagrants all occurred Apr. 20-June 1. The wintering Virginia's Warbler in Newport Beach was last seen Mar. 29 (SJR); one near Tecopa Apr. 24 (JT) was the only migrant reported. A N. Parula at San Elijo Lagoon Mar. 8 (JMcN) was undoubtedly wintering locally; six found in the n.e. portion of the Region May 22-30, along

with six along the coast after Apr. 23, were more than normally recorded. Four Magnolia Warblers in the e. part of the Region May 23-29, along with a male at Playa del Rey May 30 (HB), was a little above average. A ♀ Black-throated Green Warbler, a casual spring vagrant to California, was near Malibu May 27 (KLG). A ♂ Blackburnian Warbler at Playa del Rey May 31 (HB) is only the sixth to be found in this Region in spring. Seven Yellow-throated Warblers were found with a male near Goleta May 10 (LB), a female in Santa Barbara May 11+ (LRB), one at Northridge, Los Angeles Co., May 7 (H. Swanton, *vide* GSS), one in Long Beach May 18 (BD), a male near Malibu May 27 (KLG) a female on Pt. Loma Apr. 25 (JO), and a male at Corn Springs in e. Riverside Co., Apr. 25 (AS, ph., S.D.N.H.M.). The ♂ Grace's Warbler that wintered in Santa Barbara was last seen Mar. 28 (PEL); two males on Clark Mt., in e. San Bernardino Co., May 23 (BD) were in an area where nesting could occur. A ♂ Chestnut-sided Warbler in Morongo Valley May 14 (EAC) and another at Oasis May 24-27 (JML) were the only ones reported.

A ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler on Pt., Loma May 25-28 (EC) was the only one found this spring. A ♂ Blackpoll Warbler, quite rare in spring, was at Deep Springs May 28 (B. Brock, *vide* JML). A Palm Warbler in Ventura Mar. 30 (JG) had undoubtedly wintered in that area. A somewhat early Ovenbird at Corn Springs, Apr. 25 (AS) was followed by six more at various locations within the Region during May. A wintering N. Waterthrush remained at Pt. Mugu through Apr. 11 (REW) and another near Imperial Beach was still present May 2 (GMcC); nine migrants were found in the e. part of the Region in late May. A ♂ Kentucky Warbler, an accidental straggler to California, was in Morongo Valley May 17-21 (EAC). Six Hooded Warblers along the coast in Goleta/Santa Barbara and around San Diego Apr. 18-May 13 (PEL,EC), along with one in Laguna Beach May 24 (JAJ), one at Deep Springs May 23 (BS,ph., S.D.N.H.M.), and a ninth at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley May 27 (JML) was far more than normally reported. A total of 30± Am. Redstarts was found during May. The Painted Redstart found wintering in San Diego was last seen Mar. 14 (BD).



Hooded Warbler at Deep Springs, Calif., May 23, 1981. Photo/Donald R. Hoechlin.

ORIOLES, BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS—Four Bobolinks at F.C.R., May 20-29 (DR,JO) were the only ones reported. A ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird at Los Osos, San Luis Obispo Co., Apr. 30 (TH) was in an area where the species is considered rare. Four N. (Baltimore) Orioles in Inyo County during late May were clearly spring vagrants; however, two in Santa Barbara Mar. 28-Apr. 15 (PEL), another in Goleta Apr. 12 (DB), and

one in Manhattan Beach Mar. 29 (KLG) could all have wintered locally, considering that a male near Malibu May 17 (HB) was believed to be the same bird seen there throughout the winter. A Great-tailed Grackle on Pt. Fermin, Los Angeles Co., Apr. 15 (J. Ivanov, *vide* GSS) was along the coast, and a male at Oasis May 29-30 (JML) was relatively far n. A ♂ Scarlet Tanager, a casual straggler to California in spring, was at Deep Springs May 25 (BB). A ♂ Hepatic Tanager on Clark Mt., May 23 (DRW) and a pair near Baldwin L., in the San Bernardino Mts., May 31 (RMcK) were in areas where nesting has occurred. Wintering Summer Tanagers lingered to Mar. 28 in Carpinteria (PEL) and to Mar. 9 in Orange (DRW); a male was on breeding territory near Palm Springs on the early date of Apr. 4 (RMcK), and a total of eight vagrants was found in the n.e. corner of the Region during the last week of May along with four around San Diego May 10-June 2.

