

**STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS
USED IN THE REGIONAL REPORTS**

**Abbreviations used in
place names:**

In most regions, place names given in italic type are counties.

Other abbreviations:

Cr	Creek
Ft.	Fort
Hwy	Highway
I	Island or Isle
Is.	Islands or Isles
Jct.	Junction
km	kilometer(s)
L.	Lake
mi	mile(s)
Mt.	Mountain or Mount
Mts.	Mountains
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.P.	National Park
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
PP.	Provincial Park
Pen.	Peninsula
Pt.	Point (not Port)
R.	River
Ref.	Refuge
Res.	Reservoir (not Reservation)
S P.	State Park
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area

**Abbreviations used in the
names of birds:**

Am.	American
Com.	Common
E.	Eastern
Eur.	European or Eurasian
Mt.	Mountain
N.	Northern
S.	Southern
W.	Western

**Other abbreviations and symbols
referring to birds:**

ad.	adult
imm.	immature
juv.	juvinal or juvenile
sp.	species
†	means that written details were submitted for a sighting
*	means that a specimen was collected
♂	male
♀	female
CBC	Christmas Bird Count

THE SPRING SEASON

March 1–May 31, 1992

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ATLANTIC PROVINCES REGION

Blake Maybank

The spring of 1992 in the Atlantic Provinces of Canada could best be described as mundane, or perhaps, unremarkable. For the first time in my four years of editing the spring season, I have no S.A.'s to offer. The weather was cooler than normal (the Mt. Pinatubo effect?), and while there was more cloud than sun, actual rainfall amounts were less than expected, up to 40% less in some places. Such a spring (except for the lack of rainfall) is the "traditional" offering in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island; in Newfoundland there were no weather complaints, as the spring seemed positively balmy in comparison to the bitterly cold springs of the past two years.

The effect of the weather was to slow migration slightly, by an average of about a week, although there were a few early arrivals in New Brunswick. Migration was, in general, lackluster. The lack of severe storms meant there was little migration mortality, and no major fall-outs. The generally prevalent easterlies also contributed to paltry concentrations of birds at traditional migrant hot-spots. It's also possible that, in the face of strong head winds, only experienced returning breeders make the effort.

First time breeders might stay farther west, colonising new areas there instead of our Region, thus depressing numbers of birds seen here. Did northern Maine have a heavier concentration of breeders this year?

Spring migration does not cease with the onset of breeding, nor with the necessarily arbitrary cut-off date of May 31. This is borne out by observations from offshore islands, where breeding species are few in number and migrant birds are easily distinguished from the few residents. This year sightings from Seal Island and Sable Island, Nova Scotia, revealed a few north-bound migrant passerines still on the move in the third week of June (White-crowned Sparrow, Gray-cheeked Thrush). On the mainland such individual birds would be easily missed against the busy backdrop of diverse and numerous breeding species. It also points out the need to be especially cautious when faced with a possibly breeding bird out of habitat or range

during the month of June.

Reporting of trends and rarities was good from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, eastern Newfoundland, and Saint Pierre et Miquelon. Some sightings were received from western Newfoundland, but virtually no data was obtained from Prince Edward Island or Labrador.

Abbreviations: GMNP (*Gros Morne National Park, Newfoundland*); SPM (*Saint Pierre et Miquelon*).

LOONS TO HERONS

There were fewer than 10 reports of Red-throated Loon in Nova Scotia up until mid-May; the maximum single count was 11 at Bass River May 11 (Ward Hemeon). A few others were reported from SPM, where they breed. Common Loons are maintaining their numbers throughout the Region, with the high count 79 at SPM May 5 (RE).

Horned and Red-necked grebes, by contrast, were scarce along the mainland coasts for the 2nd spring in a row. In Nova Scotia there were only 6 reports of 14 Horned Grebes, and about twice as many Red-necked Grebes. Red-necked Grebes were at least still common on SPM, with numbers peaking at 250 by April 22 (*vide* RE).

The only "at-sea" tubenose reports were from southern Nova Scotia waters, and numbers were low, with only a handful of N. Fulmar, and Greater and Sooty shearwaters noted. Two Manx Shearwaters at SPM Apr. 21

(RE *et al.*) were the earliest for the islands; the species has been attempting to colonise nearby Columbian Island, which will be monitored again this year to try to confirm breeding.

A bird in pursuit of a cormorant May 15, at Cape Sable I., NS, was reported as a frigatebird (BS, PM), and despite the perfunctory description, (larger than the cormorant, long wings, forked tail, white head and neck, blackish body) it's hard to imagine what else the bird could have been.

It was not a southern heron spring. The sole Great Egret was discovered March 22 on SPM (LJ). Despite cold weather, frozen fresh water, and trigger-happy islanders, it survived until Apr. 14 when it was captured. After 3 days of TLC, augmented by cod and capelin, it was released, and was last seen May 13. As RE commented, "This was the longest known occurrence here, possibly reflecting more respect from hunters..."

The Little Egret returned to Bon Portage I., NS, for its 4th spring (NSBS). Extralimital Snowy Egrets were scarce, with two on Grand Manan, NB, May 16 (Don Gibson) the only report. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick each had two Cattle Egrets, while the only other mainland "southerner" was an ad. Little Blue Heron at Conrad's Beach, NS, May 16 (FLL *et al.*).

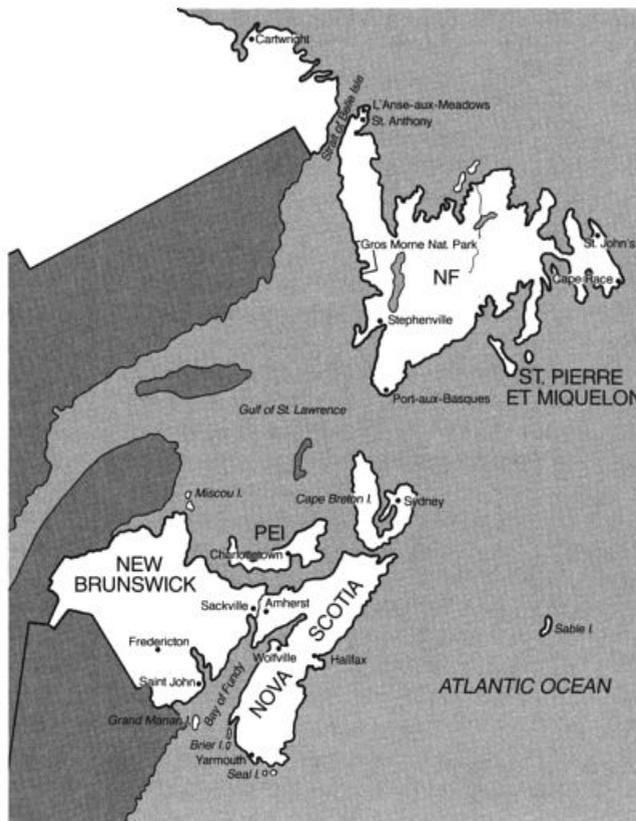
WATERFOWL

Waterfowl elicited little comment around the Region, although migration was generally considered to be a week or two late. The

only Snow Geese reported were from Nova Scotia, with 3 reports of seven birds, about average for the province. Brier I., the traditional Nova Scotia hot spot for Brant, is being eclipsed by Cape Sable I. High counts for both locations were 500 at Brier Apr. 15 (RS) and 1500+ at Cape Sable I. in March (*vide* PP). Brant continue to be more numerous on Grand Manan, NB, with 4000 seen there on Mar. 15 (BD). The Regional high count of Canada Geese was 8000 at W. Chezzetcook, NS, Mar. 27 (PM).

Single Green-winged Teal successfully overwintered on urban ponds in Nova Scotia; one in Sydney and the other in Dartmouth. A male of the Eurasian race was present in Wolfville, NS, from Mar. 21 to May 7. American Black Ducks remain common, with many counts in excess of 1000 in favoured migration stops.

Blue-winged Teal in Nova Scotia were thought by some observers to be down in numbers, es-



pecially at Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary, their stronghold for the province. Here, an 80% reduction was estimated. Elsewhere in the province there were few reports. Northern Shoveler might also have been down in numbers in Nova Scotia; there were fewer than 10 reports province-wide. By contrast, Newfoundland had its best spring ever for N. Shoveler, its rarest duck breeder: a pair May 11 in Deer L. (HD); two males May 23 in Terra Nova N.P. (*vide* BMt); and two pair in the Codroy Valley in late May (Ted Burke).

Gadwall are slowly expanding north and east. They now occasion little comment on the mainland, but are notable elsewhere. A female in St. John's, NF, May 23-27, was being courted by two confused drake N. Pintail (BMt), while a drake on SPM May 31 (LJ, ph.) was only the 2nd local record. New Brunswick reported the only Eur. Wigeon, a pair at Fredricton May 15-22 (Don Fowler), and a single bird at Tracadie May 25 (Robert Doikon).

The Redhead in Sydney, NS, successfully overwintered for the 2nd year in a row. Except for a flock of 20 Lesser Scaup at Cap Brulé, NB, May 8 (ST), there were only 3 mainland reports of five birds.

While a flock of 7500 Common Eider at Cappahayden was typical of Newfoundland concentrations, on the mainland they were more spread out, with no flocks greater than 1000 reported. The only King Eider were reported from New Brunswick, an odd turnaround, as Nova Scotia and Newfoundland normally dominate the sightings. There were two at Deer Island Mar. 21 (JW), and one at St. Andrew's Mar. 10 (Tracy Dean).

Since the eastern race of the Harlequin Duck is endangered, we'll note all the sightings. Nova Scotia: a pair at Sandy Cove, *Halifax*, Mar. 26 (BS), and a male and 2 females on Brier I. May 16-17 (RS *et al.*). New Brunswick: a single bird at Saint John throughout March and April (JW *et al.*). Newfoundland: a pair courting in GMNP May 19 near where a pair bred in 1980 (HD). The sightings do not add up to a reason for complacency.

The extremely erratic and spotty coverage of the vast shorelines of the Region make it hard to generalise regarding the numbers and distribution of Oldsquaw and scoters. No high counts of any of the species were reported this spring, but all were widespread, leaving no obvious cause for concern. Rare in spring in SPM, a Hooded Merganser was present April 16-18 (RE).

RAPTORS

Turkey Vultures are holding their own in Nova Scotia, with 15 on their Brier I. stronghold in mid-May (FL *et al.*), and 3 other reports in the south of the province.



Gyrfalcon at Cape Spear, Newfoundland, on March 14, 1992. Photograph/Bruce Mactavish.

There were only 2 reports from New Brunswick, where they are normally more regular. More exciting was a Black Vulture at Mategan, *Yarmouth*, NS, Apr. 27 (Joan Czapalay), the 5th record for the province, and the first since the 1960's.

A Red-shouldered Hawk successfully overwintered in *Yarmouth*, NS (Hubert Hall *et al.*). Another was reported near Bedford, NS, Apr. 30 (PM, BS). This species is barely annual in the province.

Rough-legged Hawks elicited little comment in the Region except in SPM, where 12+ individuals was considered an exceptional showing (*vide* RE).

Gyrfalcons put on an excellent display in Newfoundland, the best in 10 years, delighting otherwise bored birders. Up to 20 different birds were seen from March to May 2 in the Avalon Peninsula, with St. John's capturing the majority of the sightings' (m.ob.). Most birds were dark or white morphs. Another six Gyrfalcons were present in L'Anse aux Meadows, NF, Apr. 10-12 (*vide* BMt).

GROUSE TO SHOREBIRDS

There were no reports of the declining Gray Partridge from King's County, NS, which does not bode well. Fishermen released two ♀ and one ♂ Wild Turkey to Seal Island, NS, which is not necessarily an event to be celebrated. As with the previously introduced Ring-necked Pheasants, it is unlikely that they can survive without being fed through the winter.

An Am. Coot on Sable I., NS, May 2-8, (Zoe Lucas), had a very large white frontal shield with little or no red spot, in the manner of "Caribbean Coot." This form can occur as a variant of a bird from a more local population, but long distance vagrancy should also be considered.

Almost an annual event, a few Sandhill Cranes appeared in the Region, this time exclusively in New Brunswick: two at Miscou May 7 (ST, Yves Cormier), and one at Quaco Head May 8 (*vide* Cecil Johnston).

The weather this spring may have affected the shorebird migration; few species other than Regionally breeding birds were reported. One impressive exception to this trend

was a "small but significant influx" (BMt) of Greater Golden-Plover to Newfoundland and SPM.

#	Date	Location	Observers
1	Apr 25-26	Cape Bonavista	John Joy
1	Apr 26	Cape Race	C. Brown, J. Wells
3	Apr 27	Portugal Cove S.	KKn, BMt
4	Apr 28 -May 3	Kilbride	BMt et al.
5	May 11	SPM	RE et al.
1	May 15	SPM	RE et al.

This is the seventh occurrence for Newfoundland, the sixth in spring, and the fifth involving multiple birds.

Willetts are scarce on the n. side of the Cabot Strait, so one at SPM May 23 (Bruno Letournel) and two May 16 at GMNP (2nd park record, HD) were noteworthy. Upland Sandpiper are not annual in Nova Scotia, but this spring there were 2 reports, one on Cape Sable I. May 15 (PM, BS), and one at Hemenon's Head May 21 (David Young).

Two rare spring Red Knot were on Sable I., NS, May 29-30 (IM). Overwintering Sanderling in Nova Scotia are almost routine, as evidenced by eight at Cherry Hill, April 5 (John & Shirley Cohrs). Such an occurrence is much rarer in the harsher climate of Newfoundland, so a single bird Mar. 7 at Carbonear is notable (ST). Pectoral Sandpipers are very rare in the Region in spring; there was one at Hartlen Pt., NS, May 8 (PM, FL, GJ), and one on SPM Apr. 26 (RE) for the first spring record for the islands. Nineteen Short-billed Dowitchers on Grand



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Seabright, Nova Scotia, on June 1, 1992. Photograph/Peter Payzant.

Manan, May 18 (BD) is a good number for this rare spring migrant. Long-billed Dowitchers are regular in the autumn in New Brunswick (although nowhere else in the Region), but one in spring is almost unprecedented; one was at Sackville May 12 (ST).

Where would Wilson's Phalaropes be without sewage ponds? Away from their favourite breeding ponds in New Brunswick there was a report from a "virgin" sewage pond in Port Williams, NS, of a ♀ Wilson's May 24 (Gordon & Judy Tufts). A good movement of pelagic phalaropes was reported from Brier I., NS, May 17-18. The observers estimated a minimum of 2000 Reds and 4000 Red-neckeds (FL, GJ).

GULLS TO ALCIDS

It was a quiet spring for unusual gulls. Just two Mew (Com.) Gulls and two Laughing Gulls were reported; the former were in W. Chezzetcook, NS, Mar. 30 (FL, Sean Smith), and an adult in St. John's Mar. 7-8 (BMt), while the latter were a 1st-year at Point Edward, NS, May 17-18 (DM, CM), and an adult in Saint John, NB, May 15-17 (Jim Wilson). Away from their strongholds in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, there were 4 reports of five Com. Black-headed Gulls in New Brunswick. Fewer Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported than normal, with three in Newfoundland, four in New Brunswick, and one each in Nova Scotia and SPM; this is likely due to reduced observer effort than any decline in the species.

A single Gull-billed Tern was reported by various parties on Cape Sable I., NS, between May 10-18 (JT, Eric Mills *et al.*). The only Caspian Terns reported were from New Brunswick, two at Redhead Marsh Apr. 24 (Paul Clarke) and two at Lameque May 7 (ST).

The only alcid report of note pertained to an apparent increase of the Razorbill colony on Columbiar I., SPM; 70+ birds were censused May 31 (RE).

DOVES TO FLYCATCHERS

Mourning Doves are scarce in the n.e. part of the Region in spring, so reports of one in SPM May 13 (RE) and one in Renewes, NF, May 17 (CB, KKn) are significant.

After the excellent winter for Snowy Owls, the trend continued into spring. There were: a minimum of 12+ near St. John's, NF (Apr. 1-May 28); two in GMNP Apr. 24-24; five in SPM (Mar. 12-May 22); four in n.e. New Brunswick until the end of the period (one at Kouchibouguac N.P. being mobbed by Piping Plover!); and six or more in Nova Scotia as late as May 3.

Barred Owls in Nova Scotia nested up to 2 weeks early (Bernard Forsythe). It was a good spring for Boreal Owl sightings away from

Newfoundland. There were six birds seen in SPM, two of them unfortunately dead. One was in Port Morien, NS, Mar. 24, resting on the front bumper of a school bus (Allan Murrant). New Brunswick provided 2 reports, one found dead in Saint John Mar. 5 (Cecil Johnston), and one in South Bay Mar. 10 (Lloyd Foster). The last sightings of the Nova Scotia N. Hawk Owls were Mar. 14 for the Caribou I. individual, and Apr. 25 for the Tatamagouche pair. A Hawk Owl in GMNP Apr. 8-10 (HD *et al.*) was only the 3rd local record.



Male Yellow-headed Blackbird at Ferryland, Newfoundland, on May 22, 1992. Tenth provincial record. Photograph/Ken Knowles.

Acadian Flycatcher at Tracadie, NB, May 10 (ST), was a provincial first. The other 3 Regional records are all from Nova Scotia. There were two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers this spring; the first was at Newcastle Creek, NB, May 10-11 (Lorris & Ann Boucher), while the 2nd was an extremely cooperative bird at Seabright, NS, from May 29-June 6 (m.ob., ph., and on the national C.B.C. news).

SWALLOWS TO WAXWINGS

While numbers of Barn and Tree swallows are still growing after their massive die-out in a late freeze several years ago, they still have not regained their former abundance. In SPM Tree Swallows were specifically mentioned as scarce (RE). Extralimital swallows in Newfoundland were a Purple Martin May 17 at Arnold's Cove (PL), and a Cliff Swallow May 23 at Pt. Verde (PL, JW). An unconfirmed Cave Swallow in Tracadie, NB, May 14 (Jean-Yves Poulin), would be a first provincial record if accepted.

If there is any justice, two singing ♂ Carolina Wrens that successfully overwintered for the 2nd year in a row at a feeder in Saint John, NB, should have their persistence and patience rewarded with mates. Winter Wrens appear to be faring well across the Region, with good numbers reported from all

areas. Reflective of this trend was the first successful overwintering of a Winter Wren in SPM (RE).

Golden-crowned Kinglets, while by no means uncommon, are down considerably in numbers from their peak 2 years ago. This trend is evident across the mainland. The lone Blue-gray Gnatcatcher report came from Schooner Pond, NS, May 23 (DM). A N. Wheatear was reported from Sackville, NB, Apr. 6 (John Wilson), and another (a male) at L'Anse aux Meadows, NF, May 11-13 (Delena Anderson); most sightings in the Region are from the autumn.

The overwintering E. Bluebirds in Canning, NS, have dispersed to breed, with at least 2 nests resulting. Elsewhere on the mainland their breeding efforts are expanding, with encouraging increases noted in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, especially in clear-cut forest areas with standing snags. Remarkably, there still are no confirmed records of E. Bluebird for Newfoundland. Previously more common, only two Wood Thrushes were heard in Nova Scotia this spring, a discouraging decline.

Modest flocks of Bohemian Waxwings lingered in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick through March; the largest grouping was 700, though most were in the 50-200 range. There were a dozen sightings of N. Shrike in Nova Scotia, reflecting the modest winter. There were 6 reports from Newfoundland, all from GMNP, where there is a noticeable spring movement up the w. coast of the island. A Loggerhead Shrike at Hartlen Pt., NS, May 31, was reported without accompanying details (PM, BS)—there are fewer than 20 spring records for the province, and none in recent years.

VIREOS TO WARBLERS

As mentioned in the introduction, a cool May dominated by easterlies delayed and dispersed the vireo and warbler migration, with later species not having arrived in force by the end of the period.

Belying its name, a N. Parula at SPM May 24-26 is considered rare (RE, JCH). Also rare at the same location was a Cape May Warbler May 23-24 (RE, JCH). Only two southern warblers were encountered this spring: a ♂ Golden-winged Warbler was at Ferryland, NF, May 20, (Dorothy Agriesti), for the 4th provincial record, the first in spring; and a ♂ Kentucky Warbler was on Sable I., NS, May 29 (IM).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

There were five Summer Tanagers reported this spring, an excellent showing. Two were in New Brunswick; one on Grand Manan May 18-21 (BD), and the other at Fredricton May 18 (JE, PP). Nova Scotia hosted the rest:

one at Meagher's Grant, *Halifax*, May 9 (Steve Shearer); a recently dead bird on Sable I. May 29 (IM); and a bird reported without details from Hatchet L., *Halifax*, May 24. Northern Cardinals continue to do well in Nova Scotia, with 5 reports from widely scattered locations. Two extralimital Rose-breasted Grosbeaks reached SPM on May 23 (*fide* RE), just after the main arrival of grosbeaks through Nova Scotia during May 15-20.

After last year's remarkable fall-out of Blue Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings things returned to normal. The single Blue Grosbeak was at Apple River, NS, May 23-25 (Kathleen Spicer), while there were just three Indigo Buntings discovered, two in Nova Scotia, and a male at Ferryland, NF, May 14 (BA).

Spring Dickcissels are scarce in the Region, but one was at Middle West Sable, NS, Apr. 24 (DY), and another was on Grand Manan, NB, May 17-24 (BD), for only the 2nd spring provincial record. Rufous-sided Towhees were reported only from Nova Scotia—six birds were seen in scattered locations from Apr. 20 to May 9. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia both enjoyed Field Sparrows, with two mid-May sightings in the former province, and 4 separate sightings in the latter from Apr. 29-May 18. A Savannah Sparrow of the "Ipswich" race reached SPM Apr. 21 (RE *et al.*); they are very rare anywhere north of Nova Scotia.

In a spring of diffuse migration it was refreshing to enjoy a strong movement of Fox Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos. This was most particularly evident at feeders, with some individual feeder-watchers hosting over 20 Fox Sparrows at a time. New Brunswick's first confirmed **Western Meadowlark**, discovered last winter, was present near Fredricton through March, by which time it had begun singing (*fide* JE). A ♂ **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at Ferryland, NF, May 19-23, was the 10th provincial record, but only the 2nd in spring (BA *et al.*). Rare in the province, a Brewer's Blackbird was at a White's Lake, NS, feeder Apr. 7 (BS).

And finally, the common winter finch report, although as Bruce Mactavish accurately states, "sometimes I think these birds get too much attention." Pine Grosbeaks were fair in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland; Purple Finches abundant in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and fair in Newfoundland; Red Crossbills scarcer than White-winged Crossbills, and both heading elsewhere as a poor cone crop looms; Com. Redpolls common in e. Newfoundland at the end of the period, and common in n. Nova Scotia until the end of April; and Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks in good form throughout the mainland, with siskins common in Newfoundland.

Regarding uncommon winter finches, there were 5 reports of House Finch from Nova Scotia, where a full-scale colonisation cannot be far off, and their were four different single Hoary Redpolls in early March in New Brunswick, amongst the abundant Com. Redpoll flocks.

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QUEBEC REGION

Yves Aubry and Richard Yank

It was a late spring in Quebec. Continuing the pattern of the past winter, both March and April brought colder than normal temperatures, and few early arrival records were broken as a result. Precipitation levels were near average over most of the province although central and northern portions received higher levels than normal during April. On April 11, southern Quebec was hit by a 15-20 cm snowfall—a record for this date. An American Woodcock found dead at Saint-François-du-Lac, *Yamaska* on March 15 (I. Jauvin) may have been a casualty of this late storm. May brought mostly sunny skies and above-average temperatures to southern Quebec. Not surprisingly, and in sharp contrast to the spectacular spring of 1991, few rarities or fallouts occurred.

PELICANS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Almost annual since 1984, an ad. Am. White Pelican paused at Saint-Barthélemi, *Berthier*, May 2-3 (CD, RA, m.ob) to provide the Region's 15th record. Noteworthy inland was a Great Cormorant identified at Valleyfield Apr. 26 (BBa). Approximately one dozen Double-crested Cormorants returned to a recently-established breeding colony on Montigny L., near Val-d'Or this spring (RBe, DB): This is one of the few inland colonies in the province although cormorants do breed on the Ontario side of L. Abitibi. A Great Egret at Oka Apr. 9 (RLv *et al.*) was record-early by one day, while others strayed N to Biencourt, *Rimouski* (CTa *fide* LBr), and Saint-Joseph, *Quebec* (YM, CTh), both Apr. 22, Saint Rédempteur, *Lévis*, May 9 (LSC *et al.*), and Cacouna May 9-24 (JLa, LV, v.ob.). Other notable waders involved lone Snowy Egrets at Cabano, *Témiscouata*, Apr. 22 (MBu) and Bic, *Rimouski* May 31 (BBE, GBe, MDo), a Little Blue Heron at Portneuf May 24 (FG, VG), a Cattle Egret at Price, *Matane*, May 14-15 (LG *et al.*), and single Glossy Ibises also at Price May 15 (LBr, JRP) and at LaSalle Apr. 21-26 (PM *et al.*). All in all it was a fairly typical spring showing by these southern vagrants.

Two migrating Tundra Swans were spotted in s. Quebec, at Saint-Lazare, *Vaudreuil*, Mar. 14 (GLa *et al.*) and Longueuil Apr. 23 (DDa, DDo), while an adult at Kangisujuaq May 20 (CGa) furnished a rare sighting of this species along the Ungava coast. The season total of six Greater White-fronted Geese surpassed by one that of the spring of 1991, while four Ross' Geese were reported including a blue-morph seen copulating with a white-morph at La Pocatière May 15 (CA). The Saquenay region recorded its first Barnacle Goose at Saint-Ambroise, *Chicoutimi*, May 12 (BDt, AD, FBr).

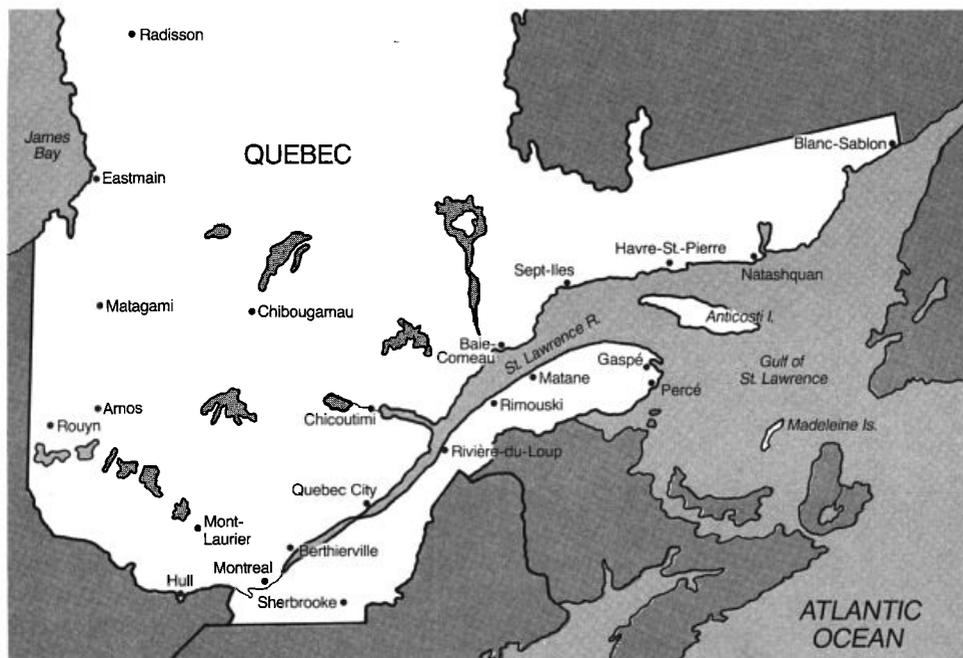


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the same day (AC, JLa, RF). Ruffs made an average showing with three birds, all males, at Martinique, *Magdalen I.*, May 2 (BL, CAG, DGG), Saint-Gédéon, *L. Saint-Jean*, May 13-14 (BDt *et al.*), and Cacouna May 24 (PF). A sewage pond at Saint-Arsène attracted a concentration of 10 Wilson's Phalaropes in May (JRP, GR, LG), a good total for this latitude even though the species breeds at nearby Cacouna.

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Unusual gulls were rather scarce this season. Single Laughing Gulls were seen at Longueuil Apr. 30 (MBE) and La Pocatière May 20 (CA), a first-year Thayer's Gull was identified at Côte-Sainte-Catherine Mar. 8 (JB, MBd), while only one Lesser Black-backed Gull was reported

As mentioned in last summer's report, greater numbers of Canada Geese are nesting in s. Quebec. This year, 5 nests were located on islands off Verennes May 7-23 (LBé *et al.*). A flock of 250 Brant at Montbeillard, *Témiscaminque*, May 19 (SLr) represented seldom-reported but probably regular migrants. European ducks were represented by a total of nine Eur. Wigeon, and by "Common" Teal at Sainte-Pétronille, *Montmorency*, May 2 (AC), at Deschambault, *Portneuf*, May 3 (AC *et al.*), at Pte. Paradis along the North Shore May 4 (GBo), and at Cacouna Apr. 24-May 12 (PF). Outside their regular migration corridor were two Canvasbacks at Château-Richer, *Montmorency*, in May (SB, FBi), and a Com. Eider that paused at Longueuil May 30 (FH). An apparent ♂ Com. Goldeneye X Bufflehead hybrid was accompanied by a ♀ Com. Goldeneye at Maple-Grove, *Beauharnois*, Apr. 9-12 (DDa *et al.*).

VULTURES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

The N range expansion of the Turkey Vulture continues. Thirteen were tallied this spring at Quebec's most northerly hawkwatch at Saint-Fabien-sur-Mer, *Rimouski*, May 2-16 (*vide* LBr), one visited Cloutier, *Témiscaminque*, May 6 (MGa), two reached *L. Saint-Jean* May 10 & 23 (JM, CC, GS), and one wandered E to Percé Apr. 30 (DC, JW, JLe). Evidence of healthy Osprey populations was provided by a record total of 233 migrants passing by the Valleyfield hawkwatch (MM *et al.*), and the impressive concentration of 62 birds encountered at Saint-Méthode, *L. Saint-Jean*, May 9 (CGi, MS *et al.*). Eagle numbers were also very good with 22 Bald Eagles at Saint-Fabien-sur-Mer during April (*vide* RPi, LBr) and record-high counts of 12 Bald and 21 Golden eagles at the Valleyfield hawkwatch (MM *et al.*).

Worthy of note were the more than 100 N. Goshawks passing Saint-Fabien-sur-Mer, 5 times the normal spring tally at this site (*vide* PF). Also notable was the single-day record of 500 plus Red-tailed Hawks at the latter site May 2 (GP *et al.*), while Valleyfield hawkwatchers recorded their 2nd highest spring total with 1114 Red-tails (MM *et al.*). Several Gyrfalcons lingered in s. Quebec following their exceptional winter showing, including one at Saint-Fabien-sur-Mer on the late date of May 9 (*vide* PF).

Two Willow Ptarmigan sighted at Saint-Augustin, *L. Saint-Jean*, Apr. 12 (ET, SLf, CL) were unexpected in light of the absence of a winter incursion. A Wild Turkey was observed at Philipsburg, *Missisquoi*, May 2 (JGP) for the first time and the two were subsequently found at nearby Saint-Armand May 5 (DDa *et al.*). A record-early Yellow Rail was calling in a field at Laprairie May 13 (PPd *vide* MRt). The only Sandhill Cranes to be reported were in *Abitibi* and *Témiscaminque*, where they are now regular migrants, with the exception of a lone bird at Saint-Augustin, *L. Saint-Jean*, Apr. 25 (SLf, ET). No substantial shorebird groundings were witnessed this season, but among the less common spring migrants were single Lesser Golden-Plovers appearing at Valleyfield May 7 (MM) and La Baie, *Chicoutimi*, May 24-30 (RM *et al.*), and the three at Longueuil May 31 (DDa, JMB). Lone Marbled Godwits were seen at Saint-Etienne, *Beauharnois*, May 29 (DDa, RLv) and Métis, *Matane*, the next day (ML, DG). Excellent finds in spring were a Baird's Sandpiper studied at Saint-Lazare May 23 (JLu, FBi) and a Long-billed Dowitcher near Lévis May 25 (GLE). Migrating inland, where rare, were five Purple Sandpipers at Saint-Fulgence May 23 (CC, GS) and five more at Beauport, *Quebec*,

along the St. Lawrence, in 2nd-year plumage at Pointe-au-Père May 4-5 (PF). Locally rare was an ad. Great Black-backed Gull inland at Rouyn Apr. 29 (EVW). A grey-morph E. Screech-Owl was mistnetted on I. aux Lièvres, *Kamouraska*, May 10 (MRD, SR) to provide one of very few extralimital records for this typically sedentary species. Illustrative of the season, northern owls continued to provide much of the birding excitement. Several Snowy Owls lingered in extreme s. Quebec well into June, and at least nine N. Hawk Owls were sighted this spring including one on I. aux Lièvres June 5 (JFRa, GLe). While the last Great Gray Owl of the winter invasion was found in the Outaouais area May 18 (*vide* DSH), 10 reports totalling 16 birds received from *Témiscaminque* during March and April may have included territorial pairs (*vide* EVW). Also, three or four more Boreal Owls were added to the winter total. A Com. Nighthawk was early at Longueuil Apr. 9 (MSM), while a Whip-poor-will was present at Chandler from May 21 onward providing a rare record for the Gaspé Peninsula (JRL, PPn). Red-bellied Woodpeckers generally venture into our Region in winter, but this spring a male enlivened Dundee Mar. 23 (DDa *et al.*) and two birds were reported on Mt. Saint-Bruno May 7 (DH).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

A Willow Flycatcher at Rivière-Ouell, *Kamouraska*, May 31 (CA) was a first for this locale, at the n. fringe of the species' range, while locally rare was an E. Phoebe found at Baie-Comeau Apr. 10 (GBo). The bird of the season was a cooperative Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Quebec's 10th, viewed by many at Mascouche, *L'Assomption*, Apr. 25-30 (JGG, MRy, m.ob. ph.). Three Purple Martins were

outside their normal range at Saint-Eusèbe, *Témiscouata*, May 31 (MBu). The season's only positively identified Tufted Titmouse was observed at Saint-Armand Apr. 5 (JGP). Although a pair of Carolina Wrens that raised at least two young at Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, *Montreal*, established only the 2nd nesting record for Quebec (WES), this event was not totally surprising in view of the high population during the past 4 winters. Saint-Gédéon hosted its first ever House Wren May 23-27 (CC, GS). A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was discovered building a nest at Trois-Rivières May 19 (JLy, MRy, m.ob.), while singles wandered farther N to Saint-Romuald, *Lévis*, May 5 (PBr) and Cap-Tourmente May 18 (AR, MDu). Also farther north than usual, a Gray Catbird, stunned after flying into a window in Baie-Comeau May 26 (RBa et al.), was killed by a cat! Locally rare was a Warbling Vireo found at Carleton, *Bonaventure*, May 26 (RCa). Two or three Blue-winged Warblers—including a pair—were sighted among the well-established Golden-winged Warbler colonies near Huntingdon May 17-23 (LM, JFB, m.ob.), while Charette, *Saint-Maurice*, constituted a new locale for a Golden-winged May 27-28 (RPe). A ♂ Cerulean Warbler was well north of its range at Cap-Tourmente May 18 (AR, MDu), while three males and a female found at Philipsburg May 23 (PF, GLe) were the only others detected this spring.

CARDINALS THROUGH FINCHES

Extralimital cardinalines involved a ♀ N. Cardinal at a feeder in Sainte-Luce, *Rimouski*, May 20 (RCl, LC), and lone ♂ Indigo Buntings at Moffet, *Témiscamingue* May 23-24 (MGi), and at Saint-Eusèbe, *Témiscouata* (MBu), and Chandler, *Gaspé*, May 27-28 (JRL). A Field Sparrow reached Pointe-des-Monts along the North Shore May 24 (BDu et al.). Unprecedented numbers of Le Conte's Sparrows turned-up e. of their normal range with two at Beauport May 22 (JFRo), one at La Pocatière May 26 (CA), two at Saint-Fulgence May 30 (CC, GS), and four at Cap-Tourmente also May 30 (*fide* LM). The Region's 14th Harris' Sparrow appeared at La Malbaie, *Charlevoix* May 19 (RLb), while two *oreganus*-type Dark-eyed Juncos showed up in *Témiscouata*, at Saint-Elzéar May 4-7 (RD) and Saint-Eusèbe May 6 (MBu). A Lapland Longspur was late at Saint-Rédempteur, *Vaudreuil*, May 22 (YG).

Icterids provided some interest with an E. Meadowlark seen and heard at Baie-Comeau May 19-22 (GC), and single Yellow-headed Blackbirds reaching Pointe-Label along the North Shore May 10 (GBo), Hemmingford May 16 (PE), and Argile L., *Papineau*, May 21-24 (*fide* RLD). No fewer than six N. Orioles ventured beyond their usual range with one at Saint-Gédéon May 23 (CC, GS), one at Baie-

Comeau May 18 (GBo), three on the Gaspé Pen., at Chandler May 18 (one-JRL) and New-Richmond May 28 (two-RCa) and, finally, one on the Magdalen I. at Cap-aux-Meules May 22 (DDe, AP). The invasion of Com. Redpolls extended into spring as demonstrated by a flock of 720 at Chicoutimi Apr. 12 (CGi, MS) and at least 2500 at Saint-Eusèbe Apr. 21 (MBu). Hoary Redpolls were also reported in high numbers in the Saguenay and Lower St. Lawrence regions. Up to 19 per day visited a Chicoutimi feeder throughout March and April (CGi et al.), and four more birds of the large *hornemani* ssp. were identified, in addition to the two reported last winter.

EXOTICS

Single Eur. Goldfinches were seen at Varennes Apr. 5 (FL) and Mitis, *Matane*, May 1 (LG).

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NEW ENGLAND REGION

Simon Perkins

Following a series of warm seasons, New England birders experienced a cool, dry spring this year. In Boston temperatures averaged 2.7° below normal for the period and precipitation ranged just over four inches below the normal amount.

The temperature deficit was directly traceable to the preponderance of easterly winds, which not only kept temperatures low (particularly near the coast), but significantly reduced the number of migrant waves detected over the course of the spring.

In eastern Massachusetts, during an eleven-day period from April 27 through May 7, the wind blew from the southwest on two days, and from the northwest one day. For the remainder of this period the wind had an easterly component at a time when, during most years, the greatest volume of migrants are scheduled to arrive in the Region.

The season was not devoid of highlights, however. The second state and third U.S. record of Little Egret was established with the appearance of a bird on Nantucket; a Golden-crowned Sparrow graced a yard in Maine; and Vermont hit the owl trifecta!

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

A count of 2200 Red-throated Loons at Nantucket, Apr. 29 (BP, D. Beattie), doubled the previous Regional high. Ten days prior to this "official" tally, the number of birds present was "probably two times" that figure. This staging apparently coincided with a heavy movement of loons off the s. shore of Long Island, NY (*fide* P. Buckley). Three hundred birds were still present at Nantucket May 15 (SP). Passage Red-throateds found inland on the Connecticut R. included two individuals in Massachusetts May 19 (*fide* SK) and another in Fairlee, VT, May 2 (WGE, NLM). An Arctic/Pacific-type loon found this past winter in Provincetown, MA, was joined there by a 2nd individual Apr. 7 (RPA); one of these remained through mid-May (KJ). A loon seen and photographed Mar. 16 & 17 (B. Delabio, v.o. ph.), just a few miles down the beach in Truro, was assumed to be one of the two Provincetown birds. At least one of these birds possessed a distinct chin strap. This feature, more so than the lack of a white flank patch, appears to be one of the characters we've been looking for that allows the separation of non-alternate plumaged *G. pacifica* from *G. arctica* in the field. Beware, however, that not all *pacifica* show a chin strap; but if a bird does show a clear chinstrap, it's *pacifica* Contrib-

utors from western Massachusetts (SK) and New Hampshire (DD) reported above-average numbers of Pied-billed Grebes, and the same was said for Red-necked Grebes in western Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine (*vide* JD) and Vermont (*vide* JP). Representative high counts of the latter species included 19 in Southwick, MA, Apr. 20 (SK), 16 at Wilder Dam, NH, May 2 (WGE, NLM) and 99 at Biddeford Pool, ME, Apr. 15 (J. Brown, K. Disney). Fifteen hundred N. Gannets were still present May 15 off Nantucket (SP), and a total of eight gannets in Long I. Sound from the Connecticut shore was above average (*vide* BK).

S.A.

A breeding plumage Little Egret discovered at Nantucket May 14 (SP, BP *et al.*, ph) remained there through the remainder of the spring season (see summer report). Representing the 2nd state and 3rd U.S. record, the Nantucket bird possessed 2 long head plumes and pale gray loreal skin. The loreal skin of the previous two U.S. birds from Plum I., MA, and Rye, NH, were pale greenish-gray (or bluish-gray) and yellow-orange respectively.

A high Regional total of 11 Tundra Swans included one in Rockingham, VT, Apr. 10-15 (WGE, NLM *et al.*), three in Norfolk, MA, Apr. 1 (B. Cassie), and seven in Con-

necticut alone between Mar. 1 and Apr. 5 (*vide* BK).

A Greater White-fronted Goose found in the company of Snow Geese in Grand Isle, VT, Apr. 16 (A. & D. Dickinson), was described as possessing a pink bill. Most east coast White-fronteds belong to the orange-billed Greenland race rather than to one of the pink-billed N. American races.

Numbers of Snow Geese recorded in the Champlain Valley, VT, in both spring and fall have been slowly increasing in recent years, and the 10,000 birds counted in Addison, Mar. 25 (*vide* V.I.N.S.), were indicative of that trend.

The only "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal reported this spring was a drake at Plum I., MA, Mar. 21 (RSH). Among the high Regional total of 17 Eur. Wigeon, the two most intriguing reports included probable pairs seen in S. Thomaston, ME, Apr. 18 (*vide* JH), and Uxbridge, MA, May 9-13 (ML). Surely this species has bred somewhere in North America by now!

Several Tufted Ducks were sighted this spring. Single males were seen at Trustom Pond, RI, Mar. 12-Apr. 6 (C. Thompson, *et al.*), Greenwich, CT, Mar. 24-Apr. 12 (*vide* BK, ph.), and Plymouth, MA, Apr. 19-26 (S. Arena *et al.*). The Massachusetts and Rhode Island records may have involved the same individual. Were all three escapees? Probably not.

A Com. Eider was very rare on the Connecticut R. in Rockingham, VT, Apr. 29 (WGE, NLM *et al.*), and a single raft of 75 Barrow's Goldeneyes in Belfast, ME, Mar. 7 must have been an impressive sight (E.M. Sears *et al.*). Single Barrow's Goldeneyes found inland included a bird in Laconia, NH, Mar. 22-29 (J. Kline *et al.*), and another on the Connecticut R. in Northampton, MA, Mar. 29 (C. Page) that was probably the same individual that wintered just down river in Holyoke, MA (*vide* SK).

VULTURES THROUGH CRANES

A Regional total of three Black Vultures no longer comes as a surprise, as this species continues its slow northward range expansion. This year single birds were seen in Plymouth, MA, Mar. 1 (BN), Naugatuck, CT, Apr. 5 (JF), and

Boscawen, NH, Apr. 6 (C. Foss).

The only kite report this year was that of a Mississippi Kite in Newcastle, ME, May 19 (J. Hamlin). A single kite Regionwide is a bit off the pace of the last few years, but the Maine bird represented the 2nd record for the state following last year's first.