FINCHES, SPARROWS—Fifteen Rose-breasted Grosbeaks reported during May would appear average but 30 Indigo Buntings during May were more than usually reported. A ♀ Dickcissel, quite rare in spring, was at F.C.R., May 25 (AS). Four Red Crossbills at Yucca Valley, Apr. 18 (RMcK) were at an unusual locality. A **Le Conte's Sparrow** at F.C.R., May 24-25 (TW, ph., S.D.N.H.M.)

was only the fifth to be found in this Region, with all but one having occurred at this oasis. A Sage Sparrow on the Palos Verdes Pen., Mar. 23 (JA) was in an area where few have been recorded. A Gray-headed Junco on Pt. Loma May 2-3 (EC) was quite late, as wintering birds normally depart in March. A Brewer's Sparrow at S.C.R.E., Apr. 30 (REW) was unexpected as there appear to be no previous spring records for that area. A Harris' Sparrow, scarce in s.w. California, was in Garden Grove, Orange Co., Mar. 27-Apr. 2 (SJR). A White-throated Sparrow in Goleta through Apr. 22 (KB) was the last of the wintering birds to depart; an exceptionally late migrant was at Deep Springs May 23 (GMcC). A Swamp Sparrow at F.C.R., Mar. 17 (LN) had probably wintered locally but another there May 23 (JO) was an exceptionally late migrant. A ♀ Chestnut-collared Longspur on San Clemente I., Apr. 15-22 (EC, WTE) was late and one of only a few ever found in California during spring migration.

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

A little rain this spring brought some relief from the drought on Maui and Hawaii Islands, but the dry conditions continued on Oahu. Honolulu's 1981 rainfall through May was only 4.5 inches compared to a normal 12.5 inches. Temperatures were seasonably variable. At Honolulu a new record low for the month (62°F) was set May 2nd and tied on the 4th and 5th. A week later, it climbed to 86° on May 10th, tying the record high for the date.

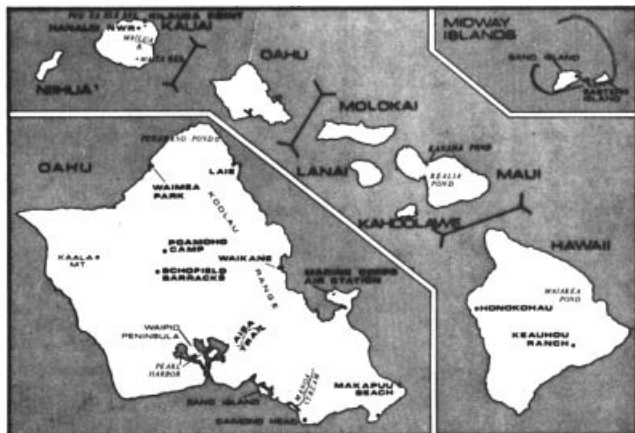
ALBATROSSES THROUGH SHEARWATERS—The struggling Laysan Albatross nesting colonies on Kauai I., had another frustrating year. Of ten chicks known to have

hatched in the Barking Sands and Kilauea areas, four were destroyed by dogs, two were abandoned and one died of heavy pox infection. Two more chicks with pox infections were treated by U.S.F.&W.S. biologists and were much improved by the end of May. The tenth chick was doing fine in a location apart from the others and better protected from dogs. At Kilauea, dogs also killed at least eight adults this year. It is discouraging indeed to have these fine birds trying to nest on private lands where dog control and other protective measures are not yet feasible. An ad. Laysan Albatross came ashore Apr. 16 at the Natural Energy Laboratory on the west coast of Hawaii I. (BL). It remained 2 days, then returned to sea. The only known prior occurrence of this species ashore on Hawaii I., was in the 1860s. Two Short-tailed Albatrosses were at Sand I., Midway this year (GG). The banded adult, returning for the 8th year, was last seen Apr. 24. The other, an unbanded immature, appeared briefly about Feb. 10.

A Dark-rumped Petrel ('Ua'u), with a dog-bitten wing, was picked up alive in the Palawai Basin, L., May 19 (PC). It died 2 days later. This Endangered Species was seen and heard in good numbers again this year in the Lanai mountains (PC) and was presumed to be nesting there. Wedge-tailed Shearwaters were coming to burrows Mar.