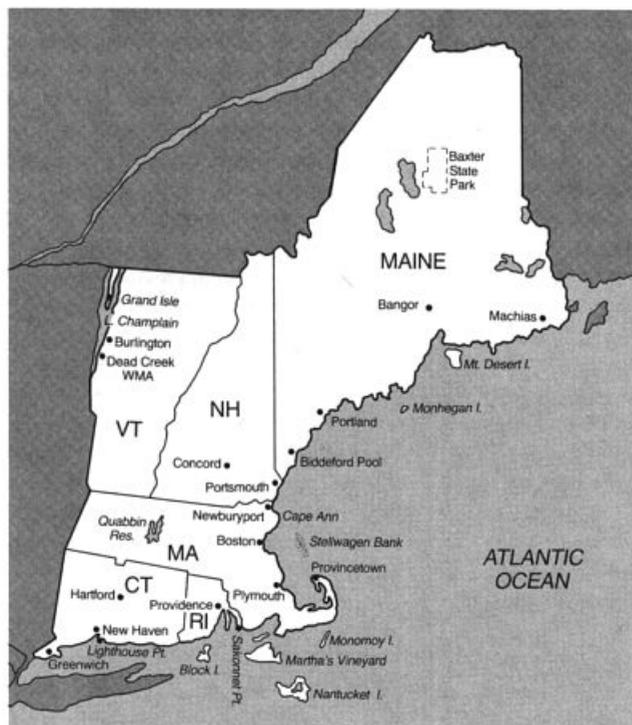
Birders at designated hawkwatches in Massachusetts enjoyed a successful season this year. On Apr. 23, hawk watchers at Mt. Wachusett in Princeton logged 568 Broadwings, a total nearly twice that of the previous one-day high spring count for that site. Meanwhile, on the coast the same day, 244 Am. Kestrels were counted at Plum I. (E.M.H.W.). The next day the Broadwinged front apparently shifted W, as counters in Southwick and Mt. Tekoa in Russell tallied 895 and 851 Broadwings respectively, while counters in Princeton logged few. At 3 hawkwatches in w. Massachusetts, 21 Cooper's Hawks and 20 Merlins represented totals well above average for that combination of sites (*vide* SK).

Other diurnal raptors of note included the only Golden Eagle in the Region in Addison, VT, Mar. 29 (WGE, NLM *et al.*) and at least four Gyrfalcons, all in March. Two Gyrfalcon reports from Maine included birds in Clinton, Mar. 1 (W. & B. Sumner), and another in Portland, Mar. 13 (LB); a wintering bird in Newburyport, MA remained at least through Mar. 5, and two sightings in Weybridge (C. Frankiewicz), and Addison, VT (WGE, NLM), Mar. 21 & 29 respectively, may have involved the same bird.

The only King Rails reported in the Region this spring were in e. Massachusetts where a surprisingly high total of six were found, all in May.

Common Moorhens continue to struggle in our Region. Among the 14 birds reported, eight were found in Vermont (V.I.N.S.), three in Massachusetts (*vide* SK, B.O.), two in Maine (J. Therrien), and one in Rhode Island (*vide* DE). None were reported from New Hampshire or Connecticut.

Maine had the corner on the Sandhill Crane market this spring with no fewer than 4 sightings. As usual, it is difficult to figure how many different birds accounted for these sightings. The first occurred in Kittery, Apr. 27; the 2nd in Glenburn, May 3, 140 mi n.e. of Kittery, the 3rd at Turner, May 4, roughly 75 mi s.w. of Glenburn, and the 4th at Cape Elizabeth, 40 mi s. of Turner (JD). You decide! Other single Sandhills were seen in Rockingham, VT, Apr. 24 & 25 (D. Clark *et al.*), and Dunbarton, NH, Mar. 24-30 (E. Swindlehurst *et al.*). Two more were seen in Massachusetts: an adult in Middleboro, Apr. 30 (W. Evill), and an immature in Rowley, Apr. 17-18 and May 15-31 (B.O., JB).



SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

Fifteen Lesser Golden-Plovers Regionwide represented a high spring total and one at Newburyport, MA, Mar. 14 (WRP) was roughly 2 weeks early.

American Oystercatchers showed continued signs of northward expansion with 3 sightings of (prospecting?) birds n. of Boston's Logan Airport, their northern nesting limit. These sightings included two in Seabrook, NH, May 10 (SM), three at Crane Beach in Ipswich, May 22 (D. Rimmer), and two nearby at Plum I., May 25 (A. Bennett).

A W. Sandpiper was a rare spring visitor to Monomoy, May 20 (BN), and three Least Sandpipers were very early in Jerusalem, RI, Mar. 31 (D. Kraus). Even rarer in spring, a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** on Martha's Vineyard, May 31 (A. Brown), probably represented only the 3rd spring record for the Region. A Curlew Sandpiper in spring attire entertained visitors at Monomoy for a week, May 15-22 (KJ, BN).

Two Ruffs were found in New England this spring: a Reeve was at Newburyport, MA, Apr. 24- May 5 (J. Soucy *et al.*), and a color-banded Ruff put in a brief appearance in Wells, ME, May 21 (C. Ferris *et al.*). The Ruff was traced to a research facility in Kingston, Ontario, where it had escaped 12 days earlier.

A Laughing Gull, rare anywhere inland, was present in Pittsfield, MA, Apr. 26 (B. Goodrich). The only Franklin's Gull to visit the Region this spring was a bird in breeding plumage in W. Newbury, MA, May 5 (RSH). A near-average total of six Little Gulls in the Region included single birds in Connecticut and Rhode Island, and four in Massachusetts. The total of roughly 30 Com. Black-headed Gull reports was well above average. Nearly half of these were winterers still present in Winthrop, MA, Mar. 3 (TA). Winthrop has long been the winter center of abundance for these gulls in New England (U.S.?), the attraction there being a nearby sewage outfall in Boston Harbor. But the city of Boston recently shut down that outfall as part of a major harbor cleanup program. Will the gulls return next winter? We'll see. A wintering Com. Black-headed Gull, present in the Hadley/Amherst area in Massachusetts through Apr. 18, was seen with a 2nd bird Mar. 9 (E. Marcum). Even one Black-headed inland is rare; two together inland in Massachusetts is certainly unprecedented. A total of fourteen Lesser Black-backed Gulls in the Region included four in Connecticut, two in Rhode Island, and eight in Massachusetts. Half of the Massachusetts birds were found in the western half of the state, which is more than usual in that part of New England.

The only Mew Gull in the Region this spring was a bird first found in late February

that was still present in the Hadley/Northampton area Mar. 3 (R. Champlin). This represented the first record for w. Massachusetts.

A "Thayer's" Gull seen in Portland, ME, Apr. 3 (SPo) was probably the same bird that had been present elsewhere on the Portland waterfront since January. Also in Portland, 16 Iceland Gulls, still present Mar. 19 (LB), comprised the majority of the Maine total of 23. Inexplicably, this total was nearly 6 times what it had been during the past 5 springs (M.B.N., JD). Nine Iceland Gulls were still present on Nantucket I., MA, May 15 (SP).



Boreal Owl at Enosburg, Vermont, on March 5, 1992. Photograph/Bill Donlon.

The presence of a single breeding plumaged Forster's Tern at Plum I., MA, May 24-31 (RSH), suggests that this species was attempting to nest there for the 2nd year in a row. Following a major incursion of breeding birds onto Long I., NY, this spring, birders might expect to see additional numbers of breeding Forster's in New England in the near future.

An uncommon Com. Murre was lingering on Stellwagen Bank in Massachusetts Bay, May 16 (KJ), and an Atlantic Puffin was found dead on a beach in Wellfleet, MA, on Cape Cod, Mar. 10 (KJ).

OWLS THROUGH VIREOS

Great Gray, N. Hawk and Boreal owls were all found in n. Vermont in late March. That's got to be a Regional first! The **Great Gray Owl** was photographed (photo to V.I.N.S.) in Derby in "late March," (B. Tweed *vide* NLM), and three of the four **Northern Hawk Owls** that were reported this past winter remained into March. Last sightings came from Westford, Mar. 3 (D. Hinshaw), Irasburg, Mar. 6 (L. Kinsey), and Craftsbury,

Mar. 14 (F. Oatman). Also, a **Boreal Owl** which almost certainly spent the winter in New England, was photographed in Enosburg Falls, Mar. 5 (H. & B. Donlan, ph.).

The only two Chuck-will's-widows discovered this spring were in Marblehead, MA, May 22 (W. Webb) and Swan Pt. Cemetery, RI, May 26 (WB). An unusually large "swarm" of 800 Chimney Swifts, presumably mostly migrants, was noted during a spell of inclement weather feeding over a pond in Hanson, MA, May 25 (WRP).

Despite the inroads that colonizing Red-bellied Woodpeckers have made northward in New England, and despite the fact that their center of abundance n. of Connecticut is at Martha's Vineyard, the species has yet to successfully make the leap as a breeder from the Vineyard to Nantucket I., a mere 15 mi away. But the six counted on Nantucket, May 9 (EFA) is the highest local count to date and may mean Red-bellieds finally have their zygodactyl foot in the door.

A "Red-shafted" N. Flicker was seen in Newburyport, MA, May 24 (CF *et al.*), and a bird described as an "intergrade" with a "normal head pattern, mixed salmon and yellow wings and salmon tail (one yellow rectrix)" was trapped and banded at V.I.N.S., in Woodstock, Vermont on an unspecified date.

A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher made a rare appearance on Nantucket I., May 15-16 (W. Bartlett, SC *et al.*). Black-billed Magpies in e. North America pose the same origin problem as certain waterfowl. Though the species has probably arrived in our Region under its own steam at least once, picking which records represent such wild birds is impossible. A Black-billed Magpie discovered in Mattapoisett, MA, Apr. 25 (G. Mock), remained in the neighborhood at least through the first week of May.

A Fish Crow in Brattleboro, VT, Apr. 8 (T. Maloney) was probably a wandering member of the growing contingent of recently arrived birds in the Connecticut R. Valley in Massachusetts. While Fish Crows continue to slowly colonize northward, Com. Ravens continue to appear sporadically at points south and east of their established range. This spring such birds included individuals in Cumberland, RI, Mar. 28 (WB), Wickford, RI, Apr. 25 (RC), Ipswich, MA, May 16 (CF, *et al.*), and two migrating N over W. Newbury, MA, May 15 (RSH).

Carolina Wrens, like Red-bellied Woodpeckers, were slow to colonize Nantucket I., despite the close proximity of a long-existing and abundant source population on Martha's Vineyard only 15 water-miles away. But now they, too, appear ready to become established breeders on Nantucket. A year or two ago

singing birds became a regular feature in several residential areas around the island and this season, 12 tallied there May 9 (EFA) represented what has become a typical count.

Wintering Bohemian Waxwings were found in typical northern locales well into the spring season. Among more than 1500 reported in Maine, at least 1000 were in one flock in Appleton, *Knox*, Apr. 7 (*fide* Maine Audubon). Flocks of 100+ were also noted in Vermont in St. Albans and Woodstock into the 2nd and 3rd weeks of Apr. (JP). The southeasternmost Bohemians were single birds in W. Newbury, MA, Mar. 1 (RSH), and Lincoln, MA, Mar. 17 (F. Gray).

Two of the three Loggerhead Shrikes in our Region this year occurred on odd dates. A well-described bird in Newmarket, NH, was decidedly early, Mar. 5 (D. & K. Hughes), while another in Fairfield, CT, May 18, was curiously late (C. Barnard)—unless it was a prospective nester. The 3rd was photographed in Lancaster, MA, Apr. 6 (C. Quinlan). A very early White-eyed Vireo paid the price for rushing the season and was found dead at Goose Rocks Beach, ME, Mar. 12 (S. Everett).

WARBLERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS

Warbler watching in most areas was an exercise in frustration. With so few days of SW winds this spring, waves were few, late, and usually highly localized. Most observers had to be satisfied with snatches of birds where they could find them.

On the 18th of May observers witnessed a rush of warblers along Plum I., MA, that was nearly a replay of a May 12 flight there last year. Estimated totals on Plum I. ranged in the high hundreds with Yellow-rumped, Magnolias, and Com. Yellowthroats being most abundant (RSH, C. Cook). Nowhere else in New England was a significant movement detected that day—not even at the Appledore I., ME, banding station within sight of Plum I., just off shore and to the north.

The busiest single day at Appledore was May 21 when 234 birds were handled by the banders. On May 19, at Appledore, 117 Com. Yellowthroats broke the record for the greatest number of any one species handled in a day. The previous record was 90 Magnolia Warblers. And speaking of Magnolias, Appledore's seasonal total of 222 was once again more than twice that of any other warbler species (other than Yellow-rumped or Com. Yellowthroat) handled there (DH). In reference to two single Worm-eating Warblers netted on Appledore May 10 and 22, Holmes commented, "I'd like to know where the WEWA's were going!" Where indeed!

A "Lawrence's" Warbler seen sporadically between May 10 & 18 in Blackstone, RI (L

Symynkywicz) was the only such hybrid reported in the Region this spring, and two to three Prothonotary Warblers were present in the Great Swamp in Rhode Island May 4-31.

A single Yellow-throated Warbler, presumably one of the pair that established a first New England breeding record last year, was seen again in Kent, CT, from May 5 through the end of the month (*fide* BK), and 10 Cerulean Warblers were counted along this same stretch of the Housatonic River on May 11 (S. Kotchko). A single Cerulean was also found fairly far north in Nottingham, NH, May 26 (A. & B. Delorey).

Other southern warblers found a bit further north than usual included (all in Maine), single Yellow-throateds in N. Harpswell, May 9 (J. Pierson), and Saco, May 26 (SPO), a Prothonotary in Harpswell, May 2 and 7 (J. Newman), and a Worm-eating in Portland, May 6-9 (F. Paul *et al.*).

Three Connecticut Warblers were reported this spring, but only one was accompanied by details, a "must" for such a rare spring migrant. The reports came from Hamden, CT, Apr. 25 (!) (JF), Dartmouth, MA, May 12 (K. Holmes), and Barre, MA, May 17 (E. Thorn—convincing details).

Clearly, the virtual lack of southerly winds this season did little to prevent most species prone to "overshooting" in the spring from doing their thing. The above-mentioned warblers, and 14 Summer Tanagers found Regionwide, illustrate that point. But what happened to Blue Grosbeaks this year? Only one (!) bird was reported this year, from Nantucket, May 2 (S. Wheelock).

Black-headed Grosbeak, once a fairly regular vagrant in New England, dropped out of sight rather quickly about 15-20 years ago. When they did occur, they usually did so in fall like most other western vagrants. So, the appearance in Massachusetts of two ad. ♂ Black-headed Grosbeaks in Leverett, May 14 (P. Whipple *fide* WRP), and Rockland, May 20 (D. Doherty *fide* WRP), came as a complete surprise.

Two Dickcissels were reported from Rhode Island, one in Seapowet, Apr. 18-19 (M. Champlin), and the other, a late ad. male, in Smithfield, May 15 (B. Gearhart). A 3rd was seen in Truro, MA, May 24 (J. Young).

The one Lark Sparrow in the Region this spring was a bird in W. Roxbury, MA, found singing vigorously on several occasions between Apr. 11 & 31 (TA), and a **Golden-crowned Sparrow** was a contender for bird of the season in Brunswick, ME, where it visited a feeder May 3-6 (S. Sargent *et al.*).

Annual in New England in spring, but still always noteworthy, were two single Yellow-headed Blackbirds, one in Marion, MA, Mar

31-Apr. 24 (J. Farnham), and Whitefield, ME, May 15 (P. Cliney).

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HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

William J. Boyle, Jr.,
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In striking contrast to last year, when a mild winter was followed by a record warm spring, 1992 began with a very warm winter, followed by a cool, wet season in the north and a cool, dry season in the south. Dramatic fluctuations in the temperature (e.g. a high in Rochester of 62° March 10, and 25° March 11), coupled with such features as the only heavy snows of the year in mid-March and killing frosts as far south as New Jersey in late May, made the season seem more extreme than the averages would confirm.

Leaf-out was retarded by one to two weeks over much of the Region, providing a boon to birders, but the late frosts killed much of the year's foliage on oak trees in southern New Jersey and devastated blueberry crops. The cool weather of May took a major toll on broods of Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows in upstate New York, and swallows were noted as down everywhere, presumably due to the lack of flying insects.

Despite the erratic weather, or perhaps partly because of it, the entire Region experienced unusually good birding, with a long list of rare and uncommon species providing entertainment. Many tropical migrants continue to appear in low numbers, but there were some locally major fallouts as well. The recent trend toward an earlier migration discussed in last spring's column was at least temporarily stalled by the cooler weather, and most species arrived about on schedule.

Abbreviations: Artificial I. (site of Salem Nuclear Power Plant, on Delaware River, Salem, NJ); Braddock Bay (Braddock Bay S.P. and vicinity, Monroe, NY); Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook Nat'l Wildlife Ref., near Smyrna, DE); Brig (Brigantine Unit, Forsythe Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Atlantic, NJ); Cape Henlopen (Cape Henlopen State Park, Sussex, DE); Indian R. (Indian River Inlet, Sussex, DE); Jamaica Bay (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens, NYC); L.I. (Long Island, NY); Manasquan Inlet (Manasquan Inlet, Monmouth-Ocean, NJ); Montezuma (Montezuma Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Seneca and Cayuga counties, NY); Moses-Saunders

Dam (Moses-Saunders Dam, New York-Ontario, near Massena, St. Lawrence, NY); Port Mahon (marshes and bayside along road east of Little Creek, Kent, DE); Sandy Hook (Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway Nat'l Recreation Area, Monmouth, NJ); Scherman-Hoffman (New Jersey Audubon Sanctuary, Bernardsville, Somerset, NJ). N.J.B.R.C. (New Jersey Bird Records Committee); N.Y.S.A.R.C. (New York State Avian Rarities Committee). Place names in italics are counties.

LOONS TO IBISES

Loons were widely reported in exceptional numbers, and late April storms grounded many at inland lakes and reservoirs. A major storm in e. Pennsylvania Apr. 20 brought six Red-throated Loons (uncommon inland) and 470 Com. Loons to Penn Forest Reservoir, Carbon (BS), and 114 Commons to Leaser L., Lehigh, the same day (W. Beltz). Foggy conditions during the end of the month dropped a variety of waterbirds on Cayuga L., NY, including over 400 Com. Loons.

A rash of sightings of Pacific/Arctic Loons was an unprecedented spring event. A Pacific Loon discovered at Manasquan Inlet Mar. 1 remained to at least Apr. 12, and was observed at close range and photographed by many. Although the species is reported almost annually now, there are few well-documented records. Another Pacific Loon in breeding plumage was picked up in a ploughed field at Riverhead, Suffolk, L.I., photographed, and released (B. De Luca). Yet another Pacific/Arctic Loon was found

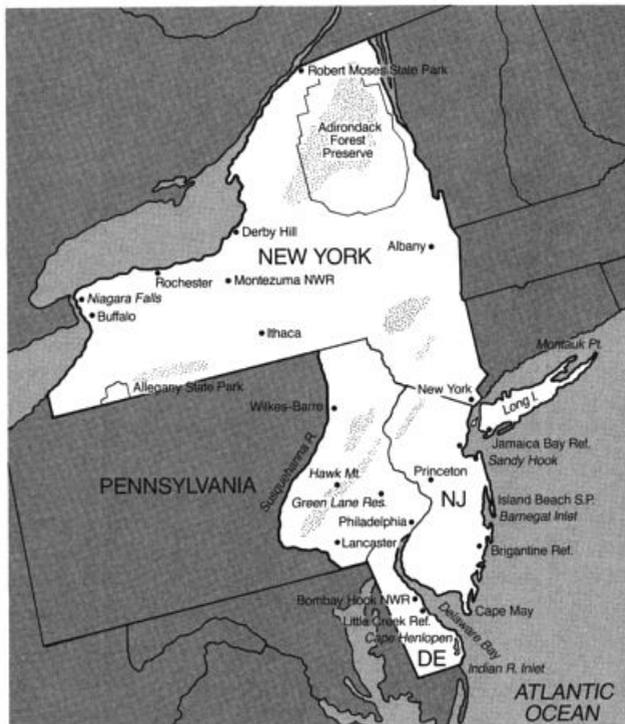
by experienced observers at Merrill Creek Res., Warren, NJ, May 11 (PB, DF); one was reported from L. Assunpink, Assunpink W.M.A., Monmouth, NJ, May 13-16 (LP, AS, † to N.J.B.R.C.); and a final, unconfirmed report came from a big-day team at Wildwood Crest May 16 (fide PS).

The previously reported Red-necked Grebe lingered among the pilings at the Belmar, NJ, marina into late April, gradually assuming breeding plumage for the pleasure of scores of birders. A few were on Long Island early in the season, and a peak of 23 were at Rye, Westchester, NY, Apr. 23 (TWB). Inland the species made a much better showing than last year. Two to five were on the Conowingo Pond in the Susquehanna R., Lancaster, PA, Mar. 20-26 (RMS, LLE) and a single was at Green Lane Res., Montgomery, PA, Apr. 5 (GAF, GLF). In upstate New York, small numbers were reported at Saratoga L., Beaver L., Moses-Saunders Dam, and the Ontario lakeshore, but the top count was a fog-induced fallout of 46+ Apr. 24 at Cayuga L., where Brinkley could not find one all last spring (NB). An Eared Grebe was an outstanding find at a pond in Lebanon, PA, Apr. 12 (SSa), as was another at Montezuma May 5-8 (B. Beal *et al.*).

Easterly winds brought unusual numbers of tubenoses close to the shores of Long Island and s. New Jersey. Thirty Sooty Shearwaters were at Shinnecock Inlet May 18 (RKu), while an estimated 250 were seen between Shinnecock and Cupsogue May 24. Six Cory's Shearwaters were off Cape May Pt. May 20 (PDu) and up to 21 Sooty's were seen from the beach through the end of the month (m.ob.).

Two late May pelagic trips produced some excellent results. The first out of Lewes, DE, May 24 found two N. Fulmars about 35 mi e. of Indian R. for a 3rd state record (m.ob.), in addition to about 24 Sooty Shearwaters. Even more impressive was Brady's May 30 trip to Hudson Canyon, about 100 mi e. of Barnegat Light, NJ. In addition to 20 N. Fulmars, a Cory's and numerous Greater and Sooty Shearwaters, observers found about 10 Leach's Storm-Petrels among the several hundred Wilson's in the deep water of the canyon.

The only Am. White Pelicans were all in w. New York; some of the sightings may involve the same birds. One was near L. Erie at Hamburg, Erie Apr. 22 (RA *et al.*), while another flew by the hawk-watch at Braddock Bay the next day (v.o.). That same day a pelican arrived at Montezuma, about 50



mi s.e. for a 4-day stay. A pair of Am. White Pelicans was discovered May 5 at Tonawanda W.M.A., *Niagara-Genesee*, where they remained until the 24th (R. Endres, m.ob.).

The prelude to a massive summer invasion of Brown Pelicans was the appearance of several off Artificial I., Apr. 24, the first-ever for *Salem*, NJ (R. Ryan). One was in Corson's Inlet, *Cape May* May 2 (*vide* PS) and another at Roosevelt I., *Sussex*, DE, May 4 (WWF). By month's end they were seen in flocks of 1-2 dozen all along the coast, including 15 at Jones Inlet, L.I. May 23 (A. Ott). As the pelicans are spreading N, Great Cormorants continue to move S, with the species now overlapping in time as well as in range. One or two Great Cormorants were found at 6 different spots in New Jersey mid-May, including Mercer County Pk. and Riverton, *Burlington*, where they regularly winter, as well as across the river at Peace Valley Nature Center, *Bucks*, PA (AM). Others were up the Hudson R. at Cornwall Bay, *Orange* May 6 (ET), and *Greene* May 9 (RGU).

An unprecedented 4 reports of *Anhinga* were received, 2 involving two birds; DiCostanzo sent detailed notes and a sketch of an *Anhinga* flying over Central Pk., Apr. 28 (J. DiCostanzo, † to N.Y.S.A.R.C.), while Dasey provided details of a pair seen over his house in Medford, *Burlington*, NJ, May 1 (W.Da, † to N.J.B.R.C.). No details were received for a pair seen by an inexperienced, but competent young birder at Old Tappan, *Bergen*, NJ, mid-May (R. Bakelaar), nor of an individual reported at Allaire S.P., *Monmouth* May 17 (*vide* RKa). Adding credence to these reports was the appearance of other *Anhingas* during June.

American Bitterns were widely reported in above-average numbers, but it is hard to get a firm feeling for Regional populations of this still uncommon species. Wandering Snowy Egrets were at Braddock Bay May 23, and at the Derby Hill Hawkwatch, *Oswego*, NY, May 26 (GSm), while the only vagrant Little Blue Heron was at Rochester May 30 (RMA, RGS). A Cattle Egret was at Hogan Pt., near Rochester May 4, and six were at Middle Creek W.M.A., *Lancaster*, PA, during the season; they have become rare in the Susquehanna Valley since the heronry at Rookery I., Washington Boro was abandoned (RMi).

A White Ibis was seen occasionally at Delaware City, *New Castle*, DE, May 9-17 (H.T. Armistead, DAC, GKH), while reports of White-faced Ibises came from near Ft. Elfsborg, *Salem*, NJ, Apr. 17 (DF *et al.*) and Jamaica Bay from May 4 into the summer (J. Clinton, m.ob.). Inland Glossy Ibises were in Washington Boro, *Lancaster*, PA, Apr. 13-14 (JBo), and at 5 locations in upstate New York, the farthest afield being one at Mon-

tezuma Apr. 23-29 (v.o.) and another at Sweden, *Monroe* May 29 (P. Jenger).

WATERFOWL

The cool, foggy weather with associated cold fronts stalled waterfowl migration in some areas to produce significant concentrations in areas that don't often have them; overall the migration was late and prolonged. Only 3 reports of Greater White-fronted Goose were received, well below recent averages. One was with a large flock of Snow Geese at Middle Cr., Mar. 8 (RMi, JHe), another along the Seneca R., near Brutus, *Seneca*, NY, Mar. 23 (G. Wolford), and one to three were at Hamlin, *Monroe*, NY, Apr. 11-23 (GMA, MD).

The large concentrations of Snow Geese along the Susquehanna R. Valley in *Lancaster*, included at least 10,000 Mar. 8 (JB). They included, in addition to the Greater White-fronted, at least two Ross' Geese, one at Middle Cr., Mar. 8-21 (RMi, JHe, TG), and another at Muddy Run Pumped Storage Area on the river at Washington Boro Mar. 20-30 (RMS, LLe). These provided only the 4th and 5th records for Pennsylvania, the first 3 coming from the same locations last spring. What was probably the same Ross' Goose as the Muddy Run bird (judging from the size of the flock it moved with) was seen Mar. 30 at Struble L. in nearby *Chester* and again near the town of Willow Street, *Lancaster* Mar. 31. Another large gathering of Snow Geese was the 35-40,000 at Bay Pt., *Cumberland*, NJ, on the Delaware Bayshore Mar. 19 (RKa).

Two reports of Barnacle Goose, origin unknown, but presumed escapees, came from upstate New York; one was near E. Martinsburg, *Lewis* Apr. 7 (BH), and another at Phoenix, *Oswego* Apr. 11-26 (GHu). Green-winged Teal of the Eurasian subspecies were found in numbers far above normal, with nine birds in 6 different locations, two in Pennsylvania (previously noted), five in New Jersey, and two in New York, including one at Goshen, *Orange* Mar. 15 (M. Borko). Likewise, Eur. Wigeon were well represented, with four in Delaware, at least eight in New Jersey, and about 15 in New York, including birds in 6 of the 10 reporting regions.

Drake Tufted Ducks continued in *Suffolk*, L.I. at Patchogue to Mar. 18, E. Hampton to Mar. 21, and Riverhead to Mar. 26 (*vide* JJR), while the individual at Rye was seen again Apr. 15-20 (TWB). Among the larger concentrations of waterfowl delayed by the inclement weather were 8000 Greater Scaup and 5000 Com. Goldeneye along L. Ontario, *Oswego*, NY, in March.

A late Com. Eider was at Democrat Pt., *Suffolk*, L.I., Apr. 25-26 (*vide* TWB), while a

very late King Eider was at Cape Henlopen May 19 (WWF). Seven Harlequin Ducks lingered at Barnegat Light to late March and nine were still at Pt. Lookout, *Nassau*, L.I., Apr. 5 (Rku).

Inland groundings of scoters included 12 Black Scoter at Peace Valley Mar. 26 (SF), four White-winged Scoters at Penn Forest Res. Apr. 20 (RW) and three others at Memorial L., *Lebanon*, PA, Apr. 22 (SSa). The big fallout at Cayuga L., Apr. 24 yielded 51 White-winged Scoters and two Surf Scoters (NB). An interesting report was of a flock of 2000+ scoters flying N at Wilson Bay, *Jefferson*, NY, where L. Ontario becomes the St. Lawrence R., on a late April evening (BMW).

Three Barrow's Goldeneyes were at Moses-Saunders Dam Mar. 1 (BDL), while single drakes were at Ft. Miller, *Washington*, NY, Mar. 15 and at Saratoga L., Mar. 30 (*vide* AMa). A possible nesting pair of Hooded Mergansers were along the Raritan R. at S Bound Brook, *Somerset*, NJ, Apr. 18, where the drake was seen repeatedly through May 30 (G. Roussey); four other potential breeders were at Poxono I., *Warren*, NJ, Apr. 21 (GHa).

RAPTORS TO CRANES

The spring hawkwatches were mixed, especially on L. Ontario, where the easterly winds and cool, wet weather produced poor flight conditions. Derby Hill had a terrible season, with Broad-winged Hawk and Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers at record-lows (GS), while Braddock Bay had its 2nd highest total ever, primarily due to 2 spectacular flights Apr. 20 & 22 (JDg, BE). Sandy Hook had a mediocre season, but Montclair had their 4th best total—3568—and a newer count at Boonton, *Morris*, NJ, also did well. A new count, Mt. Pleasant Observatory, near Varna, *Tompkins*, NY, produced 1010 birds in 76 hours, including an excellent 24 N Goshawks and six Golden Eagles (NB).

A Black Vulture was an unexpected find at Cayuga, NY, Mar. 23 and furnished only the 3rd record for the Cayuga L. Basin, all within the past 3 years (NB). Single Black Vultures were highlights of the Braddock Bay count Apr. 3 and May 23. A nest with two young was found near Sumneytown, *Montgomery*, PA (KC), and two others were located in c New Jersey; pairs were seen throughout the period in *Orange* and *Rockland*, NY, where they are believed to be nesting (JPT *et al.*) An early Osprey was along the Susquehanna R. at Holtwood, *Lancaster*, PA, Mar. 8 (RMS).

For the first time in more than a decade there were no confirmed records of Am Swallow-tailed Kite, although a bird reported as a probable Swallow-tailed was at Cape

May Mar. 8 (*vide* PS). A Mississippi Kite was at Morgan's Hill, *Northampton*, PA, Apr. 21, for the 3rd time in 5 years (AK, A. Lessel), ahead of the arrival of the species in New Jersey, where the first was at Sandy Hook May 1 (DWh). An ad. Mississippi Kite was at Assunpink W.M.A. May 17 (TBa), but it was a slow season for the species in the Cape May area, with only about 7 reports. Another adult was well-described from Bombay Hook May 9, for only the 2nd Delaware record (MG, BP).

Numbers of Bald Eagles continue to increase, and the summer season will detail the growing number of nesting pairs. Braddock Bay had a near-record 86 for the season, but on a sadder note was the finding of a 3rd-year bird near Middletown, DE, that had been shot and badly wounded; it was not considered salvageable (*vide* APE). As in the fall, Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers continue to decline at the spring hawkwatches. The Derby Hill total of 2925 was the lowest in their 14 years, while Braddock Bay's 3429 barely surpassed last year's meager count. Cooper's Hawk, on the other hand, is doing much better, with increased accounts of nesting in the southern part of the Region in *Burlington* and *Cumberland*, NJ, and *Delaware*, PA.

Amazingly, the first Broad-winged Hawk appeared at Braddock Bay Apr. 20, along with 15,596 others; 2 days later an additional 14,995 passed by, part of the season total of 40,064, highest since 1984. By contrast, Derby Hill had only 10,718 for the season and only three were found on the spring roundup May 9 in Delaware, where the species may soon disappear as a breeder. A Swainson's Hawk was at Braddock Bay Apr. 20 (W. Clark *et al.*) and what was apparently the same bird (missing the same flight feathers) passed by Derby Hill the next day. Another Swainson's flew over Braddock Bay Apr. 29 (BE). Among the 4123 Red-tailed Hawks tallied at Braddock Bay were two identified as the western subspecies *calurus* (one dark morph) and four *krideri*.

A Golden Eagle was still at Bombay Hook Mar. 2; one was at Brig., Mar. 29 (JKM, JDa), and another at Mad Horse Cr., *Salem*, NJ, the same day. Other reports came from Middle Cr., Apr. 15 (*vide* AH) and the Bashakill, *Sullivan*, NY, May (10), a rare spring record. Forty-one at Braddock Bay was the 2nd highest ever, and Derby Hill had a respectable 26. Montclair had a spring high of 817 Am. Kestrels, but Braddock Bay hit a 15-year low of 355 and Derby Hill had a meager 221. On the positive side, 77 of 220 nest boxes monitored by Hawk Mount Sanc. had nesting pairs (LG).

Merlins were well-reported at all of the hawkwatches, and many lingered later than

normal, including one at Cape May May 23 (m.ob.). Peregrine Falcon numbers, too, continue to increase, especially with the Region's growing breeding population. One of the prizes of the season in w. New York was a Gyrfalcon discovered at Montezuma Mar. 1 (CCa, A. Claridge, H. & P. Keating). Attempts to relocate it were unsuccessful until Mar. 17, when it was seen near Fayette, *Seneca*, and Mar. 20, when it was relocated near Cayuga, *Cayuga*, where it was seen daily through Mar. 29. About 200 birders enjoyed the spectacle, as this large, gray-morph bird terrorized the waterfowl at the n. end of Cayuga L., often perching on the ice to enjoy its catch (†NB).

Black Rails were heard at many of the usual spots in Delaware and New Jersey, and one was back at a traditional location on Long Island from May 18 (*vide* TWB), but no Yellow Rails were reported this year. A King Rail at Clay Marsh, *Onondaga*, NY, May 10 was the first in the Oneida L. Basin in 11 years (*vide* GHu), and the only one noted n. of New Jersey. Rounding out the family, a Purple Gallinule, an annual vagrant to the Region, was seen at Cape May May 3-5 (D. Dunlap, P. Wang).

Sandhill Cranes made an unusually strong showing, starting with one near Reeds Beach, *Cape May* Mar. 8-10 (CS) and three at the Maurice R., Mar. 14 (H. Stahl). All of New York's 6 reports were in April, beginning with one at Noyes Sanctuary, *Oswego*, on the 4th (R. Slack) and two at Hamlin, *Monroe*, the same day (MD). The remaining birds, all singles, were at Lakeview W.M.A., *Jefferson* Apr. 7 (LBC); Webster, *Monroe* Apr. 9 (DSh); Alfred, *Allegany* Apr. 10 (EB); and Wilson, *Niagara* Apr. 21-22 (B. Broderick, E. Schopp). The remaining 4 records were surprisingly late and all within the 5-day period of May 16-20, including a flock of six near Bally, *Berks*, PA (H. & E. Nuenecke); two at W. Caldwell, *Essex*, NJ (D. Hall); one at Prospertown L., *Mercer*, NJ (B. Hughes); and a final at Mannington Marsh, *Salem*, NJ (RKA).

SHOREBIRDS

Lesser Golden-Plovers made an early appearance in upstate New York, with two at Hamlin Mar. 30 (J. Browning, CCa, DT), three at the Savannah Mucklands near Montezuma Apr. 6 (AF), and seven over the Mt. Pleasant hawkwatch Apr. 7 (NB). Up to 30 were at Bombay Hook Apr. 4-18 (v.o.), and a few were at Pedricktown, *Salem*, NJ, in early April. A total of four other was at Brig. and *Cape May* in May, while Jamaica Bay held one May 2 (Rku) and three May 16 (R. Adamo *et al.*). Two Am. Oystercatchers flew by Artificial I., Apr. 17, a first for *Salem*, and the farthest ever up the Delaware Bayshore of

New Jersey (JKM, JDa).

Sixteen Black-necked Stilts were the first arrivals at Little Cr., Apr. 11 (APE, GKH), while a single at Thousand Acre Marsh was only the 2nd record for *New Castle*, DE, Apr. 18 (WJW). A pair of Black-necked Stilts returned late April to Tinicum Nat'l Environmental Center, Philadelphia, where they have attempted to nest for the past 2 years (*vide* AH), and a single was on the Conojohela Flats at Washington Boro, *Lancaster*, PA, May 22 (JB, JHe). In New Jersey two stilts were early at Brig., Apr. 9 (refuge staff), and a single was seen there May 23-24 (GWe *et al.*). Another was at Bridgeton, *Cumberland* Apr. 21 (D. Rebeck), and a single at Stone Harbor May 9 (*vide* PS). North of their Delaware stronghold, the only Am. Avocets were single at Brig., May 25 (LLa, RD) and an unusually high spring total of 14 there May 29 into June (m.ob.).

A Willet was also a good find for Pennsylvania on the Conojohela Flats with the Black-necked Stilt May 22 (JB, JHe). Ten Upland Sandpipers were at the FAA Tech Center near Atlantic City May 29 (JDa), but there were few reports of migrants. A Whimbrel, in addition to being rare inland, was unusually early at Pedricktown Mar. 28 (F Crowley); another local first was a flock of five Whimbrels over the Bashakill May 16 (JPT, Mearns Bird Club).

The first spring Hudsonian Godwits in 5 years were found this season in 4 different spots. One was present May 18-22 at a pond in the middle of a housing development in Roxbury, *Morris* (DH), which had held an even greater rarity in April (see Gulls). Another Hudsonian was at Brig., May 26 (JDa) and a 3rd at Assunpink May 28 (TBa), where it is also very rare. In upstate New York, an Hudsonian Godwit was a rare find at Tonawanda W.M.A., May 23 (C. House). Another spring rarity, Marbled Godwit was found for the first time in 4 years, with an individual at Shinnecock Inlet, *Suffolk*, L.I., Apr. 6-26 (PGi, m.ob.) and another at Jamaica Bay May 8-18 (m.ob.).

A May 9 Ruddy Turnstone furnished an unusual record for Beltzville L., *Carbon*, PA, at any season (RW), while one to six Sanderlings at L. Erie S.P., *Chautauqua*, NY, were the first in spring in more than 20 years for the Niagara Frontier Region (J. Flory). A White-rumped Sandpiper was a displaced early migrant Apr. 23 at Martinsburg, *Lewis*, NY, 35 mi. e. of L. Ontario (BH); a flock of 150 at Mannington Marsh May 20 was on time, but exceptionally large (WDa). Another exceedingly rare spring migrant, a Baird's Sandpiper, was independently found and identified by 2 observers at Montezuma May 17 (ABY, AF).

Four Purple Sandpipers on the sunken

barques at Artificial I., Apr. 18, provided another of the many firsts for *Salem*, NJ, this spring (TBa). A Curlew Sandpiper was at Nummy I., *Cape May* May 7 (NB) and another at Brig. from May 26 for several days (JDa *et al.*). In Delaware two were at Bombay Hook May 16 (BC, CCb), one at Port Mahon May 25 (P. Dumont), and another at the nearby Little Cr. impoundments June 3 (BP).

Ruffs made a much better showing at Pedricktown this year, with about eight birds (five Ruffs, three Reeves) Mar. 28-May 8, the latter date being the first record there for May (RKa). The Bombay Hook-Little Cr. area did almost as well, with at least five from Apr. 9 into May; another was farther s. at Prime Hook N.W.R. May 7-18 (WWF). Other New Jersey records came from Turkey Pt., *Cumberland* Apr. 29 (GHa, JZ), and Brig. May 18-20 (F. Lesser, RD), but the best sighting of a Ruff was at Montezuma May 15-16, where it is rare at any time (G. Woolford *et al.*).

Up to five Long-billed Dowitchers, a species of ill-defined status in the Region in spring, were at Wildwood Crest, *Cape May* Mar. 1-Apr. 9 (VE, DSI), and were reported by Gustafson and Peterjohn to be regular at Bombay Hook and Little Cr., Mar. 15-Apr. 25, with a peak of 50 at Little Cr., Mar. 28 (MG, BP). Twelve Wilson's Phalaropes were at Bombay Hook May 9 (v.o.), but there were only 4 other reports of singles at Goshen Landing May 14 and Wildwood Crest May 16-17 (both *Cape May*); Jamaica Bay May 12; and Montezuma May 25. A Red-necked Phalarope was at Montezuma May 10-17 (AF, ABY, DSh); one at Brig. May 23-24; and another off Indian R. on the May 24 pelagic trip. Two others were seen well offshore on the May 30 pelagic trip, as were five Red Phalaropes.

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

The easterly winds in May brought a few jaegers close to shore to harass the shearwaters. Among them were a Pomarine Jaeger at Cape May May 20-22 (m.ob.), and Parasitic Jaegers at Nummy I. May 6, Democrat Pt. May 9, and Cape May, May 20-29. The May 24 pelagic trip produced an imm. Pomarine Jaeger off Indian R., the first photographic record for Delaware (v.o., ph. APE). As it did with tubenoses, the May 30 pelagic trip to the Hudson Canyon produced excellent results with 12 Pomarine and one to two Parasitic jaegers, plus three to four S. Polar Skuas (m.ob.)

A Laughing Gull was early and out of place at Conowingo Pond Mar. 8 (RMS) and another was at Beltzville L. May 9 (RW, BS). Another Laughing Gull was a good find at Buffalo May 9 (D. DiTomasso, W. Watson),

as was one along the Hudson R., Albany, NY, May 30 (*vide* AMa). An ad. Franklin's Gull was found among Ring-billed Gulls on the lower Susquehanna R., Lancaster, PA, near the Pennsylvania-Maryland line Apr. 17 (RMS, LLe) and another was found under similar circumstances at Harvey's L., Luzerne Apr. 17-18, a first for n.e. Pennsylvania (J. Skinner, WR, E. Johnson). Another ad. Franklin's Gull was a first for Morris, NJ, at the previously noted pond in Roxbury, which also had a pair of Caspian Terns the same day (DH *et al.*); yet another was a first for Middlesex, NJ, at Dayton Apr. 26 (TBa). There are fewer than 10 acceptable records for New Jersey.



Pacific Loon at Manasquan Inlet, New Jersey, on March 9, 1992. Photograph/Alan Brady.

Little Gulls numbers were above average, and included a number of inland records. Only one was seen in Delaware, at Little Cr. May 10 (APE), but several were at Artificial I. in April and May (m.ob.) and up to eight were at several spots in *Cape May* from Reeds Beach to Cape May Pt. during March (m.ob.). An adult spent the day at an irrigation pond at a nursery in Medford, *Burlington*, NJ, Apr. 11, for a first county record (K. Faust), and two adults at L. Musconetcong, *Morris-Sussex*, NJ, Apr. 10, furnished first records for both counties (IB, FT). Three at Liberty S.P. May 9 (T. Proctor) and two on Long Island in March were normal, as was a peak of 26 on the Niagara R. Apr. 13, but a single at Long Point S.P., Cayuga L. Apr. 25, was only the 7th for the area (NB).

Several Com. Black-headed Gulls were seen during March and April along the lower Susquehanna R., where the first record for Lancaster was found in February, and one was with the Franklin's Gull Apr. 17. Elsewhere sightings were relatively few, with 3 in Delaware, 3 at Artificial I., and 3-5 at Cape May in March, and a few on Long Island. Notable inland reports came from Palmyra, *Burlington*, NJ, Mar. 1-2 (TBa), and Cayuga L. May 10 (ABY). A Thayer's Gull was at the Colonie, Albany, NY, landfill Mar. 5 (RGU), and the previously noted bird was at the Moses-Saunders Dam Mar. 8 (BDL).

Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous gulls were all reported in good numbers, some of them lingering quite late, such as

Iceland Gulls at Cape May May 16, and Reeds Beach May 19, and three Lesser Black-backed at Cape May May 20. A single ad. Black-legged Kittiwake was seen on the May 30 pelagic trip.

Four Royal Terns were early at Cape Henlopen Apr. 18 (WWF), and numerous others were around Cape May in May. A pair of Roseate Terns was with Com. Terns at Cape May from May 16 (DSi, J. Walsh *et al.*), and several Arctic Terns were seen on the May 30 pelagic trip. Forster's Terns are very rare inland in spring, so individuals at Ithaca, NY, Apr. 19-20 & 26 were noteworthy (JW). Black Terns were found in somewhat better numbers than has been the case in recent years. In New Jersey, one was at L. Musconetcong May 3 (TH), two at Mannington Marsh, May 14 (WDa), and a single at Assunpink May 17 (TBa), plus several at Brig. during the month. Pennsylvania's only report came from Beltzville L. May 31 (JHo, PE, BLM). About seven were found on Long Island, but upstate New York had some sizable flocks of up to 50 at Cape Vincent May 28, 24 near Brownville, *Jefferson* May 31, and 14 at Montezuma in late May.