28-29 on Mokuauaea islet off n.e. Oahu (MJ), confirming their continued nesting there despite heavy pressure from picnickers and campers wading the 200 yds out from the new Malae Kakana S.P., on the Oahu mainland. On the other side of the island, Wedge-tailed nesting also was confirmed again on the Oahu mainland at Black Pt. At least 5 burrows and ten adults in the air were there May 6 (DPO).

WATERFOWL THROUGH COOTS—The rare **White-fronted Goose** wintering at Lowe Aquafarm, O., remained at least to mid-May (DW). A Koloa, the Endangered Hawaiian Duck, with three young was reported in mid-March near Puu Loe in the saddle between Mauna Kea and the Kohala Mts., of Hawaii I. (*vide* PPa). A pair was also seen near the highway in the same area May 8 (PPa). These may have come from the population established in the Kohalas from reintroductions over the past 20 years. Wintering ducks departed Oahu and Hawaii during April with only N. Shovelers and a few Am. Wigeons reported after Apr. 13. Scarcer species recorded during March and April on Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii included one or two pairs each of Garganey (DPr), Cinnamon Teal (PB), Blue-winged Teal (PD, PPa) and Ring-necked Duck (PPa). California Quail at Pohakuloa, H., were still in flocks May 12, not yet paired perhaps because of the persistent dry conditions in that area (BL, *vide* DA). Two Japanese Quail, established on several islands but rarely seen, were flushed from near the Waimea-Kailua Rd., H., May 26 (PPa, PPy). Thirty-four Hawaiian (Com.) Gallinules (an Endangered Species in Hawaii), including several broods of young



chicks, were found at Hamakua Dr., O., in early March (JL). This is the highest count yet at this favored, small, semi-urban wetland. Two families of Hawaiian (Am.) Coots, also Endangered in Hawaii, were seen there at the same time (JL). A high count of 96 coots was made at Aimakapa Pond, H., Mar. 8, and 5 active nests were found there May 10 (PPa).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS—Wintering shorebirds began thinning out during April, with only small numbers of the commoner species (Am. Golden Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Wandering Tattler and Sanderling) remaining at month's end. Daily monitoring at several locations on Oahu revealed that most of the golden plovers departed Apr. 20-23. A few of those remaining will overwinter here. A very rare shorebird was reported this spring: A **Whimbrel** well-observed at Kii Pond, O., May 22 (RC, DW). A few Dunlins and a dowitcher (probably Long-billed) coming into breeding plumage were seen on Oahu in March and April (PD, MJ). A Bristle-thighed Curlew, a rare but regular migrant, was at Keomoku Beach, L., Apr. 16 (PC), and a Bar-tailed Godwit was seen at Hilo Airport, H., May 7 (SSa). Two reports of Hawaiian (Black-necked) Stilts near Hilo on the e. side of Hawaii I., this spring were quite significant. One frequented a temporary rain-filled pond near Mountain View Feb. 13-16 (N. Kunitake, *vide* MMu), and one was seen flying over Lokoaka Pond Apr. 11 (PPa). Suitable habitat for this Endangered (in Hawaii) Species is scarce on Hawaii I., and in recent decades it has occurred only in small numbers at a few ponds on the w. (Kona) coast of the island, 65 mi from Hilo.

Relatively few gulls have been reported in the Region this winter and spring, and none at all on Oahu. Two sub-adult Ring-billeds and up to three imm. Laughings were at Kealia and Kanaha ponds, M., until May 16 (PB, DPr, DA), and one Ring-billed was seen irregularly at Lokoaka Pond, H., Nov. 17-Apr. 27 at least (PPa, GS). An uncommon **Common Tern** was found at Bellows Air Force Station, O., Apr. 7 (PD, PB, GB) and was seen there again Apr. 11 & 18. It might have been the same bird that wintered at Lokoaka Pond, H., until Mar. 19 (PPa).