An oil spill in the Mecox-East Hampton area of Suffolk, L.I., Mar. 8 and for several days after, left many dead alcids and other seabirds. Picked up alive were six Thick-billed and 23 Com. murrets, 39 Razorbills, one Dovekie, and one Black Guillemot. Two to four Razorbills continued to entertain birders at Manasquan Inlet well into March, and the peak number there was 15 on Mar. 2 (AK). Two Black Guillemots were at Breezy Pt., Brooklyn Mar. 28 (G. Davis). The highlight of the season on the alcid scene was the eight Atlantic Puffins seen on the May 30 pelagic trip, including one full adult on that record-late date (m.ob., ph. ABr).

OWLS TO SHRIKES

A Snowy Owl s. of Broadkill Beach, DE, Mar. 21 was a surprise since there had been none in the state during the winter (D. Kech, WWF). The Snowy that wintered in Fogelsville, *Lehigh*, PA, stayed until Apr. 4, while up to four Snowy Owls fed on the same concentration of gulls and waterfowl at the n. end of Cayuga L. that attracted the Gyrfalcon through at least Apr. 1 (JW, m.ob.). Late Lingering Snowys were in *Jefferson* and *St. Lawrence*, NY, to mid-May. One of two previously unreported N. Hawk Owls that wintered at De Peyster, *St. Lawrence*, NY, was present until about Mar. 23, while the Great Gray Owl near Jamestown, *Chautauqua*, NY, was last seen Mar. 9. Long-eared Owls near Vincentown (B. Tischner), and Chatsworth (TBa, WDa *et al.*), *Burlington*, NJ, during May were probable nesters.

A Red-bellied Woodpecker in *Clinton*,



Atlantic Puffin found 55 miles east of Barnegat Light, New Jersey, on the late date of May 30, 1992. Photograph/Alan Brady.

NY, May 14 was a first county record as this species continues to expand N (B. Krueger). Three-toed Woodpecker was again at Ferd's Bog, *Hamilton*, NY, during May, and Black-backed Woodpecker was at several locations nearby (GL), as well as at the Five Ponds Wilderness Area in *St. Lawrence*, in May (P. O'Shea). A very early E. Wood-Pewee was at a golf course in Ithaca, NY, Apr. 15 (NB) and an E. Kingbird was almost as early in the Ithaca area, Apr. 20 (AF). Another E. Kingbird was ahead of schedule at Emmaus, *Lehigh*, PA, also Apr. 20 (JHo). A W. Kingbird was a flyby at the Mt. Pleasant hawk-watch Apr. 13 (S. Isenberg, ABY, NB), while spring vagrant Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were at Cape May May 4 (*vide* PS) and at Gilgo, *Suffolk*, L.I. May 21 (D. Mizrahi).

Swallows clearly suffered from the cold, wet weather, as numbers of most species were down and nesting Tree Swallows suffered severe egg losses in upstate New York; Barn Swallows failed to nest at the Allendale, NJ, Celery Farm for the first time in 40 years (ST). Common Raven, on the other hand, almost certainly nested at Yards Cr., *Warren*, NJ, where several birds were present throughout the period after having spent the fall and winter there as well. Other reports of nesting ravens came from many places in upstate New York, including *Allegany*, *Albany*, and *Oswego*, among others.

A Sedge Wren was at Heislerville W.M.A., *Cumberland*, NJ, Mar. 20 (JDo), and another at Mad Horse Cr., May 14 (WDa). At least one was at Bombay Hook Apr. 18 (M. Little), and several were in the Port Mahon-Little Creek area in May. Only one report was received in w. New York, where the species may no longer breed (*vide* RGS). Eastern Bluebirds suffered severe mortality from the late May frosts in w. New York; Rich Wells, who monitors 125 boxes in *Erie* and *Cattaraugus*, had 18 nests with young during the last week of May. Thirteen of the 18 lost all the young, while the remaining five fledged 11 of 21.

The only Bohemian Waxwings were in upstate New York, with up to 90 at the Moses-Saunders Dam in early March (BDL) and 12 at Peru, *Clinton* Mar. 7 (C. & J.

Hess). The banner winter season for N. Shrikes produced many holdovers into the spring, including two in New Jersey in March and a late individual still at Peace Valley, PA, Mar. 30 (AMi). In upstate New York, there were numerous reports through the 2nd week in April. A Loggerhead Shrike was a highlight of a Genesee Ornithological Society trip to Oak Orchard W.M.A., *Genesee*, NY, Apr. 4 (*vide* RGS).

VIREOS TO WARBLERS

A Yellow-throated Vireo was exceptionally early at Artificial I., Apr. 12 (S. Stepanski, K. Snow). Philadelphia Vireos were at Burlington I., *Burlington*, NJ May 23 (WDa), Central Pk., New York City May 14-15, and Jamaica Bay May 24 (RKu). A number of reports from upstate New York included four banded by Brooks at the Manitou banding station near Rochester (EB). Golden-winged Warbler was a good find for Delaware at Wilmington, May 6-10 (JWR, MVB, D. Miller), and a Brewster's hybrid was at Brandywine Creek S.P. for the 3rd year in a row May 9 (R. Kelly). Among the numerous other reports of Blue-winged-Golden-winged hybrids, most of which were in New Jersey, were a Brewster's at Jacobsburg S.P., *Northampton*, PA, May 9 (T. Master), another at Tonawanda Indian Reservation, *Genesee*, NY, for a 3rd year (D. Roberson), and a Lawrence's Warbler at Tincum May 5 (E. Fingerhood).

After a strong winter showing, there were more spring Orange-crowned Warblers than usual. Individuals were at Brig., Apr. 19 (KT), Netcong, *Morris*, NJ, Apr. 22 (TH), and Emmaus, *Lehigh* May 15 (JHo). One was banded at Gilgo, L.I., May 3 (ROP), and there were numerous reports from the Oneida L. Basin and Genesee Regions of upstate New York. Yellow-throated Warblers were found at Green Lane Res., May 2 (m.ob.) and at Peace Valley Nature Center May 15 (R. French); as this species slowly expands its range up the Delaware Valley, more sightings from surrounding areas can be expected. A Yellow-throated Warbler at Aurora, *Cayuga*, NY, Apr. 25-26, was one of about a dozen records for the Cayuga L. Basin (NB, AF, ABY).

A Prairie Warbler was out of range at Crown Pt. S.P., *Essex* May 13 (JMCP *et al.*), while a Cerulean Warbler along the Ausable R. May 26, was a first, though not unexpected, record for *Clinton*, NY (J. & R. Heintz). This species, too, is increasing along the Delaware Valley and up the Hudson R. and L. Champlain Basins as well; they seemed to be everywhere in n.w. New Jersey this spring (m.ob.), but were missing from Ridley Cr. S.P., *Delaware*, PA. An Am. Redstart was an early visitor to Syracuse Apr. 24 (P. DeBene-

dictis).

Three different Prothonotary Warblers in n. Delaware late April could represent a range expansion (APE); the species breeds commonly in s. Delaware and across the river in s.w. New Jersey. A singing male at Unami Creek Valley, *Montgomery*, PA, May 18, was a good local record. The bird of the season in New Jersey was a singing ♂ Swainson's Warbler discovered at Higbee Beach, Cape May May 9, and observed (with difficulty) by numerous birders through the following afternoon (DSi, v.o., ph. KS). There are only two banding records for the state, and a few previous sight records, none of which have been accepted by the N.J.B.R.C..

A N. Waterthrush was banded at the Manitou station near Rochester on the early date of Apr. 20 (EB) and a Kentucky Warbler was a rare find for the Cayuga L. Basin at Aurora May 22 (K. David). Another Kentucky entertained many observers at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Quite unexpected was a Connecticut Warbler at Centerville, *New Castle*, DE, May 4 (E. & S. Speck), but Mourning Warblers were found in the usual small numbers over much of the Region; 18 banded at Manitou confirms that a good many escape detection by birders.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A Summer Tanager was a rarity for *Lancaster*, PA, at Marietta Apr. 25-30 (JHe, JB), while about nine in the New York City area was a bit more than usual. A ♂ W. Tanager visiting feeders at New Lisbon, *Burlington*, NJ, for several days from May 10 was molting into breeding plumage (L. Little). There were a couple of tantalizing reports of Black-headed Grosbeak in the Cape May area in early May, but neither was confirmed. Seven early Indigo Buntings showed up at a Wyncote, PA, feeder Apr. 17, 3 days before the first arrival at Cape May.

One of the two Dickcissels that wintered near Ft. Elfsborg, *Salem*, NJ, was still present in May; other May birds were at feeders in Swanton, *Cape May*, and New Milford, *Bergen*. The wintering Clay-colored Sparrow at Assunpink was still present into April, when it was reportedly joined by a 2nd bird. A Clay-colored was at a *Chester*, PA, feeder for one day in late March, and a male was singing at Oak Hill, *Lancaster*, PA, for several days from Apr. 26 (RMS *et al.*). The Lark Sparrow wintering with the Clay-colored Sparrow at Assunpink was last seen Apr. 25 (R. Blair), and another was briefly seen at the Dickcissel site in Salem Apr. 26 (LLa, WDa *et al.*). More remarkable was a group of four to five at Webster, *Monroe*, NY, Apr. 12 (T. Clark).

Fifty-five Grasshopper Sparrows counted at the F.A.A. Tech. Center May 29, was an

impressive total (JDa), and some other sizeable populations were found during the summer. Three Henslow's Sparrows arrived in *Chautauqua*, NY, May 17 (Buffalo Ornithological Society), and 12 were late arrivals further e. at Letchworth S.P., *Livingston* (RGS).

The appearance of two LeConte's Sparrows in the Region last winter was considered extraordinary; this spring there were an unprecedented 6 reports of **LeConte's Sparrows**, including at least one from each state. An individual at Delaware City Mar. 21 was the 2nd record for Delaware, following closely on the winter's first (J. Janowski, B. Lantz), while the first for e. Pennsylvania was present at Struble L., *Chester*, from April 15 to at least the 27th (m.ob., ph. Rbi). The LeConte's present at Overpeck Pk., *Bergen*, NJ, since November was last reported Mar. 28, and another was one day only at Higbee Beach, Cape May Apr. 21 (JDo). A LeConte's Sparrow at Nine Mile Pt., *Oswego*, NY, May 7-8, was the first for the Oneida L. Basin (GS, M. Koenke, S. Adair), while another was well-described at Saw Mill Cr., Staten Island, NY, May 22, where direct comparison with Sharp-tailed Sparrow was possible (C. Aquila, C. Alderson).

A Lincoln's Sparrow was singing at Brandywine Cr. S.P., DE, Mar. 8-10 (APE) and another hung around a Princeton, NJ, yard for two weeks, May 4-17 (M. & T. Southerland). *Cape May's* first Harris' Sparrow was a surprise at Higbee Beach May 3 (RC, RBa, J. Usewicz); most of the state's records are from the fall or winter, but there are two previous sightings in May. Three different reports were received of meadowlarks identified by song as W. Meadowlarks, all from w. New York, where there are many such records. One was near Ithaca Mar. 30 (A. Finney), another at Pembroke, *Genesee* May 9-12 (G. Seamans, m.ob.), and the last at Pt. Breeze, *Orleans* from May 16 (DSH, m.ob.).

Yellow-headed Blackbirds appeared in each of the 4 states of the Region. An ad. male was near Buck, *Lancaster*, PA, Mar. 18 (RMS), and another was along Route 9, near Taylor's Bridge, *Kent*, DE, the following day (NP). Several were in the productive Ft. Elfsborg area, with a peak of four males Mar. 29 (RKa, WDa), and a single was at Brig. May 20. A male at a Peru feeder Mar. 13 was a first for *Clinton*, NY (D. & I. Lacombe), and the last visited a Latham, *Albany*, feeder for several days in mid-April.

The last of the 12 or so Brewer's Blackbirds wintering near Ft. Elfsborg was seen Apr. 26 (WDa). Five were in Drumore Township, *Lancaster*, PA, Mar. 17 (RMS, LLe), while the 6 New York reports of one to three birds came mainly from upstate locations, such as Pompey, *Onondaga*; Phoenix,

Oswego; Cayuga, *Cayuga*; Mecklenburg, *Seneca*; and Hamlin, *Monroe*. The most unusual was a single in *Sullivan* Mar. 11-15 (Sullivan Co. Audubon Soc., JPT).

Following an essentially finchless winter, there were a few surprises. A pair of Red Crossbills in the pines at Camp Arrowhead, *Sussex*, DE, May 9 may well have nested or been looking for a nest site (P. Beach, G. Witreich). Two ♀ White-winged Crossbills near Fogelsville, *Lehigh*, PA, Mar. 8 on the other hand were just passing through (PE). After being absent for most of the winter, Com. Redpolls appeared at numerous spots in upstate New York and lingered into mid-April; among a group at Ogdensburg, *St. Lawrence*, was a Hoary Redpoll Mar. 13-14 (P. Kelly).

EXOTICS

The escaped Com. Crane that first created a stir in *Dutchess* last spring has been wandering around upstate New York ever since, and was seen near Livonia, *Livingston*, in late April. Monk Parakeets, which are reported with increasing frequency since they were exterminated in the late 1970s, appeared at Liberty S.P., *Hudson*, and Johnson Pk., *Middlesex*, NJ, during the period. A Eur. Goldfinch was a colorful visitor to an *Albany*, NY, feeder from December to March.

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MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

Henry T. Armistead

After a mild winter many birds showed up early in March and early April. Then the rest of the spring was cold, resulting in many species lingering. There was some frost near the coast May 21-22!

The remarkable transformation of the Chesapeake Bay into a semi-maritime area, which seems to have started several years ago, is colorfully described by Reese: "It was definitely the season of the pelagics—Red-throated Loons, gannets, eiders, Purple Sandpipers, pelicans, zillions of cormorants all in the Chesapeake. Watermen reported to me that many days they would see 3-10 whales, some days hundreds of gannets. Lion's mane jellyfish were thicker than our native sea nettles in summer, while sea grapes clogged oyster beds and equipment. I found fiddler and white-fingered mud crabs around the shorelines, fishermen here caught hake, seahorses, Spanish mackerel, sea robins, and northern puffers. Furthermore March-May was one of the coldest in history with each successive month averaging further below normal than the preceding month. June is following suit so far." The Bay has always been somewhat maritime. Now it is even more so. Several humpback whales wandered up the Bay to north of Annapolis!

Another feature of this season was what was probably the best spring coverage ever of coastal areas, especially in Worcester, Maryland. Our problem has been, and still is this: very few active birders are resident near the coast or even on the Eastern Shore. The lion's share of substantial reportage comes from ringers from the city weekending at the shore. This year several unusual individual birds located in winter on the coast were tracked through the course of the season and determined to be overwintering: Clay-colored Sparrow, Painted Bunting, Orange-crowned Warbler, Brewer's Blackbird, etc. Usually coastal CBC birds languish unseen for the rest of the season.

Abbreviations: Assat. (*Assateague I., MD*); Balt. (*Baltimore, MD*); the Bay (*Chesapeake Bay*); Black. (*Blackwater Nat'l Wildlife Ref., MD*); C.B.B.T. (*Chesapeake Bay Bridge & Tunnel, VA*); Chinc. (*Chincoteague Nat'l Wildlife Ref., VA*); Craney (*Craney Island Dispos-*

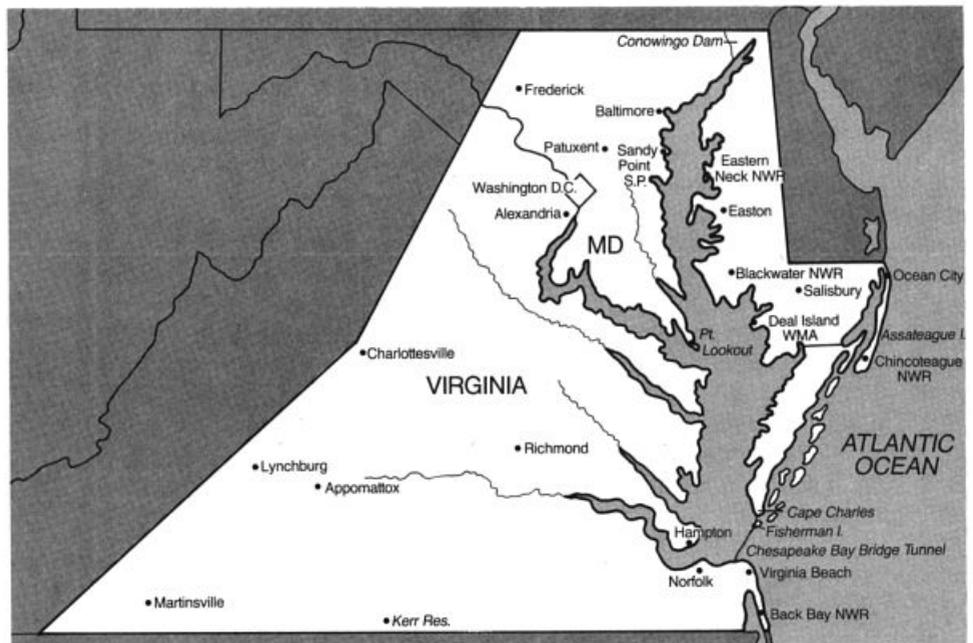
al Area, Portsmouth, VA); D.C. (*Washington, D.C.*); Deal (*Deal I. W.M.A., MD*); E.N.N.W.R. (*Eastern Neck Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Kent, MD*); E.S. (*Eastern Shore of MD or VA*); E.S.V.N.W.R. (*Eastern Shore of VA Nat'l Wildlife Ref., VA*); Fish. I. (*Fisherman Island Nat'l Wildlife Ref., VA*); Hart (*Hart & Miller Islands, Baltimore Co., MD*); Kipt. (*Kiptopeke, VA*); Loch Raven (*Loch Raven Res. n. of Balt.*); M.O.S. (*Maryland Ornithological Society Statewide Spring Bird Count, May 9, with 14 of 22 regional counties plus D.C. reporting as of press time*); ovw (*overwintered*); S.P.S.P. (*Sandy Point State Park near Annapolis, MD*). Place names in *italics* are counties. Dates in *italics* represent banded birds.

LOONS TO IBISES

Interesting records of Red-throated Loon in Maryland included highs of 500 at Assat Apr. 5 (MO, MLH) and 300, an astronomical count by upper Bay standards, at Governor Run, Calvert, Apr. 6 (ML). One at Black. May 9 was new for that refuge (HTA) and two at Seneca on the Potomac R. May 17 were late (MAT). Most of the best Com. Loon counts were in Maryland away from the coast, such as 95 at Loch Raven Apr. 22 (SWS), 79 at Ellicott City Apr. 9 (BO) and 78 at N. Beach, Calvert, Apr. 9 (JLS) and 43 at Mason Neck S.P. in VA near D.C. Apr. 19 (EMW). Both loons lingered later than usual with as many as 33 still in the Cobb-Wreck Is., VA, area May 13 (SCR). At Huntley Meadows County Pk., Fairfax, VA, a carefully scrutinized fresh water marsh near D.C., two broods of Pied-billed Grebes were seen, including an adult with five young Apr. 22 (ER) and another with two young June 15 (KH). Horned Grebes continue to be in

modest numbers with 132 seen from a boat at the mouth of the Choptank R. on the E.S. of Maryland along with 19 N. Gannets Apr. 8 (JGR, DM) and only three seen May 9 (M.O.S.). Unique was a Red-necked Grebe at Ocean City Mar. 3 (JHK, SHD).

There were some superlative pelagic trips with results such as 18 N. Fulmars but only 213 N. Gannets off Ocean City Mar. 1 (GS *et al.*). A later trip in this area recorded three fulmars, 200 Red-throated and 63 Com. Loons, a Manx, and 11 Sooty Shearwaters plus ten Wilson's Storm-Petrels, 47 gannets, and 15 Brown Pelicans Apr. 25 (GS *et al.*). Another venture from Rudee Inlet, Virginia Beach, VA, found a Black-capped Petrel (7th state record), a Leach's and 109 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, a late N. Gannet, 100 Sooty, four Cory's and four Greater Shearwaters May 30 (DFA, BT, BP, NB, KHB *et al.*). In late May it is often possible to see Sooty Shearwaters from shore and this year produced excellent results: 23 at Chinc. plus seven at Ocean City May 21 along with six lingering gannets (RH, OJ). Six were seen from C.B.B.T. May 20 in company with six Wilson's Storm-Petrels and 35 gannets (SCR, MC, NB). Singles were also seen May 12 & 17 from Wreck, Hog and Cobb Is., remote E.S. of Virginia barrier islands (SCR, HG, MC). Northern Gannets have been making more and more of a presence far up the Bay and were in record numbers this spring as well as showing up earlier. Portlock found 138 in the Tangier I., VA, area Mar 24, several seen regurgitating large, 10-13-inch menhaden. Stasz had huge Bay counts at N. Beach again, where they were present Mar. 9 (nine) until Apr. 17 (12) with highs of 257 on Mar. 11, 218 on Mar. 17, and 231 on Mar. 18. This is 110 miles from the sea! Eighty



were seen from Wenona at Deal Apr. 4 (JLS). Three were seen in *Harford*, MD, waters from Betterton, *Kent* Mar. 14 (JLS, MI), 150 miles from the Bay mouth as the crow flies, 175 or more as the gannet flies. These spectacular birds also penetrated Potomac R. waters and seven were seen from *Charles*, MD, in the Wicomico R. and at Cobb's I., Mar. 15 (JLS, GJ) with one there from Rock Pt. May 11 (GJ) and four from two spots downriver in *St. Mary's*, Mar. 25 (RFR). Twelve were seen from shore at Bellevue, MD, Apr. 11, 7 mi into the Choptank R. from the Bay proper (HTA, PRS). At C.B.B.T. 800, not an especially large count for this location, were seen Mar. 14 along with five small humpback whales from the comfort of the front seat of a van (HTA, LA). Gannets also lingered later and in larger numbers than ever before along the coast: 3 imm. gannets were at C.B.B.T. May 26 (PWS *et al.*), five at Chinc. May 31 (DFA, KHB) and Rottenborn saw two at Hog I., *Northampton*, VA, June 4.

American White Pelicans made an excellent showing in VA with five at Hog I., *Surry* on the James R., Mar. 15–Apr. 5 with one still present May 3 (BW, SCR, GW, BT *et al.*). One was at Chinc. during March (C & MH), one at Craney May 9 (JCB), and—get this—a pair at Fish I. May–June was “acting territorial” (SCR, HG) in the neighborhood of the big Brown Pelican colony there. In Maryland a Brown Pelican was seen up the Bay in Pocomoke Sound May 23 (*vide* CRV) and along the coast 75 plus 2000 Double-crested Cormorants were at Ocean City Apr. 25 (JGR). One hundred and five were on hand for the Hampton Roads, VA, spring bird count May 9 (TK *et al.*), their previous high 12. Great Cormorants stay later each year and nine were in the Fish I./C.B.B.T. area as late as May 20 (SCR, MC, NB), one was at Ocean City May 22 (MO, MLH) and singles were in *St. Marys* and *Dorchester* May 9 (M.O.S.). Good totals of Double-crested Cormorants away from the coast were 242 in D.C., Apr. 11 with 59 still there May 30 (DC), 72 far inland in Virginia on the Piedmont at Staunton R. S.P., Apr. 4 (JCB), and in Maryland 55 over Bethesda May 9 (RH) and 49 at Centennial P., *Howard* Apr. 24 (JFa).

For a species widely believed to be in alarming decline the widespread appearance of Am. Bittern this spring was baffling. During April they were seen in many locations in Maryland near D.C. and there was even one on top of a house in Arlington, VA, Apr. 17 after a thunderstorm (RH). A very late bird (?) was at E.S.V.N.W.R. May 23 (SCR). There was a flurry of reports of arriving Green-backed Herons in Maryland during the period Apr. 11–14 (MWH, MO, CRV,

JoS). Wild Black-crowned Night-Herons continued to thrive at the National Zoo in D.C. with 155 there and 55 nests May 9 (DC). Five Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen inland in Piedmont, VA, at Banister R. W.M.A. near the Kerr Res., Apr. 18 (JCB) and 25 were at Hampton Roads May 9 (TK *et al.*). Seven White Ibises were at Fish I., where they have nested several times, May 18 (SCR) and an adult was at Chinc. May 3 (GC). The highlight of the season was a Little Egret found at Chinc. May 17 (F & MW, VBK, ph.) and subsequently seen by hundreds on most days through at least the end of June. Many commented on the two long white plumes on the back of its head, its longer, somewhat thicker bill compared with Snowy Egrets, and its pale whitish-bluish color at the base of the bill. At least 39 individuals have been seen in the W. Hemisphere prior to 1992, mostly in the West Indies (Lesser Antilles)/Trinidad region in the period January–June, three of them banded as nestlings in southwestern Spain. This one was about the 10th N. American record not counting others seen this year in Massachusetts and Nova Scotia. For a superb review of this species' occurrence in the Americas, the source of most of the above information, refer to a forthcoming issue of *Colonial Waterbirds* (in press by Murphy).

WATERFOWL

Mute Swans continue to thrive in the Barren/Hooper's Is. area with 230 seen at Swan Cove May 2 & 9 and 353 in this area May 24 when 10 nests were also found (HTA). The effects of these enormous birds on the ecology of the Bay in areas of concentration such as this must be prodigious. Perhaps they do some good by helping to spread seeds of aquatic plants. Single Greater White-fronted Geese were in Maryland at Gaithersburg Mar. 1 (MOD) and at Triadelphia Res., *Montgomery*, Mar. 15 (NS). On the E.S. high for Snow Geese were 15,000 in the Sudlersville, MD, area with 150 Blues Mar. 5 (J & PG) and 1700 Snows still at Black., Mar. 29, down to eight Blues and 14 Snows on Apr. 18 (HTA, GA *et al.*). Lingering Brant included 25 on May 19 at Chinc. and 15 at Wachapreague May 25 (SCR). Four small Canada Geese, probably *hutchinsii*, were at Davidsonville, *Anne Arundel*, MD, Mar. 8 (JLS). Early young birds were 14 downy Mallards at Chesapeake Beach, *Calvert*, MD, Apr. 9 (JLS). A ♂ Garganey of unknown provenance was at Chinc. May 24–30 (PWS, BDP, MG, DFA *et al.*). It was wary and acted like a wild bird. At Loch Raven Simon found a Eur. Wigeon Apr. 4–8 (Apr. 20, JLS). Stasz saw two Eur. Wigeons at Deal Feb. 16.

Up to 1000 Ring-necked Ducks were at Little Seneca Res. north of D.C. in Maryland

during late March (MO). Five Greater Scaups, rare on the Virginia Piedmont, were at the Upper Occoquan Sewage Authority Mar. 22 (SDE) w. of D.C. Jetty ducks were scarce with a Corn. Eider at Wallops I., Mar. 2 (RV), one at Ocean City Apr. 24–26 (JGR), a King Eider at Ft. Monroe in Hampton, VA, Mar. 3 (SCR) and the only Harlequin Duck being an imm. male at Elliott I., *Dorchester*, MD, discovered Feb. 17 (HE) and seen again May 9 (HTA), new for this central Bay county. Excellent counts for the central Bay were 4000 Oldsquaws, 2850 Surf and 607 White-



Little Egret at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Virginia, on May 21, 1992. Notice the relatively heavy bill, dark lores, and two elongated head plumes. Photograph/Ottavio Janni.

winged Scoters at the mouth of the Choptank R., Apr. 8 (JGR, DM). Good for the interior were 25 Oldsquaws seen at Triadelphia Res. in Maryland n. of D.C. Mar. 22 (GB) plus two in D.C. Apr. 11 along with 136 Buffleheads (DC). Wood Duck nesting boxes are giving us some good spinoff if the upswing in warm-weather Hooded Mergansers of the past few years is any indication. This spring there were an unprecedented 3 Regional breeding records: Single females with six chicks at Banister R. W.M.A., VA, May 11 (JCB), eight young at Lilypons May 15 (DC, ph.), and five young at McKee-Beshers W.M.A. n. of D.C. May 27 (MAT, ph.).

RAPTORS TO CRANES

Bald Eagles had a less-than-successful breeding season in Virginia. According to *Outdoor Report*, June 8, 1992, a newsletter published by the Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries, “While a small increase in nesting pairs was recorded, an alarming decline in productivity was noted. The average number of young per active nest dropped from 1.4 in 1991 to 1.06. Researchers found 127 active nests but a large proportion of these were unsuccessful. Wildlife Division nongame biologists and researchers from the College of William and Mary attributed the failures to the prolonged cold, wet spring weather with strong rain storms during incubation.” The most productive nests were along the James and Chickahominy R. systems where 26 active nests produced 37 young, an average of

1.42 per nest. An active Bald Eagle nest at Mt. Vernon, VA, was visible to thousands of tourists this year with two 75-day-old chicks still in the nest as of June 3 (JF *et al.*). In their Maryland stronghold in s. *Dorchester* 31 and 27 Bald Eagles were seen May 2 & 9 (HTA, CM).

S.A.

Fort Smallwood Park in n.e. Anne Arundel, MD, e. of Balt., seems to always be on the fringes of fame, suffering from lack of coverage, reportage, or both. This year the reports are in but the results were disappointing, or "dismal" in the words of one observer (WLM). Nevertheless 3956 raptors were seen in 103.7 hrs. on 19 days Mar. 17-May 10 PDF *et al.*). Best counts were 112 Turkey Vultures Mar. 29; 431 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 27 N. Harriers, 47 Ospreys and 77 Am. Kestrels Apr. 11 (646 total hawks); 518 Sharp-shinned, 57 Cooper's and 262 Broad-winged Hawks, 31 N. Harriers, 47 Ospreys, 67 Am. Kestrels and six Merlins Apr. 17 (1071 total raptors); 50 Cooper's Hawks Apr. 24; 292 Sharp-shinned and 28 Cooper's Hawks May 2; 288 Sharp-shinned and seven Cooper's Hawks May 10. There are sometimes also big flights of Blue Jays, Bobolinks and goldfinches here. Because most of the land around it is developed almost any bird seen at Ft. Smallwood Park is a migrant.

An Am. Swallow-tailed Kite was at Back Bay N.W.R., Apr. 20 (DS). Three different Mississippi Kites were seen in the Kipt. area: one subadult May 18, another at Kipt. and an adult at Fish. I. May 20 (SCR, MC). Following a visit by two here last summer it is enough to make one wonder if there is a Cape May syndrome for these kites in the Cape Charles area. Ospreys arrived early with many reports prior to their usual folkloric arrival on St. Patrick's Day. Many were seen in the first week of March and an extremely early individual was at Jug Bay, MD, up the Patuxent R., Feb. 3 (JLS). Two pairs were attempting to nest again in D.C. (DC). Fourteen nests were in the Barren I., MD, area May 24, a good total for there, including 3 ground nests (HTA). On the E.S. of Virginia breeding N. Harriers were found on Hog, Cobb, and Wreck Is. with two pairs on the Bay side nearby at Saxis and a nest under construction May 12 on Cobb I. was within 10 ft. of 1990 & 1991 nests and had eggs by May 19 (SCR). A Wreck I. nest had one egg May 13 (SCR). A late Sharp-shinned Hawk was at Cooksville, *Howard*, MD, May 25

(JLS). At Cove Pt., *Calvert*, MD 10 Cooper's Hawks were seen Apr. 11 (JLS). An ad. N. Goshawk was seen in Maryland along the C & O Canal at Pennyfield Apr. 12 (JHK). Peak Broad-winged Hawk numbers were seen in the period Apr. 17-20 in the greater D.C. area and 200 were at Lucketts, *Loudon*, VA, n. of there Apr. 17 (KK). Unusual was a late flight of 25 at Fish. I. May 20 (SCR, NB, MC) and five were there May 22 (SCR). Golden Eagles were reported from 5 localities, including an adult near Williamsburg Apr. 12 (BT) and at least two were present at Black. and Remington Farms on the Maryland E.S. (J & PG, HTA). A very late Merlin was at E.S.V.N.W.R. May 31 (SCR) and two were at remote Watts I., VA, in the center of the Bay Mar. 24 (BP).

Some find moderately large raptor flights are taking place right over their homes or nearby. In Bethesda Gough saw a Bald Eagle, 11 Red-tailed, 77 Broad-winged and 18 Sharp-shinned Hawks from his rooftop Apr. 17. From her hometown of Ellicott City, *Howard*, MD, Ott saw 11 Ospreys, 15 Sharp-shinned, 11 Broad-winged, three Cooper's and three Red-shouldered Hawks plus three other species Apr. 11. From Reston, VA, Abbott reported these finds: 28 Sharp-shinned, seven Red-shouldered and seven Broad-winged Hawks, three Ospreys and a Peregrine Apr. 11; 50 Sharp-shinned, 10 Cooper's, eight Red-tailed, 10 Red-shouldered, and 300 Broad-winged Hawks plus two imm. N. Goshawks and a Peregrine Apr. 17.

A Yellow Rail was flushed by a mower in



South Polar Skua about 50 miles east of Virginia Beach, Virginia, May 30, 1992. Second documented state record. Photograph/Brian Patteson.

Potomac, MD, May 14 (JJ). In Virginia two very early Black Rails were calling at Guinea Neck n. of Hampton Apr. 10 (SCR, BrW) and the best count at Saxis was a fine total of seven plus 19 Virginia Rails the night of May 20/21 (NB) while Sykes had five Blacks there May 26. Two were at Irish Grove Sanctuary s. of Crisfield, MD, Apr. 3 (JLS), and one was on Assat., Apr. 16 (MLH). In s. *Dorchester*, MD, mostly in the Elliott I. area, 126 calling Virginia Rails plus six Blacks, nine Clappers, two Kings and four Soras and eight Com. Gallinules were heard May 9, primarily from midnight until dawn (HTA). A Clapper Rail

nest with 8 eggs was found on a small, artificial dredge spoil island next to Barren I., MD, May 24 (HTA) where a rather extensive *Spartina alterniflora* marsh has been seeded. King Rails have bred again at Huntley Meadows with a pair and nine chicks seen May 12; these birds probably had eggs by the 2nd week of April (EPW). Only three chicks were seen May 16-24 (RAA, JMA, DC); snapping turtles, otters, and Lord knows what else take their respective tolls. The best count of Am. Coot was 700 at Loch Raven Mar. 4 & 13 (SWS). The infamous Sandhill Crane at Last Chance Liquors near Trappe, MD, haunted that locality (the store is defunct) until at least Apr. 15 (m.ob.). Other (?) Maryland E.S. singles were at Easton May 24 (DFA) and E.N.N.W.R. May 28 (MO) and two were reported from Lilypons Mar. 1 (E & AB).

SHOREBIRDS

The shorebird migration was late and sparse, but the lack of regular coverage at key places makes generalizations difficult. The only Lesser Golden-Plover seen was at Craney May 4 (SCR). On Wallops I. Vaughn found three Piping Plover nests, each with four eggs, and saw seven Wilson's Plovers. Black-necked Stilts were more widespread than ever, especially in Maryland, with nine at Deal Apr. 23 (SHD), where they have bred; four, a new high count for s. *Dorchester* May 2 (EMW, CM, HTA *et al.*); two at Hart May 18 (JLS *et al.*); three at Newark in coastal *Worcester* May 1 (MLH, ph.); one at Allen's Fresh, *Charles*, May 3 (GJ); one in *Calvert* Apr. 17-May 3 (JLS, GJ). Two early ones were at Deal Apr. 4 (BDP, MG). Some of these are new county records. One-four were at Chinc., Apr. 11-17 (VBK, DSt). An Am. Avocet was at Black., Apr. 4 (BDP, MG), three at Wallops I. May 20 (CRV) and nine-11 at Hart May 18-June 4 (JLS, MI, GJ, OJ, ph.). An extremely late Solitary Sandpiper was at Chesapeake Beach, MD, June 8 (JLS). A Willet was at Nokesville May 9 (KHB, ph.), about the 5th Virginia Piedmont record, and coastal counts were 95 in *Worcester*, MD, Apr. 24 (MLH) and 140 on Wreck I., VA, May 13 (SCR). Spotted Sandpipers arrived early with records of them from 6 places by Apr. 11 and a very early one at Fletcher's Boathouse on the Potomac in Maryland Mar. 31 (RLH). Abnormally early was an Upland Sandpiper in Virginia at Curles Neck e. of Richmond Mar. 14 (LL, GW). Most unusual in interior Maryland were 40 Whimbrels seen by Ringler at Hashawha in *Carroll* May 25, and 246 were in the Cobb-Wreck Is. area May 13 (SCR). Two Red Knots were at Ocean City Apr. 4 (MO, oww). Krueger counted 1248 Sanderlings and 122 Willets at Assat., Apr. 18. At

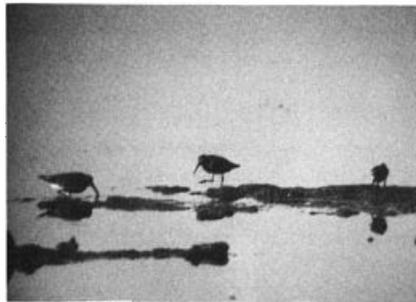
Craney 1019 Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen May 18 (SCR) and three early ones were at Lilypons Apr. 22 (JHK). Four early Least Sandpipers were at Assat., Mar. 15 (MLH) and a W. Sandpiper was carefully scrutinized at Oyster, VA, May 26 (SCR, DCb, MC). A Pectoral Sandpiper at Loch Raven Mar. 1 was extremely early (SWS). Always scarce on the Bay, six Purple Sandpipers were at Poplar I., Talbot, MD, Apr. 8 along with an early Spotted Sandpiper (JGR, DM). A Purple Sandpiper was at C.B.B.T. May 30 (DFA, KHB, ph.). The best shorebird was a **Curlew Sandpiper** apparently only the 2nd state record, was present at Hart May 18-23 along with a Marbled Godwit, nine avocets and a Wilson's Phalarope (JLS, MO, OJ, MLH, JHK *et al.*, ph.). Stilt Sandpipers made a good showing, the earliest being two at Deal Apr. 8 by Dyke with five other Maryland records. There were two Ruff reports, singles at Jug Bay, MD, Apr. 12 (JLS) and Chinc., Apr. 21 (SCR, MAB, BC). The only Long-billed Dowitcher report was of two at Black., Mar. 29 (HTA). One hundred Red Phalaropes off Virginia Beach were a record count for that state May 15 (KHB *et al.*, ph.). Two Red-necked Phalaropes were encountered at sea off Ocean City Apr. 25 (GS *et al.*), one was at Rudee Inlet, VA, May 30 (BP, KHB, NB *et al.*) and a female was at Elliott I., MD, May 9 (HTA).

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

A Pomarine Jaeger was at Chinc. May 26 (JP), two plus a Parasitic at C.B.B.T. May 20 (SCR, MC, NB) and 12 plus two South Polar Skuas (ph.; 2nd documented state record) were at sea out from Rudee Inlet May 30 (BP, KHB *et al.*). Other single Parasitics were at Back Bay Apr. 26 (HE, RLAn, *et al.*) and C.B.B.T. May 18 (BP) & 30 (KHB, DFA). A highly successful pelagic trip from Ocean City Mar. 1 recorded these birds (GS *et al.*): two skua, sp., a Little, two Com. Black-headed, an Iceland and three Lesser Black-backed gulls, 16 Black-legged Kittiwakes, 139 Dovekies, 11 Razorbills, an Atlantic Puffin, and 22 large alcids, sp. Also off Ocean City Apr. 4 were four Razorbills and seven large unid. alcids (MO, MLH). Another voyage from there Apr. 25 (GS *et al.*) saw: three Parasitic Jaegers, a jaeger, sp., a Lesser Black-backed and 1025 Herring gulls, two Black and five Least terns, five molas, 10 pilot whales and 41 bottle-nosed dolphins. Laughing Gulls returned to coastal areas by Mar. 8-9 (MLH, C & DB), somewhat earlier than usual, and six were inland at Nokesville May 10 (KHB). A Little Gull was at Lynnhaven Inlet, VA, Mar. 3 (C & MH) and another at S.P.S.P., Mar. 22 (BDP, MG). Other Com. Black-headed Gulls were at Chinc., Apr. 5 (MO, MLH), S.P.S.P., Mar.

27 (JLS), Ocean City along with an Iceland Gull Mar. 1-3 (DC, SHD) and Denton, *Caroline*, MD, Mar. 21 (JLS, PW, MI, SS), the later a new county record and unusual for the interior of the Delmarva Peninsula. An Iceland Gull was at C.B.B.T., Mar. 21 (HTA, LA) and one was at W. Ocean City May 7 (MLH). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found, one is tempted to say, at *only* 13 places, such as three at both E.N.N.W.R., Mar. 24 (MO) and Laytonsville landfill Mar. 5 (GG) in Maryland. A dead, oiled Black-legged Kittiwake was found on Little Cobb I., VA, June 3 (SCR, HR).

Far up the Bay at E.N.N.W.R. 26 Royal



Curlew Sandpiper at Hart & Miller Islands, Maryland, on May 23, 1992. Second state record. Photograph/Ottavio Janni.

Terns were seen as early as Apr. 14 (J & PG). Rarer terns seen at C.B.B.T. were a Roseate May 18-24 (JF, GMW, BT, SCR, NB *et al.*) and an Arctic May 31 (RT, JW). Inland Forster's Terns were seen in Maryland at 4 localities in *Howard* (*vide* JoS) in late April as well as at Laytonsville, *Montgomery*, May 9 (RH) and a Com. Tern was seen nearby at Seneca, *Montgomery*, May 21 (DC). Unusual in D.C. was a Least Tern May 30 (DC). New for inland *Caroline*, MD, were 12 Black Skimmers far up the Choptank R. at Choptank Apr. 16 & 20 (DF). Rounding out a remarkable alcid season were three Atlantic Puffins at Poor Man's Canyon in Virginia waters May 15 (KHB *et al.*, ph.) and an unid. large alcid was at Grandview Beach, VA, Mar. 3 (SCR).

OWLS TO SHRIKES

Lingering winter owls included a Long-eared at Reston, VA, Apr. 17 (KM), a N. Saw-whet at McKee-Beshers W.M.A. (a.k.a. Hughes Hollow), MD, Mar. 5-15 (GG, HE) and two Short-eareds at Deal May 2 (C & DB). In Maryland Chuck-will's-widows returned early with three in the Ocean City/Assat. area Apr. 12 (MLH), two at Trappe, *Talbot*, Apr. 17 (JGR), three at E.N.N.W.R., Apr. 21 (J & PG) and one at Susquehanna S.P., a new species for *Harford*, Apr. 22 (DLK). Ruby-throated Hummingbird was another species with early returns, such as Apr. 10 birds in Virginia at both Centerville, *Fairfax* (EM) and Williamsburg (BT) followed by a rash of

reports Apr. 16-18. Red-headed Woodpeckers continue to make slight headway with Maryland counts of 10 in S. Dorchester, May 2 & 9 (HTA, CM), 11 in Carroll May 9 (RFR) and 15 in Charles Apr. 13 (MO). One reason for this headway is increased logging, leaving behind clusters of exposed dead trees which they like. A late Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was at E.S.V.N.W.R. June 2, an unusual spring locality (SCR, MC, DCb). Migrating Alder Flycatchers were detected in Maryland at Lilypons May 11 (DC), Schooley Mill Pk. in *Howard* May 29-31 (NM, JoS, BO) and at Hart June 4 (JLS, MI). In Maryland quite early E. Kingbirds were discovered on Apr. 12 (MLH, DC, BO) and one was at Denton Apr. 17 (LTS). Some extremely early Purple Martins were two at Chesapeake in s.e. Virginia Mar. 10 (GMW) and one at Patuxent W.R.C., MD, Mar. 11 (MKK), and 184 at Hampton Roads spring count May 9—the lowest there since 1970 (TK *et al.*). Klimkiewicz indicates they have had a very poor season so far, due to the wet and cold, with few eggs and no young in her area as of June 2, and some adults dead due to stress and starvation. Ten Cliff Swallows at Chinc. May 21 were an excellent count for the E.S. (NB).

Red-breasted Nuthatches continued to be very scarce. Brown-headed Nuthatch may be in the midst of a drastic decline, which has received very little attention; only four were reported May 9 (M.O.S.). A House Wren was at Stockton, MD, Apr. 5-18 (MLH, MO, DC, ovw). A Winter Wren at Rockville, MD, May 5 was extremely late (MO). One-two Sedge Wrens were detected in Maryland at Deal, Elliott I., Irish Grove, and Assat., Apr. 3-May 11 (GJ, HTA, JLS, JHK, MLH). A very late Ruby-crowned Kinglet was at Hart May 18 (MO). To Dyke go the honors of finding the season's first Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, one at Salisbury Mar. 27. Thrushes were again scarce with no Gray-cheeked and only 11 Swainson's found May 9 (M.O.S.), although early Swainson's were found at several places Apr. 23-24 in Maryland. A record-early Veery was seen singing at Pennyfield on the C. & O. Canal, MD, n. of D.C., Apr. 9 (JHK). Hermit Thrushes stayed slightly later than usual such as one at Adventure Sanctuary, Potomac, MD, *May 11* (MD) and three in Rockville the same day (MO). The champion lingerer this season, however, was Am. Pipit, usually rare in May. In Maryland Ringler found 65 in Carroll May 9, 250 were at New Design Rd., Frederick May 14 (JHK), three were at Chesapeake Beach May 14 (JLS), and Wilson saw 14 w. of Cambridge May 9. Loggerhead Shrikes were reported only from Lilypons and Boyds, MD (EMW, DC, WHH).

VIREOS TO WARBLERS

Whether or not you found this a good spring for passerines depended, as it so often does, on where you were and when. However, for the first time in several years some active observers felt this was a better warbler spring. Most had their best flights in the first 5 days of May. Early arrivals included a *really* early Yellow-throated Vireo at Jolly Pond, *James City*, VA, Mar. 19 (BT) and one at Pocomoke S.F., MD, Apr. 12 (still early, MLH), a Blue-winged Warbler in D.C., Apr. 16 (DC), a Yellow Warbler at Cambridge Apr. 10 (DM), and a Yellow-throated Warbler at Williamsburg Mar. 24 (BW). Four Brewster's Warblers were seen, three of them noted as singing Blue-winged songs (NM, DFA, SHD). This was a better-than-average spring for Solitary Vireos, and Orange-crowned and Golden-winged Warblers. Yellow-rumped Warblers remained late with one in *Howard*, MD, May 22 (MCm) and a whopping total of 2487 May 9 (M.O.S.; commonest warbler). Cerulean Warblers were seen at several places near the coast, where they are rare at any season. An Orange-crowned Warbler was at Stockton, MD, Mar. 9-Apr. 3 (MLH, MO, ovw). Interesting warblers at Adventure were 68 N. Waterthrushes *Apr. 19-May 27* with ten *May 16*, five Mourning Warblers *May 3-27*, and nine Canada Warblers *May 19* (MD *et al.*). Here 1379 birds of 84 species were banded *Apr. 15-May 31*. At E.N.N.W.R., a new banding location but poor in warblers, the Grubbers banded 1328 birds of 72 species *Mar. 14-May 29* on 33 days in 5675 net hours.

GROSBEAKS TO FINCHES

A Black-headed Grosbeak was at a feeder in Williamsburg Apr. 4 and had been present for several weeks (BT *et al.*). Early Blue Grosbeaks were at two places in *Anne Arundel* Apr. 18-19 (JB, GN, JLS). Often scarce even in early May, Indigo Buntings were early in Maryland at E.N.N.W.R., Apr. 20 (and *Apr. 24*; J & PG) and in Laurel Apr. 21 (WHH). Remarkable were Painted Buntings seen in Maryland at E.N.N.W.R. *May 21* (J & PG, ph.) and Stockton Feb. 16 and Apr. 11-19 (MLH, MO, JLS, SHD, RH *et al.*, ovw). The only Dickcissels were two at Oldhams, *Westmoreland*, VA May 9 (JF). Bachman's Sparrows returned again to the few areas in extreme s.c. Virginia where they have been found breeding the past few summers. One was in *Sussex* May 28 (RLA, PWS) and Hilton found five singing birds and a presumed female in *Brunswick* May 25 along with four singing Henslow's Sparrows (RH, OJ, JB). A Clay-colored Sparrow was at E.N.N.W.R., Apr. 20 (J & PG) and the bird at Ocean Pines, MD, was seen Mar. 3-Apr. 4 (MO, MLH, SHD, EMW, JHK *et al.*, ovw).

A very late Savannah Sparrow was at Hog I. on the Virginia E.S. May 28 (SCR). Excellent counts for the marsh-depauperate western shore were 37 Seaside and seven Sharp-tailed sparrows in *Calvert*, MD, May 9 (JLS). As usual the best Lincoln's Sparrow action was in the Balt.-D.C. corridor with three at Rock Creek P., D.C., May 5 (OJ), 7 dates in *Howard* May 4-28 (*vide* JoS); including four at Schooley Mill P. May 9, NM, and five elsewhere in the county that day), six at Adventure *May 5-19* with three *May 12* (MD) and four banded in *Fairfax*, VA (EP). White-throated Sparrows remained later than expected also with some at two feeders in *Talbot*, MD, as late as June 10 (*vide* JGR) and one at E.N.N.W.R. May 28 (J & PG) and numerous others in the 3rd week of May plus

a hefty total of 1559 May 9 (M.O.S.; commonest sparrow). The last Lapland Longspur was a singer at Oland Rd., *Frederick*, MD, Mar. 19 (MO). Two Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found: one at Huntley Meadows Mar. 2-3 (KH, EPW) and one in *Harford*, MD, May 9 (*vide* JLS). The two-three reliable Brewer's Blackbirds at Stockton were seen Mar. 21-Apr. 11 (MO, MLH, GJ, JHK *et al.*, ovw), two were at Lilypons Apr. 24 (WM) and a whopping 62 were at Nokesville at the end of March (KHB). On the Maryland E.S. a N. (Baltimore) Oriole was present Jan.-Mar. 18 at Newcomb, *Talbot* (*vide* JGR). In spite of this being an el stinko year for northern finches, especially Purples, Dyke had 17 at his feeders in Salisbury Apr. 5 and two Com. Redpolls Jan. 26-Mar. 29 (SHD),

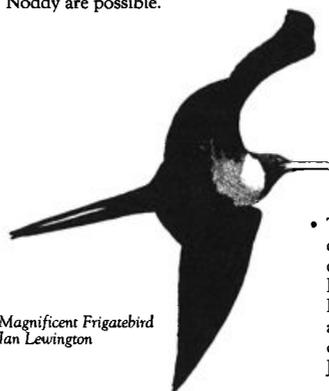
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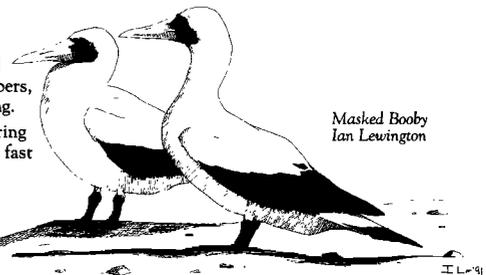
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April 17-19
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April 27-29
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Magnificent Frigatebird
Ian Lewington



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Ian Lewington

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EMW, CRV, JHK, RH *et al.*, ph.). Obviously this man uses the right mix. American Goldfinches were in good numbers in many places and the Hansrotes banded 800 at Lynchburg, VA, Feb. 29-mid-May.

Observers: D. F. Abbott, R. L. Ake, J. M. Anderson, R. A. Anderson, R. L. Anderson (RLAn), George Armistead, Liz Armistead, Maurice Barnhill, K. H. Bass, John Bjerke, J. C. Blalock, Eirik Blom, Connie Bockstie, L. D. Bonham, Ellsworth & Anne Briggs, Ned Brinkley, Carol & Don Broderick, M. A. Byrd, David Campbell (DCb), Matthew Campbell, Martha Chestem (Cm), Graham Chisholm, Bob Cross, David Czaplak (D.C. area), L. M. Davidson, Margaret Donnal (Adventure Sanctuary, Potomac, MD), S. H. Dyke, S. D. Eccles, Jeff Effinger, Gerald Elgert, Howard Elitzak, Ethel Engle, Jane Farrell (JFa), R. B. Fletcher (Caroline, MD), D. Ford, P. D. Fritz (Ft. Smallwood P.), Jesse Fulton, Hans Gabler, Bruce Gardner, Inez Glime, Luther Goldman, J. S. Gottschalk, Greg Gough, Jim & Patricia Gruber (Kent, MD), Mary Gustafson, Tom Gwynn, Charles & Melva Hansrote, M. W. Hewitt, Robert Hilton, M. L. Hoffman (Assat.), R. L. Homan, Ken Howard, W. H. Howe, Marshall Iloff, Jonathan Jaffin, Ottavio Janni, George Jett, Alice & Edgar Jones, Teta Kain (C.B.B.T.), Kerrie Kirkpatrick, D. L. Kirkwood, V. B. Kitchens, R. L. Kleen, M. K. Klimkiewicz, J. H. Krueger, Tony Leukering, Morris Lippincott, Larry Lynch, Willem Maane, Nancy Magnusson, Ed Matthews, Tom McIntyre, Don Meritt, Carolyn Mills, Kevin Monroe, Harvey Mudd, W. L. Murphy, Gary Nelson, Paul Nistico, Marianna Nuttle, Michael O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, Matthew O'Donnell (MOb), Bonnie Ott, F. L. Parks, Brian Patteson, Elizabeth Peacock, B. D. Peterjohn, E. L. Pitney (lower E.S. of MD), Jay Pitocchelli, William Portlock, Suzanne Probst, J. G. Reese (Talbot, MD), Sue Ricciardi (SRi), Ed Regan, R. F. Ringler, Wilbur Rittenhouse, Barbara Ross, S. C. Rottenborn, Heather Rupp, Steve Sanford, Norman Saunders, Gene Scarpulla (MD pelagic trips), James Schlezinger, Don Schwab, W. Scudder, L. T. Short, S. W. Simon (Loch Raven), Jo Solem (JoS; Howard, MD), P. R. Spitzer, J. L. Stasz (M.O.S.), Don Stein (DSt), P. W. Sykes, Brian Taber, M. A. Todd, Russ Tyndall, C. R. Vaughn, Bryan Watts (BrW), Pete Webb, E. P. Weigel, Gerry Weinberger, H. L. Wierenga, Carter Whatley, Bill Williams, G. M. Williamson, G. B. Wilmot, E. M. Wilson (greater D.C. area), Francis & Martha Woods, John Wright, Helen Zeichner: HENRY T. ARMISTEAD, 523 E. Durham St., Philadelphia, PA 19119.

SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

WINTER 1991-92

Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

Each of the three winter months was above average in temperature at most or all weather stations, continuing a trend since January 1990. Most places had little or no snow; in fact, it hasn't snowed in Raleigh, North Carolina, since December 1989. Certainly, no one reported harsh weather conditions or starving birds.

This was a terrible winter for yard birders and feeder watchers. Everyone, including the media, wanted to know where the birds were. Most contributors responded by saying that the wild food crop was excellent in their area, and the mild weather also kept birds away from feeders. Winter finches were nearly absent again, partly owing to, in this editor's opinion, short-stopping caused by heavy feeding by birders "up North." There were a number of rarities, including three species—Snowy Plover, Cave Swallow, and Chestnut-collared Longspur—new to the Region. But all in all, mild winters do not provide exciting birding in the South.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS

Even a single Red-throated Loon on an inland lake is notable, but a CBC count of *nine* at the Savannah River Site (formerly called Savannah River Plant), SC, Dec. 17 (*fide* AW) is stunning. A high inland count for Georgia was 130 Horned Grebes at the L. Hartwell dam Feb. 11 (PWS). Another good inland find was a Red-necked Grebe at Jordan L., NC, Dec. 29-Jan. 15 (HLi, EL, m.ob.), and a 2nd bird was seen with the first on Jan. 12 (PS). The only other Red-neckeds were singles on the North Carolina coast at Bodie I., Feb. 15 (GM, SD, JN) and at Cape Hatteras point Feb. 17 (JH). Eared Grebe, a boldface bird perhaps 10 years ago, was reported from 6 sites—singles in North Carolina near Eagle I., Dec. 1 (GM, JN), near Zeke's I., Dec. 22 (RD), at Pea I., Dec. 27-28 (TH, RM, PWS), and all winter at Goldsboro (ED); a single bird at L. Hartwell, SC, late Jan.-Feb. 7 (PW, LG); and an excellent four birds at ponds in Sumter, SC, Feb. 12-21 (LG, EDa).

The N. Gannet that was seen Nov. 30 at Falls L., Durham, NC, was seen again Dec. 1 (RD). Outstanding coastal counts of gannets were 10,650 on the Bodie-Pea Is. CBC Dec. 28 (*fide* PWS) and 648 on the St. Catherine's I., GA, CBC Dec. 14 (*fide* AW). American White Pelicans were reported from 3 North Carolina and one South Carolina and coastal sites, plus inland at L. Mattamuskeet, NC,

where four were found Dec. 29 (RD, BL) and up to seven Jan. 10-Mar. 2 (KD). The best coastal report was an excellent count of 40 at Darien, GA, Jan. 26 (PBo)-Feb. 1 (PWS). A count of 10 Great Cormorants Dec. 28 was a record for the Bodie-Pea Is. CBC (*fide* PWS). The southernmost Great report for the season was an immature at jetties at Sullivans I., SC, Jan. 25 (DF). Notable counts of Double-crested Cormorants are getting blasé, even inland in winter, though 38 at Clayton, GA, Feb. 29 (PB, TMi) were considered unusual.

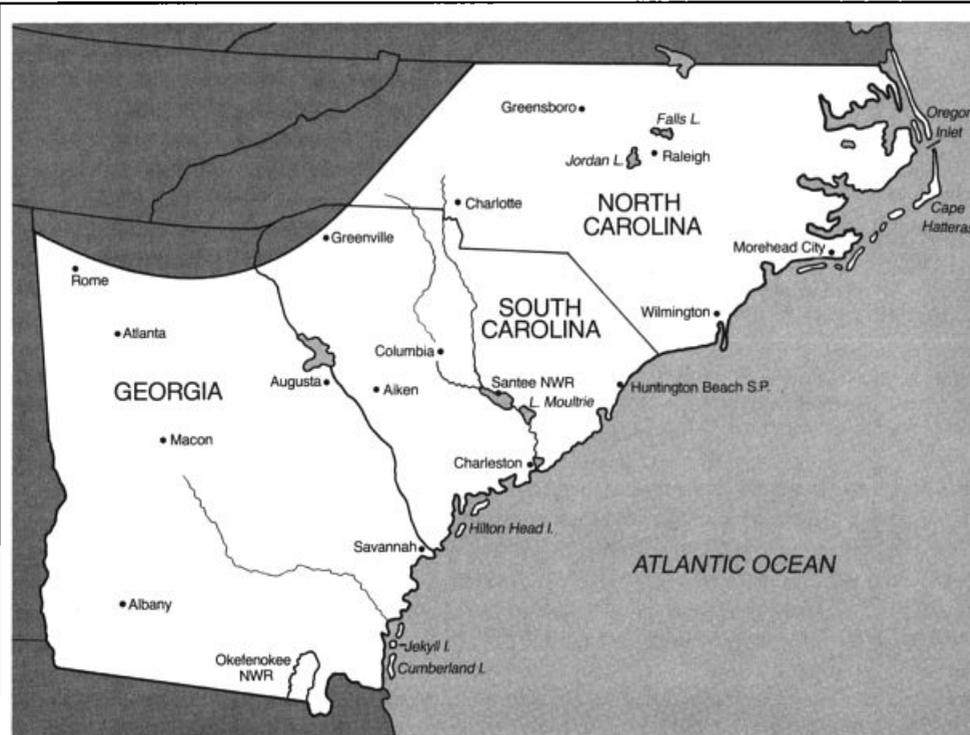
WADERS, SWANS, GEESE

A Cattle Egret spent the winter in the Cape Hatteras point vicinity (SD *et al.*), and a few birds were in traditional winter sites n.e. of L. Mattamuskeet Dec. 29 (HL) and in c. *Currituck* Feb. 2 (HL, MT), all in North Carolina. Eight Cattle Egrets at McClellanville, SC, Jan. 5 (RC, CE, LG) were notable for that area. Carter and Eastman had notable counts of waders flying to and from roosts at dusk at the Savannah spoil area, Jasper, SC 102 Black-crowned Night-Herons Jan. 12 and 200+ Glossy Ibises and 1000+ White Ibises Jan. 8.

Fulvous Whistling-Ducks seemingly clear out (or get shot out of existence) from the Region by the end of November, for the season's only report was of one at Santee Coastal Reserve, SC, Feb. 1 (DF *et al.*). Very rare in inland Georgia were three Tundra Swans in *Morgan* Jan. 22-30 (PWS, JS). An ad. Mute Swan was present with a flock of Tundra Swans in Albemarle Sound, NC, Jan. 11 (BDa *fide* CS). No Ross' Geese were reported from the Region this winter; however, Snow Geese were significant inland in *Laurens*, GA, where up to six were present Dec. 6-21 (TKP); one was seen in *Clarke*, GA, Dec. 11 (PWS *et al.*), and five were at Raleigh, NC, Dec. 7 (RH). Brants normally winter no farther s. than Cape Lookout, NC, but four were at Beaufort, NC, Dec. 12 (JF, JB), one was at Huntington Beach S.P., SC, December to Jan. 29 (m.ob.), and one apparently spent the winter at Raccoon Key, SC (BP) Semi-inland were two in a field near L. Mattamuskeet Dec. 29 (BL, RD), but quite remarkable was a **Brant** far inland at Falls L., NC, Dec. 1-7 (RD, SD), for about the 3rd Piedmont record for that state.

DUCKS

The Green-winged (Eur.) Teal near Morehead City, NC, Dec. 15 (*fide* JF) was certainly the same individual that wintered there a year ago. Northern Shovelers are rare inland in winter; thus notable were six at L. Hartwell, GA, Feb. 11 (PWS) and three at Clayton, GA, early Dec.-Jan. 19 (m.ob.) Eurasian Wigeons were reported from *six* coastal sites in North Carolina—two at L.



in his yard in Sneads Ferry, NC, Jan. 17-19; there are just a handful of winter records for that state. Rough-legged Hawks avoided detection in North Carolina, which makes the record for Georgia even more remarkable. Seldom seen for more than a week or two at a site in the Region, as many as two light-morph birds were seen together for most of the winter near Colbert, *Madison*, GA. White observed one there Dec. 2; at least one was still present Mar. 3 (PWS, JS, m.ob.). Also noteworthy were a sub-ad. Golden Eagle near L. Mattamuskeet Feb. 1 (RB, BH) and an ad. Golden at the Savannah R. Site Dec. 17-Jan. 2 (VW *et al.*). A few inland Merlins were reported, including one that caught a Dark-eyed Junco in a yard near Chapel Hill, NC, Dec. 23 (JZ). A good "inland" count was four Merlins seen Dec. 17 in e. *Pamlico*, NC, a

Mattamuskeet (BL, RD, SD), and singles at Bodie I. (KH), Pea I. (KH), Cape Hatteras point (SD, JN), Davis (RM, BF), and n.e. *Pamlico* (*fide* MTh). The only Eurasian away from that state was a male at Bear I., SC, Feb. 22 (CW, BS, NS, RG).

If correctly identified, totals of 30 Greater Scaups at Tybee I., GA, Jan. 25 and 50 at Jekyll I., GA, on the following day (PR) were unusual. Other notable counts included nine in *Clayton*, GA, Feb. 16 (JS), five at the Savannah spoil area, SC, Dec. 17 (AW), and six at that site Feb. 16 (RC, CE). As I have stated here before, identification of Greater Scaups is a tricky affair, and I can only hope that observers are being extremely careful before reporting the species. Though Lesser Scaup counts of four or five digits from the coast are commonplace in South Carolina and Georgia, a CBC tally of 1656 Lessers near the Fall Line on the Savannah River Site count Dec. 17 (*fide* AW) was unexpected. There was a modest flight of sea ducks into the coastal part of the Region, with Com. Eiders well-reported. In North Carolina, two were at Wrightsville Beach Dec. 21-Feb. 29+ (SC, JB), one was at Cedar I. all winter (KH, JF, m.ob.), and one was at Ocracoke Dec. 7 (KH). Another Com. Eider also spent the entire winter in the Huntington Beach-Murrells Inlet area of South Carolina (m.ob.), but none made it to Georgia. Disappointingly, only one report of King Eider was received—an excellent count of six in the surf off Oregon Inlet, NC, Dec. 29 (SD, JF *et al.*). Single Harlequin Ducks were noted at three coastal sites, about par for the winter season; birds were at the Cape Hatteras lighthouse Nov.

21-Dec. 7 (ML, KH), at Masonboro Inlet, NC, Jan. 4 (SC), and at Murrells Inlet, SC, for several weeks in midwinter (RC, CE). Two Oldsquaws appeared inland at the Savannah R. Site, SC, Feb. 26 (HZ) and another was inland at Jordan L., Dec. 5 (SD). Two White-winged Scoters, by far the rarest scoter in the Region, were notable at Jekyll I., GA, Jan. 3 (D & PMcC). Common Mergansers, probably the best barometer of winter weather severity, were predictably scarce in this milder-than-usual (again) season; one to three spent the winter in e. *Gaston*, NC (TP *et al.*), one was at Cape Hatteras point Dec. 27-Feb. 23 (m.ob.), and one was on salt water at Oregon Inlet Jan. 19 (RD). Inland reports of note for Red-breasted Mergansers were two at Greensboro, NC, Feb. 20 (HH) and 27 at L. Juliette, GA, Dec. 7 (JS *et al.*).

EAGLES THROUGH CRANES

Bald Eagles continue to increase during the winter throughout the Region, and over 40 were tallied on the midwinter census in North Carolina. Six adults and 21 immatures Jan. 12 at Jordan L. (*fide* WK) presumably were responsible for producing this notable statewide total; however, the breeding population in that state still remains at a precarious (six to eight pairs) level. Always one of the rarest of winter visitors, and nearly impossible for birders to relocate, is the **Northern Goshawk**. One seen at Athens, GA, Feb. 1 (StC) was about the 5th for that state, and an adult found shot near Denver, NC, Jan. 10 was turned in to the Carolina Raptor Center for rehabilitation (*fide* TP). An imm. Broad-winged Hawk was observed by Grant

a tidewater county but away from the immediate coast (RB *et al.*). The only inland Peregrine Falcon was a skyscraper bird in downtown Atlanta, GA, seen on several dates during the season (BG). Of uncertain origin, though seemingly wild and with no evidence of leg bands, was a **Prairie Falcon** noted at the Rough-legged Hawk fields near Colbert, GA, Jan. 29 (PWS). The species has been sighted in all 3 states in the Region, and each state's Records Committee has placed the species on various "origin uncertain" or "origin questionable" categories, perhaps rightfully so, since the species has not been turning up regularly in Florida or along the Atlantic Coast as a fall migrant, and since there are a few falconers present in the Region.

Once again, a Yellow Rail was heard calling in response to rock clicking in a grassy Carolina bay in South Carolina, this time in *Clarendon* Dec. 28 and Jan. 25 (RC, CE). But again there were no reports from the coast, where presumably most of the Yellow Rails winter. The quarry marsh s. of Charlotte, NC, yielded a Sora and two Virginia Rails on the CBC (HW, HWh); and other far inland Soras were found in a Doraville, GA, parking lot Feb. 22 (DP) and at Rocky Mount, NC, Feb. 23 (RD). Though Virginia Rails apparently winter with some regularity in the Piedmont, Soras are certainly less frequent and may be quite rare except in mild seasons. A few King Rails probably overwinter in the Piedmont, and one was noted in *Dawson*, GA, Dec. 21 (JP). A Sandhill Crane near Nebraska, *Hyde*, NC, Dec. 29-February (HL *et al.*) was notable, but K. Davis noted single cranes (but how many individuals?) in

the winter at feeders in *Carteret*, NC. There is a winter specimen of Ruby-throated from this county, but we need more definitive study of these birds. Fortunately, such a bird at Kennesaw, GA, was banded Jan. 3 and determined to be a second-year Ruby-throated (BSa). An ad. ♂ Rufous Hummingbird was seen and photographed at Cary, NC, late Dec.-Feb. 23? (BaH *et al.*; ph., SD) for the only seasonal report of that age and sex. Sargent confirmed the following female or young ♂ Rufous Hummingbirds in Georgia by bandings: Clarksville Nov. 30, near Commerce Nov. 30, Marietta Nov. 30, Alpharetta Dec. 19, Marietta again Jan. 3, Senoia Jan. 29, and Nashville Jan. 29. Needless to say, Rufous Hummingbird is no longer a rarity in the Region! The only unidentified *Selasphorus* was one at Tryon, NC, mid-Oct. to early Nov. (ST).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS

Amazing as it seems, unless there were reports from CBCs, no one reported a flycatcher all winter other than E. Phoebe, a sign of a lackluster birding season. Two Tree Swallows were late at Jordan L., Dec. 15 (PS), whereas record-early for Georgia was a N. Rough-winged Swallow Feb. 29 in *Greene* (BD *et al.*). One of the most exciting phenomena of the season was the remarkable assemblage of swallows at a quarry at New Bern, NC, in December. The bottom of the quarry lies at an elevation of 60 feet below sea level. It clearly has a warm microclimate, frequently sheltered from cool winds, and so is well suited to overwintering birds. On Dec. 16, Fussell, Holmes, and Crawford observed 4 species of swallows—the usual Trees, a N. Rough-winged, a Bank, and two Caves! The **Bank Swallow** is apparently a first winter record for North Carolina and probably the Region. The **Cave Swallows** are actually the 2nd reported from the Region. Fussell had a Cave/Cliff on Dec. 17, 1987 in *Carteret*; he believed the bird to have been a Cave but had no experience with the species. He is now convinced the 1987 bird is a Cave; there is no indication whether these three Caves might be from the West Indies race or the Texas/Mexico race. With the species becoming regular in winter in Texas, it is perhaps not a complete surprise that Caves are occurring in winter elsewhere, but it should not be assumed that these birds are of the Texas/Mexico race.

Fish Crows continue to increase in winter in the Atlanta area (*vide* TM), and an estimate of 50,000+ flying to a roost near the Savannah spoil area Jan. 8 (RC, CE) was an impressive sight. Red-breasted Nuthatches again were hard to find; will we ever again see a heavy winter flight of the species? A Sedge Wren was a rare winter report for the Pied-

mont in *Dawson*, GA, Dec. 21 (JP). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers benefitted from the mild winter again; the species lingered through December over much of the Region, though usually limited to the Coastal Plain at this season. A White-eyed Vireo Jan. 11 at Goldsboro (ED) was a rare midwinter find. Solitary Vireos have begun to winter regularly over much of the Piedmont in the last decade, but a CBC tally of 11 on the Peachtree City, GA, count Dec. 21 (*vide* TM) was unusual.

WARBLERS

One of the few warblers showing signs of increase is the Orange-crowned. The species has been increasing in winter near the coast, and this season there were many more inland reports than usual, especially in the Atlanta area. Northern Parulas winter in Florida but



Snowy Plover at North Island, South Carolina, on February 26, 1992. First record for the state and for the Region. Photograph/Wendy Allen.

are simply rare stragglers in our Region; sightings were made Dec. 14 at St. Catherine's I. (AW) and Dec. 22 near Greenville, NC (ED). There are many winter records for Cape May Warbler from the Region, and this season individuals were noted Dec. 29 at L. Mattamuskeet (ED) and Feb. 9 near the *Warren-Halifax* line, NC (RD). The warbler of the season was North Carolina's 3rd sighting of **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, a female at Guilford Court House N.M.P., Feb. 24 (CSO). Prairie Warblers were widely reported on tidewater CBC's in North Carolina, and one was seen Jan. 22 and 27 in *Pierce*, GA (WC). Black-and-white Warbler reports were up, as expected in a mild winter; and Ovenbirds were seen again on the Cape Hatteras CBC Dec. 27, as well as the St. Catherine's I. CBC Dec. 14 (*vide* AW). A first winter record of **Hooded Warbler** for South Carolina was a male photographed at Columbia Jan. 21-22 (OL,MB; ph., BW). How can Wilson's Warbler be such a scarce fall migrant, yet turn up so regularly in winter? This season, birds (all males) were seen at W. Columbia, SC, Dec. 8-9 (THan, RC); Huntington Beach S.P., Dec. 26-Feb. 29+ (TK, m.ob.); in *Chowan*, NC, Feb. 5 (PT); at Savannah N.W.R., SC, Feb. 16 (RC, CE);

and at Augusta Jan. 25- Feb. 22 (AW *et al.*). There were 8 reports of Yellow-breasted Chat, including three birds on the Mattamuskeet N.W.R. CBC Dec. 29 (*vide* AB).

EMBERIZINE FINCHES

Western Tanagers used to be more numerous at winter feeders in the Region but have become scarce lately. This season there were 2 yard sightings from South Carolina: a male at a feeder in Goose Cr. much of the winter (DWa, LG, RC, CE) and a female eating berries at Johns I., Jan. 12 (PL). Two Blue Grosbeaks were the only ones reported, at the Santee R. delta, SC, Dec. 26 (RMu party). Painted Buntings, usually limited to feeders in winter, were found "in the wild" this season—three at Ft. Fisher, NC, Dec. 22 (RD) and one at N. River community, *Carteret*, NC, Dec. 15 (AB). Feeder birds were noted at James I., SC, Jan. 11-15 (BT) and at Emerald Isle, NC, in February (MBa). Oddly enough, both winter sightings of Dickcissels came independently on the same CBC—birds in fields at Morehead City, NC, Dec. 15 (RD, JN).

Single Clay-colored Sparrows were encountered 4 times, all in the Coastal Plain of North Carolina—Dec. 15 near Morehead City (JN), Dec. 22 near Greenville (ED), Jan. 18 near LaGrange (ED), and Jan. 15 and 22 near Aurora (SC). The only Lark Sparrow report was also in the North Carolina Coastal Plain, at a sand pit near Rocky Mount Jan. 12 (RD). A few Grasshopper Sparrows were reported, as usual, and the always notable Le Conte's Sparrow was found at 4 Coastal Plain locales—near Edenton, NC, Dec. 26 (RD), at Huntington Beach S.P., Jan. 4 (RC, CE), near Barnwell, SC, Jan. 18 (RC, CE), and in *Greene*, GA, Feb. 16 (RR). For the first time in memory, Fox Sparrows were literally absent in parts of the Region, especially inland. A great many CBCs missed the species that had never missed them before. It must be assumed that 75+% of the sparrows stayed farther n. than usual, but why? Lincoln's Sparrows were reported at least 8 times, mainly in the Coastal Plain where the birds are scarce but regular. The better counts were four on the Greenville, NC, CBC Dec. 22 (ED) and three near LaGrange, NC, Jan. 18 (ED). White-crowned Sparrows continue to be seen at Coastal Plain sites where very rare a few years ago, but this may be due to better coverage, as populations elsewhere in the regular winter range in the Region are holding their own or are declining. Lapland Longspurs can be difficult to find in mild winters, but the species was reported in *Edgecombe* (RD), at Ft. Fisher (*vide* RD), at Aurora (SC), and at the Charlotte Motor Speedway (TP) in North Carolina; and near Barnwell, SC (RC, CE). The Char-

lotte Motor Speedway, home to Smith's Longspurs a few years ago, hosted the Region's first **Chestnut-collared Longspur**, a female present Feb. 29+ (TP, m.ob.). It was seen by dozens of birders and photographed to confirm the record. Snow Buntings were scarce, as expected in a mild winter, with only a few sighted, all along the North Carolina coast.

ICTERIDS, CARDUELINE FINCHES

A belatedly reported Yellow-headed Blackbird—an imm. male at Charleston Oct. 13 (DF *et al.*)—makes up for a lack of winter reports. A handful of Brewer's Blackbirds were seen again this winter near Goat I., *Clarendon*, SC (ND, RC); this is that state's only reliable wintering locale. Dean noted as many as seven Brewer's most of the winter near Goldsboro, which is not a regular spot. Other reports of Brewer's included a pair at Landrum, SC, Dec. 21 (ST), a female at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston Mar. 14 (ND), and 84 at Augusta Dec. 21 (*vide* AW). An ad. ♂ Northern (Bullock's) Oriole visited a feeder at Hilton Head I., SC, Feb. 4-12 (AN, BLo *et al.*; ph., AN). It was still another terrible year for winter finches, and I am not sure we will ever again witness large numbers of Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins in the Region. Purple Finches continue to be difficult to find; there were no reports of redpolls or crossbills; and the one report of Pine Grosbeak unfortunately could not be confirmed by birders, which is typical, even though it was reported at a feeder. (Pine Grosbeaks reported in the Region never seem to remain in a place long enough to be confirmed by birders on succeeding days, nor are there specimens or photos to confirm the 8-10 sightings.) House Finches continue to increase, and Am. Goldfinches were generally common. A few years from now, these 2 species may be it for our "winter finches"!

Observers: Wendy Allen, Mary Batten (MBa), Joyce Bland, Phyllis Bowen (PBo), Rich Boyd, Patrick Brisse, John Brunjes, Allen Bryan, Molly Bunnell, Robin Carter, Coastal Carolina Community College, Don & Doris Cohrs (D&DC), Sam Cooper, Stuart Coward (StC), Larry Crawford, Wesley Cureton, Evelyn Dabbs (EDa), Bill Daughtridge (BDa), Kelly Davis, Ricky Davis, Eric Dean, Nathan Dias, Steve Dinsmore, Bruce Dralle, Barny Dunning (BDu), Caroline Eastman, Richard Ellenberg, Bert Fisher, Dennis Forsythe, John Fussell, Lex Glover, Gilbert Grant, Bill Groce, Randy Grover, Robert Hader, Tom Hankins (THan), Todd Hass, Herb Hendrickson, Kevin Hennings, Bob Holmes, Barbara Hoots (BaH), Jackie Howard (JaH), Jennifer Howard, Tim Kalbach, Wojcek Krol, Oleta LaBorde, Carol Lambert, Pete Laurie, Harry LeGrand, Bob Lewis, Elizabeth Link, Henry Link (HLi), Barry Lowes (BLo), Marcia Lyons, Kevin Markham, Greg Massey, Dennie & Pam McClure (D&PMcC), Roger McNeill, Terry Miller (TMi), Terry Moore, Rick Murray (RMu), Jeremy Nance, Randy Newman, Avril Nicholson, John Paget, Dick Parks, T.K. Patterson, Brian Patteson (BPa), Taylor Piephoff, Bill Pulliam, Robert Raffel, Paul Raney, George Reeves, Paul Saraceni, Bob Sargent (BSa), Jeff Sewell, Nancy Sliwa, Ben Smith, Clyde Smith, Clyde Sorenson (CSO), Mark Spinks, P.W. Sykes Jr., The Citadel, Mark Thompson (MTh), Simon Thompson, Mike Tove, Paris Trail, Brenda Tucker, Heathy Walker, Charles Walters, Anne Waters, Vernon Waters, Don Watts (DWa), Don White, Harriett Whitsett (HWh), Bob Wood, Peter Worthington, Suzanne Wrenn, Jeanine Zenge, Howard Zippler. — **HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR., N.C. Natural Heritage Program, P.O. Box 27687, Raleigh, NC 27611.**

FLORIDA REGION

H.P. Langridge

In south Florida weather conditions were near normal for March and most of April. The period between April 28 through May 8 was cool with two record lows and other near-record lows. May was one of the driest on record, with rainfall over three inches below normal. In north Florida, the weather was very dry until the last week in May.

Despite the frightful ideas presented in John Terborgh's article, "Why American Songbirds Are Vanishing," in *Scientific American*, it is encouraging to present the good news: the warbler migration from, and through, the West Indies appeared healthy—this year anyway. Caused by rain and a cold front, a localized fallout with "incredible" numbers occurred in Miami on April 22 with "thousands of birds," including "hundreds" of Blackpoll Warblers, but this fallout was reported by only one observer, Jeff Goodwin. Also from April 29 through May 8, despite no rain to ground warblers, observers noted remarkable numbers of the regular lower east coast migrants (Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Blackpoll, American Redstart, Ovenbird, and Common Yellowthroat). In contrast to the weather conditions during the Miami fallout, these ten days displayed clear weather with moderate, but persistent west winds, which caused many warblers to pause at the first landfall on the lower east coast. From Fort Pierce, Jane Brooks reported, "Only twelve species [of warblers] were observed, but the numbers were greater than I have observed at any time in recent years." From Lantana, Langridge compared his warbler totals this year to thirty past years to establish some record-breaking day numbers for Palm Beach County. From Delray Beach, Brian Hope said, "The biggest ten days ever." From Fort Lauderdale, Wally George wrote, "West winds during the last week in April and the first week in May caused a major warbler presence along the south east Florida coast." In interior south *Dade*, John Ogden found that between April 27 and May 10, "West Indian flyway species were remarkably common everywhere," because of cool nights and light west winds. From the Keys, Bruce Hallett counted two cuckoo and eighty-nine warbler road kills during a twenty-mile stretch on the Upper Keys on April 30. So because of the west winds, many observers were impressed by the numbers and the steady stream of warblers moving from the West Indies.

In the northern peninsula, B. Muschlitz declared that this spring was the "best migration in several years," and that the cause of

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this good show of warblers was a week of west winds, as in the southern region.

However, on an alarming note, several observers noted the low numbers of thrushes, Black-whiskered and Red-eyed vireos.

Boat tours to the Dry Tortugas are helping to find more pelagics every year because the boats are entering and staying longer in deeper water. The unusual pelagics were a Yellow-nosed Albatross, two Sooty Shearwaters, three Band-rumped Storm-Petrels, a Black-capped Petrel, a Black-legged Kittiwake, a Sabine's Gull, and an Arctic Tern.

When one considers the number of Caribbean strays found in south Florida each year and then considers what a minute percentage of coastal area covered by observers, then at any one moment there must be dozens of Caribbean strays on the Gold Coast in private areas that are inaccessible. This spring the Caribbean strays were a Least Grebe, two Key West Quail Doves, a La Sagra's Flycatcher, a Bahama Swallow, and an astonishing four Bahama Mockingbirds.

For up-to-date data on the state of Florida birds, bird observers and especially the seasonal writers of the Florida Region of *American Birds* are indebted to Dr. William Robertson and Dr. Glen Woolfenden for the use of their draft manuscript, "Florida Bird Species: an Annotated List."

Abbreviations: A.B.S. (*Archbold Biological Station*); Baggs S.P. (*Bill Baggs S.P., Miami*); Birch S.P. (*Hugh Taylor Birch S.P., Fort Lauderdale*); D.T. (*Dry Tortugas, Ft. Jefferson N.M.*); E.N.P. (*Everglades National Park*); F.R.C. (*Florida Rareties Committee*); P.P.M. (*Polk Phosphate Mines*); S.G.I. (*St. George I., Franklin Co.*).

LOONS TO WATERFOWL

At S.G.I. near the spot where one was seen this winter, a Pacific Loon, very rare and very late, allowed close study May 24 (†BDN, DAE—details to F.R.C.). A Com. Loon was very late in *Duval* May 21 (MCD). A Least Grebe, only the 6th sighting for the state, rested on a private pond in Miami Apr. 27 (HWK). Providing Florida its 3rd report, 2nd documented, and first specimen (*A.B.S., WH), an injured Yellow-nosed Albatross was found on the median strip on Highway One on Key Largo in late May. Between Key West and D.T., a Black-capped Petrel, about 30 state reports, showed itself April 19 (TH, m.ob., ph. MT). From D.T. waters, the *Yankee Freedom* flushed near its



bow a Sooty Shearwater, regular rare visitor and first for D.T., Apr. 18 (BR, JR, TWh), and another with white underwing covers described was spotted there from a boat Apr. 25 (LS, TTA). From near Rebecca Shoals, *Monroe*, a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, rare to fairly common, was reported Apr. 21 (DS, PIH), also from 30 and 31.5 mi e. of Sebastian Inlet, *Brevard*, observers saw another twice May 30 (DG, BDN, WB, JEC, HPL, m.ob.), and a 3rd bird in deep water s.e. of Key West was seen May 1 (†JH, ST *et al.*). A White-tailed Tropicbird, rare for this area, flew over a boat 25 mi e. of Sebastian Inlet, May 30 (DG, m.ob.).

The very good number of 530 Am. White Pelicans gathered at P.P.M., Mar. 28 (PJF). Twenty Brown Pelicans at Winter Haven Apr. 20 (PS) were perhaps the highest inland count ever, but at Marco Rookery, they were down 26% from their 19-year mean (THB). A Great Cormorant, a rare winter visitor, was inland at *Levy* Apr. 17-22 (RKR, DCH, DTF, †BPM). This spring at Marco, the Magnificent Frigate-bird population was down 95% from its 19-year mean (THB), but on Long Key, D.T., nesting occurred as usual. As there has been no nesting for many decades, an Am. Bittern reported at L. Seminole, *Pinellas*, May 28 (KN) again raised this possibility. About 50% of the 4500 pairs of White Ibis nesting near E.N.P. this spring produced young for a relatively successful season there (JCO). The Wood Stork colonies at Corkscrew (THB), E.N.P. (JCO), and *Leon* (DSE) experienced a very good breeding season. The 22 Black-bellied

Whistling-Ducks in *Hardee* Apr. 19 (DY) were surely part of the c. Florida breeding stock, as perhaps the one in *St. Lucie* Mar. 11-Apr. 21 (PP *et al.*). At St. Marks N.W.R., a ♀ N. Pintail was late May 23 (DAE, BDN). The 3500 N. Shovelers and the 400 Ruddy Ducks at P.P.M., Mar. 28 (PJF) were impressive numbers. Also at P.P.M. May 25 (CG, PT) late ducks were a N. Shoveler, two Ring-necked Ducks, and three Ruddy Ducks.

RAPTORS TO TERNS

Unprecedented at D.T., "southern Florida, and also trans-Gulf" (WBR), 60 Mississippi Kites circled in a kettle w. of Garden Key Apr. 21 (JHo, WB, DL *et al.*). Always rare this far s., a Golden Eagle was spotted in *Polk*, Mar. 8 (†PJF *et al.*). At the very s. edge of its breeding range, a pair of Cooper's Hawks, rare regular residents, successfully fledged three young in *Martin* (TTo). Nine Peregrines at one time ruled the

skies over Loggerhead Key at D.T., Apr. 26 (HPL *et al.*). An imm. Peregrine attacked and scratched the head of a maintenance man on the roof of a high-rise condo at Jacksonville Beach Apr. 8-10. Later, Pat Anderson photographed the calling bird as it attacked her several times. Although whitewash indicated that the bird had been there for some time, no evidence of nesting was found and the aggressive bird disappeared shortly thereafter (PCP). Strangely, a Black Rail was rescued from the water at Key West Apr. 8 (JO) and released.

For a first breeding record for the Keys and the southernmost in the U.S., an Am. Coot with five chicks was in a small pond on Stock I. near Key West this spring (MB, JO, ph. PB). A Lesser Golden-Plover, a good find this far e., was spotted in *Duval* May 7 (PHL), and a late bird stayed at Ft. De Soto May 12-16 (DF, CE, m.ob., video BHA). In *Palm Beach*, the excellent number of 1000 Greater Yellowlegs and 5000 dowitchers concentrated in a drying rice field Mar. 7 (PWS, SAS). Flocks of 40 or 50 Spotted Sandpipers totaling 200 w. of Stuart on the St. Lucie R., Apr. 21 (VE) suggested a staging area. Unusual this far s., a wintering Purple Sandpiper stayed in s. *Dade* until Mar. 18 (BM). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper, a rare transient, was studied at St. Marks N.W.R., May 2 (DSE, †TL). A Red-necked Phalarope, a good find, was seen on the water and flying s.e. of Key West, May 1 (†JH, DS, m.ob.) A Wilson's Phalarope, rather scarce, was reported from St. Marks N.W.R., May 14-17 (DSE *et al.*).