PARAKEETS THROUGH PASSERINES—Rose-ringed Parakeets have frequented several areas on Oahu for a decade without any direct evidence of breeding being reported. It was thus unexpected that the first valid observation of this species nesting in the wild should come from Hawaii I., where they had not previously been known to occur. A nest with 4 eggs was found in a Mauna Loa macadamia nut orchard near Keaau, H., Feb. 22. The one chick that hatched and the ♀ adult were taken alive Mar. 17 (LM, PPa). A sighting of Indian Sandgrouse along the Waimea-Kailua Hwy, May 26 (PPa, PPy) was the latest of several reports in recent years in a localized area of the N. Kona District, H. The species was first introduced there as a potential game bird in 1961. During the U.S.F. & W.S. Endangered Forest Bird Survey in the Alakai Swamp area of Kauai, the almost extinct honeyeater, the 'O'o'a'a (Kauai 'O'o), was heard and seen on 4 different dates in

May (MMo). On one occasion two were heard briefly and one was seen carrying nesting material. All were in the same locality and might well have been the same two individuals. These may be the last of the species. Other Endangered Species reported by the survey teams included only a few of the finch-billed honeycreeper, the 'O'u, and at least two pairs of the smaller thrush of Kauai I., the Puaiohi (MMo). One of the rarest of all the Hawaiian Endangered Species, the Sickled-billed Honeycreeper, the Nuku-pu'u, was reported twice this season. One May 14 on Maui, deep in the wet native forest on the n.e. slope of Haleakala Mt. (SSa), and the other at Kalalau Lookout, Kauai, was photographed Mar. 22 (EB, *vide* TT). Yellow-billed Cardinals were nest-building Mar. 25 (DPr) and fed two young May 12-13 (DA) on hotel grounds 6 mi apart in and near Kailua-Kona, H. These sightings further document the spread of this handsome exotic along the Kona coast from dry forest s. into suburban residential areas. Saffron Finches also are increasing significantly in the n. Kona District, H. Flocks of mixed adults and immatures numbering 100+ Mar. 24 (DPr) and 250+ May 26 (PPa) were reported in the Puu Waawaa, H. area.

ISLAND ABBREVIATIONS—H. (Hawaii I.), L. (Lanai I.), M. (Maui I.), O. (Oahu I.).

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WEST INDIES REGION

/Robert L. Norton

Precipitation fluctuated below average for March and above for April by nearly 100% respectively, but a 300% increase during May indicated a significant weather change for migrants and returning summer residents in the Greater Antilles.

SHEARWATERS THROUGH TERNS—Audubon's Shearwater has been found nesting in 2 previously unknown locations in the United States Virgin Islands (hereafter, U.S.V.I.), Sula and Frenchcap Cays, St. Thomas (hereafter, S.T.T.) Mar. 4 (RN).

—S.A.—

Most exciting news involves a late report of a group of about 40 pairs of **Black-capped Petrels** that have been discovered nesting in the Bahoruco Range, at an elevation of 4000+ ft, in the s.w. of the Dominican Republic Feb. 3 (ASD). Recent evidence in 1979 of an immature bird found in June near Cabral Lagoon raised continued suspicion that the petrel was breeding elsewhere in Hispaniola, ASD reports. Further details are expected elsewhere. Interested readers are encouraged to review Wingate (*Auk*: 1964; 147-159). Other Caribbean observations are few, but three observations of the gadfly petrel off the s.w. coast of Puerto Rico are intriguing (Erdman, *Carib. J. Sci*: 1967:82). Wetmore discovered bone fragments in a kitchen midden near Magen's Bay, S.T.T., earlier this century.

The first known occurrence of **Double-crested Cormorant** in the British Virgin Islands (hereafter, B.V.I.) was observed at Anegada Mar. 14 (ML, RN, RV). The last date of this winter's invasion was Mar. 27 at St. John, U.S.V.I. (TA). A count of 130 Am. Flamingos Apr. 30 (JG) at Lago Limon, Dominican Republic (hereafter, D.R.) serves to establish some baseline data in the Greater Antilles. No flamingos were reported by observers visiting Abaco, Bahama Islands (hereafter, B.I.) during the first week of March where a small colony may persist. A Green-winged Teal was noted at Anegada Mar. 13 (RV). A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was observed Mar. 6 (KK, m.ob.) at the n.w. point of Grand Bahama I., providing the first known record of the species in the B.I. A Peregrine Falcon was seen Apr. 13 at St. John (hereafter, S.T.J.—RN) and another was noted at L. Enriquillo, D.R., Apr. 23 (ASD). Clapper Rails have apparently gone unrecorded among Anegada's extensive mangroves until Mar. 15 (RN). A rare visitor to the B.I., a Piping Plover, was observed at Powell Cay, Abaco Mar. 4 (JB). Red Knots are rare visitors to the area yet seem to be regular at Anegada, whence 15 were recorded Mar. 15 (RV, ML, RN). Indeed, Anegada represents the most significant in all the V.I., with few rivals in the e. Caribbean. Over 3000 shorebirds were counted Mar. 14-15 representing 18 migrant and resident species. Particularly noteworthy were 400-900 Western, and 652 Stilt sandpipers and a single **Ruff** and **Reeve**, these providing the third and fourth records from the V.I. Three Ruffs have oc-



Ruff, East Point, Anegada, B.V.I., Mar. 15, 1981. Photo/R.R. Veit.