A very late ad. Pomarine Jaeger flew over a

boat 34 mi e. of Sebastian Inlet May 30 (BDN, m.ob.). Seldom seen in ad. plumage in Florida, a Sabine's Gull, 13th state sighting, appeared 20 mi s.w. of Key West on Apr. 25 (†PIH, m.ob.—details to F.R.C.). About Apr. 15 (video TH, *E.N.P., SJ), a Black-legged Kittiwake, a first for D.T., sported a stainless steel leader protruding jauntily from its mouth. Capture failed to rectify the predicament so the bird was taken to rehabilitators at Key West where it died. Considered rare, an Arctic Tern, about 21 reports, flew by a boat about 15 mi n.e. of D.T., Apr. 27 (†PIH, m.ob.—detail to F.R.C.). A Black Noddy with worn wing coverts lingered Apr. 17-May 2 (BR, m.ob., ph. MP, EH, MT, JH) and preened continually during much observing (HPL, ES). A 2nd bird in pristine plumage was located Apr. 24-25 (WB, m.ob.). The 499 Black Skimmers at P.P.M., Mar. 28 (PJF) was an impressive number.

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A White-crowned Pigeon overshot to reach Birch S.P. May 2 (WG, JD) for the 4th *Broward* sighting. *Alachua's* first Eur. Collared Dove surprised local observers Mar. 30 (JHH). Two Key West Quail-Doves, 11th and 12th modern-day sightings in the U.S., played hide-and-seek with observers: one at Birch S.P., Apr. 12-May 24 (WG, m.ob., details to F.R.C., ph. MP, video *vide RP*) and another a Boca Raton May 15-16 (DA, SF, †HPL) before the developer-owner closed the area to "conservationists." Always tough, four Black-billed Cuckoos were seen perched: at D.T. one Apr. 19 (BB) and one Apr. 24 (ESt); at Boca Raton one May 9 (BHH), and at Ft. De Soto another stayed May 1-16 (HPR, m.ob., video BHA). A cuckoo fallout on S.G.I., Apr. 26 (TL, DSE, LMe) with over 25 Yellow-billed and two rare Black-billed, was extraordinary. A Lesser Nighthawk, about 21 sightings and a rare transient, was heard and photographed on S.G.I., Apr. 28 (ph. JEC—details to R.B.C.). On the photo, brown dots on the base of the primaries were evident. A Brown-crested Flycatcher, a rare but regular winter and spring visitor in s. Florida and the Keys, was detected on Islamorada Apr. 16 (EH *et al.*). A *La Sagra's* Flycatcher, about the 12th U.S. sighting and the northernmost ever, called regularly at Boca Raton Apr. 18 only (call taped BHH *et al.*). In Homestead Mar. 7-Apr. 16 (†JB, NP *et al.*), a *Cassin's* Kingbird, 3rd state record, joined a flock of W. Kingbirds and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. The *Bahama Swallow* graced Cutler Ridge for the 5th year in a row Mar. 25-Apr. 30 (PWS, ph. EH). This frequently admired swallow was found flattened on the road Apr. 30 (CP—*Fl. Mus. of Nat. Hist., WB). Two Bank

Swallows, considered a rare transient locally, appeared at Payne's Prairie, *Alachua*, Apr. 29 (BPM, JHH) and three May 9 (RKR, WHA). Cliff Swallows, considered accidental locally, occurred in *Alachua*: at Payne's Prairie one Apr. 29 (JHH, BPM), and two May 9 (RKR), and at L. Alice five May 8 (DGW, WMA). The E. Bluebird trail at Avon Pk. produced 117 eggs and young Apr. 17 (DF), despite raccoon predation. A very late Am. Robin straggled through Ft. De Soto May 3 (LSA, BHA). Many observers agreed that thrush observations were way down this spring. An astonishing four *Bahama Mockingbirds*, one more than last spring, turned up for the 15th-18th U.S. sighting: one at Baggs S.P., Apr. 25-May 4 (JG *et al.*); one at Birch S.P., Apr. 25-May 20 (PD, TW, m.ob.); one at Key West Apr. 30-



The Black Noddy is essentially unknown in North America except on Bush Key, Dry Tortugas, Florida, where this individual was found April 20, 1992. Note the very worn wing coverts. Photograph/Max Parker.

May 31 (†JH, JO, m.ob.) building a nest; and a very gray plumaged bird, 3rd for D.T., Apr. 25 only (TH, WB, m.ob., ph. KO, PC, video LH) that ate meal worms, compliments of Larry Hopkins.

VIREOS TO WARBLERS

A Philadelphia Vireo, rare on D.T., was photographed at a water drip May 1 (ph. AS). Several observers reported that Black-whiskered and Red-eyed vireo numbers were very low on the lower east coast.

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Key West Quail-Dove at Birch State Recreation Area, Florida, April 25, 1992. Photograph/Max Parker.

May 6 (BHH). A "very rare" Lawrence's Warbler stayed at Ft. De Soto, *Pinellas*, Apr. 2-7 (MSW, m.ob., video BHA). A Nashville Warbler in Lakeland surprised observers Apr. 10 (CG, PT). All-time one-day *Palm Beach* highs for one party were 52 Cape May Warblers May 8 (HPL) on Hypoluxo I., but "hundreds" on Cedar Key May 2 (DCH) eclipsed that easily. Another all-time *Palm Beach* high was 38 Black-throated Blue Warblers May 5 (PD) W. *Palm Beach* and 37 May 7 (HPL) Hypoluxo I. In early March in *Palm Beach*, the unusually high number of 11 Black-throated Green Warblers were present (BHH), and another was extremely late at D.T. at the end of May (WBR). The only Bay-Breasted Warblers reported were at S.G.I., Apr. 30 and May 5 (JEC) and at Ft. De Soto May 9 (PJF, CG). On D.T., a Yellow-rumped Warbler, "Audubon's form," 8th state sighting and 5th for D.T., was seen repeatedly Apr. 23 (HPL *et al.*). Blackpoll Warblers were abundant: "hundreds" at Baggs S.P., Apr. 22 (JG), a "major fallout" at Cedar Key and *Alachua* May 8-9 (BPM), and "very high numbers" at *Leon* late this spring (BDN). No high counts of Black-and-white Warblers were reported. Four *Cerulean* Warblers were found: one May 7 (BHH) for only the 2nd *Palm Beach* sighting, one Apr. 30 (MW) in Miami, and two males Apr. 1 & 4 (DCH *et al.*) at Cedar Key. There were over 100 Ovenbirds in W. *Palm Beach* May 4 (PD) and over 100 at Baggs S.P., Apr. 23 (JG). During the Apr. 22 (JG) fallout the astounding number of 100 N. Waterthrushes, 60 counted around one small pond, flooded Baggs S.P. Seldom seen on the lower e. coast, Kentucky Warblers turned up at Boca Raton May 2 (HPL) and Apr. 14 (LV, BHH) and

boat 34 mi e of Sebastian Inlet May 30 (BDN, m.ob.). Seldom seen in ad. plumage in Florida, a Sabine's Gull, 13th state sighting, appeared 20 mi s.w. of Key West on Apr. 25 (†PIH, m.ob.—details to F.R.C.). About Apr. 15 (video TH, *E.N.P., SJ), a Black-legged Kittiwake, a first for D.T., sported a stainless steel leader protruding jauntily from its mouth. Capture failed to rectify the predicament so the bird was taken to rehabilitators at Key West where it died. Considered rare, an Arctic Tern, about 21 reports, flew by a boat about 15 mi n.e. of D.T., Apr. 27 (†PIH, m.ob.—detail to F.R.C.). At D.T., A Black Noddy with worn wing coverts lingered Apr. 17-May 2 (BR, m.ob., ph. MP, EH, MT, JH) and preened continually during much observing (HPL, ES). A 2nd bird in pristine plumage was located Apr. 24-25 (WB, m.ob.). The 499 Black Skimmers at P.P.M., Mar. 28 (PJP) was an impressive number.

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The warblers that regularly use the West Indies route were exceptionally evident this spring migration because of moderate persistent west winds. Always a good find, Blue-winged Warblers were unexpected at D.T. May 1 (ph. AS), Baggs S.P. fallout day Apr. 22 (JG), and two at Birch S.P. Apr. 25 (WG). Very rare on the lower e. coast, a Golden-winged Warbler appeared at Boca Raton



Key West Quail-Dove at Birch State Recreation Area, Florida, April 25, 1992. Photograph/Max Parker.

May 6 (BHH). A "very rare" Lawrence's Warbler stayed at Ft. De Soto, *Pinellas*, Apr. 2-7 (MSW, m.ob., video BHA). A Nashville Warbler in Lakeland surprised observers Apr. 10 (CG, PT). All-time one-day *Palm Beach* highs for one party were 52 Cape May Warblers May 8 (HPL) on Hypoluxo I., but "hundreds" on Cedar Key May 2 (DCH) eclipsed that easily. Another all-time *Palm Beach* high was 38 Black-throated Blue Warblers May 5 (PD) W. *Palm Beach* and 37 May 7 (HPL) Hypoluxo I. In early March in *Palm Beach*, the unusually high number of 11 Black-throated Green Warblers were present (BHH), and another was extremely late at D.T. at the end of May (WBR). The only Bay-Breasted Warblers reported were at S.G.I., Apr. 30 and May 5 (JEC) and at Ft. De Soto May 9 (PJP, CG). On D.T., a Yellow-rumped Warbler, "Audubon's form," 8th state sighting and 5th for D.T., was seen repeatedly Apr. 23 (HPL *et al.*). Blackpoll Warblers were abundant: "hundreds" at Baggs S.P., Apr. 22 (JG), a "major fallout" at Cedar Key and *Alachua* May 8-9 (BPM), and "very high numbers" at *Leon* late this spring (BDN). No high counts of Black-and-white Warblers were reported. Four Cerulean Warblers were found: one May 7 (BHH) for only the 2nd *Palm Beach* sighting, one Apr. 30 (MW) in Miami, and two males Apr. 1 & 4 (DCH *et al.*) at Cedar Key. There were over 100 Ovenbirds in W. *Palm Beach* May 4 (PD) and over 100 at Baggs S.P., Apr. 23 (JG). During the Apr. 22 (JG) fallout the astounding number of 100 N. Waterthrushes, 60 counted around one small pond, flooded Baggs S.P. Seldom seen on the lower e. coast, Kentucky Warblers turned up at Boca Raton May 2 (HPL) and Apr. 14 (LV, BHH) and

Birch S P, Apr 27 (BHH) and Apr 13 (MW *et al.*). Remarkably, this spring *Palm Beach* totaled 17 Connecticut Warblers, *Pinellas* 10, *Dade* 7, *Sarasota* 7 (all banded, SS, ASt), *Broward* 6, *Franklin* 4, *Alachua* 2, *Levy* 2, and *Polk* 1. The very rare Mourning Warbler excited observers on Largo, *Pinellas*, Apr. 20 (KDN, BRP). On Hypoluxo I. May 5 (HPL, TT), observers counted an all-time high for *Palm Beach* for one party in spring of 163 Com. Yellowthroats feeding on lawns. Five different Wilson's Warblers were reported in *Palm Beach* during early March (BHH) for an excellent number, and one migrant surprised an observer at Jacksonville Apr. 12 (JPC). A late ♂ Hooded Warbler was feeding on a lawn on Hypoluxo I. May 5 (HPL, TT).

GROSBEAKS TO FINCHES

Unusual in winter, a Blue Grosbeak remained at Belle Glade Marina until Mar. 21 (BHH). The wintering **Stripe-headed Tanager** tarried in s. *Dade* until Mar. 3 (LM). A ♂ W. Tanager, a rare winter visitor, was reported in s. *Dade* Mar. 10 (PWS, SAS), and a ♀ Western was migrating at Ft. De Soto, *Pinellas*, Apr. 19 (JDD). A wintering Clay-colored Sparrow lingered at a L. Worth feeder until Apr. 14 (GSH). Astoundingly, another very late Clay-colored came to a water drip May 1 (ph. AS) for a first spring sighting for D.T. Normally secretive, a Le Conte's Sparrow was found in one small patch of grass in *Dixie* from Mar. 17–May 5 (ph. †JEC), NW), the latest date "documented." Always a good find, "several" White-crowned Sparrows were singing w. of Florida City, *Dade*, Apr. 2 (PWS, SAS). After eating meal worms and enjoying a water drip, a scarce Lincoln's Sparrow decided on an extended stay at D.T., Apr. 25–May 3 (m.ob., ph. AS, *et al.*). Only four ♀ Yellow-headed Blackbirds were spotted this spring: one at L. Harbor, *Palm Beach*, Mar. 14 (HPL, EW), two s.w. *Palm Beach*, Mar. 9 (PWS, SAS), and one at Lakeland, Mar. 27 (KR). At D.T. the Shiny Cowbird (ph. MT, JH) migration slowed dramatically this spring, but a ♂ Shiny was spotted in Jacksonville Apr. 18 (RKR), a female at Ft. De Soto Apr. 25 (LSA, MSW), and another bird in *Hillsborough*. May 9 (LAH). A Bronzed Cowbird, irregular local winter visitor, was carefully studied on Longboat Key, *Manatee*, Apr. 13 (†JGi). Belle Glade Marina produced an early Orchard Oriole, always a delight for *Palm Beach* Mar. 7–21 (DF, BHH), and a very late bird appeared May 11 (MSW) at Ft. De Soto. The surprising number of 12 N. Orioles brightened the Baggs S.P. fallout on Apr. 22 (JG). A wintering Pine Siskin tarried at a Jacksonville feeder until Apr. 11 (TDW). On Mar. 29 (DSE) over Tallahassee, "hundreds" of Am Goldfinches were flying in apparent

migration. A House Finch visited a feeder in Gainesville Apr. 23–May 26 (JJM) to extend its range south.

EXOTICS

An Alexandrine Parakeet, a new species of parrot for Florida, was reported in Homestead Mar. 27 (PWS, SAS, WBR).

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ONTARIO REGION

Ron D. Weir

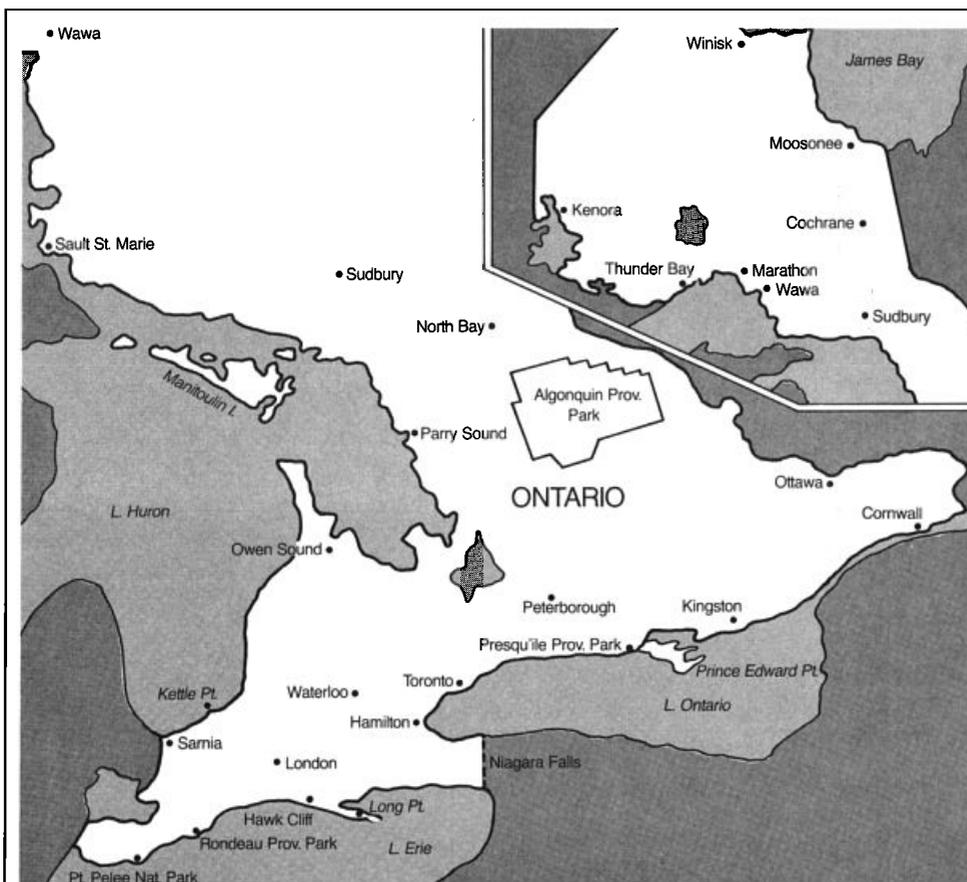
Over most of Ontario extended cold spells dominated the weather and the punctuated surges of warm southerly air produced some exciting migration. South of Sudbury the mild conditions of early March induced early movement, but the next four weeks brought extreme cold that halted the migrants and concentrated waterfowl. April continued to be colder and wetter than usual and the dam broke during the third week to dump a large number of migrants along Lake Erie without penetration further north. May remained cooler than the norm until late in the month. Farther north, the cold March and April delayed passage by up to two weeks as lakes remained ice-covered until mid-May even at the latitudes of Thunder Bay. However warm southerly air surged northwards to reach Sudbury, North Bay and Thunder Bay May 17–21, which brought huge numbers of migrants. Some 10,000 passerines arrived at the Mississagi Light on Manitoulin Island May 17 between 0730–1030h, which included flycatchers, vireos, warblers, tanagers and orioles. At North Bay, a White-eyed Vireo and Kentucky and Cerulean Warblers appeared while northwest at Thunder Bay, 35,000 and 10,000 warblers were grounded May 20 and 21 respectively.

Strong passage was noted for loons, grebes, egrets, and owls, but a weak flight occurred for waders except for Whimbrel. The Red-bellied Woodpecker and Carolina Wren continued their range consolidation. Rarities included Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Cinnamon Teal, Mississippi Kite, Swainson's Hawk, California Gull, White-winged Tern and Hooded Oriole. The Hooded Oriole is the first for Canada.

Abbreviations: Pelee (*Point Pelee Nat'l Park and Vicinity*); P.E.Pt. (*Prince Edward Point*), Algonquin, Presqu'île and Rondeau are Provincial Parks. Place names in *italics* denote counties.

LOONS TO IBISES

The 390 Red-throated Loons in the south were unprecedented numbers for spring and are 22 times the 1981–91 spring average of 18 birds. The largest concentrations were the 150 off Pt. Clark, *Bruce* Apr. 28 (AWM), 110 farther n. at Kincardine, *Bruce*, Apr. 23 (AWM), and 90 which migrated over w. Hamilton Bay Mar. 26–Apr. 24 (KAM). Singles were w. to Turkey Pt. Apr. 25 (RDM) and e. to Cobourg Apr. 7 (ERM), Amherst I. May 16 (K.F.N.) and Westport Apr. 30 (JKW). In the north four passed Thunder Cape near Thunder Bay May 27–30 (DSH) Further west at Atikokan



May 3, 120+ Com. Loons congregated on Snow L. to await the late thaw (DHE). In the south 115 Commons per hour migrated along the Grand R., Apr. 29 (DG, WL) and 125 arrived at P.E.Pt. May 2 (K.F.N.). The 24 Pied-billed Grebes at Pelee Apr. 21 represent a local high count (AW). The flight of Horneds was strong and the largest tallies included 1870 birds at Rondeau Apr. 26 (KJB, JTB), 120 at P.E.Pt. Apr. 21-25 (K.F.N.), and 90 offshore Erobicoke Apr. 23-25 (RY, EAJ). Red-neckeds were again numerous, led by 138 at Whitby May 4 (BH, MJB) as they migrated W during evening, 80 offshore Cabor Head, *Bruce*, Apr. 25 (MJP), 40 each at Belanger Pt. Manitoulin I., Apr. 19 (JCN) and Cobourg Apr. 1-15 (ERM). The eight inland at 3 sites in *Middlesex* Apr. 24-25 are also noteworthy (*vide* PAR). Single Eared Grebes were at Richmond Hill Apr. 17 (SM, JRM) and Hamilton Apr. 29-May 1 (KAM *et al.*). Farther north one pair appeared at the Rainy River sewage lagoons May 29 (DHE, MCE).

Out of range Am. White Pelicans totalled 13 birds, which included the six at Long Pt. May 15, five of which remained until May 31 (JDM *et al.*), four at Ivy Lea, *Leeds*, Apr. 30 (*vide* KD), and singles in the Hamilton area Apr. 15-17 (MWJ, RZD *et al.*), Keswick, *York*, May 15 (TH, DFe *et al.*), and Evansville, Manitoulin I., May 21 (ph. AW, KZ). The single Least Bittern in Carden Township, *Victoria*, May 22 was at the n. edge of its breeding range (RJP). Great Egret numbers, away from

the traditional southwest, equalled 14 (1982-1991 spring average of 9). They were in Little Current, Parry Sound, Aurora, Whitby, Darlington, Sunderland, Kingston, Amherst I., and Wolfe I., Apr. 4-May 29. The six Snowy Egrets exceed the 1982-1991 spring average of four birds. Two were at Pelee May 2 (RZD *et al.*) and singles were at Oshawa Apr. 8 (JR), Dundas marsh Apr. 14 (MSB), Long Pt. May 6 (PNP *et al.*) and Pelee May 17 (MC, LJN *et al.*). Single Little Blues were at Normandale, *Haldimand-Norfolk*, May 1 (RVT), Stoney Pt., *Essex*, May 2 (RECB), and Pelee May 13 (*vide* AW). The species' 1977-1991 spring average is two birds. The only Cattle Egret reported away from the extreme s.w. was the single in Kingston Apr. 26 (M. Lee). One **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** lingered in Sarnia Apr. 21-29 (ph. RK *et al.*), a total that equals the 31-year spring average. The showing by Glossy Ibis was the best since 1982 and the seven birds exceed the 1982-1991 spring average of two. Three were at Toronto's e. Headland May 2 (MKM) and singles appeared at Pelee Apr. 27-May 9 (PR, BW *et al.*), Smithville, *Niagara*, May 7 (JD *et al.*), Stoney L., *Peterborough*, May 8-10 (R Welch), and well north at North Bay May 23-30 (RDT *et al.*).

WATERFOWL

Numbers of Tundra Swans were high again in the southwest. Peak tallies were 7589 at Long Pt., Mar. 16 (RWK); 5000 each at Rondeau Mar. 17 (SCh) and Ingersoll Mar. 19

(DNB); 4500 each at Aylmer Mar. 20 (RCR) and Woodstock Mar. 21 (JMH *et al.*); and 3500 over Hagersville Mar. 10 (WS). Displaced E were 17 at Gananoque Apr. 7 (J. Haig) and one in Osgoode, *Ottawa-Carleton*, Apr. 18 (R Curtis). Two Greater White-fronted Geese were in Sudbury Apr. 26 for that region's first ever (G & BC) and two others remained at Long Pt., Mar. 12-22 (GEW, BC). Singles arrived with Canadas in Orillia May 13 (CBO, RLB) and Strathroy Mar. 25 (AMcL *et al.*). Ross' Geese were in Winisk on the Hudson Bay coast May 24-28 and numbered 14 on the last date (RDM). The 3000 Brant off Amherst I. May 16 were the most reported by far (A & JS).

Noteworthy concentrations of dabbling ducks included the 57 Wood Ducks at Pelee May 13 (AW, JLD *et al.*); the 200, 193, and 158 Green-winged Teal at Long Pt., Apr. 8-9 (L.P.B.O.), Rondeau Apr. 5 (KJB, SCh), and Pelee Apr. 26 (AW) respectively; as well as the 590 and 98 N. Pintail at Pelee Mar. 26-

27 (AW) and Long Pt., Mar. 10 (L.P.B.O.) respectively. Others were the 245, 103, and 31 Gadwall at Pelee Mar. 30 (AW), Long Pt. Apr. 13 (L.P.B.O.) and Gore Bay Manitoulin I. May 23 (CTB) respectively; and 1680, 1123 and 800 Am. Wigeon at Pelee Mar. 30 (AW), Long Pt. Apr. 3 (L.P.B.O.) and Rondeau May 17 (SCh). The single ♂ Eur. (Green-winged) Teal at Pelee Mar. 28 is that area's 3rd ever (AW). Single ♂ Cinnamon Teal were in Orillia Apr. 26-May 1 (ph. RLB) and Whitby's Cranberry marsh May 9-24 (*vide* MJB). The 1982-1991 average is one per spring. The 16 Eur. Wigeon are over triple the 12-year spring average of five and are an unprecedented total. In the north one male remained in Thunder Bay May 2-4 (NGE, AGH *et al.*) and another carried in Wawa from early May to May 31 (RMW). Farther south four were at Pelee Mar. 27, Mar. 28-May 4, Apr. 16-22 (AW) and May 10 (R and AH), and at least three lingered at Long Pt., Mar. 13-Apr. 13 (PNP). The others were singles in the Dundas marsh and area Mar. 8, 26-27, Apr. 5 (N. Murr, RGF, GP); Fanshawe, *Middlesex*, Mar. 9 (DAM); Aylmer Mar. 29 (AHL); Tilbury, *Kent*, May 13-15 (JH, BDJ *et al.*); Ridgetown, *Kent*, May 14 (JH, BDJ); Amherst I. May 14-24 (MB *et al.*); and Whitby May 21-22 (JMS *et al.*).

Diving ducks also appeared in significant numbers. The greatest counts were the 18,203 Canvasbacks at Long Pt., Mar. 16 (RWK); the 4381 and 2000 Redheads at Long Pt., Mar. 19 (RWK) and Presqu'ile

Mar. 28 (SH) respectively, the 1500, 1178 and 1000 Ring-necked Ducks at Mountsberg C.A., Wellington, Apr. 18 (RVT) and Long Pt., Mar. 19 (L.P.B.O.) and Presqu'île Mar. 28 (SH) respectively. Eider totals were unprecedented and were part of the huge congregation of scoters overwintering at the w end of L. Ontario. Three ♀ **Common Eiders** were studied alongside King Eiders Mar. 26 off Burlington (RZD), and 57 **King Eiders** were there Mar. 27 (P Rose), which represent the peak count for the winter. One ♀ Harlequin Duck was also at Burlington Mar. 8-May 31 (DG, WL) and other singles appeared at Pickering Mar. 7 (DW), and Whitby Apr. 17 (MHo), which compare with the 1982-91 average of two per spring. Thousands of Oldsquaw passed over Kingston May 16-20 (K.F.N.) and Manitoulin I. May 18-22, where at the latter location 3700 and 3000 congregated at Belanger Pt. May 20 & 21 (JCN). Surf Scoter rafts contained 80, 55, and 40 at Burlington Mar. 29 (GN, KAM, GC); Rondeau May 9 (KJB, Sch, JTB); and Whitby May 18 (MJB) respectively, which are excellent numbers. The 18 at Pelee Apr. 25 were a record high (AW). Some 15,000 White-winged scoters fed offshore Burlington Mar. 9 (RZD, JLO *et al.*). Overwintering Barrow's Goldeneyes were singles at Bronte to Mar. 29 (MWJ *et al.*) and Lakefield to Apr. 3 (T Bigg) and two in Cornwall to Mar. 4 (BMD) and Ottawa until Apr. 17 (JPC). Record tallies of Bufflehead were the 211 at Pelee Apr. 7 (AW) and 200 off Manitoulin I., Apr. 10 (JCN). Some 234 were at Long Pt., Apr. 13 (L.P.B.O.). The 200 Hooded Mergansers off Manitoulin I., Apr. 10 are a record high (JCN). Record-late departures included the single Canvasback and Greater Scaup at Tavistock May 31 (JMH).

VULTURES TO CRANES

Single **Black Vultures** passed Grimsby Apr. 4 (KAM, GM *et al.*) and Long Pt., Apr. 14 (DSh) to constitute the province's 10th and 11th since 1981. The trend to earlier-arriving Turkey Vultures continued with single migrants at Long Pt., Feb. 28 (L.P.B.O.), Whitby Mar. 5 (MJB), and Gananoque Mar. 10 (J Haig). The 64 Ospreys tallied at the Grimsby hawk lookout is a record high there (MEH). For the 4th consecutive spring, a **Mississippi Kite** appeared at Pelee May 13-16 (ph. BCh, DWi *et al.*) and another in first summer plumage, or the same individual, was there May 26 (GTH) for the province's 14th and 15th sightings. Early Broad-winged Hawks were singles in Georgian Bay Islands N.P., Mar. 28 (HB), Whitney Apr. 5 (JA, LSW), and Uxbridge, *Durham*, Apr. 7 (MJB). Another was well north of range at Moosonee May 14 (RDM). A nicely described ad **Swainson's Hawk** at Fanshawe,

Middlesex, Apr. 25 (W & CL) was probably the same individual seen at Woodstock Apr. 26 (JMH) to provide about the 14th for Ontario. Two reports of single Ferruginous Hawks were received, *viz.* Grimsby Apr. 13 (DC, BCh *et al.*) and Tavistock May 18 (JMH). Late Rough-leggeds to leave the south were singles at Aylmer May 25 (DAM, LW), Brantford May 27 (WL), and Long Pt. May 29 (L.P.B.O.).

The 22 Golden Eagles are over double the 1982-1991 average of 10 per spring and were led by a record-tying high of 12 at the Grimsby hawkwatch (MEH *et al.*). The 33 Peregrine Falcons are also more than the species' 1982-1991 spring average of 23 birds. Noteworthy is the individual in Thunder Bay Mar. 30-Apr. 11 that wore a red ring on its right leg (NGE, AGH). Gyrfalcons left over from the winter incursion were single grey birds at Long Pt. until Mar. 8 (RDM *et al.*), Manitoulin I. until Apr. 12 (DBF), Ottawa until Apr. 27 (BMD), and a dark individual at Lively to Apr. 20 (CTB), and one (no colour reported) in Thunder Bay to Apr. 7 (GAW).

The four and three King Rails at Pelee May 17-27, and May 18-29 (AW *et al.*) were the only reports. Noteworthy tallies of Am. Coot were the 461 and 440 at Pelee Apr. 21 and Apr. 26 (AW) respectively. The 192 Sandhill Cranes are a record spring high for the province as numbers of this species continue to increase. All but eight occurred from Pelee and areas n. to Sudbury Mar. 14-May 21. The eight extralimitals included a pair in the Ottawa area Apr. 18 (BMD, RAB *et al.*), three in Whitby Apr. 6-22 (BH, MJB, SCn), singles at Presqu'île Apr. 23 (DTy *et al.*), Algonquin Apr. 30 (TW), and P.E.Pt. May 10 (KFE, MCEs).

SHOREBIRDS

The weak flight of littorals was punctuated by some noteworthy sightings. The 1560 Black-bellied Plover at Port Crewe, *Kent*, May 19 were the most reported (AW) and are a high tally for anywhere in the south. The Piping Plover continues to struggle to survive as a breeding species within Ontario and only three were noted this season. Singles were at Turkey Pt. Apr. 26 (DG *et al.*), Dorcas Bay, *Bruce*, May 15 (MW *et al.*), and Pelee I. May 16 (YRT). The only Am. Avocets were two at Pelee Apr. 27-28 (PR). Appearance of this species is highly erratic and its 1982-1991 average equals 5 per spring. Willet numbers were also below the 10-year spring average of 31 birds. This season's 13 included six at Pelee Apr. 20-May 20 (NFS *et al.*), four in Sault Ste. Marie during late April (ATW *et al.*), two at Bright's Grove May 17-22 (DFR, AHR) and one at Port Elgin May 13-20 (RR, MJP). The two Upland Sandpipers at Burks Falls, *Parry Sound*, Apr 18 (A

Mills) and one in Matachewan May 21 (LT) were unusual.

Contrary to the weak showing by waders, Whimbrels were grounded in large numbers mainly along the w. end of L. Ontario and along Manitoulin I. The greatest numbers appeared in the Toronto area where strong NE winds downed respectively 2000 and 340 in Etobicoke and Whitby May 24 (JG, LF *et al.*). Other Whimbrels included the 350 at Whitby May 18 (MJB *et al.*), 296 along Manitoulin I. May 21 (JCN), 220 at Presqu'île May 26 (SML), and 26 migrating high over Thunder Cape, Thunder Bay May 25 (DSh). Only two Hudsonian Godwits were noted, fewer than the 1975-1991 average of 10 per spring. Singles were at Parkhill May 27 (JC), a first spring occurrence for *Middlesex* and at Long Pt. May 31 (DLG, PNP). However, the nine Marbleds were more than the 10-year spring average of six. These were five at Rainy River May 17 (DHE, DGr), two at Thunder Bay May 26 (RMW), and singles at Pelee Apr. 24 (AW) and Aylmer May 30-June 1 for *Elgin's* first ever (DAM). The 15 Ruddy Turnstones and lone Red Knot at Tavistock May 28 furnished *Oxford's* 3rd spring record (JMH). An early Red Knot appeared at Pelee May 14 (AW *et al.*) and one in Thunder Bay was that area's 3rd in 10 years (NGE, RMW).

The W. Sandpiper at Port Perry May 30-June 1 (MJB, PHo) was the only report. Some 3300 Dunlin were along the Oshawa-Whitby lakeshore May 24 (BH). Easterly displacements of Silt Sandpipers were the singles near Maple, *York*, May 18 (GMB, JRM) and in e. Hamilton Bay May 28 (P. Rose, KAM). Six Ruffs were found; the females were two in Aylmer May 18 (DAM) and one at Winona May 16-17 (W. Crins *et al.*). The males were singles at Sombra, *Lambton*, May 2 (white collar, R & JS), Little Current, Manitoulin I. May 18-19 (black collar, CTB, JMB), and Whitby May 22 (red collar, JS). The only subspecies of Short-billed Dowitcher reported was *L. g. griseus*, which numbered seven in e. Hamilton Bay May 28 (P. Rose, KAM), two at Tavistock also May 28 (JMH), and two at Beaverton May 31 (RJP). Peak counts of Wilson's Phalaropes were the 25 at Embrun, *Russell*, May 21 (BMD) and the 20 adults on Amherst I. May 31, most of which remained to nest (PG, JHE). One nest on Amherst I. May 31 contained four eggs (PG, JHE). Single Red-necked Phalaropes appeared at Port Perry May 23-25 (MJB *et al.*), Aylmer May 25 (DAM), and Tavistock May 26 for *Oxford's* 2nd spring record (JMH *et al.*).

GULLS, TERNS

An ad. Parasitic Jaeger, probably overwintering on the Great Lakes, was in the Bronte Harbour Mar. 1 (LF). For the 2nd consecu-

tive spring, Laughing Gulls appeared in numbers well above the 10-year spring average of three. All 7 sightings were of adults and singles at Pelee Apr. 20 (AW), Sarnia May 6 & 26 (DFR *et al.*), Beaverton May 15-18 (RJP *et al.*), Erieau May 16 (D. Tata *et al.*), Turkey Pt. May 23-30 (JLO *et al.*), and Rock Point P.P. May 24 (K. Roy *et al.*). A hybrid Laughing X Ring-billed Gull was at Pelee Mar. 18 (AW). Single ad. Franklin's were in Guelph Mar. 5 for *Wellington's* 3rd ever (JSk, RCA) and at Lake-of-the-Woods May 15 (DGr). This total of two is exactly half the 10-year spring average. The Little Gull flight was strong in the south with the 129 birds, of which 73 occurred from sites along or near L. Erie, 26 near L. Ontario, 28 at Niagara, singles in Ottawa Apr. 22 (D & LS) and in Warton, *Grey*, May 17 for the county's first (DFi). Eight arrived in the Moosonee area May 16, where 25 also gathered May 23 (RDM *et al.*). Peak tallies of Bonaparte's were the 20,000 and 12,000 at Long Pt. May 1 and Apr. 20 respectively (L.P.B.O.), and 4400 at Niagara-on-the-Lake Apr. 13 (GBE). Ring-billed Gull numbers remained high, led by the group of 50,000+ at Long Pt. during March (L.P.B.O.) and the approximately 42,000 nesting pairs on Toronto's e. Headland during May (GS). The ad. *California* Gull along the Long Pt. causeway Mar. 22 (RCR) was probably the same individual at Pelee Mar. 23 (AW). About 13 have appeared in Ontario since 1981.

The 45 Iceland Gulls, which include nine Thayer's, were about average numbers but the 45 Glaucous were fewer than the norm. Lesser Black-backed numbered 20, the lowest spring total since 1987 but greater than the 1982-1991 average of 14 birds per spring. Their distribution Mar. 11-May 30 was 12 birds along or near L. Erie, 4 along L. Ontario, singles in Ottawa Apr. 5 and May 5 (BMD, RAB), Kincardine May 1 (AWM), and Moosonee May 16-24 (RDM, SS). The Great Black-backed in Peterborough until Apr. 11 was late for this inland location (AB) and the 320 at the tip of Long Pt. were a noteworthy concentration (L.P.B.O.).

Early Caspian Terns were singles at Hamilton Apr. 5 (KAM), Pt. Clark *Bruce* Apr. 13 (AWM), and Woodstock Apr. 17 (JMH). The only report of an Arctic Tern was the single at Ottawa May 31 (BMD, MG), a species that typically moves up the Ottawa R. during early June. The two Forster's at Guelph Apr. 21 provided the 4th ever for *Wellington* (JSk). Away from the traditional southwest for this species, at least four frequented the Oshawa-Whitby area Apr. 20-May 13 (DT, RGT, MJB *et al.*), 2 each at Cobourg Apr. 19 (*fide* CEG) and Pt. Clark May 8 (AWM), and one off Amherst

I., Apr. 20 (PG). The ad. *White-winged Tern* at Sombra May 7 (WS) and nearby Port Lambton May 8 (DFR, SR *et al.*) was Ontario's 2nd ever and probably the same individual that appeared at the same time and location last spring. One Black Tern at Long Pt., Apr. 8 was very early (MSD).

DOVES TO SHRIKES

Throughout the period, numerous sightings of owls were noted as they returned northward following their massive eruption into the south. The latest of the Snowy Owls were singles on Amherst I. May 11, which consorted in a marsh with a Great Egret (RKE), at Niagara Falls May 13 (KMCK), and Keswick, *York*, May 15 (TH, DFe *et al.*). Ten N. Hawk Owls s. of breeding range included seven on Manitoulin I. until Apr. 10 (JCN), singles near Merrickville until Mar. 8 (*fide* MHe), Consecon, *Prince Edward*, Mar. 22 (*fide* SML), and Orillia Mar. 31 (L. Roe). At least 80 Great Grays remained s. of their breeding range through part of the spring season. Of the ten Boreals s. of range, four were found dead; singles at Lombardy, *Leeds*, Mar. 4 (LS, JAy); Manitoulin I. Mar. 15 (DBF, GVH), Westport, *Leeds*, Mar. 21 (KH); and La Passe, *Renfrew*, Mar. 22 (BMD). The other six were two in Ottawa Mar. 23 and Apr. 14 (*fide* BMD); singles in Huntsville Mar. 3 (MA), Clarendon, *Frontenac*, Mar. 13 (MS), Algonquin Mar. 20 (DSt, W. Crins), Whitney Mar. 30 (J. Close, DSt), and near Thunder Bay Apr. 16 (AGH).

Table 1. Summary of Great Gray Owl sightings by county in Ontario, Spring 1992.

County	Last Date	Number During Period	Notes
<i>York</i>	Mar. 22	2	
<i>Durham</i>	Mar. 12	2	
<i>Peterborough</i>	Apr. 5	4	
<i>Hastings</i>	Mar. 21	1	
<i>Leeds</i>	May 5	2	
<i>Lanark</i>	May 9	1	
<i>Ottawa-Carleton</i>	May 10	10	
<i>Renfrew</i>	May 31	2	
<i>Nipissing</i>	May 21	9	
<i>Bruce</i>	May 15	8	2 starved
<i>Manitoulin I.</i>	May 12	17	7 starved
<i>Temiskaming</i>	Apr. 18	6	
<i>Sudbury</i>	May 10	6	1 starved
Total		80	

The largest group of Com. Nighthawks reported was of 45 birds at the tip of Long Pt. May 17 (L.P.B.O.). The 12 at Pelee May 18 constituted a record spring high there (AW). Single Chuck-will's-widows were in Long Pt. P.P. Apr. 26 and May 13 (L.P.B.O.). Another



Male Cinnamon Teal Orillia, Ontario, in late April 1992. Photograph/Robert L. Bowles.

in Burpee Township, Manitoulin I. May 20 was well n. of range (DSc, MT, RRT) and its call was recorded on tape. The 18 Red-bellied Woodpeckers away from their usual haunts in the southwest are more than the 1982-91 spring average of ten birds. They included seven in the Kingston area Apr. 5-May 24 (K.F.N.), four on Manitoulin I., Mar. 1-May 21 (*fide* JCN), two in Toronto May 17-18 (RY, AD), two in Presqu'île May 2-24 (FH *et al.*), and singles at Sault Ste. Marie during April (*fide* ATW), Cobourg May 5 (ERM) and Whitby May 11-29 (AJ *et al.*). A record-high number of 87 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers was noted in Pelee Apr. 11 (AW, KO *et al.*) and peak tallies were 35 and 45 at Long Pt. Apr. 16 & 17 respectively (L.P.B.O.). Other noteworthy woodpecker sightings were the single Three-toed at Seeley's Bay *Leeds* May 30 (JHn) and Black-backed on Manitoulin I., Mar. 6 (JGL) and at Portland, *Leeds*, Apr. 17 (MRt).

Acadian Flycatchers beyond range were lone males in Toronto's High Pk. May 23 (AJ), P.E. Pt. May 17 (RDW, MHE, RBS), and Chaffey's Lock, *Leeds*, Jun 4 (*fide* FC). Early, but not record-setting flycatchers included the E. Phoebe at Greenwood, *Durham*, Mar. 7 (EP), single Great-crested Flycatchers in Ottawa Apr. 23 (RAB) and at Pelee Apr. 24 (AW), plus single E. Kingbirds at P.E. Pt. Apr. 21 (KH) and Pelee Apr. 21 (AW). Lone W. Kingbirds were at Thunder Cape, Thunder Bay May 26 (DSH, CDJ) and near Rainy River May 29 (DHE, MCE). The 1982-1991 spring average is two birds. Early Horned Larks at Clarksbury, *Grey*, produced a nest with 3 eggs Mar. 13 (G Peck). The 190 N. Rough-winged Swallows at Pelee Apr. 24 provided a high tally and the 6000 Bank Swallows at Long Pt. May 28 constituted a typical gathering (L.P.B.O.). The Black-billed Magpie at the Kingston airport May 12 (EF) was a surprise and thought to have been an escapee.

The Brown Creeper at Pelee May 13-18 was record-late (AW, JLD *et al.*) and their greatest number was the group of 1000 at Long Pt. Apr. 16 (L.P.B.O.). The large number of Carolina Wrens in Pelee and Rondeau during the winter declined, presumably as

many birds dispersed to other nesting areas. Throughout the southwest, the species was reported to be in good numbers. Three families fledged in Port Stanley by May 18, where the species was abundant (MSS), and multiple nestings were reported in *Niagara* during May (MEH). The 49 extralimitals away from the southwest represent a further increase, of which 22 were found along the lakeshore from Burlington to Bronte Mar. 29 (GC). The limit of the dispersal was defined by the pair north to Pt. Clark, *Bruce*, Apr. 18 (AWM, SB) as well as one, two and four pairs in Ottawa, Peterborough, and Kingston throughout the period (WEG, DCS, K.F.N.) respectively. Several successive mild winters have aided the spread of this species.

Single Bewick's Wrens were in Rondeau Apr. 23 (MMcA, Sch) and at Long Pt. May 18 (RCG, JDM, RPM). Ontario occurrences by this rare species have totalled only six birds in 10 years and all were during spring. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers numbered 20 at P.E.Pt. May 17 (K.F.N.) and 14 in Toronto May 18 (RY), which reflect the increased numbers and range expansion by this species. Six were north to the Mississagi Light, Manitoulin I. May 11-21 (*fide* JCN) and another was out of range at Thunder Cape May 22 (DSh). The Townsend's Solitaire at Quarry Bay, Manitoulin I., Apr. 21 (JCN) was the island's 2nd ever and Ontario's first in spring since 1987. The largest groups of Wood Thrush were the 30 and 50 at Long Pt. May 11 & 16 (JMH, WLi, L.P.B.O.) respectively. The male at Rainy River May 17 was a rare occurrence there (DGr, DHE). Northern reports of the N. Mockingbird were of two in Copper Cliff during May (*fide* JCN) and singles in Thunder Bay May 23 (AGH, NGE), Thunder Cape May 25 & 31 (DSh *et al.*), and Rainy River May 29 (DHE, MCE). The 500 and 100 Bohemian Waxwings at Peterborough Mar. 6 (AGC) and Manitoulin I., Mar. 9 (JCN) were birds heading NW and the one at Byng Inlet, *Parry Sound*, May 10 was very late (MAK). The last of the N. Shrikes in the south was the lone bird in Algonquin Apr. 14 (RGT).

VIREOS TO FINCHES

The 65 reports of White-eyed Vireos, of which 40 from Pelee included four nesting pairs (AW *et al.*), represent a very strong performance. Away from the traditional southwest, singles were at Hamilton Beach Apr. 26-28 (RP, IS), St. Catharines May 2 (MEH), Toronto May 2 & 3 (DP, AJ) and another well north of range in North Bay May 19-20 (RDT). A possible Bell's Vireo, an occasional and rare straggler to Ontario during May, was on Pelee I. May 9 (KP, MJP). Extralimital Blue-winged Warblers were the single females at Meldrum Bay May

21 (AW, KZ) for the 2nd ever on Manitoulin I. (JCN) and at Thunder Bay May 29 (DSh *et al.*), where a ♀ Golden-winged was banded May 20 (DMB *et al.*). Hybrids from these 2 species included five Brewster's at Pelee May 11-17 (*fide* AW), singles at Kingston May 11 (G Ure), P.E.Pt. May 16 (PK) and one ♂ Lawrence's, the rarer of the two crosses, at Pelee May 11 (GRF, DH). The Yellow-rumped Warbler in Thunder Bay Apr. 1-4 was early for such a cold spring (NGE). The Audubon's "Yellow-rumped" from the west appeared at Whitby Apr. 25-26 as the first for *Durham* (JF *et al.*) and another was at Long Pt. May 15 (DO).

The seven Yellow-throated Warblers constituted the highest number in at least a decade (*cf.* 1982-1991 average of 2 per spring). All sightings were confined to the extreme southwest and were singles at Pelee May 17 (AJN, DR) & 21 (RWH *et al.*) and five at Long Pt., Apr. 19-May 18 (*fide* PNP). The lone Prairie at Point au Baril, *Parry Sound*, May 18 was at the northern edge of the range (MAK). "Yellow" Palm Warblers were found at Bronte Apr. 22 (MWJ) and Tavistock May 6 (JMH). The Cerulean at N. Bay May 17 had overshot its breeding areas in the south (RDT). The 13 Prothonotary Warblers at Long Pt. and Pelee were normal numbers and the only one to stray was at Bronte May 12 (MWJ). However, the 19 Worm-eating Warblers were more than the 1982-1991 spring average of 14, of which four were extralimital. These were in Darlington P.P. May 12 (CMcE), Sarnia May 17 (DFR), Bronte May 18 (MWJ), and P.E.Pt. May 20 (CC). The 24 Kentucky Warblers were also in greater numbers (*cf.* 1982-1991 spring average of 18), but 22 were confined to Long Pt., Rondeau, and Pelee. One at Presqu'île May 2 (FH) was extralimital and another at N. Bay May 18 (RDT) was way north of range. The showing by Hoodeds was very strong throughout the southwest, and 15 extralimitals reached Sarnia, Brantford, Burlington, Toronto, Whitby, and Pickering Apr. 25-May 24. The five in the Kingston area May 9-21 (K.F.N.) and single in Presqu'île Jun 4 (J & JT) were the most easterly. Yellow-breasted Chats failed to follow suit and only three birds were beyond range: singles at Presqu'île May 15 (LB, RM, ABu), and P.E.Pt. May 16 & 20 (RKE, KHg).

Eleven Summer Tanagers were reported, one fewer than the ten-year spring average. Four were beyond the normal range-singles in Toronto May 3 & 13 (MWD, HGC), Whitby May 5 (JF), P.E.Pt. May 21 (RKE), and well north to MacKenzie near Thunder Bay May 3-9 (LA). The N. Cardinal at Moosonee May 12 was also well north (IJ). The four ♂ Blue Grosbeaks at Pelee were the only records of this rare species, which have numbered 15 in Ontario during the past 10 spring seasons.

Two immatures were there May 17 (RKK, MBI, BA *et al.*) and single adults appeared Apr. 22 (JBL) & May 12-13 (VLC, JRC *et al.*) and again May 16 (YRT). Single Dickcissels were a female at Long Pt., Apr. 30 (PNP *et al.*) and single males at Pelee May 16 (RHG) & 20 (PDP). Two Field Sparrows were north of range at Thunder Cape May 21 & 29 (CDJ, DSh *et al.*). The 25 and 40 Vesper Sparrows at Long Pt. Apr. 16 & 22 reflected a strong passage there (L.P.B.O.). Some 1500 White-crowns were grounded at Long Pt. May 10, of which nine of the Gambel's subspecies were netted and ringed (L.P.B.O.). The imm. Harris' Sparrow, which overwintered in Toronto Leaside, remained until May 7 (ph. HMS *et al.*). Others east of range were a single in Rondeau May 16 (D Tata *et al.*) and another in Moosonee May 19-24 (RDM *et al.*). Noteworthy were 500 Lapland Longspurs near South Cayuga, *Haldimand*, May 9 fortuitously discovered feeding among corn stubble (SM, JBCM, JBM *et al.*).



Mississippi Kite in first-summer plumage at Wheatley Provincial Park, Ontario, on May 15, 1992. Photograph/Alan Wormington.

The 11 Western Meadowlarks in the south were more than usual in recent years. Singing males were at *Manitoulin*, *Bruce*, Long Pt., *Wellington*, *Waterloo*, *Lanark*, and *Ottawa-Carleton* Apr. 19-May 31. Extralimital Yellow-headed Blackbirds reached Amherst I., Apr. 21 (A & JS), Brighton Apr. 27-28 (JHW), Almonte May 4-5 (JL, WV) and Odessa near Kingston May 18 (CKI). One male remained on territory at Pelee Apr. 23-May 20 (RMcT, PR *et al.*). The Brewer's Blackbird at Moose Factory May 16 was unusual (RDM, SS). The Orchard Oriole flight was very strong with high numbers in the traditional southwest and 18 extralimital occurrences. Six and three were east to P.E.Pt. May 16-23 (K.F.N.) and Presqu'île May 3-23 (SML) respectively. The others were two each at the Mississagi Light, Manitoulin I. May 11 (JCN) & 22 (AW, KZ), a pair on Wolfe I. May 17 (GY), and singles at Kingston May 20 (K.F.N.), Peterborough during May (AGC), and Evansville May 12 (SB). The ad. ♂ Hooded Oriole netted and banded at Long Pt. May 19-20 (ph. PBS, RBo, PEH) was the first for Ontario and as well for Canada. The species breeds in s.w.

U.S.A. and Mexico. The N. Oriole at Moosonee May 22 (RDM, SS, NW) wandered well north of its breeding range. Crossbills remained scarce. The 24 Reds were ten in Petroglyphs P.P. Mar. 4 (EH), 11 in Oshawa Mar. 25 (DDR), two at St. Williams Apr. 6 (L.P.B.O.), and one in Peterborough Apr. 1 (RBn). The five White-winged were three in Maberly *Lanark* Mar. 14-17 (JGr), singles in Peterborough Mar. 12 (DM) and Presqu'île Mar. 12 (DSn). Late sightings as part of the light N flight of Com. Redpolls were a single in Toronto May 10 (AJ) and birds in Atikokan May 15, which is the latest ever record (DHE). The 800 and 750 Pine Siskins at Port Hope Mar. 1-31 (ERM) and Thunder Bay May 20 (DSh) were the largest flocks reported as part of the strong flight.

EXOTICS

The two Black Swans near Presqu'île May 22 (*vide* SH) and the two Bar-headed Geese within Presqu'île Mar. 20 (WC) were probable escapees. The other exotics were single Eur. Goldfinch at Port Franks, *Lambton*, Apr. 7 (FS) and Jasper, *Leeds*, Apr. 18 (NP).

CORRIGENDA

AB 46:83, column 2, line 17, re Ruby-throated Hummingbird, delete the word 'record'; 83, column 3, line 7, re the two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, one was netted and banded and one was not banded; 83, column 3, line 11, delete the reference to the Cliff Swallows at Pelee; 84, column 1, line 8, re Townsend's Solitaire, replace Thunder Bay by 'Sibley P.P.'; 85, column 2, replace R.P. Niely by 'R.P. Neily'.

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APPALACHIAN REGION

George A. Hall

The spring season was typical in not being typical. The winter had been mild, and late February and March were unusually warm, but the second week of March produced the coldest weather of the winter as well as the most snow. The remainder of March was wet and cold. April brought a more familiar oscillation between cold and mild weather and was quite dry, although there was still some snow. Another fiercely cold period came during the second week of May, and this brought heavy snows to the southern mountains. Mount P.I.S., near Asheville, North Carolina, had 60 inches (that's 5 feet of new snow) and Roan Mountain, Tennessee had 8-10 inches. The northern part of the Region missed this precipitation. The remainder of May was on the cold side but dry.

The mild late winter had brought early arrivals of such migrants as American Woodcock, Eastern Phoebe, American Robin, and Eastern Bluebird. There was heavy mortality in these species during the March wintery weather. There were many reports of dead bluebirds in nesting boxes, and other dead robins found. Some of these species were nesting during the cold weather in May, and again there was mortality, mostly of nestlings.

The migration, which had been early, ground to a halt during the cold March, and never again got back on track. The quality of the main May migration at a given location depended on whether the peak wave had passed before or after the May cold spell. Many migrants were held up by the cold and the prevalent north winds. With the return of good weather many of these overflowed the Region, and some places saw few migrants.

Although the migration did not seem very heavy, a substantial number of species were reported to be in better numbers than in recent years and there were numerous rarities reported.

Abbreviations: B.E.S.P. (*Bald Eagle State Park, Centre Co., PA*); B.M.S.P. (*Black Moshannon State Park, Centre Co, PA*); M.C.F.H. (*Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County, KY*); P.I.S.P. (*Presque Isle State Park, Erie Co*); P.N.R. (*Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland Co., PA*). Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO HERONS

The only reports of Red-throated Loons came from B.E.S.P. Apr. 12 (m.ob.), and Apr. 18 (RH), as well as from Rose Valley L., PA, Apr. 22 (SSt). The flight of Com. Loons was better than in recent years. A raft of 100+ was seen in *Clarion, PA* (WF), and on the Ohio R. 100+ were seen in *Mason, WV*, and 50+ in *Cabell, WV*, Apr. 4 (WA). The hawkwatch on Town Hill, MD, counted 122 from Mar.1-May 3 (JPa). There were more than the usual numbers of Horned Grebes. A Red-necked Grebe was seen at Stone Valley, *Centre, PA*, Mar. 22 (GY) and an **Eared Grebe** was well described from Mill Creek Pk., OH, Apr.10 (NB).

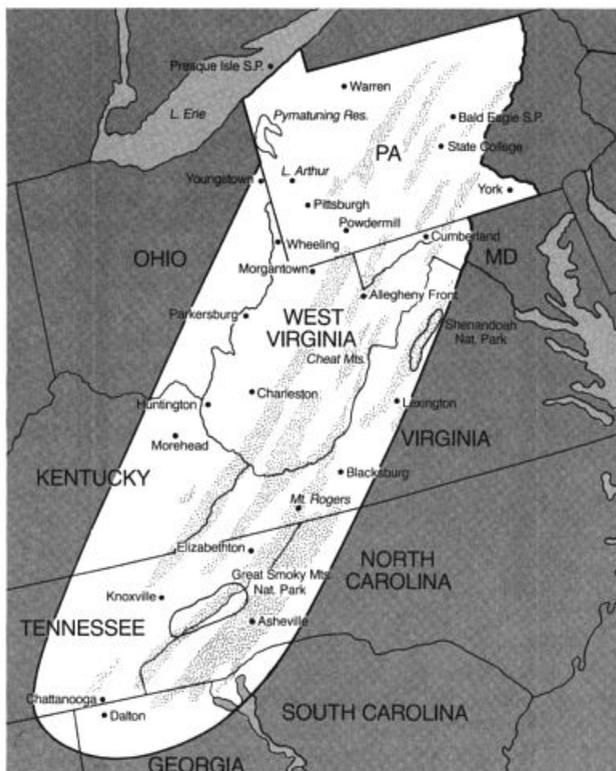
Reports of single **American White Pelicans** came from Pymatuning L., PA, Apr. 2 (*vide* RFL); from P.I.S.P. Apr. 21-22 for the 3rd local record (JiS & JeS); and from Mosquito L., OH, May 30 & 31 (J & DH, NB). Since these locations are close together it is uncertain how many individual birds there were. The Double-crested Cormorant explosion continues with large numbers reported from all over the Region: Daily counts at P.I.S.P. averaged over 300 birds with a peak of 500 Apr.10 (JM); up to 200 at Shenango L., PA, (EB); while the group of 63 at B.E.S.P. Apr. 18 (RH) was the largest ever seen there. The Town Hill, MD, hawkwatch listed 21 for the season (JPa).

American Bitterns are often not recorded in this Region but reports came from P.I.S.P. (JM), State College, PA. (JP), *Westmoreland, PA* (RCL, RM), *Cabell, WV* (WA), *Botetourt, VA* (MS, BK), and Austin Springs,

TN (RK). Least Bitterns were reported from P.I.S.P. in early May (BG), May 14 & 15 (BS, EK), from *Warren, PA* (TG), and from *Trumbull, OH*, May 17 (CB). The nestings of Great Blue Heron in this Region continue to increase. The two heronrys in *Mercer, PA*, had 825 breeding birds (EB). New nesting colonies were reported from *Greene, PA*. (RB) and from inside the city limits of Knoxville, TN (RC). A pair built a nest at P.I.S.P. then later abandoned it (JM). Great Egrets were reported from 11 localities. Snowy Egrets were seen at Dayton, VA, Mar. 31 (CZ), New Germany S.P., MD, Apr. 8 (MT), and M.C.F.H. May 30, a first local record (FB). Little Blue Herons were found in *Westmoreland, PA*, Apr. 14-15 (m. obs.) and at P.I.S.P. Apr. 30 (JM). The only report of Cattle Egret came from *Augusta, VA*, May 9 (MH). Two pairs of Yellow-crowned Night Herons were nesting at Elizabethton, TN (RK). Two **Glossy Ibises** were at Austin Springs, TN, May 23, a 4th local record (FA).

WATERFOWL

The waterfowl flight was only moderate in most places and the mid-March peak of 20,000 waterbirds on Presque Isle Bay, PA, was termed "unimpressive" (JM). The only station to report many Tundra Swans was State College, PA, where many flocks were seen during the first week of March (JP). The Town Hill hawk count listed 103 swans through the season (JPa). There were two unusual records off the normal migratory path: A swan was seen at Roanoke, VA, Mar. 18 (MS, MD) and the one that wintered in *Washington, TN*, remained until Mar. 16 (RK). At State College, PA, there were massive flights of Canada Geese in late Feb., 7-10 days early (JP). Snow Geese were reported from P.I.S.P., Mar. 1 (JM), Waterford, PA, Mar. 5 (JeS), Irvine, PA, Mar. 3 (TG), Stone Valley, PA, Mar. 13 (NBo), and Donegal L., PA, Mar. 14 and Apr. 4 (RCL). Other than listing various species no reporters commented on the status of the dabbling ducks, but the diving ducks did well. This inland Region normally has few records of the "seaducks," but this spring Greater Scaup, Oldsquaws, and White-winged Scoters were widely reported in unusually large numbers. Black Scoters were reported from Conneaut L., PA, Apr. 12 (RFL), *Clarion, PA* (WF), and P.I.S.P. Apr.1 & 5 (JiS). Surf Scoters were at P.I.S.P. Mar. 4-May 7 (JM, JeS, DS), Rocky Gap. S.P., MD, Apr. 4 (m. ob.), and Donegal L., PA, Apr. 4 (*vide* RCL, RM). Up to



two ♂ **Eurasian Wigeon** (ph) were at P.I.S.P. Mar. 29-Apr. 18 (JiS, EK). The pair of **Barrow's Goldeneye** mentioned in the last report remained at P.I.S.P. until Mar. 17 (JM).

RAPTORS

There were two organized spring raptor watches this year. At Town Hill, MD, 49 days of observation between Mar. 1 and May 3 logged 1770 birds including 1005 Broad-winged Hawks, 104 Osprey, 10 Bald Eagles, and 21 Golden Eagles (JPa). Four stations along the L. Erie shoreline listed 8909 bird in 74 hours of observation from Feb.-May, including 4943 Broad-winged Hawks, 86 Osprey, and eight Bald Eagles (JM *et al.*). Ospreys had their first successful nesting in *Knox*, TN (RC), and the pair that nested in *Somerset*, PA, last year returned to the nest site (AM). Bald Eagles were widely reported from 7 areas and at least 60 birds were counted. There were 3 nests in West Virginia (CS). The nest at Mosquito L., OH, had two eaglets (NB, EB). The nest at Shenango L., PA, had one (EB). The nest at Pymatuning L. hatched two (RFL), and the Pennsylvania Game Commission reported that 11 other young were hatched in w. PA, (*fide* RFL). There were 2 confirmed nestings of N. Goshawks in *Warren*, PA (DW), and other sightings came from Cumberland, MD, Mar. 23 (MT), *Somerset L.*, Apr. 22 (RM), *Stormstown*, PA, Mar. 25 (TK), *Black Moshannon S.P.*, PA, May 2 (TF, RH), and *Toftrees*, PA, May 10 (HH). A recently discovered wintering area in *Erie*, PA, had up to 17 Rough-legged Hawks until Mar. 18 (DS), while reports from *Greenbottom W.M.A.*, *Cabell*, WV, Apr. 5 (MG) and in *Belmont*, OH, Apr. 8 (GB) were unusually late for this Region.

The Merlin is another species that is reported more frequently now than in the past. The Town Hill, MD, hawkwatch listed 3 Merlins (JPa) and the L. Erie shore watch counted 9 (JM). Aside from the formal watch, 8 other Merlins were recorded in *Erie*, PA, (JM) and other records came from *Rose Valley L.*, PA, Mar. 26 (SS), *Roanoke*, VA, Apr. 18 (TKe, GC), and *State College*, PA, May 1 (TF, KJ, JJ). The Peregrines that wintered in *Knoxville* were last seen Apr. 17 (RC). Other reports came from *Clarion*, PA, Apr. 2 (WF), *Parkersburg*, WV, Apr. 6 (NW), and P.I.S.P., Apr. 11 (DS) & 20 (JiS, JeS).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS THROUGH TERNS

The N. Bobwhite continues to be a rarer bird in the Region, even as far s. as *Augusta*, VA (RS). In West Virginia the Wild Turkey population is still increasing; turkeys nested in *Columbiana*, OH (J & DH). The Com.

Moorhen was more widely reported than usual. The Dalton, GA, area had a good Sandhill Crane flight, which peaked at over 1000 birds counted at 3 locations Mar. 2 (HD). Four cranes were present for "a few weeks" in the *Clarion*, PA, area (WF) and three were photographed at *Fairview*, *Erie*, PA, Apr. 19 (JM), while singles were seen at P.I.S.P. May 18 (BMo), and at another *Erie* location May 21 (JP).

The shorebird flight was normal in most places but low at some. There were few large concentrations reported, but a number of rarities appeared. The Lesser Golden Plover at P.I.S.P. Apr. 30 (JM) and May 23 (BS) were the 2nd and 3rd spring records for *Erie*. Of great interest was the ♂ **Piping Plover** ac-



Adult Franklin's Gull (center right — with Ring-billed Gulls) at Huntington, West Virginia, on March 31, 1992. First state record. Photograph/Wendell L. Argabrite.

tively establishing a territory at P.I.S.P. where the species had not nested since the mid-1950s (JM, EK, RSt). An Am. Avocet was at P.I.S.P. Apr. 22 for a 3rd local spring record (JM). Upland Sandpipers nested in *Jefferson*, OH (MA), and *Clarion*, PA (WF). Whimbrels were reported in *Rockingham*, VA, May 26 (LT) and at P.I.S.P. May 25-30 (EK, GR, BS). A Ruddy Turnstone seen May 28 and a Short-billed Dowitcher seen May 29 in *Augusta*, VA (YL), were noteworthy. The normally rare W. Sandpiper was reported from *Wood*, WV, May 6 (JE), *Mason*, WV, May 20 (WA), and *Rocky Gap S.P.*, MD, May 31 (MT, JPa).

White-rumped Sandpipers were at *Pymatuning L.*, PA, Apr. 12 (RFL), at P.I.S.P. May 23 (JM) & 30 (EK), and in *Mason*, WV, May 30 (WA). At P.N.R. the first migrant Com. Snipe arrived on Mar. 11 with 10 in. of snow on the ground (RCL). Wilson's Phalaropes were reported from P.I.S.P. May 16-30 (m.ob.)—all the same bird? Red-necked Phalaropes were found at 2 locations in *Centre*, PA, May 10 & 31 (m. ob.) and in *Washington*, TN, May 21-22, a 5th local record (BC).

Laughing Gulls were found in *Botetourt*, VA, Apr. 3 during a 4-in. snow storm (MS, BO), at *Huntington*, WV, Apr. 21 (ph) (MG), and at P.I.S.P. May 6-11 & 18 (JM). Franklin's Gulls were at *Huntington*, WV,

Mar. 30 (ph), a state first, (m. ob.), at *Somerset L.*, Apr. 11, and at least three at P.I.S.P. Mar. 23-May 28 (m. ob.). Bonaparte's Gulls were widely reported but no major flight across the mountains was observed. Ring-billed Gulls attempted the 2nd Pennsylvania nesting when at least 7 nests were built at P.I.S.P. (JiS, DD). The eggs were later destroyed. A Great Black-backed Gull was at the *Scotia Barrens*, PA, Apr. 25 (TF, MWi). As usual, a number of unusual gulls was found at P.I.S.P. In addition to those already mentioned there were 12 Little Gull sightings Mar. 17-May 25; a Com. Black-headed Gull Apr. 12†, a 5th county record (JM); a Thayer's Gull† Mar. 14-15 (JM, EK); 13 sightings of Iceland Gull, Mar. 7-May 18; seven Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Mar. 6-May 2; and 13 Glaucous Gulls, Mar. 12-May 6 (*fide* JM). However the gull record of the season was a **Black-legged Kittiwake**† Apr. 21 at *Somerset L.*, PA (Rm, BM).

Caspian and Forster's terns continue to occur in numbers unimaginable a few years ago. Caspians were reported from 7 locations throughout the Region with a high of 300 at P.I.S.P. Apr. 16-17 (JM) and Forster's terns were reported from 7 locations. Two Arctic Terns† (ph) were seen at *Rocky Gap*, S.P., MD, May 30, the first inland record for the state (MO, RKi).

CUCKOOS TO WOODPECKERS

Both species of cuckoo were absent from some places and in low numbers throughout. One exception: Black-billed were in unusually high numbers in s.w. West Virginia (MG). Barn Owls were known at 5 sites in *Washington* and *Sullivan*, TN (RK), and nested near *Waynesboro*, VA (RS). One was reported from *Buncombe*, NC, May 23 (RY). The only Snowy Owl report was of one at P.I.S.P. Mar. 15-20 (JeS, WS). The notorious Great Gray Owl remained at *Warren*, PA, until about Apr. 7 (WH). Long-eared Owls were found at P.I.S.P. Mar. 2-Apr. 19 (DD), *Boalsburg*, PA, Mar. 16 (PH), and road-kill was found in *Mahoning*, OH, Mar. 11 (J & DH). One, or maybe two pairs of Short-eared Owls remained to nest in the *Clarion*, PA, surface mine area (WF) and others remained in *Jefferson*, OH, through March (MA). Other reports came from *Roanoke*, VA, Mar. 8 (MS), *Lycoming*, PA, Mar. 19 (SS), and *Dumas*, PA, (AW). A N. Saw-whet Owl calling on *Unaka Mt.*, TN, through the season was a new locality (RM). Eleven Saw-whets were banded at P.I.S.P. through the season (JeS, JiS). Other reports came from *Roan Mt.*, TN (RK), *Linn Run S.P.*, PA (RCL & RM), and the *Scotia Barrens of Centre*, PA (JP).

A Chuck-will's-widow was seen and heard in *McKean Twsp.*, *Erie*, PA, May 18 (SS,



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Grayson Lake, Kentucky, April 30, 1992. Photograph/C. Michael Stinson.

DSt). The Rufous Hummingbird reported from Latrobe, PA, in earlier accounts was successfully wintered by a licensed rehabilitator and released Apr. 14 (*fide* RM). Encouraging were the reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers from 6 locations.

FLYCATCHERS TO SHRIKES

Olive-sided Flycatchers were found at Johnson City, TN, May 8 (JB), at B.M.S.P., PA, May 16 (HH) & 18 (EZ), P.I.S.P. May 17 (JeS), and Roanoke, VA, May 20 (MS). Eastern Wood Pewees were generally late in arriving and were in low numbers. "Traill's" Flycatchers reported at B.E.S.P. Apr. 25 (RH) and May 2 (TF) were remarkably early. Eastern Phoebes arrived most places in the first week of March and were severely hit by the cold weather. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (ph) was photographed at Grayson L., Carter, KY, Apr. 30 (FB *et al.*).

The early May cold spell produced great concentrations of swallows: 3000 Barn Swallows and 1000 N. Rough-winged Swallows on a small lake in Bristol, TN (RK), and large numbers involving 5 species at M.C.F.H. (FB). Common Ravens were seen on Brasstown Bald, GA, several days in May (DF) and in Rockwood, PA, ravens were nesting on an abandoned mine building (AW). A Fish Crow was as high up the Potomac R. as Cumberland, MD, Apr. 25 (MT). Carolina Wrens continue to thrive even in the north and the cold weather of March and early May did not seem to affect them. The Bewick's Wren was unreported. Marsh Wrens were reported from 5 locations.

While most reporters found the spotted thrushes to be in better numbers than in re-

cent years, there were a few who still reported scarcities. The improvement was especially noteworthy for the Veery and Wood Thrush. The E. Bluebird was another species that had heavy mortality in the March cold weather. A N. Mockingbird was at Warren, PA, Mar. 23 (WH). Six localities from e. Tennessee to Centre, PA, reported Am. Pipits. Cedar Waxwings were noteworthy by their almost complete absence.

In Erie, PA, N. Shrikes were reported from 3 different locations (JeS, JiS, JM) and one was seen at Columbus, PA, Mar. 11 (D & ODo). There were 15 reports of Loggerhead Shrikes from 8 sites in Washington and Sullivan, TN (RK). The only other report came from Augusta, VA (RS). These 2 localities represent the last bastion of the species in the Region.

WARBLERS

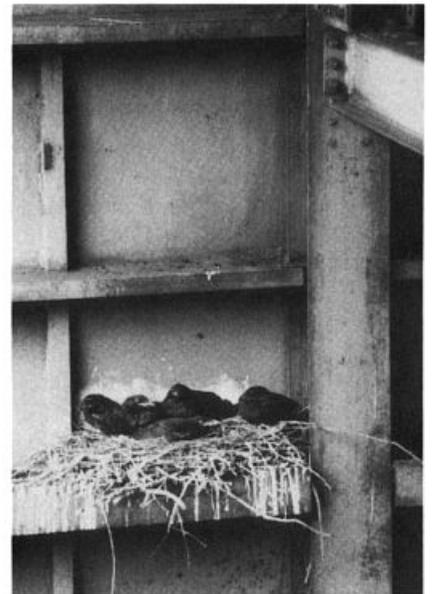
As usual there was little agreement about the warbler flight. In Wood, WV, warblers were low in numbers but many were early (JE). In e. Tennessee they were in better-than-average numbers, but late (RK). The cold weather in early May, coming at the height of the migration period, had great influence on what was observed. That many birds overflowed the Region is indicated by the large number of "southern" species which were observed or banded in the north: Worm-eating, Kentucky, and Yellow-throated, a 5th record for Erie, at P.I.S.P. (JM) and Cerulean Warbler in Centre, PA (MW). Most observers noted that Yellow-rumped Warblers had a long-lasting flight and appeared in unusually high numbers. A ♀ "Audubon's" Warbler† was well-described from P.I.S.P. Apr. 24, a 2nd local record. Some of the more unusual reports: Orange-crowns at Scotia Barrens, PA, April 25 (TF, MWi), Greenbottom W.M.A., WV, Apr. 26 (MG), and Beech Fork S.P., WV, Apr. 26 (WA); Swainson's, banded at P.N.R. May 18, a 3rd local record (RCL, RM); Connecticut, Cedar Creek Pk., PA, May 9 (DB), and P.I.S.P. May 9 (DBo) and May 23 (BS); and "Brewster's" P.I.S.P. May 12-16 (JM). Yellow-breasted Chats were widely reported as scarce. Nashville Warblers in breeding condition were netted at P.N.R. in late May (RCL & RM) where nesting has not been observed. A Yellow-throated Warbler returned to the 1991 nesting site in Warren, PA (DW).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

The Summer Tanager continues to increase in the n. part of its range. Blue Grosbeaks were reported from a feeder in State College, PA, April 29 (MW), Augusta, VA, May 8 (YL), and Cumberland, MD, May 22 (MT). A ♀ Dickcissel was found in Conneaut Marsh, Crauford, PA, Mar. 21 (RFL). A

Bachman's Sparrow was seen in Union, GA, May 4 (DF). This is the first report for the Region in several years, and the location is almost the only one where the species might be expected. The Clay-colored Sparrow that wintered in Erie, PA, remained until Apr. 9 (DBo) and another was seen there May 7 (JeS & JiS), while the Clay-colored Sparrow seen at Ashton, WV†, May 2 (m.ob.) was the 2nd for the state.

The Field Sparrow remains very scarce in n. West Virginia (GAH). The grassland sparrows drew little comment from observers, but some of these (*i.e.* Vesper, Grasshopper) may be in as much trouble as the well-publicized Neotropical migrants. Three Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Austin Springs, TN, May 15 constituted the 2nd local record (BC). The difficult-to-see Lincoln's Sparrow staged a good flight as evidenced by the 15 banded at P.N.R. (RCL & RM). The only Lapland Longspur reports came from Atkinson Mills,



Young Common Ravens in a nest on an abandoned building at Rockwood, Pennsylvania, April 19, 1992. Photograph/Anthony J. Marich, Jr.

PA, where five were seen Mar. 11 (MK).

The Bobolink, a Neotropical migrant, and also a grassland species, is another candidate for the "Birds in trouble" list. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was at P.I.S.P. Apr. 30 (JeS, JiS, OD).

Purple Finches had the "best migration in years" in Cabell, WV (LW), but at other places they remained scarce. There was a small influx of Com. Redpolls in the extreme north: P.I.S.P., Mar. 6 (KL) and Apr. 17 (EK); Saybrook, PA (CN), and Elk, PA (LC). Pine Siskins continued to be abundant in some places and scarce in others. A nest was built at the Mountain Lake Biological Station, Giles, VA, in May, but was later abandoned (CZ). Siskins remained until the end

WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

James Granlund

March began with warm weather over much of the Region but temperatures returned to normal by the middle of the month and remained normal to cool throughout April. Early May was warm and temperatures throughout the Region were nearly average or slightly above average. The end of May brought very cool weather. Throughout the Region precipitation remained below average and by the end of May many areas were encountering near drought conditions.

As has been the trend over the past several years, the migration received mixed reviews. Wisconsin and Minnesota reported migrants to be late, and, except some groups, in low numbers. Michigan had a similar situation, although a few migrants returned very early during the warm days of April. In all three states southern herons made news, showing in good numbers and diversity. Ducks and other waterfowl also were present in good numbers and diversity. Shorebird numbers, as is often the case in spring, were reported low. Minnesota reported good numbers of kinglets, creepers, and Winter Wrens and the best *Catharus* thrush migration in many years. Wisconsin and Michigan reported the passerine migration as spotty, with some observers raving above numbers and diversity while others wondered if they were in the same state. Even if numbers were down, observers who took to the field were rewarded with some outstanding rarities, including Ross' Gull, Fork-tailed Flycatcher and Green-tailed Towhee in Minnesota, Swallow-tailed and Black-shouldered kites, Snowy Plover, and Vermilion Flycatcher in Wisconsin and Western Tanager, and the first state record for Snowy Plover in Michigan.

Abbreviations: M.B.R.C. (*Michigan Bird Records Committee*); S.G.A. (*State Game Area*); W.A. (*Wildlife Area*), W.P.B.O. (*Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Chippewa County, MI*)

LOONS TO HERONS

The Red-throated Loon was reported from all 3 states with reports of one Apr. 29 in *Steele*, MN (RG), a rare sighting at that inland county. All of Michigan's reports came from W.P.B.O. where 221

were recorded Apr. 29 through the period with a peak of 35 May 19. Arctic/Pacific Loons were reported from W.P.B.O. May 22 (BS, JS) and in March n. of Cleveland, *Manitowoc*, WI (DT). The Com. Loon total of 4750 at W.P.B.O. was the 3rd lowest on record at that location, well below the past 9-year average of 6605 individuals. In Michigan, monsoon rains Apr. 15-16 produced an exceptional fallout of 260 Horned Grebes in *Midland* (RW) and another 241 at *Shiawassee NWR, Saginaw* (DP). Red-necked Grebes arrived in Minnesota about 3 weeks early, prompting some to believe they overwintered on Lake Superior. Michigan had reports from 4 counties, which is about average, as were the 241 reported from W.P.B.O. during the period. In Michigan, single Eared Grebes were reported Apr. 25 in *Marquette* (LT, NI *et al.*) and May 3 in *Midland* (RW). Wisconsin had records from *Manitowoc* (CS) Apr. 13-20, *Superior* (RJ) Apr. 22-25, *Columbia* (SR) May 17, and 3 from May 20 through period in *Dunn* (JP *et al.*). Wisconsin had a single report of a Western Grebe May 9 at *Crex Meadows* WA (JH). Minnesota recorded its 7th *Clark's Grebe* May 3 in *Jackson* (AB). Wisconsin and Michigan had an influx of *American White Pelicans* this season with sightings in 11 counties of Wisconsin and 6 counties of Michigan. Most remarkable were the 10 seen May 14 from *Brockway Mountain, Keweenaw*, MI (JPe) and the 30-35 individuals reported from *Milwaukee/Racine*, WI (JI *et al.*).

Snowy Egrets were reported from all 3 states with the most northerly birds seen May 15 at *Agassiz NWR, Marshall*, MN (KS,

SS), May 31 in *Price*, WI (KM *et al.*) and May 11 at W.P.B.O. (staff). Little Blue Herons were also reported in better numbers than in past years with Minnesota recording five, Wisconsin four and Michigan two. The only Tricolored Heron reported was an individual, May 25 in *Winona*, MN (PW). Minnesota had 11 Cattle Egret reports, the farthest north in *Marshall*, while Michigan submitted reports from 4 counties. Wisconsin had reports of Cattle Egrets from 7 counties including nesting at Green Bay. Wisconsin had only one report of Yellow-crowned Night-Heron from *New London, Outagamie* (JA) while Minnesota had 5 reports, most northerly May 25 in *Aitken* (WN).

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS

The reintroduced Trumpeter Swan is continuing to expand in Wisconsin with observers reporting more unbanded birds. Over 100 Greater White-fronted Geese arrived Mar. 1 in *Lincoln* (HK) tying the earliest arrival date for Minnesota. White-fronteds were reported in Wisconsin from 7 counties at a maximum of 9 individuals, while in Michigan reports were received from 4 counties. The *Ross' Goose* was reported in Wisconsin from *Columbia* Mar. 25 (m.ob.) and another in s.e. Madison, *Dane* Mar. 25-Apr. 4 (m.ob.). Minnesota had reports of this species from 5 counties including 13 birds Mar. 29 in *Nobles* (KE *et al.*) and one e. of normal May 12 at *Duluth, St. Louis* (KE). A *Barnacle Goose* Apr. 15-19 at *Quinicassee, Tuscola* provided Michigan another record to ponder the question of origin. *Cinnamon Teal* staged an invasion into the Region with records in Wis-



Table 1 Spring Hawk totals from standard Raptor Censuses for W.P.B.O. (Mar. 15-May 31) (staff) and from Brockway Mountain, Keweenaw Co. (Apr. 1-May 31) (JPe)

Species:	W.P.B.O.		Brockway
Turkey Vulture	128		222
Osprey	187		165
Bald Eagle	103	† (66, 1991)	254
Northern Harrier	301		178
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8595		3743
Cooper's Hawk	50		50
Northern Goshawk	106		58
Red-shouldered Hawk	31		27
Broad-winged Hawk	1814	†† (2069, 1984)	8588
Swainson's Hawk	2		2
Red-tailed Hawk	832		1805
Rough-legged Hawk	501		474
Golden Eagle	48	† (25, 1988)	48
American Kestrel	461		179
Merlin	98	† (59, 1989)	42
Peregrine Falcon	35	† (28, 1990)	38
Gyrfalcon	2		
und. Raptor	7		250
Total	13,301		16,123

† — denotes record high totals (previous high, year)
 †† — denotes record low totals (previous low, year)

consin Apr. 22-27 in *Columbia* (m. ob.), May 3-11 at Crex Meadows, WA (JH), and May 6-14 in s.e. *Dodge* (m. ob.). Minnesota added 4 more records with two birds May 18 in *Kittson* (KB *et al.*). Michigan could muster just one record, but at least the individual remained Mar. 12-22 at Nayanquing Point, *Bay* (RW, GP, EP). Eurasian Wigeons were reported Mar. 8-16 on Crystal Lake, *Dane* (AS, SShet *et al.*) and Mar. 13-16 in *Columbia* (KBu) in Wisconsin, while Michigan had one May 3-4 near Sumac Island, *Huron*, (MW, RW). **Harlequin Ducks** were reported in Wisconsin May 17-24 in *Sheboygan* (TS, JB, SB) and mid-May at the Thousand Islands, WA. The 715 Oldsquaws reported at W.P.B.O. was almost twice the 9-year average, while the 559 recorded Mar. 18 and another 358 Mar. 25 at Tawas SP, *Iosco*, MI (RW) were record totals for that location. The scoter migration was characterized as lack-luster in Wisconsin although all 3 species were recorded in 3 counties. Minnesota had an unusual Surf Scoter away from Lake Superior Apr. 25-26 on *Lac Qui Parle* (KE *et al.*). Most scoter observations in Michigan came from W.P.B.O. where 1843 White-winged Scoters and 58 Surf Scoters were reported. Wisconsin's 1500 Ruddy Ducks Apr. 16 from Green Lake (TS) was an excellent total.

An **American Swallow-tailed Kite** May 12 in *Marquette* (RR) provided Wisconsin its 5th modern record while a **Black-shouldered Kite** Apr. 10 along I-94 n. of Tomah (DK) provided only the 3rd record. Swainson's Hawks were reported May 26 in *Dane*, WI (SB) while in Michigan one Apr. 22 and one May 29 were reported at W.P.B.O. (staff) and May 1 & 7 from Brockway Mountain, *Keweenaw* (JPe). Amazingly there were 2 re-



Snowy Plover at Saugatuck, Michigan, on April 17, 1992. First state record. Photograph/Jim Stoddard.

ports of **Ferruginous Hawk** in Michigan, with individuals May 1 at Port Crescent SP, *Huron* (ME), and the other May 12 in *Manistee* (BA). Both require acceptance by the MBRC. Golden Eagles were present in good numbers in all 3 states. Peregrine Falcons were reported in increased numbers in Minnesota from 16 locations, while Michigan had reports from 9 counties. **Gyrfalcons** were reported from all 3 states including birds lingering into early March in *Superior* WI, and to Apr. 12 in Duluth-Superior Harbor, MN. In Michigan individuals were seen Mar. 16 & 25 at W.P.B.O. (staff) while birds in the Sault Ste. Marie area were seen through March but not into April.

RAILS TO PHALAROPES

The Yellow Rail is being found with greater frequency in Wisconsin. This season it was

located in 6 counties with five to seven birds found at *Green Lake*, Horicon NWR, and Crex Meadows, WA. In Michigan birds were found at their usual locations near Houghton L., *Roscommon* and at Seney NWR, *Schoolcraft*. Virginia Rails were early in both Michigan and Minnesota with the former's first report Mar. 28 at Crown L., WA, *Saginaw* (MH, JHu) while the latter had a record early arrival Apr. 11 in *Carver* (PS). Wisconsin reported King Rails from 5 counties while Michigan could only muster a single record from the Waterloo SGA, *Jackson* (AC, DC). An Am. Coot Mar. 2 in *Winona* (PS) was Minnesota's 2nd earliest arrival date. Wisconsin recorded its 5th record for **Snowy Plover** with an individual May 12 at Marinette (KSm, JSm), while Michigan recorded its first state record with an individual Apr. 17 on the beach at Saugatuck, *Alleghan* (DS, JSt, TSt). Piping Plovers were reported May 21-22 in *St. Louis* (PS) in Minnesota while Wisconsin had reports May 2 in Two Rivers (MP), May 7 in *Bayfield* (DV), May 16-17 in Kenosha (JD), and May 17 in Superior (LS), although no nesting was observed. Michigan had reports Apr. 24-26 at Tawas Point SP, *Iosco* (BBe, RAn) and from *Chippewa* and *Alger*. An Am. Avocet was reported Apr. 29 in Manitowoc, WI (CS). Early was a Greater Yellowlegs Mar. 7 at Galien, *Berrien*, MI (RS, WB). Wisconsin reported that a Lesser Yellowlegs Mar. 25 in *Outagamie* (DNu) was especially early which makes the one Mar. 9 in *Berrien*, MI (PU) even more remarkable. Willets were scarce with reports from 2 locations in Wisconsin and 3 in Michigan. In Minnesota 34 Whimbrels May 30 along L. Superior in *Cook* (DZ) is typical but the 20 inland May 17 in *Otter Tail* (DM, SM) were unexpected. A good movement of Whimbrels was reported from Wisconsin with reports from *Bayfield* (DV), *Door* (CL, RLet *et al.*), and *Manitowoc* (CS). In Michigan, a Whimbrel April 16 at Tawas Point SP, *Iosco* (RW) was very early. Also unusual were 2 reports from *Berrien* where the species is quite rare in spring, while the 347 reported from W.P.B.O., with a peak of 99 May 27, was typical. Hudsonian Godwits were reported in good numbers from Wisconsin from 10 counties, while Michigan had reports from 5 counties. Marbled Godwits were reported from 5 Wisconsin counties Apr. 24-May 26 for a total of seven birds while Michigan had reports of one May 11 at Shiawassee NWR, *Saginaw* (DP) and five May 17 at W.P.B.O. (staff). A report of 950 Ruddy Turnstones May 22 at Manitowoc (CS) was a very high count for Wisconsin, while one May 9 in *Bay*, MI (JSo) was early.