Ruff, East Point, Angada, B.V.I., Mar. 15, 1981. Photo/M.J. Litchfield.

curred at Anegada since August 1980. Six Wilson's Phalaropes appeared at Caldera, D.R., in early April (ASD). A Ring-billed Gull was noted at Barahona, D.R., Apr. 29 (JG). Gull-billed Terns could be considered "transient summer residents" in the Greater Antilles; thus, one bird seen at L. Enriquillo, D.R., Apr. 30 was noteworthy (JG). A late report was of a Forster's Tern seen Oct. 8, 1980, near Barahona, D.R. (ASD).

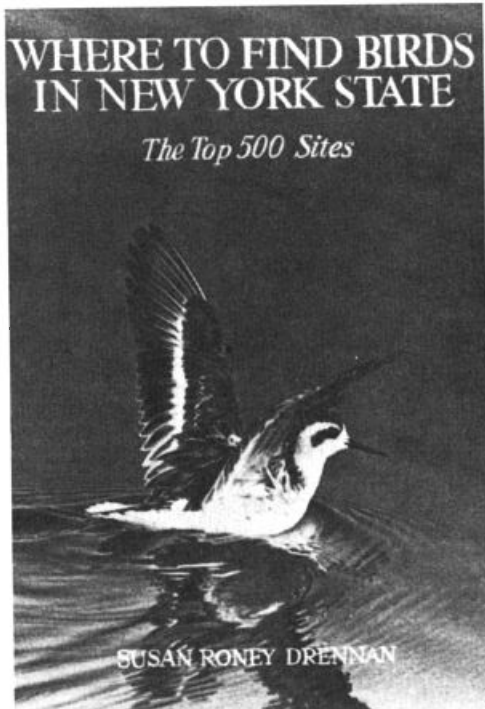
PIGEONS THROUGH BUNTINGS—The

status of White-crowned Pigeon in the Region is always of interest; hence, seven noted at Abaco Mar. 2 (RE, GH) and one at L. Enriquillo, D.R., Apr. 30 (JG) are reported here. A Com. Nighthawk was observed at Cruz Bay, S.T.J., Apr. 13 (RN) and a night-hawk, possibly *Chordeiles minor gundlachii*, was observed Apr. 29 (JG) at Barahona, D.R. West Indian Nighthawks had not returned to Anegada by mid-March where breeding has been recorded for several years. Reports of endemics such as the locally common Hispaniolan Trogon May 2 (JG) in the highlands of the Dominican Republic are of interest to researchers and conservationists. Similarly, crow spp. which have been locally extirpated, *i.e.*, Cuban Crow from Exuma and Crooked Is., B.I., Lesser Puerto Rican Crow and White-necked Crow from Puerto Rico, warrant occasional censuses where extant. More than six Palm Crows were noted May 2 in the Central Cordillera, D.R. (JG). An Am. Robin was observed Mar. 4 at Powell Cay, Abaco, B.I. (GH). A Yellow-throated Vireo observed Mar. 19 near Magen's Bay, S.T.T., and another seen Mar. 21 on S.T.J. (ML, RV) provided the first spring records from the V.I., suggesting winter residency.

A late report arrived from ASD of the Dominican Republic's first Bay-breasted Warbler at Puerto Alejandro Oct. 8, 1980. A ♀ and ♂ Common Yellowthroat were recorded for the first time on Anegada Mar. 14 (RV, ML), the e. terminus of its winter range. As many as nine N. Orioles were seen in Coral Bay, S.T.J., Apr. 16 (RN, MS) providing further evidence of winter residency in recent years. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was observed Mar. 21 on S.T.J. (ML, RV). Approximately 50 Indigo Buntings were seen in Coral Bay, S.T.J., Mar. 14 (GT) with the last occurrence recorded May 1 at Caneel Bay, S.T.J. (JVG).

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