Minnesota had reports of three Red Knots May 28 in *Clearwater* (PS) and two May 30

in *St. Louis* (KE *et al.*). Wisconsin reported Red Knots from several sites along L. Michigan and L. Superior while Michigan had reports from several counties including 32 May 17 at Nayanquing Point, *Bay* (KT). Early in Michigan was a Semipalmated Sandpiper Apr. 23 at Shiawassee NWR, *Saginaw* (DP). Western Sandpipers were reported from 4 counties in Wisconsin May 16-25 constituting six different individuals. Reports of five May 15-16 at Fennville Sewage Ponds, *Allegan* (CR, JW, m. ob.) and one May 28-29 at Three Oaks, *Berrien* (RS, KL) were both exceptional for this very rare spring migrant in Michigan. Very early in Wisconsin was a Baird's Sandpiper Apr. 7-11 in *Chippewa* (JP) and early were Pectoral Sandpipers Mar. 21 in *Dodge* (JB) and Mar. 26 in *Dane* (KBU). Also in Wisconsin, the wintering Purple Sandpiper remained until Mar. 28 in Sheboygan (DB, MB). In Michigan, a Curlew Sandpiper was found May 10 at the Erie Marsh Preserve, *Monroe* (PC, JG *et al.*) within a large flock of Dunlin. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper May 26 at Crex Meadows, WA, (RJ, LS) was exceptional as the species is nearly accidental in spring in Wisconsin. Unexpected reports of Ruff came from all 3 states. In Minnesota a Reeve in prealternate molt was reported from *Lac Qui Parle* Apr. 29 (SC) and a Ruff May 16 in *Carver* (PN *et al.*). In Wisconsin a Reeve was reported May 5 in *Dodge* (BAD, JT). Black Ruffs were reported in Michigan Apr. 27 at the Erie Power Plant, *Monroe* (TK, NC, AC) and May 12 at Seney NWR, *Schoolcraft* (PD). A Short-billed Dowitcher Apr. 4 at Beaver Dam (DNu) was considered early for Wisconsin, as was the Long-billed Dowitcher seen Apr. 15-16 in *Dodge* (KB).

JAEGERS TO OWLS

For the first spring since 1984 there were no jaegers reported from W.P.B.O. Wisconsin had 3 Laughing Gull reports, with individuals seen May 3 at Manitowoc (CS), May 13 at Two Rivers (CRu), and May 29 at Fish L., *Burnett*, WA (BB, MK), the latter being quite rare at that inland site. Michigan had a single report May 17 at Tawas Point, *Iosco* (RW, LG). Little Gulls were reported from 4 Michigan counties and 3 locations in Wisconsin including a rare inland sighting in *Chippewa* (JP). An impressive 12,000 Bonaparte's Gulls were recorded at Milwaukee, WI, Apr. 26 (BB). Two ad. California Gulls made an appearance Apr. 7 at L. Breckenridge, *Wilkin*, MN. Thayer's Gulls were reported in Wisconsin Mar. 15 at Manitowoc (KBU), Mar. 15-21 in Milwaukee (BB), and May 25 at Superior (MP, RH). Single Iceland Gulls were reported in Michigan Mar. 14 at the Muskegon Wastewater, *Muskegon* (PC, JG *et al.*) and Apr. 24 at Tawas Point, *Iosco*

(BBE, RW, RAN) while Minnesota had individuals Apr. 30 in *St. Louis* (KE) and through Mar. 9 at Knife R., *Lake*. A first-winter Lesser Black-backed Gull was reported in Minnesota Mar. 31-Apr. 1 in *Washington*—about the 11th state record. In Wisconsin an individual was reported Apr. 5 in Sheboygan (BB), while in Michigan the bird at the Bay City SP, *Bay* returned Apr. 8-13 (JSo *et al.*). Great Black-backed Gulls were reported from 4 Wisconsin locations while in Minnesota birds lingered into early March in *Dakota* (TT) and *Lake* (KE). A Ross' Gull Apr. 16 in *Pennington* (SSi) provided Minnesota its 2nd state record.

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at W.P.B.O. May 30 (staff) was the first spring record for that species. Snowy Owls lingered in Wisconsin to May 13 in *Burnett* (JH), to May 26 in *Douglas* (LL, SL), and to May 29 in *Bayfield* (DV *et al.*). After the record invasion in Minnesota during the previous winter, a N. Hawk Owl was found nesting in *Lake*. The individual in *Ashland* lingered in Wisconsin until Mar. 4 (MS) while the last bird in Michigan was seen in the Sault Ste. Marie area, *Chippewa* May 3. Also in Michigan, W.P.B.O. recorded seven N. Hawk Owls Apr. 23-May 9 with a peak of three on May 5 (staff). A Burrowing Owl was reported Apr. 26 in *Traverse*, MN. Wisconsin had a single record of Great Gray Owl, an individual heard calling s. of Superior May 18 (SR, LE). Truly remarkable were the 17 Great Grays recorded at W.P.B.O., Apr. 23 through the period, with a peak of three birds May 2 & 8. Long-eared Owls were reported as being more common than normal in Minnesota, particularly in wildlife management areas in the w. part of the state. In Michigan, few were reported away from W.P.B.O. where 80 were tallied, an above average number. Also at W.P.B.O. 114 Boreal Owls were banded with an additional 44 seen but not captured. The banding total falls short of the record—163 banded in 1988—but this is still a very large migration of this owl anywhere in the Region. Most interesting was the number of birds found roosting in spruce and hemlock trees intermixed in the Jack-Pines, on or near the Point.

FLYCATCHERS TO SHRIKES

An early returning E. Phoebe was detected in Wisconsin in *Dane* Mar. 11 (PA). A highlight in Wisconsin was the sighting of a ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher which frequented a yard in Muskego May 11-12; this apparently constitutes the 3rd sight record. Western Kingbirds were seen May 22 in *Portage* (GS), and May 30 in *Bayfield* (RE) while in Michigan the bird near Winn, *Isabella*, returned for the 5th consecutive year. Minnesota had a Western Kingbird report May 30 in *St. Louis*

(PB), e. and n. of normal. An ad. Fork-tailed Flycatcher in worn plumage was seen May 3-14 in Grand Marais, *Cook* (DEK), constituting the 2nd Minnesota record, both within 9 months. A group of six Tree Swallows Mar. 7 in *Houston* (DN), provided Minnesota its earliest recorded arrival date.

A Black-billed Magpie in late April at Schoenberg Marsh, *Columbia*, provided a rare Wisconsin record for this western visitor. Carolina Wrens were reported Apr. 8-15 in *Houston*, MN, while in Wisconsin there were 12-15 birds from 7 counties. There was an increase in reports of Mountain Bluebirds in the n.w. portion of Minnesota with nesting detected again in *Marshall*. A Townsend's Solitaire was reported Mar. 13 in *Carver*, MN, while the bird reported last season in Beulah, *Benzie*, MI remained to at least Mar. 14 (PC, JG, m. ob.). Northern Mockingbirds were reported in increased frequency in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Reports of Loggerhead Shrikes seemed up in all 3 states. In Minnesota they were reported from 15 counties with at least 24 individuals, while Wisconsin had reports from 7 counties with nesting in *St. Croix*, and *Oconto*. Michigan had reports May 29 on S. Manitou I., *Leelanau* (CF), and May 2 in Hoema Pk., *Ottawa* (CP *et al.*), while the only nesting was from the traditional location in *Allegan*.

VIREOS TO FINCHES

The White-eyed Vireo was reported with increased frequency in Michigan with reports from 7 counties, while in Minnesota, where the species is casual, an individual was present May 17-23 in *Houston* (KE *et al.*). Bell's Vireos were reported from 4 s.e. Minnesota counties while Wisconsin had reports from 5 counties. In Michigan, where the species is very rare, the individual in *Berrien* returned May 14 (RS). A Solitary Vireo was reported as returning early to Wisconsin Apr. 23 in *Columbia* while in Michigan the first report was Apr. 19 at Kleinstuck Preserve, *Kalamazoo* (RA).

A Blue-winged Warbler May 18 at W.P.B.O. was well n. of normal and one of the few Upper Peninsula records for this species. A Tennessee Warbler Apr. 25 in *Hillsdale*, MI (JR) was quite early, as was a Yellow-rumped Warbler Mar. 28 in *Rock* (KE), providing a new early arrival date for Minnesota. Yellow-throated Warblers were seen in Minnesota May 2 in *Winona* (CS), and in Michigan May 14 near Reed's L., *Kent* (BR, JW), and in *Berrien* after May 2 (RSm). In Wisconsin this species was reported from 4 counties with nesting in *Rock* and *Grant*. A pair of Cerulean Warblers May 31 in *Vilas* (JB, JBa), were well north of normal as was an individual May 21 at W.P.B.O. (JSc). In Michigan there were 3 Worm-eating War-

bler reports with one on May 23 at Tawas Point, *Iosco* (DP, BW, BG) well north of normal. Wisconsin had reports from 6 counties. In Minnesota this species is considered casual yet there were reports May 10 in *Mower* (RK, RKn), May 11 in *Hennepin* (SC), and May 12 & 17 in *Rice* (TB). A Louisiana Waterthrush May 12 at Presque Isle, *Marquette*, MI (LT, MBe) was only the 2nd record for the Upper Peninsula. Minnesota also had a Kentucky Warbler report May 10 in *La Seur* (PS), while Michigan had an amazing 7 reports, well above average. In Wisconsin a bird May 1 in Superior (RJ) was north of



Green-tailed Towhee in Carver County, Minnesota, on May 13, 1992. Third state record. Photograph/Anthony Hertzell.

normal. Hooded Warblers were reported from 7 locations in Minnesota including one May 2 in *Pipestone* (JPa), and a nesting pair in *Scott*. Wisconsin reported this species in increased numbers, the most n. in *Ashland*. In Michigan an individual Apr. 21 in Escanaba, *Delta*, (CT) provided one of few Upper Peninsula records. Prairie Warblers were reported in Michigan beginning May 16 with three in *Leelanau* (CF) and two in *Mason* (BA, JIr).

Summer Tanagers were widespread through the Region this season with 4 reports from Wisconsin and Minnesota, the furthest n. in the latter May 17-18 in *St. Louis* (BT) and May 28 in *Cook* (*vide* KE). Michigan had 5 reports including one May 8-9 at Presque Ilse Pk., *Marquette* (DEm, LT) providing a rare Upper Peninsula sighting. Inconceivably, **Western Tanagers** were reported from all 3 states. In Michigan, an ad. male May 31 at Tawas Point SP, *Iosco* (RSe, DE, m. ob.) would be only the 2nd documented record if accepted by the MBRC. Less rare in Minnesota, a first-year male was found May 30 in a hospital parking ramp in *Hennepin* (DZ). In Wisconsin, an individual was located May 16 in Fond du

Lac (HR, DW). A N. Cardinal May 12 at W.P.B.O. provided a rare spring record at that location. Minnesota's 3rd state record for **Green-Tailed Towhee** was located at Lowry Nature Center, Carver Pk. Preserve, *Carver* May 12-14 (m. ob.). Very late was an Am. Tree Sparrow banded May 9 at L. Geneva, WI (PP). A Lark Sparrow was found unusually far n. May 5-7 in *St. Louis*, MN (AE), while Michigan had records Apr. 23 at W.P.B.O. (staff), Apr. 24 in *Schoolcraft* (PD), and May 19 in *Lake* (ES, GW, JW, WW). Also in Michigan was a **Lark Bunting** May 12 at Presque Ilse Pk., *Marquette* (LT, m.ob.). Minnesota had no reports of the increasingly rare Henslow's Sparrow while Michigan also had fewer reports. Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported in Wisconsin May 21-23 at Oconto Marsh (BM) and in the last half of May at Crex Meadows, WA, (m. ob.). In Michigan, where the **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** is extremely rare, an individual Apr. 23 in the Allegan SGA, *Allegan* (RA), was exceptional. A Fox Sparrow Mar. 21 in *Otter Tail*, MN, tied the earliest arrival date at that n. location. A Harris' Sparrow was reported May 16-20 in Park Twp., *Ottawa*, MI (ACo, m.ob.). In Wisconsin, a Rusty Blackbird lingered to May 22 at Wisconsin Pt., *Superior* (RH) while surprisingly late Com. Redpolls were reported May 13 in Superior (RJ) and May 16 in *Price* (MHa, et. al.). Hoary Redpolls were reported in March and April in the n. counties of Wisconsin. Michigan had reports from *Chippewa* and *Marquette* with W.P.B.O. having 25 Mar. 18-Apr. 17 with maximums of 4 each on Mar. 21 & 23, a very high total for that location. The House Finch was reported to have spread through most of Wisconsin with individuals coming to feeders in *Superior* and *Ashland* and found in *Bayfield*.

Observers: Bob Adams (BA), Raymond Adams, Brian Allan, Jim Anderson, Ron Annelin (RAn), Philip Ashman, Parker Backstrom, Karl Bardon, Jeff Baughman, Jim Baughman (JBA), Scott Baughman, Bob Bell (BBE), M. Berg (MBe), Tom Boevers, Brian Boldt, Al Bolduc, Walter Booth, Donald Brasser, Margaret Brasser, Kay Burcar (KBu), Nathan Carlsen, Steve Carlson, Allen Charitier, Donald Chalfant, Phil Chu, Ann Copps (ACo), Jerry DeBoer, Paul Dziepak, Kim Eckert, Dave Eklof (DEk), Don Emerick (DEm), Laura Erickson, Monica Essenschmayer, Roger Everhardt, Chip Francke, Darlene Friedman, Ray Glassel, Leonard Graf, Jim Granlund, Bob Grefe, Maybelle Hardy (MHa), James Hoefler, Randy Hoffman, Joanne Hubinger (JHu), Mark Hubinger, John Idzikowski, Nick Illnicky, Jill Ireland (JIr), Robbye Johnson, Tom Kemp, Ron Kneeskern, Rose Kneeskern (RKn),

Mark Korducki, Daniel Krysiak, Henry Kyllingstad, Laura LaValley, Steve LaValley, Charlotte Lukes, Roy Lukes, Bob Mead, Keith Merkel, Diane Millard, Steve Millard, Warren Nelson, David Neitzel, Peter Neubeck, Don Nussbaum (DNu), Johanna Pals (JPa), Patricia Parsons, Dave Peters, John Peacock (JPe), Ellen Peterson, Glen Peterson, Mark Peterson, Janine Polk, Cal Pomarius, Rebecca Ratering, **Jack Reinoehl (Michigan)**, Herbert Riedner, Sam Robbins, Buck Ronan, Carroll Rudy (CRu), Char Runnels, Jeff Schultz (JSc), Thomas Schultz, Carol Schumacher, Ray Seng (RSe), Larry Semo, Al Shea, Sue Shea (SSh), Ellen Slater, Karen Smith (KSm), Jerry Smith (JSm), Roy Smith, Joe Soehnel (JSO), Charles Sontag, Michael Spreeman, Keith Steva, Shelley Steva, Dave Stoddard (DS), Jim Stoddard (JSt), Teresa Stoddard (TSt), Steven Stucker (SSt), Bonnie Stout, Gary Stout, Janie Stout, **Peder Svingen (Minnesota)**, Louis Taccolini, **Daryl Tessen (Wisconsin)**, Charlotte Taylor, Bill Tefft, James Toft, Kevin Thomas, Tom Tustison, Pat Underwood, Dick Verch, Ron Weeks, Philip Whitford, Don Whitney, George Wickstrom, Myles Willard, Bruce Winchell, Joan Wolfe, Will Wolfe, Dave Zumeta. — JAMES GRANLUND, 6253 N. Westnedge, Kalamazoo MI 49004

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MIDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

Kenneth J. Brock

If migrations can be calibrated by number of rarities, then the spring flight must be deemed above average as two first state records were recorded this season.

Much of the waterfowl departed the Region during the unusually warm conditions in late February. March was warmer than normal, especially in southern and western portions of the Region; precipitation was near average. Warm southerly winds in early March generated a spate of early arrival dates. April temperatures and precipitation levels were near normal. Interestingly, the last third of April proved to be the primary period of vagrancy across the Region. Regional May temperatures varied considerably, however, all areas experienced very dry conditions. The resulting passerine flight developed no Regional waves and was quite protracted, with many species lingering well into June.

Abbreviations: L. Cal. (*Lake Calumet, Chicago*); S.C.R. (*Squaw Creek Nat'l Wildlife Ref., MO*); Spfld. (*Springfield, IL*), I.P.L. (*Iowa Power & Light*).

LOONS TO IBISES

The only Red-throated Loon reports came from L. Decatur, IL, Mar. 31-Apr. 1 (†RP, RC) and Salamonie Res., IN, Apr. 18 (Haw). Common Loons appeared in all states. The highest count was 52 in *Lake*, IL, Apr. 5 (DJ). The 400 Horned Grebes at *Gibson*, IN, Mar. 1 (GB) highlighted a regional increase. The Region's only Red-necked Grebe was at Rocky River, OH, Mar. 31-Apr. 2 (WNK). Eared Grebes were recorded as far e. as Cleveland Mar. 29 (RH_a), and Dayton Mar. 29 (†CB). Western Grebes appeared in Iowa where they are regular, but one at Green River L., Taylor, KY, Mar. 1-8 (JE, †KC, m.ob.) was unusual.

American White Pelicans were reported in all states except Kentucky. The maximum count of 480 along the Mississippi R. in *Hancock*, IL, Apr. 7 (MG) was typical for that location, however, nine at Brookville Res., IN, Apr. 10 (DO), represented that state's highest count in decades. A **Brown Pelican** at DeSoto N.W.R., IA, May 6-11 (†BR, ph., †m.ob.) continued the recent pattern of increased occurrence in the Region. The Double-crested Cormorant population surge continued with counts exceeding 1000 from 3 states. Missouri's 2nd **Neotropical Cormorant** record was established May 18 at S.C.R. when an immature was carefully compared with nearby Double-crested (†PMC, †MR, DE).

American Bitterns remained scarce, the

maximum count was six at Otter Creek, IA, Apr. 25 (JF). Though Least Bitterns were recorded in every state except Kentucky, the highest count was only four at S.C.R. May 18 (PMC). Great Blue Herons were abundant across the Region. Lake Renwick, IL, produced an impressive 367 Great Egrets Apr. 28 (JM). Two to seven Snowy Egrets were reported in all states. Little Blue Herons arrived early in Kentucky, where six birds, at Bondurant Apr. 4 tied the earliest arrival date (CP). Cattle Egrets were widespread; the highest count was made in *Boyle*, KY, where a flock of 100 invaded a farm field May 3 (*fide* FL). Modest numbers of Black-crowned Night-Herons were widespread, however 1596 at the L. Cal. rookery Apr. 27 were most impressive (WM *et al.*). An imm. **White Ibis**, seen near Caruthersville, *Pemiscot* (†NS, ASC) constituted only the 2nd spring record for Missouri. A summer ad. White-faced Ibis was at Gilman, *Iroquois*, IL May 2-3 (†RC). This species was also seen at S.C.R. May 15 (JHi) and Cooley L., *Clay*, MO, Apr. 28 and May 2, where it is regular.

WATERFOWL

Singles and small groups of Tundra Swans (up to six) were recorded in all states except Kentucky and Missouri. The Iowa Greater White-fronted Goose flight peaked at 1000 Apr. 12 in *Fremont*. Farther east three orange-billed White-fronteds (Greenland race?) were present in *Sangamon*, IL, Mar. 5-7 (DB) and stragglers were documented in Ohio, at Spring Valley W.A., Mar. 3 (†CM) and *Seneca* Mar. 5 (†HB). Most Snow Geese departed during mild February weather; the largest remaining group was 173 in Des Plaines, IL, Mar. 13 (JM). A Ross' Goose lingered at DeSoto N.W.R. until May 6 to establish a late departure record for Iowa. Farther east this species was recorded in *Henry*, IN, Apr. 18 (†JW).

Peak Green-winged Teal counts exceeded 100 in every state except Kentucky with the maximum of 1500 at Otter Slough, MO (*fide* BRE). The count of 119 Am. Black Ducks at Heidecke F.W.A., IL, Mar. 25 (JM) exceeded all other reports by a wide margin. A maximum of 56 N. Pintails in Ottawa N.W.R., OH, Apr. 5 (EP) underscores the Regional scarcity of this species. The Region's largest Blue-winged Teal count was 200 at Bondurant, KY, Mar. 28 (CP). Male Cinnamon Teal were recorded at Nauvoo Flats W.A., Hancock, IL, Mar. 21 (†RC_e *et al.*), and at Fermilab, *DuPage*, IL, Apr. 7 (†PK). Northern Shovelers peaked Mar. 14 when 665 were counted at Carlyle L., IL (KMc). Gadwalls were well-represented with peak counts above 100 birds in 3 states. Adult ♂ Eur. Wigeon were identified as follows: Gordon Park Marina, Cleveland Mar. 15 (†RH *et al.*); *Cerro Gordo*, IA, Mar. 18 (†RPi); Clinton Lake, IL Mar. 15-28, (MD, RD, †m ob.), w of Palo,

Linn, IA, Apr. 25-28 (†JDu, †TK, *et al.*). The only sizable Am. Wigeon accumulation occurred in Spfld., where 220 were counted (DB) Mar. 17.

The Canvasback flight was generally poor, however 500 counted Mar. 22 at Union Slough N.W.R., IA, amounted to a respectable number (MK). Redheads fared poorly throughout the Region; the highest single count was 92 at Prospect, KY, Apr. 5 (FMa). A pair of Ring-necked Ducks was still present at S.C.R. May 24, providing the state's latest record (MR). An imm. ♂ Harlequin Duck lingered at the Port of Indiana until Apr. 27 (CF), establishing the first April record for the state. The best Oldsquaw count was 190 at Winnetka/Glencoe, IL, Mar. 25 (EW). Inland reports included: two ♂ Oldsquaws at L. Springfield, IL, Mar. 13 & 30 (DB); two different birds at L. James, IN, Mar. 19 & Apr. 4 (SAS); one on Pleasant Creek L., IA, May 3 (RPi); and five very late birds at Little Cedar Point N.W.R., OH, May 30 (EP, RH). Five Black Scoters appeared on L. Michigan off Glencoe, IL, Mar. 24 (RHu). A late departure date for Iowa was established when a Black Scoter lingered at the I.P.L. ponds in *Pottawattamie* until Apr. 25 (BP, DR). Away from the Great Lakes two Surf Scoters were at Carlyle L., IL, Mar. 22 (RC), a female or immature male was at Clear L., IA, Apr. 12 (JW), one was on Brookville Res., IN, Apr. 14 (DO), and a male remained at *Sangamon*, IL, May 10 & 13 (DB). The only White-winged Scoter report consisted of an impressive 60 at Glencoe, IL, on the late date of Apr. 3 (RHu).

VULTURES TO CRANES

The Region experienced an excellent raptor migration that included a record spring count at the Indiana Dunes hawkwatch and fine single-day counts in Missouri and Ohio. The Indiana Dunes season produced 3774 birds in 116 hours over 37 days. Results are summarized below.

The Missouri flight occurred Apr. 18 along interstate 70 in *Montgomery*, when 648 birds were recorded (PMC, TB), including 571 Broad-wingeds, nine Swainson's, an ad. N. Goshawk, and a subadult Golden Eagle, within one hour following passage of a front. A most remarkable movement also occurred Apr. 20 at Maumee Bay S.P., OH, when 2448 birds were counted (ES). This total was dominated by 2012 Broad-wingeds, but 19 Ospreys, 15 N. Harriers, 136 Sharp-shinned, 45 Cooper's, 17 Red-shoulders, and 184 Red-taileds were also recorded.

Black Vultures are pressing N. A bird at Salamonie Res., IN, Mar. 24 was well north of its normal Indiana range (†Haw *et al.*), and 15 in association with 230 Turkey Vultures at Pleasant Hill Res., OH, is noteworthy (†KMe) Indiana's nesting Ospreys returned



only in the western states, where peak counts were 30 at L. Manawa, IA, Apr. 24 (BP) and 14 at Maryville sewage lagoons, MO, Apr. 23 (DE).

Willetts were scarce throughout the Region; the largest single count was 41 at Maryville, MO, Apr. 23 (DE). Notable Whimbrel sightings included 15 at Illinois Beach State Pk. May 31 (BE) and an early arrival at Riverton W.M.A., IA, Apr. 24 (†BPr). The Region's only **Long-billed Curlew** was seen May 9 at S.C.R. (†CFh, DM). Hudsonian Godwits were not reported e. of Illinois; the only large accumulation consisted of 159 at Riverton W.M.A., IA, May 13 (MP). Marbled Godwits were widely distributed, with a maximum of 16 occurring in Spfld., Apr. 22 (DB). The easternmost record was a singleton at Salamonie Res., IN, May 2 (SAS). Ruddy Turnstones were widespread but the only sizeable accumulation

to Brookville Res., for the 3rd consecutive year. An **American Swallow-tailed Kite** appeared at Cedar Falls May 14-15 (†KM, †FM) providing the first Iowa report in 60 years. Another was seen in *Stone*, MO, Apr. 11 (†JB). Mississippi Kites continue their expansion—they were recorded in every state except Ohio. The largest accumulation consisted of a migrant flock of 17 birds in *Union*, IL, May 30 (MD *et al.*). Stragglers wandered as far n. as Cedar Falls, IA, where one was seen May 16 (†TK), and the Indiana Dunes, where an adult provided the 2nd local record Apr. 23 (†CF, †BJ). Reports of single N. Goshawks came from all states except Kentucky. A major movement of Swainson's Hawks occurred Apr. 19 in *Cherokee*, IA, with separate counts of 167 (DBi) and 218 (MB) birds. A lingering Rough-legged Hawk was documented May 24 in *Winneshiek*, IA, establishing a new late departure date for that state (RC). Golden Eagles were reported in every state except Illinois. Noteworthy records included an immature Golden Eagle in Pike, OH, Apr. 17 (†DMi) and an adult that remained in n.e. *Cerro Gordo*, IA, until May 10, establishing a new late departure date. Reports on Merlin were quite encouraging with multiple sightings from most states. Peregrines, many believed to be released birds, were reported from all states. Prairie Falcons were recorded in *Union*, IL, Mar. 20 (†TF, JD) and Lakin Slough, IA, Apr. 24 (†EA, EA).

Single Yellow Rails were detected at Danville, IL, Apr. 11 & 19 (†RC, †SB), Otter Creek, IA, Apr. 20 (BPr), Sangchris, IL, May 3 (DB), and Powderhorn L., IL, May 10 (JN). Two Black Rails were observed at leisure n. of Des Moines, IA, Apr. 26 (†BM, DK) for the



Adult Little Gull south of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on April 23, 1992. Photograph/B. J. Rose.

Region's only report. Several correspondents deemed Virginia Rail and Sora numbers below normal. Common Moorhen reports were disturbing; the Region's largest count was only eight birds at L. Cal. May 9 (WM). The Sandhill Crane population continues to expand. Counts of 1000 Mar. 24 at Wolf L., IN (*fide* JBo), and 500 in Harvey, IL, Mar. 28 (WS) were recorded as migrating flocks circumnavigated at the s. end of L. Michigan.

SHOREBIRDS

The Region's only sizable Lesser Golden-Plover count was 2600, in *Savoy*, IL, Apr. 25 (RC). Good Semipalmated Plover counts were made at Rend L., IL, where 201 were found May 15 (TF), and at Runnels, IA, where 150 were tallied May 14 (TK). A ♂ **Snowy Plover** was seen at Riverton W.M.A., IA, May 10-12 (†DR, †BR, †TK *et al.* ph.). Seven Piping Plovers occurred at the I.P.L. ponds in *Pottawattamie*, IA, May 26 (BP) and one was at Conneaut, OH, Apr. 25-26 (RH, LR ph.). Singletons were also reported from 4 Illinois locations Apr. 25-May 6. Single **Black-necked Stilts** were reported at Riverton W.M.A. May 12 (†AJ, †TK *et al.* ph.) and in Chicago, IL, Apr. 22 (†DJ). American Avocets appeared

was 27 at Crane Cr., OH, May 31 (TL). The largest Red Knot tally was six at Chicago, IL, May 25-26 (RHu, m.ob.). Two at Riverton W.M.A., May 13 constituted only the 2nd spring record for Iowa (†TK, †JF).

The highest Sanderling count, 11 at Arcola, IL, May 30-31 (RC, RW), came from an inland site, rather than the Great Lakes. Although Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported in all states, the only unusually large accumulation consisted of 4000 seen at Riverton W.M.A. May 23 (TK). An early W. Sandpiper was recorded in Spfld., Apr. 16 (DB). Least Sandpipers were scarce, with only one count above 100 birds. White-rumped Sandpipers were reported in every state except Kentucky, but large numbers occurred only at S.C.R. where 320 were found May 18 (DE *et al.*), and at Riverton W.M.A. where 100 were counted May 31 (TK). Baird's Sandpipers wandered as far e. as Chicago where three were counted May 1 (DJ). The largest single count consisted of 100 at Riverton W.M.A., IA, Apr. 12 (TK). Sizable Pectoral Sandpiper counts were recorded at Riverton W.M.A.: 1500 May 13 (TK) and several thousand reported at Otter Slough W.M.A., MO, Mar. 26 (BRE). By far the largest Dunlin count was the 750 birds seen in *Ottawa*, OH, May 16 (LR).

Outside of S.C.R., where 69 were found May 18 (MR, PMc, DE), Stilt Sandpiper reports consisted of singletons or pairs from Illinois, Iowa, and Kentucky. Single Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported at 3 Iowa locations: e. of Riverton W.M.A. May 10 (DR), at Riverton W.M.A. May 13 (TK), and at Coralville Res. May 25 (†DPi, TK). A ♀ Ruff was present in w. *DuPage*, IL, Apr. 25-30 (JM, ph. m.ob.). Dowitchers were in short supply

this spring. Counts exceeding 25 Short-billeds were made only in Illinois, Kentucky, and Missouri; the largest of these was 60 at S.C.R. May 12 (DE). The only significant Long-billed accumulations were 35 at Spfld. May 2 (DB) and 269 at S.C.R. May 3 (JHi). Small counts of Wilson's Phalaropes were made in all states except Kentucky. Only two Red-necked Phalaropes were reported; a male at Coralville Res., IA, May 28 (TK) and a female at Spfld. June 7 (DB).

GULLS, TERNS

Notable among the dozen Laughing Gulls reported from the Region was an adult at Kentucky Dam May 26 (BMo *et al.*) where this species is rare. Franklin's Gulls wandered e. of the Mississippi R. in normal numbers. The only sizable accumulation consisted of 106 on the mudflats at Bolckow, MO (JHi). Little Gull records included an adult photographed in a flooded field s. of Council Bluff, IA, Apr. 23 (†BR, †BP), one at Conneaut, OH, Apr. 25 (RH), two adults at Waukegan, IL, Apr. 26 (DD), and an immature Little Gull at Conneaut, OH, May 25 (CH). Modest-to-good Bonaparte's Gull numbers appeared across the Region with the largest accumulation of 4000 occurring at Conneaut, OH, Apr. 26 (LR). An ad. **Mew Gull** was at Sangchris, IL, Apr. 30 for a first *Sangamon*, IL, record (†DB). On Apr. 4 10,000+ Ring-billed Gulls were counted at the L. Cal. nesting colony (WM). Iceland Gulls reports included a 2nd-year bird at Jackson Park, Chicago Mar. 12 (JO), an adult at Waukegan, IL, Mar. 22 (DD, JG), and one at Conneaut, OH, Apr. 26 (LR). Seven Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported across the Region. Glaucous Gulls appeared in typical numbers along the Great Lakes; two pushed as far s. as *Gibson*, IN, where first-year birds were present Mar. 1-Apr. 5 (GB *et al.*). The Region's westernmost Great Black-backed Gull was a first-year bird at Saylorville Res., Mar. 7 (†JSi).

Two Caspian Terns at Montrose, IA, Apr. 19 tied the earliest arrival date (TK, RCi); the Region's largest single count was 97 at Michigan City, IN (SBa). Though numbers remained low compared to earlier years, the Regional Com. Tern situation was somewhat improved. The peak count was 145 at Evanston, IL, May 12 (EW). Forster's Tern counts peaked in the range of 10-33 birds in all states. Least Terns returned to Indiana and Kentucky nesting sites in mid-May; single migrants were observed at 3 Iowa locations. Black Terns continue to fare poorly. The highest counts along the w. edge of the Region consisted of 150 at 2 sites: S.C.R. May 24 (MR) and *Fremont*, IA, May 23 (TK). East of the Mississippi R. the high count was only 19 at Spfld. May 3 (DB). Seven nests,

Table 1. Spring Hawk watch 1992, Indiana Dunes

Season totals		High count	Date
183	Turkey Vulture	17	19 April
61	Osprey	15	19 April
6	Bald Eagle	1	-
181	Northern Harriers	22	28 April
1	Mississippi Kite	1	23 April
836	Sharp-shinned	223	19 April
73	Cooper's	16	19 April
1	N. Goshawk	1	8 April
119	Red-shouldered	25	24 March
702	Broad-winged	293	19 April
1217	Red-tailed	155	5 April
29	Rough-legged	12	19 April
3	Golden Eagle	2	18 April
141	American Kestrel	52	19 April
4	Merlin	3	18 April
2	Peregrine Falcon	1	-
215	Unidentified		
3774 Total			

containing 21 eggs, were found May 28 at Indiana's remaining breeding site in *LaPorte* (LH, JT).

CUCKOOS TO SWALLOWS

Cuckoos were generally scarce across the Region with Black-billed slightly more common than Yellow-billed. The largest Black-billed count was made May 11 at Magee, OH, where 11 were tallied (RH). Barn Owl reports included: one at Bolckow, MO, Mar. 23 (JHi); one in *Union*, IL, May 7 (VK); one in *Coshocton*, OH, May 16 (TKe); and a nest with seven young in *Taylor*, IA, May 18 (LJ). Snowy Owls lingered at 5 sites in 4 states; the latest date was Apr. 8 at Chicago's O'Hare Airport (*vide* RB). Long-eared Owls were reported in all states except Kentucky and Missouri. A late bird was at the Migrant Trap, *Lake*, IN, May 2 (KB *et al.*). Every state reported Short-eared Owls. The peak count was 14 at Summit L., IN (EOC). Thirteen N. Saw-whet Owls were located throughout the Region; the only multiple sighting consisted of four birds that overwintered in Piatt, IL (RC). A Saw-whet found at Fox L., IN, Mar. 21 constituted the first local record (RZ *et al.*). Common Nighthawks arrived quite early at several locations but no sizable flights were reported. The first two were recorded Mar. 5 at Richmond, IN (*vide* WB), a calling bird was identified in Clarksdale, MO, Mar. 20 (†RS), and three appeared at Leithfield, KY, Mar. 21 (AW). The Missouri and Kentucky records represent early arrival dates for these states. A Whip-poor-will was heard Mar. 17 at Leithfield, KY. The season's largest Chimney Swift count occurred May 25 when 3000 were counted in a flock above the river in Joliet, IL (JM).

Significant woodpecker movements were

not reported this spring. Modest numbers of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported in most states, the largest counts consisted of 48 at Headlands Beach S.P., OH (LR) and 14 in Chicago Apr. 18 (JL). One remained at Munroe Falls, OH, through the end of the period (WS). The most noteworthy aspects of the flycatcher migration were early arrivals and above-normal Yellow-bellied Flycatcher counts. An Olive-sided Flycatcher Apr. 29 in *Sangamon*, constituted the earliest local record in 23 years of data (DB). An E. Wood-Pewee in *St. Joseph*, IN, Apr. 13 was also early (JTw). A lion's share of the Region's 70 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers consisted of a remarkable 25 seen at Jackson Park Chicago May 23 (WS, DM *et al.*). An extremely early Alder Flycatcher appeared in Shimek S.F., IA, May 2 thereby establishing a new earliest arrival date. The Region's best Willow Flycatcher tally was made May 23 when 15 were counted in the Indiana Dunes (LH). The only W. Kingbird e. of this species' normal range was one in *Cerro Gordo*, IA, May 17-18 (†CN, JW). On May 18 a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher returned to the *St. Louis*, MO, site where nesting occurred last year (DA).

The most notable swallow concentration consisted of 1500 Purple Martins, 2800 Tree Swallows, 900 N. Rough-winged Swallows, 250 Bank Swallows, and 305 Barn Swallows observed in *Macon*, MO, Apr. 25 (PM, BMC). Cliff Swallows appear to be doing well. Accompanying optimistic comments from across the Region was a report of 200 at Spfld. May 14 (DB). A Barn Swallow arrived at Otter Creek Marsh, IA, Mar. 5 (†MSt) establishing a new early arrival date for the state.

CROWS TO SHRIKES

Fish Crows returned to *Union*, IL, Mar. 7

(KMc). The Red-breasted Nuthatch migration was virtually nonexistent; the only observation exceeding one bird occurred in Madison, KY, where two were observed (DC). Brown Creepers were also scarce; the highest Regional count was 15 at Urbana, IL, Apr. 12 (RC). Bewick's Wrens were reported in all states except Ohio. The easternmost occurrence was at the Migrant Trap, IN, where an Apr. 11 sighting provided n.w. Indiana's first record in 30 years (ASi, RHu). Two were also discovered at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., IA, May 9-28 (†JF, †RPI). Winter Wrens were reported sparingly from all states except Missouri; the highest count was nine at Urbana, IL, Apr. 15 (RC). A Marsh Wren at McGinnis Slough, IL, Mar. 15 (JHo *et al.*) was very early; the season's highest count was eight at L. Cal., May 9 (WM). A Golden-crowned Kinglet was reported to be on territory in Hinkley, OH (RH). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher reports were quite positive; the highest among numerous double-digit counts was 30 in the Danville-Urbana, IL, area Apr. 19 (RC, SB). A peak of 28 migrating E. Bluebirds was recorded at the Indiana Dunes hawkwatch Mar. 6 (KB *et al.*).

The Region's only Townsend's Solitaire, found at the Polk City Cemetery May 17 provided the latest Iowa record (†PH). The general consensus regarding the thrush migration was favorable, though some reservations existed for the Gray-cheeked. An early Swainson's Thrush at Magee Marsh, OH, Apr. 20 (ES), was vanguard to a fine flight. A count of 65 Hermit Thrush in Chicago Apr. 11 (JL) was the best among a number of fine tallies. Wood Thrush reports were less optimistic but still generally positive. A ♀ Varied Thrush in Spfld., Apr. 6 was believed to be the same bird seen at Adams Sanctuary in December (DB). Gray Catbirds were common, N. Mockingbirds appear to be expanding N, and the 65+ Brown Thrashers in Chicago Apr. 19 (RHu, JO, CPh) constitutes the highest count ever recorded for the state. American Pipits were recorded in every state except Indiana; high counts included 1000 in *Highland*, OH, Mar. 28 (*vide* NK), 340 in *Pulaski*, IL, Mar. 13 (TF), and 220+ at Headlands Beach S.P. (LR). The elusive Sprague's Pipit was identified in *Pulaski*, IL, Apr. 18 when a bird flushed from a fescue pasture was carefully studied (†TF and DRo). Cedar Waxwings were generally more common in eastern portions of the Region. Northern Shrikes were recorded in 4 states, the latest at Princeton Marsh, IA, Apr. 5 (†DDo). Loggerhead Shrikes appeared in every state; highlights included a northerly record at O'Brian Lock & Dam, Chicago Apr. 12 (SF, CA), and a nest containing seven eggs in Iowa, May 16 (HY).

VIREOS, WARBLERS

The vireo migration was slightly early, but otherwise typical. Somewhat out of place were Bell's Vireos at L. Cal. May 21-31 (JL, WM, m. ob.), and Buck Creek S.P., OH, May 30 (DOv). The highest Solitary Vireo counts included five at Spfld., May (DB) and four at Mary Gray Sanctuary, IN, May 2 (AB). Philadelphia Vireos were more plentiful than Solitary Vireos; peak counts were eight at Urbana, IL, May 17 (RC) and five at Crane Creek, OH, May 17 (LR).

Warbler migration began early and failed to reach a distinct peak; there were no major waves and few large concentrations, even in the Great Lakes traps. In many areas the flight extended well into June. Observer assessments of the flight ranged from very poor to better than average. Blue-winged Warblers at Shimek S.F., IA, Apr. 20 (RCe) and in



Female Chestnut-collared Longspur in Fremont County, Iowa, on 23 April 1992. Photograph/ B. J. Rose.

Pope, IL, Apr. 15 (TF), were early. Normal Golden-winged Warbler numbers appeared in all states; six in *Champaign*, IL, May 9 (RC) was encouraging. Observers in Indiana and Kentucky deemed Tennessee Warblers scarce, but 150+ were found in Urbana, IL, May 12 (RC). Despite 13 Orange-crowned Warblers at LaBagh Woods, *Cook*, IL, (DBr, MH) the Region-wide flight was average. Seven Apr. 18 Nashville Warblers in *Union*, IL, (TF) were precursors of a fine flight that extended through mid-May, producing counts of 53 at the Skokie Lagoons, IL, May 9, and 29 in Spfld. May 4 (DB). Cape May Warblers were both early and late: Apr. 19 at Salamonie R.S.F (RR), June 3 at Dunes S.P., IN (LH). Accidental within the Region, an "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler at Wooster College, OH, Apr. 23-28 (†FD *et al.*) is noteworthy. A ♂ **Black-throated Gray Warbler** discovered at Baldwin L., *Cuyahoga* Apr. 26 remained until May 3 (†RH, m.ob.ph.) providing one of few verified spring records for Ohio. A very early Black-throated Green Warbler was seen Mar. 29 in Ozark, IL (TF). It was deemed a good year for Blackburnian Warblers in Danville, KY (FL) and at Ryerson Conservation Area, IL, where 18 were counted May 4 (DJ). An early Pine

Warbler at Chicago's Jackson Park, Mar. 8 (KCa) was forerunner to an above-average flight. Notable counts included 10 at Natural Bridge S.P., KY, Apr. 10 (JBe, PB) and 4+ at the Chicago Botanical Gardens Apr. 29 (RB, LB). A singing ♂ Prairie Warbler was present May 7-28 in Shimek S.F., IA (†MJ, †JF, †m. ob.), where this species is casual. A Palm Warbler, possibly of the yellow eastern form, was found among typical western birds in *Sangamon*, IL, May 1-2 (†DB). Bay-breasted Warblers were more common than normal. Despite the early arrival of four Blackpolls in *Alexander*, IL, Apr. 21 (TF, JD), this warbler was uncommon, especially in Indiana. Record-early Cerulean Warblers arrived in Iowa, at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., Apr. 18 and at Shimek S.F. Apr. 19 (RCe). Black-and-white Warblers drew few comments, but 15 observed at Natural Bridge S.P., KY (JBe, PB) is a noteworthy number. Outstanding among numerous encouraging Am. Redstart reports was a remarkable 255 seen along the Kaskaskia R., IL, May 19 (TF, VK). Observers tallied an equally impressive 31 Prothonotary Warblers at the same site Apr. 25. Ovenbirds and N. Waterthrush were more common than normal; 22 of the latter were recorded in Piatt, IL, May 2 (RC). The *Oporornis* flight was typical; notable early records included a Kentucky Warbler at Richmond, IN, Apr. 19 (JMc) and Mourning Warblers at 2 locations in Iowa, and one in Illinois May 2. Early Hooded Warblers appeared at Hickory Hill Pk., IA, Apr. 19 (JF) and at Lamb's Grove, IA, (GBr) on the same date. Wilson's Warblers also arrived early as evidenced by one at Rockford, IL, Apr. 22 (JDo).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

During the 3rd week of April, Summer Tanagers surged N rendering this species more common than usual in n. Illinois, and n.w. Indiana. Scarlet Tanager reports were typical, with 14 in Urbana, IL, May 10 (RC *et al.*) and 8 near Palos, IL, May 14 (WS). The April tanager influx also brought two summer plumaged ♂ **Western Tanagers** into n. Illinois. The first was well-described as it fed on sunflower seeds in a Hinsdale backyard Apr. 16 (†SR *et al.*). The 2nd tanager was seen along a creek in Starved Rock S.P., *LaSalle* Apr. 28 (†JH). A typical Indigo Bunting flight was introduced by early singletons in Richmond, IN, Apr. 15 (WB), *Union*, IL, Apr. 16 (TF) and *Lee*, Iowa, Apr. 20 (RCe). The maximum count consisted of 160 in *Gibson*, IN, May 10 (GB). A Dickcissel, seen at an Evanston, IL, feeder Mar. 21 (RD), was extremely early. Kentucky's first **Green-tailed Towhee** visited a Central City feeding station May 6-9. It was discovered by 9-year old Jenny Nease (†SN, AS, MS, m.ob.

ph.). Rufous-sided Towhees of the w. race were reported in Iowa, Illinois (2 locations), and Indiana.

Easternmost of the Region's 25 reported Clay-colored Sparrows, was a singing bird at University Heights, OH (PY). The five Clay-colored seen in Chicago May 2 (JL), constitutes a very impressive total. A Vesper Sparrow at Oakwood Bottoms, IL, Mar. 8 (TF, JD), was unusually early. An extremely early Savannah Sparrow was in Spfld., Feb. 29 (DB), and a daily total of 129 seen in *Pulaski*, IL, Apr. 18 (TF, DRo), is extraordinary. Counts of one to three Henslow's Sparrows were reported from all states; eight found in Newton, extreme w. Missouri May 5 is noteworthy (LHe). Le Conte's Sparrows were well-represented in the spring flight with reports from Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana; the peak count was nine in Spfld., Apr. 9 (DB). Sharp-tailed Sparrows were restricted to the lakefront traps in Chicago and Cleveland. The only large Fox Sparrow counts came from Illinois, where 100 were counted in Urbana Apr. 1 (RC) and 75+ were at Jackson Park on the Chicago lakefront Apr. 11 (WS). An excellent count of 100+ Swamp Sparrows was recorded along the Chicago lakefront Apr. 19 (JO, CPh). Sizable White-throated Sparrow accumulations were reported as follows: 300+ in Chicago Apr. 29 (DMa), and 100 in a single flock at Braidwood, IL, Apr. 24 (JM). Missouri's first Golden-crowned Sparrow appeared at a feeder in Stover, *Morgan* Apr. 16-20 (†RL, †m.ob. ph.). White-crowned Sparrows peaked in Chicago May 3 when 75 were counted at the Botanical Gardens (DJ). Harris' Sparrows e. of the Mississippi R. included singletons at a Columbus, IN, feeder through Apr. 13 (DS, JS); Argonne Lab., IL, Apr. 28-May 4 (AK); Chicago Botanical Garden, May 2-4 (m. ob.); and Hanover Pk., IL, May 5-7 (RC *et al.*). The spring's largest Lapland Longspur flock consisted of 300 in Spfld., Mar. 14 (DB); a breeding plumed male remained in *Pulaski*, IL, until May 9 (†BL). Significant Smith's Longspur accumulations were noted in *Johnson*, IA, where 100 birds were seen Apr. 28 (TK), and near Spfld. where 35 were seen Apr. 14 (DB). A late-April snowfall in w. Iowa brought Chestnut-collared Longspurs into the roadways of *Fremont*: up to 25 were seen in roadside flocks Apr. 22-23 (BP, †BR, ph.). A roadkill specimen was sent to Iowa State University.

The Bobolink flight appeared normal with tallies near 30 birds from all states e. of the Mississippi R. except Ohio, where 200+ were counted at Headlands Beach S.P. May 12 (LR). Western Meadowlark counts of one to two birds were made in every state; notable was an early record Feb. 1 in Spfld.

(DB). Yellow-headed Blackbirds occurred in all states except Indiana and Kentucky, but the only sizable counts came from the w. states. An early arrival appeared at L. Cal., Mar. 29 (WM), where numbers were considered to be low. A ♂ Yellow-headed wandered as far e. as Holmes, OH, May 5 (†MW). Twenty-three Great-tailed Grackles from 14 locations suggests they are expanding their Iowa range (TK). Within Iowa single males were recorded as far e. as *Louisa* (†BO). Expansion is also consistent with observations in Missouri where 250 Great-taileds were counted in *Holt*, Mar. 8 (LG). Brown-headed Cowbird counts at roosting sites include 5000 at Spfld., Mar. 24 (DB) and 3500 at L. Cal., Mar. 8 (WM). The Orchard Oriole flight was typical with counts of seven at Braidwood, IL, May 9 (JM) and Ottawa, OH, May 17 (LR). The largest N. Oriole



Adult Golden-crowned Sparrow (above — with White-throated Sparrow) in Morgan County, Missouri, on April 18, 1992. First state record. Photograph/David A. Easterla.

count consisted of 30 at the Skokie Lagoons May 9 (EW).

The recent pattern for winter finches continued through the current season. Several correspondents suggested that Purple Finch counts were low, especially in Illinois and Kentucky. In contrast House Finch expansion continued unabated. Several observers suggested a correlation between these 2 observations. House Finches are common nesters in *Fayette*, *Howard*, MO (CR), and the population was described as "exploding" near Kansas City (CHo). The Region's only crossbill reports consisted of a Red Crossbill seen near Rockford, IL, Mar. 3 (JDo) plus single White-winged at Illinois Beach S.P., Mar. 8 (RWa) and Montrose, IA, until Mar. 9 (JF). Small flocks of Com. Redpolls were recorded in 4 states; they pushed as far s. as Richmond, IN, where a small flock was studied on the Earlham College campus, Apr. 1 (EOC). A sprinkling of Pine Siskins appeared across the Region, with 22 in Spfld., Mar. 3 (DB) and 25 in Davenport, IA, May 7 (PP). Siskins nested in Brecksville, *Cuyahoga*, OH (*fide* LR). Single Evening Grosbeaks were reported in Iowa and n. Illinois.

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

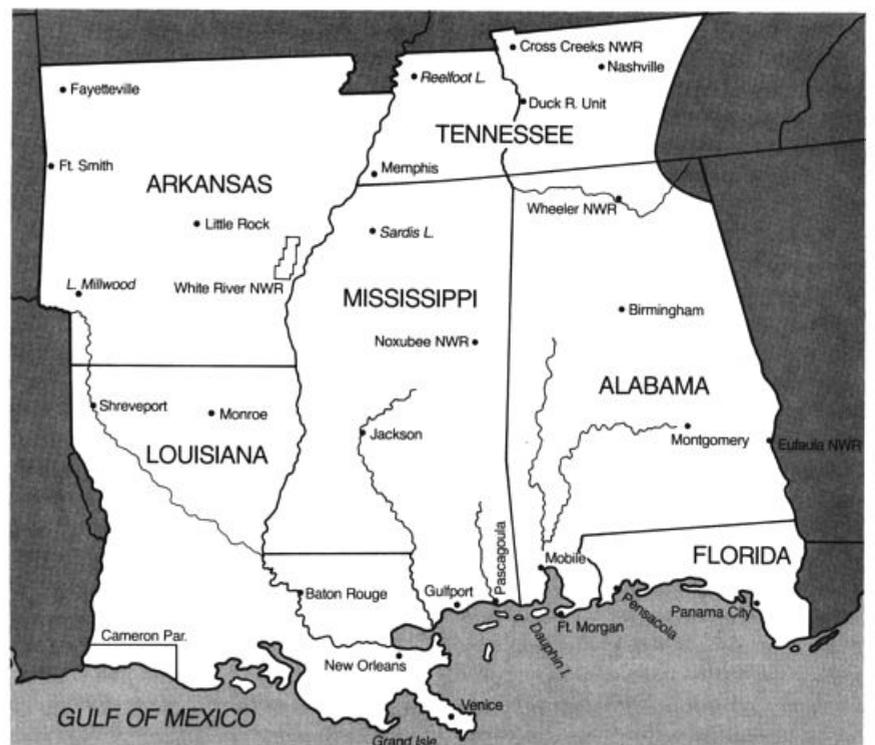
David P. Muth

Spring migration in the Region proceeded generally without serious hindrance from the weather. Despite a rainy winter, the spring was dry. Temperatures were about average, cooler than normal toward the coast, above average to the northwest. There were good fall-outs on the coast in mid-March, but nothing spectacular thereafter, as only dry fronts reached the coast in April and May. Ironically, some of the best fall-outs were well inland. Cold wet weather moved into northwest Arkansas in late May, with some deleterious effects. Visitors to the American Birding Association convention in Mobile were disappointed by the lack of action; that's a feeling those of us here on the Gulf Coast know only too well. You should have been here last....

Abbreviations: A.B.R.C. (*Ala. Bird Records Committee*); F.H. (*Fish Hatchery*); J.L.N.H.P.P. (*Jean Lafitte Nat'l Historical Park and Preserve*); L.O.S.B.R.C. (*La. Ornithological Soc. {Louisiana} B.R.C.*); L.S.U.M.N.S. (*La. State Univ. Museum of Natural Science*); M.O.S.B.R.C. (*Miss. Ornithological Soc. B.R.C.*); p.a. (*pending acceptance*); W.R. (*Waterfowl Ref.*); T.R.B.C. (*Tenn. Rare Bird Committee*).

LOONS THROUGH RAILS

A **Red-throated Loon**, present since Dec. 28, 1991, was last seen at L. Millwood, AR, Mar. 15 (CMi). Two breeding plumaged migrants were in *Dekalb*, TN, Mar. 27 (BHS). The species is an unexpected visitor to the Region anywhere, at any time, except in the clear in-shore waters off Florida and Alabama, where it seems to be rare but regular. An excellent concentration of 201 Horned Grebes was counted at Beaver L., AR, Mar. 7 (MMI). Two Eared Grebes were far east at Ft. Walton Bch., FL, Mar. 12 (RAD). A **Western Grebe**, also present on L. Millwood, was last seen Mar. 29 (present since Oct. 13, 1991) (CMi); another Arkansas *Aechmophorus* sp., present since January, was seen Mar. 14 on Beaver L. (MMI). Exceedingly rare, and rarer still from shore, large shearwaters were reported from Pensacola, FL Apr. 4 (JP) and Gulf Shores, AL Apr. 26 (JH). A juv. **Brown Booby** (in the company of N. Gannets behind a trawler) and two Masked Booby (ad, imm.) were reported well offshore of s.e. Louisiana Mar. 11 (GL, p.a. L.O.S.B.R.C.). Except for a brief flurry of sightings off Grand Isle in early March, N. Gannets were



generally scarce from shore off Louisiana. They are routinely seen from shore in the eastern Gulf of Mexico (from Mississippi Sound eastward). A very early Magnificent Frigatebird was at Grand Isle, LA, Mar. 3 (JW). A Least Bittern, rare in the Ozarks, was in *Benton*, AR, May 30 (MMI). A Great Egret was north very early at Reelfoot L., TN, Feb. 22 (KC) (or did it overwinter locally?). A Snowy Egret was N very early at Noxubee N.W.R., Mar. 28 (TS). Little Blue Herons were early in *Shelby* Mar. 21 and *Lake*, TN, Mar. 27 (JRW). Tricolored Herons were out of place inland at L. Millwood, AR, Apr. 22 (1) and 26 (2) (CMi). After early arrivals nearer the coast in February, Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were quite early in *Iberville*, LA, Mar. 4 & 6 (CLC;JVR). Glossy Ibises were well north and west in Arkansas at Overflow N.W.R., Apr. 14-26 (up to 30) and in *Chicot* where one was seen Apr. 25 (DRS *et al.*). Eight were in the hiatus between the peninsular Florida colonies and the Mississippi R. delta population in Louisiana, Apr. 18-22 on Blakely I. in Mobile Bay, AL (GDJ, m.ob.). The species continues to be recorded to the west in coastal s.w. Louisiana (*vide* DLD,SWC). A White-faced Ibis was east of its delta stronghold in coastal Mississippi Apr. 19 (TS).

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks are again at Lacassine N.W.R., LA, where they are presumed breeding; 28 were counted May 9 (DP). Two were up at L. Millwood, AR, May 12 (CMi). The winter's Trumpeter Swan at Sardis W.R., MS, was last seen May 19 (G & SK, VT, MD). Also at Sardis were locally un-

usual Greater White-fronted Geese: Apr. 3, (10); 22 (1); 27 (1) (GK,VT). The only spring Ross's Goose reports came from Centerton Fish Hatchery, AR, Mar. 1-15 (J & JaD, MML, m.ob.), where five were seen in the company of 550 Snow Geese. Tennessee's 4th **Cinnamon Teal** was in *Lake* Mar. 20-Apr. 29 (WGC, m.ob.). The species is regular (but still rare) in coastal s.w. Louisiana; as one moves E and N from that area it becomes more and more unexpected. Only six Surf Scoters were reported: three at Ft. Pickens, FL, Mar. 8 (RLB); a male seen at L. Millwood, AR (for a first lake record), Apr. 30 (CMi); a male off *Cameron*, LA, May 2-3 (m.ob.); and a late bird near Wheeler Dam, AL, May 12 (AM, AC). There was only one White-winged Scoter reported, a male off *Cameron*, LA, May 2-3 (PY, BMM, DPM, m.ob.). Seven Hooded Mergansers on L. Fayetteville, AR, suggested nesting for the first time in the Arkansas Ozarks. Nesting was also implied by three birds May 28 in *Williamson*, TN (SJS). A ♂ Com. Merganser, rare at any time, was very late in Pensacola Bay, FL, May 9 (A & DF). A gathering of 700 Red-breasted Mergansers off Gulf Islands N.S., Mar. 26 must have been an impressive sight (RAD).

Two Ospreys were seen building a nest in *St. Mary*, LA, Mar. 7 (MJM). Despite occasional suspicions of breeding, very few actual nests have been found of this species in the remote swamps of Louisiana. American Swallow-tailed Kites made a very strong migratory showing in s. Louisiana this spring (m.ob.). Two birds were either very late migrants May 16 in *St. Charles* (PY), or were at-

tempting to breed away from the two known breeding localities in Louisiana (the Pearl R. and Atchafalaya R. basins). An impressive 344 Mississippi Kites were recorded during 33.4 hours of Baton Rouge, LA, hawkwatches this spring (CF, JK). About 50 pairs of Bald Eagles nested in Louisiana this winter/spring. Good news from elsewhere in the Region includes a pair with two young in the nest at L. Millwood, AR (CMi); a pair that raised two young in Jackson, TN (*fide* SJS); and, for a first documented breeding in Mississippi away from the coast, a pair with two young at Sardis W.R. (GK, VT, MD). An ad. Northern Goshawk seen in Lafayette, MS, Mar. 29 (G & SK, p.a. M.O.S.B.R.C.), was the only report of this very rare species. Three reports were received of Swainson's Hawks: one light-phase ad., Mar. 24 in Iberville, LA (SWC); another at L. Millwood, AR, Apr. 18 (CMi); and, finally a 3rd light-phase adult well out of range Apr. 28 at Hatchie N.W.R., TN (VR, DM, p.a. T.R.B.C.). Yellow Rails are almost never detected in winter or spring, thus the report of a bird flushed near Baton Rouge, LA, Mar. 8 is noteworthy (AF, p.a. L.O.S.B.R.C.).

SHOREBIRDS TO WOODPECKERS

Black-bellied Plovers were recorded widely well inland from regular coastal areas (where they are abundant): in Arkansas (7 records, 140 individuals), with one each inland in Mississippi and Alabama. A Snowy Plover unexpectedly showed up inland and provided a 3rd Tennessee record in Lake Mar. 27 (WGC, ph.). Two Wilson's Plovers were very early on the front beach in Lafourche, LA, Mar. 1 (RDP, NN). No notable concentrations of Piping Plovers were reported from Louisiana, where the species winters in good numbers, and where a small migration is evident into middle to late April every year. A report of eight birds at Gulf Shores, AL, Apr. 30 was notable both for the number and the somewhat late date (AM). A bird in Chicot, AR, Apr. 12-17 was an excellent find inland (DRS). A Killdeer nest with 4 eggs found Mar. 13 at Sardis L., MS, would have been early even on the coast (GG). For some mysterious reason, the Am. Oystercatcher is absent from a 250-mi stretch of northern Gulf coastline between Galveston Bay in Texas and Breton Sound e. of the Mississippi R., in extreme s.e. Louisiana. In recent years there seems to have been a slight range expansion westward from the Breton Sound population to bays and barrier islands w. of the river. Nevertheless, despite extensive coverage of the Cameron beaches in s.w. Louisiana and the Grand Isle/Fourchon beaches in s.e. Louisiana (the only coastal areas accessible by automobile in the state), the species is virtually never recorded. This spring saw a flur-

ry of sightings in Cameron Apr. 12-May 3 (DP, m.ob.), involving at least two individuals, and a single bird seen at Grand Isle May 30 (JK, DR). There were a flurry of interior reports of Black-necked Stilts: two near Baton Rouge, LA, May 31 (JVR, CLC); and in Chicot Apr. 12 (5) (DRS); Lonoke May 16 (4) (LA); and Arkansas, AR, May 27 (2) (NH). An Am. Avocet was lost in Lake, TN, Mar. 29-May 9 (WGC). Twelve migrants were detected in Boone, AR, Apr. 24 (JB, JAR).

High numbers of migrant Lesser Yellowlegs were counted at Ensley Bottoms, TN, Apr. 22 (741) (JRW) and 25 (1100+) (JRW, WGC). Also on Apr. 25 they recorded an impressive 345 Solitary Sandpipers. On Apr. 4, 152 were counted near a dump in St. Charles/Jefferson LA (PY), an amazing concentration for coastal Louisiana of this usually aptly named species. Nineteen migrant Willets were detected at 6 interior locations Apr. 20-May 2 in Arkansas, Tennessee, and Alabama. A Whimbrel was early on the Alabama coast at Dauphin I., Mar. 21 (GDJ, DGJ). Another represented a 4th w. Tennessee record in Lake, May 13-19 (WGC). A Hudsonian Godwit provided Mississippi's



Snowy Plover in Dyer County, Tennessee, on March 27, 1992. Third state record. Photograph/Jeff R. Wilson.

4th record near the coast in Jackson Apr. 22-23 (JSt, m.ob.). The species is a regular migrant in the Region only in the rice fields and marshes of s. c. and s.w. Louisiana. Ensley Bottoms, TN, saw on Apr. 25, in addition to numbers enumerated above, 1700 Pectoral Sandpipers (JRW, WGC). The species was somewhat early in Oktibbeha, MS, Mar. 2 (50), and quite late May 26 (8) (TS). Mississippi's Purple Sandpiper, presumed to be in its 5th winter, was last seen in Gulfport May 10 (*fide* JAT). A flock of 400 W. Sandpipers, 1000 Least Sandpipers, 10 Dunlin, 100

White-rumped Sandpipers, in Lonoke, AR, May 24, held down by a north wind, was an impressive inland concentration of peeps (MD). A "Reeve" at Ensley Bottoms, Shelby, TN, May 14 (JRW, ph.), was the 6th record at this productive w. Tennessee location. Most inland areas of the Region record few spring dowitchers. Specific records this year were: Short-billed Dowitcher in Oktibbeha, MS, May 9 (2) (TS); one in Lafayette and two at Sardis Dam May 13 (GK, MD); two at Centerton F.H., AR, May 17 and one Long-billed Dowitcher there May 11 (MMI); and four Long-billed at Muscle Shoals, AL, May 3 (GDJ). Contrast these numbers with the 3400 counted in scattered rice field flocks in Acadia and Vermilion, LA, Apr. 25 (JK). Four Am. Woodcocks were seen and heard displaying in Arkansas, AR, Feb. 28-Mar. 2 (P & KYa). The species was confirmed breeding in n.w. Florida at E. Bay when a fledgling was found (*fide* TM). A basic-plumaged Wilson's Phalarope in Vermilion, LA, Mar. 20 had either wintered locally or was a very early migrant (GOB, CAB). An ad. ♂ Red-necked Phalarope, representing the 3rd spring record for coastal Mississippi, was in Jackson Apr. 16 (JAT *et al.*).

For a long time, it was thought that the common jaeger in the northern Gulf was Parasitic. If recent records are taken as evidence, though, it may be that Pomarine Jaeger, and not Parasitic, is the expected species in the northern Gulf. Again, this spring, all identified jaegers were Pomarine. One was seen from Dauphin I., AL, Apr. 17 (PL, SF). Two light-morph adults were off Rutherford Bch. in Cameron, LA, Apr. 26 (DLD, SWC), and up to five probable Pomarines were seen from shore harassing Laughing Gull clouds behind shrimp trawlers off Johnson Bayou there May 3 (m.ob.). Interior sightings of Laughing Gull were one adult at L. Millwood, AR, Apr. 19 (CMi) and an adult in Desoto, MS, May 16 (G & SK). Franklin's Gulls are relatively common spring migrants in s.w. Louisiana, but they were virtually absent this spring. Only two individuals were found despite 150+ observers in Cameron May 2-3 during the L.O.S. meeting. It would be interesting to know what changes in the weather patterns affect the northward flight of Franklin's Gulls so profoundly. Up in Arkansas, at L. Millwood, a decent flight was detected, with 25 individuals spread over 5 dates from Apr. 16-May 1 (CMi). A single adult was out of place at Enid L., MS, Apr. 14 (G & SK). Others were even further afield at Wheeler Dam May 7 and Wilson Dam, AL, May 12-17 (AM *et al.*). Alabama's 3rd record (first coastal) of Little Gull was at Ft. Morgan Apr. 11-26 (JH, JB, m.ob., ph.). While this species has characteristically appeared at in-



Little Gull at Fort Morgan, Alabama, April 29, 1992. Third state record (and first for the Alabama coast). Photograph/Ann Miller.

land lakes in winter, a surprising percentage of the few records involve spring sightings on the coast. A worn first-basic Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen in *Cameron, LA*, May 1 (SWC, DLD), for only the 5th state record of birds in this plumage. There are as yet few spring records of this species in general. Biloxi, Mississippi's adult, returned for its 9th winter, departed Mar. 21 (JAT). The only Glaucous Gull report was of a first-winter holdover in Biloxi, MS, Feb. 24-Apr. 21 (JAT; ph.). An imm. Black-legged Kittiwake, Alabama's 6th record, was seen from the ferry at the mouth of Mobile Bay Apr. 17 (PL, SF, CAM *et al.*). An ad. Black-legged Kittiwake, a plumage recorded only once before in Louisiana, flew past observers in *Cameron, LA*, May 1 (SWC, DLD *et al.*). The rarest gull of the season was a Sabine's Gull in first-alternate plumage, which rested briefly on the mud-flats at E. Jetty, in *Cameron, LA*, the evening of May 2 (CS, PW, CK, CAM [ph.], JVR). This is the 3rd record for Louisiana.

Six Caspian Terns were early migrants on Norfolk L., AR, Mar. 15 (DRM). Twelve Com. Terns at Centerton F.H., AR, May 23 were a good inland concentration (MMI). Inland Least Terns were two in *Lonoke, AR*, May 24 (MD) and one in *Oktibbeha, MS*, May 29 (MC, TS). A breeding colony on the Mississippi R. in *Desoto, MS*, contained up to 20 individuals May 16-23 (G & SK). Two Sooty Terns were seen from shore in *Lafourche, LA*, May 30 (JK, DR). Though a small colony (fewer than 30 pairs) of Sooty Terns breeds in the Chandeleur Islands off Louisiana, and though it is probably regular during the warmer months in pelagic waters off the state's coast (20-100 mi out), there is only one previous non-storm-related sighting from land.

Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to proliferate along the coast from Florida to Louisiana. Oh well. Again this spring, White-winged Doves were noted singing

and behaving territorially in the town of Cameron, LA, though, as yet, no nest has been reported. Stray individuals were at Grand Isle, LA, Apr. 25 (DPM, PY, NN, RDP), and at Ft. Morgan, AL, Apr. 26 (JB, JH). A wintering bird continued visiting a feeder in Buras, LA, until Apr. 13 (PVC); the species winters regularly (and has bred) in that vicinity near the mouth of the Mississippi R. Like White-winged, Inca Doves have invaded Cameron, LA, in recent years, and this year a nest was found in town May 2 (DM, BMM, PY). This is one of a handful of known nesting locations in w. Louisiana of a species that was still considered accidental 10 years ago. A Short-eared Owl put in a bizarre appearance at Ft. Morgan, AL, Apr. 21, crouching under the oleanders (PL, m.ob.), an unprecedented coastal spring occurrence (did it come in off the Gulf?). Perhaps stranger still was a very late bird on an islet in Barataria Bay, LA, raiding a Forster's Tern colony May 13 (BV, RM). The winter's Calliope Hummingbird in Baton Rouge, LA, remained Dec. 18-Mar 15 (MiD). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was exceptionally late May 26 in *Harrison, MS* (RK).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS

Olive-sided Flycatchers, rare spring migrants throughout the Region, were recorded in every state Apr. 26-May 25. An E. Wood-Pewee at Gulf Islands N.S., MS, Mar. 23 was quite early (JAT) and one in New Orleans (south of their breeding habitat) May 29 was quite late (DPM). Reports of singing *Empidonax* of all eastern migrants were too numerous to enumerate; either the birds are being more cooperative or observers are searching more assiduously. An Acadian Flycatcher in *Cameron, LA*, Mar. 26 (CAM) was quite early as was a Least Flycatcher at Enslay Bottoms, TN, Mar. 28 (JRW). An E. Phoebe was quite late in New Orleans Apr. 3 (NN). An Ash-throated Flycatcher, much rarer in spring than in fall, was in *Cameron, LA*, Apr. 27 (DLD, SWC). A W. Kingbird in *Limestone, AL*, May 12-13 was far afield (JM, DJS). Alabama's 2nd Fork-tailed Flycatcher put in a tantalizing appearance at Dauphin I., Apr. 20 (RAD, BB, p.a. A.B.R.C.). There are few other Regional records. Purple Martins suffered widespread mortality during unseasonably cold and wet weather in n.w. Arkansas during late May-early June. Also affected were Chimney Swifts and E. Phoebes (DJ). A Cliff Swallow near Baton Rouge, LA, Mar. 12-13 was not only the earliest record for the state, but was identified as the southwestern sub-species *miniata* (JVR, SH), leading to speculation that both the unprecedented date and taxon are related phenomena. A Cave Swallow was seen at Ft. Morgan, AL, Apr. 12, for Alabama's 9th record (BS,

JRW, JH, JB, SMC, p.a. A.B.R.C.); another, or the same, was there Apr. 19 (RAD, p.a.). Early northbound Barn Swallows were at Centerton F.H., AR, Mar. 4 (DAJ), in *Oktibbeha, MS*, Mar. 10 (TS), and in Waterloo, AL, Mar. 15 (GDJ).

A Red-breasted Nuthatch was late enough in *Perry, AR*, Apr. 30 (LA), but another in *Bivenville, LA*, May 9 was extremely late (LH, LR), this after a non-invasion winter. A singing Winter Wren at Ft. Pickens, FL, Apr. 19 was absurdly late (RWB, JWB). A Sedge Wren was conspicuously late in Starkville, MS, May 13 (TS). Alabama's first Varied Thrush lingered in Birmingham Feb. 20-Apr. 7 (*vide* GDJ). Another Varied Thrush was seen at Grand Isle, LA, Mar. 5 (NN, DPM, p.a. L.O.S.B.R.C.), for a 3rd Louisiana record. This was either an inexplicable migrant, or a winterer that escaped detection. A flock of fifteen Am. Pipits in *Shelby, AL*, May 2 was very late (A & AM). A Sprague's Pipit was a rare find so far east in *Lafayette, MS*, Mar. 10 (GK).

Solitary Vireos were confirmed nesting in *Putnam, TN*, May 9-14 for an unusual record at a lower elevation than in their normal Appalachian range (SJS, BHS). A Yellow-throated Vireo at Noxubee N.W.R., MS, Mar. 14 was quite early (MC). There were three Warbling Vireo records e. of their normal migratory route (western circum-gulf): Apr. 12 in Birmingham, AL (BCG); Apr. 19 at Ft. Pickens, FL (RWB, JWB); Apr. 22 at Ft. Morgan, AL (KK *et al.*); and May 9 in Starkville, MS (M & MaF) (breeding?). Also unusual was a Philadelphia Vireo there the same day (M & MaF). Good counts of Philadelphia Vireos were reported from *Grant, AR*, May 5 (6); 6 (10), and 15 (8) (H & MP). A Yellow-green Vireo in *Cameron, LA*, May 2-3 (DPM, BMM, PY, m.ob., *L.S.U.M.N.S.) was the 2nd found in the state, and the first confirmed. Unlike many species from (presumably) n.e. Mexico which have wandered to the state in the fall, both records are in the late spring. There were a number of extralimital Black-whiskered Vireos seen from Dauphin I., AL, to Grand Isle, LA.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Nashville Warbler was east of its normal spring route (western circum-gulf) in the Barataria Unit J.L.N.H.P.P. Apr. 9, (DPM). Hundreds of N. Parula and Yellow-throated Warblers were noted in a rare early fall-out at Ft. Pickens, Gulf Islands, N.S., FL, Mar. 12 (WF, GF). Cape May Warblers were west in Arkansas: one in Fayetteville May 8 (MMI); two at Devil's Den S.P. May 9 (KMc), and one at L. Chicor S.P. May 13 (DRS). Inland Black-throated Blue Warblers were in Ouachita N.F., AR, Apr. 20 (LA), *Desoto, MS*,

May 11 (TS), and *Putnam*, TN, May 14 (SJS, BHS, DH). A very rare **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was Mississippi's 5th in *Jackson* Mar. 23 (JAT); there are few spring records, and one wonders if this bird wintered. An Am. Redstart in *St. Charles*, LA, Mar. 2-9 probably wintered (RJS, MW). Mourning Warblers are circum-Gulf migrants, coming up through Texas and not crossing the Gulf. Most spring records are confined to the western edge of the Region. There were several records away from Arkansas and w. Louisiana: one extremely early in Gulf Breeze, FL, Mar. 26 (JWB); one May 2 in *Shelby*, AL (HF); one at Wheeler N.W.R. and another in *Jefferson*, AL, May 3 (GDJ; RRR); and one in *DeSoto*, MS, May 10 (TS). A Connecticut Warbler, an eastern migrant straying west, was reported from *Shelby*, TN, May 4 (DDP). A Wilson's Warbler inland in Greenville, MS, Mar. 5 was either a migrant or a very rare inland winterer (EA).

Summer Tanagers arrived inland early: way up in the Ozarks in *Benton*, AR, Apr. 11 (MMI), in *Prairie*, AR, Apr. 14 (TS); and three scattered around *Choctaw*, MS, Apr. 12 (TS). Normal arrival date on the coast is around Apr. 1. A Scarlet Tanager in *Putnam*, TN, Apr. 8 was exceptionally early (WHG). There were only two W. Tanagers reported, both well to the east: Apr. 10 at the Barataria Unit J.L.N.H.P.P., LA (DPM), and May 6 at Ft. Pickens, Gulf Islands N.S., FL (WF). Three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in New Orleans May 27 represented a very late migratory wave (NN; DPM). Early Indigo Buntings reached *Putnam*, TN, Apr. 11 (WHG), *Webster*, MS, Apr. 13 (TS), and Fayetteville, AR, Apr. 15 (MMI). A Rufous-sided "Spotted" Towhee was a late and much displaced migrant in *Cameron*, LA, Apr. 27 (CLC).

In Arkansas, unexpected Clay-colored Sparrows were found at L. Millwood Apr. 29 (CMi), L. Fayetteville May 2 (HP), and three at L. Elmdale May 3-6 (MMI). Grasshopper Sparrow is a scarce winterer along the coast. There are few coastal records after mid-winter. Thus the appearance of two birds in mid-April on barrier islands is perplexing. One was at Grand Isle, LA, Apr. 19 (BMM, DPM) and another was at Gulf Shores, AL, Apr. 22 (GDJ). As with Grasshopper, we know little about the northward migration of Henslow's Sparrow from its wintering grounds in the Region. An individual in *Bradley*, AR, was a presumed northbound migrant Apr. 11 (WMS). Henslow's Sparrows were late in coastal Mississippi Apr. 18 at La Rue (CC *et al.*) and in *Jackson* Apr. 30 (GM, CC *et al.*). The same uncertainty is true for Le Conte's Sparrow, for the same reasons: low density winterers that are difficult to flush and see well enough for identifica-

tion. In my experience, few of us have the inclination to search for them when migrants are a greater temptation. A Le Conte's Sparrow was presumably northbound at Noxubee N.W.R., Apr. 15 (TS). One was still on the coast Apr. 27 in *Cameron*, LA (SWC, DLD). To finish off the genus, late Sharp-tailed Sparrows were seen in *Cameron* May 3 (DPM) and at Grand Isle May 9 (CS). As if to confound the pattern of early neo-tropical migration, our wintering sparrows established numerous late records. In addition to the grass sparrows, these included Song, Lincoln's, Swamp, White-throated, and White-crowned sparrows. (Lincoln's is a slightly different case, since in addition to the wintering population confined largely to s.w. Louisiana, there seems to be a small, presumably trans-Gulf, flight in April-May.) Among the strangest reports of the season is the detailed description of a **Snow Bunting** in Clay, *Jefferson*, AL, Mar. 20 (B & MS, p.a. A.B.R.C.)!

Bobolinks were widely reported in good numbers, but the estimate of 10,000+ at the M & K Ranch in n.w. Florida (TM) May 5, if accurate, staggers the imagination! There were few reports of Yellow-headed Blackbirds. One male was in *Miller*, AR, Apr. 2 (CMi); one female was in *Lafourche*, LA, Apr. 11 (JS); and in *Shelby*, TN, a female appeared Apr. 12 and a male Apr. 23 (DH, MWa). Up to eight ♂ Shiny Cowbirds were at Ft. Morgan, AL, Apr. 11-26 (JH, JB, m.ob), and two males were across the bay at Dauphin I., Apr. 17-26 (m.ob.)—good news, one supposes, for all the listers at the American Birding Association convention in Mobile, but bad news for America's birds. Two males were at Grand Isle, LA, the same week (NLN). From the southwest the onslaught of Bronzed Cowbirds continues. Long established around New Orleans, this spring, birds were seen to the east in *Hancock*, MS, Apr. 13 (CC) and Apr. 27 (JAT). **Bronzed Cowbirds** were also reported from Dauphin I., Apr. 22 and Ft. Morgan, AL, Apr. 23 (NLN; FB, HHK, BCG, p.a. A.B.R.C.). Astonishing is the only way to describe the report of two ♂ and two ♀ **Pine Grosbeaks** tamely feeding on elm buds in Tennessee N.W.R., TN, Mar. 28, as a group of 9 novice birders looked on (LJM *et al.*, p.a. T.B.R.C.).

Corrigendum—The Yellow-throated Vireo reported for *Putnam*, TN, Mar. 23, 1991, should have been a Yellow-throated Warbler (*fide* SJS).

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PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

Rudolf F. Koes and
Peter Taylor

Mild and extremely dry weather prevailed in southern Alberta, but conditions were generally cooler, moister and more changeable farther north and east. In south Alberta, most waterfowl arrived 10 to 20 days ahead of normal; otherwise, the overall timing of migration was close to average there, but with many early individuals of various species. In southeast Manitoba, migration was one to two weeks behind schedule overall, with the greatest delays occurring in April and early May. Changeable weather with some prolonged cool spells resulted in several pronounced migration waves in eastern Manitoba, and a late snowstorm in Alberta grounded many migrants, May 15-16. An excellent variety of rarities was reported throughout the Region.

Abbreviations: L.M.L. (*Last Mountain Lake, SK*); OHM (*Oak Hammock Marsh Wildlife Management Area, MB*).

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

A Pacific Loon was at Lac La Biche, AB, May 30 (GL). About 500 Red-necked Grebes touched down Apr. 28 at Natalie L., MB (PT), and 600 Eared Grebes were at OHM May 17 (RKO). Few southern herons were reported. Single Cattle Egrets were e. of Swift Current, SK, Apr. 25 (PJ) and at OHM from May 26 (NB, m.o.). One Green-backed Heron was found in each province: near Beausejour, MB, May 24 (CG); at Regina, SK, May 18 (PI *et al.*); and for the 4th consecutive year at Calgary, AB, beginning May 30 (RW, m.o.). Record numbers of White-faced Ibises entered s. Alberta; high counts were 17 near Pakowki L., Apr. 30 (RD *et al.*) and 21 at Kinivie marsh near Brooks May 23 (MV *et al.*).

Two "Bewick's" Swans were reported in s. Alberta: one, 22 mi e. of Calgary Apr. 11 (JRi), and one at One Four, 115 mi e.s.e. of Lethbridge Apr. 18 (PS). Nineteen neck-banded Trumpeter Swans were seen around Calgary in April (*vide RD*); 49 Trumpeters and 23 Tundra swans were reported at one small pond in that area Apr. 2 (LH). An early Ross' Goose accompanied Canadas near Regina Mar. 22 (RKR, RM), and 1000 were near

the town of Turtle Lake, SK, May 18 (MC); Manitoba's 3rd blue-morph Ross' Goose rested at OHM May 23 (RKO, DF, GG, RTk).

Encouraging numbers of N. Pintails were reported: 4000 near Stonewall, AB, Apr. 2 (B & SA); 1100 near Stonewall, MB, Apr. 29 (KGa); many thousands migrated NW near Regina Mar. 22-24 (RKR, RM, FS). Alberta's 3rd Garganey in as many springs was at Winagami L. May 15 (JS, MSt). Cinnamon Teal were widespread in s. Alberta and s. Saskatchewan (m.o.) with individuals n. to L. Kimiwan, AB, May 19 (JS, MSt) and e. to Coulter, MB, Apr. 30-May 13 (KDS, CP). Migrant Eur. Wigeon continue to increase in Alberta; at least 20 males were found in the Calgary area alone (*vide RD*); still rare farther east, an ad. male and a possible yearling male were seen at Highfield Dam, SK, Apr. 26 (MP).

Extraordinary were ♂ Tufted Ducks near Calgary May 2-6 (JRi, IF, m.ob.) and at Luck L., SK (BG, MG); the former was Alberta's first, and there is one previous, unpublished Saskatchewan report (*vide RKR*). Fifteen hundred Greater Scaup dominated an excellent assortment of waterfowl at Natalie L., Apr. 28 (PT). Rare in Saskatchewan in spring were two Black Scoters n. of Southey May 9 (RL) and two Barrow's Goldeneyes at Cypress L. May 10 (SS). Two unusual merganser concentrations were noted: 70+ Hooded at L.M.L. May 27 (RKR, KF) and 950 Red-breasted at Traverse Bay, MB, May 3 (DF).

VULTURES THROUGH TERNS

A Black Vulture soared along the Qu'Appelle Valley near Fort Qu'Appelle, SK, May 25 (RH), providing the province's first convincing record. An early Sharp-shinned Hawk ha-

assed feeder birds at Stonewall Mar. 14 (KG). Lone Red-shouldered Hawks graced Manitoba hawkwatches on Apr. 17 at both Windygates (BSh *et al.*) and St. Adolphe (GH *et al.*). Golden Eagles followed a narrow route across the Kananaskis Valley near Mt. Lorette, AB, heading NW in late March; peak counts were 103 Mar. 20 and 247 Mar. 22 (PS). On the latter date, 150 Golden Eagles were also counted at Windy Point in the Sheep River Valley, AB (WS).

Willow Ptarmigan reports at Carrot, SK, Mar. 8 (GF, *vide DHO*), Sherwood Park, AB, in late March (KGR) and Beaverhill L., AB, Apr. 4 (CK) hinted at a S movement last winter. Black-necked Stilts occurred at 8 or more Alberta locations n. to St. Paul (m.ob.), with a high count of 18 near Suffield May 31 (BV *vide DB*). Shorebirds grounded in s. Alberta May 16 included 600 Black-bellied Plovers, 20 Whimbrel and 20 Red Knots near the village of Rolling Hills (BCI, ET), and 23 Red Knots at Scandia bridge (J & MM). The same day, thousands of Pectoral Sandpipers were at Beaverhill L. (*vide RD*). Flocks of up to 45 Whimbrels were found near Taber, AB, from Apr. 30 to mid-May (LB). Long-billed Curlews were reported in good numbers in s. Alberta (DB, MO), and one strayed east to OHM May 29 (MSi). Extraordinary was a probable Spoonbill Sandpiper in basic plumage (PS *et al.*) at the same slough 25 mi n.e. of Calgary where two were reported in 1984! Black-and-chestnut ♂ Ruffs visited Steinbach, MB sewage lagoons May 9-14 (VR, JRe *et al.*) and St. Paul, AB, May 22-28 (RKL, RTh).

A few Glaucous and Thayer's gulls were reported, as usual, across the Region. More notable were a Glaucous-winged Gull at Calgary



Mar. 21 (JS) and an ad. **Black-legged Kittiwake** at Astotin L., Elk Island N.P., AB, May 16 (TT *et al.*). An Arctic Tern was compared with other terns near Fort Qu'Appelle May 20 (RH).

OWLS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Evidence of **Western Screech-Owls** was reported from Battle Creek Rd. in extreme s.w. Saskatchewan: three birds heard calling Apr. 25 (CB, MB) and two May 8 (BO). Invading N. Hawk Owls withdrew from s.e. Manitoba in late March. Nests of Barred, Great Gray and Boreal owls were all found in Elk Island N.P. for the first time (BCr). Northern Saw-whet Owls were hard to find in s. Manitoba and the Calgary area, but normal good numbers were found in Saskatchewan.

At dusk on May 26, 160 Com. Nighthawks took over the bug patrol from a similar number of Black Terns at Pinawa sewage lagoons (PT). Manitoba's first **Lewis' Woodpeckers** since 1976 visited Swan R. from mid-May to early June (HH) and Winnipeg June 1-2 (BSt, RP *et al.*); also noteworthy was one at Elkwater, AB, May 18 (PHo). Three Saskatchewan reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers May 22-28 (NP, BC, WN) attest to the species' toehold in that province. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was early at Reston, MB, Mar. 22 (DB, IB).

Eastern Kingbirds flocked at Manitoban sewage lagoons in chilly weather May 24-45 at Pinawa (PT) and an amazing 134 at St. Adolphe (GH); near Stonewall, at least 40 W. Kingbirds and 20 E. Kingbirds congregated in a field June 5 (KG). A Clark's Nutcracker visited Spring Valley, SK, Apr. 23-27 (FB). Red-breasted Nuthatches were exceedingly scarce in s.e. Manitoba. A cat killed a vagrant Rock Wren in Winnipeg May 11 (Mr. & Mrs. R.G. Hardy *vide* DHa). Calgary's 2nd-ever Sedge Wren was found May 28 (JP).

Five Townsend's Solitaires were found across s. Saskatchewan Apr. 14 - May 14 (DW, FB, JT, NP). Lone Varied Thrushes were at Reston Apr. 27-28 (C & LH *vide* DBr) and Regina Apr. 30 (PHj). At least six N. Mockingbirds were reported in Manitoba (m.o.); nesting was attempted near Pierson (KDS), and one bird was at Spring Valley, SK, May 26 (FB). A Bohemian Waxwing was late at Bindloss, AB, Apr. 27 (MO).

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES

Saskatchewan's first confirmed **White-eyed Vireo** was photographed and its song recorded near Balgonie May 8 & 30 (RL, RKr, RR). A N. Parula sang at Weyburn, SK, May 19 (NP, LeB, DG). Several Chestnut-sided Warblers were found at Cold Lake, AB, in late May (TT). Rare at Winnipeg were a Black-throated Blue Warbler May 21-24 (RTk, MH *et al.*) and an "Audubon's Warbler" May 23 (GH). Over 100 Palm Warblers were in view at once



White-eyed Vireo near Balgonie, Saskatchewan, on May 30, 1992. First confirmed provincial record. Photograph/Robert J. Long.

on Pinawa golf course, and thousands were estimated in the area May 17 (RZ), whereas one was a rarity in Calgary May 8 (BW). One hundred Blackpoll Warblers were banded at Beaverhill L., AB, May 20-June 1 (RF), and more than usual were noted at Bindloss, AB (MO). Also unusual at Bindloss was a Mourning Warbler May 23 (MO). Saskatchewan's 3rd reported **Hooded Warbler** sang at Weyburn, May 23 (NP). A fallout of hundreds of Wilson's Warblers, among 18 warbler species seen around Pinawa May 15-17 was exceptional (RZ).

Two Summer Tanagers were reported in s.w. Manitoba: an ad. male near Reston May 15 (AW *vide* DB), and a first-year male at Souris May 22 (KDS). Somewhat out of range were a first-year male Scarlet Tanager at Avonlea, SK, May 23 (P) and a W. Tanager at Bindloss May 22 (MO). The overwintering ♀ N. Cardinal near Lethridge was last seen Mar. 30 when the feeder closed for the season (*vide* RD). Seven N. Cardinals reported in Manitoba included two pairs in Winnipeg (*vide* DHa), and a male was reported at Couteau Beach, SK, May 21 (B & RZ *vide* FR).

A ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak at Sanford, MB, May 24 & 26 was accompanied by a female on the latter date (FH *vide* DHa). Still not fully documented for Manitoba, a reported ♀ **Blue Grosbeak** at Balmoral May 29-31 (BMM, DM, T & RF *vide* CT) was tantalizing. Male Lazuli Buntings visited Winnipeg May 22-25 (W & JE, m.o.), Anola, MB, May 23-24 and June 17 (ME *vide* DHa), and Calgary May 30 (RW). Becoming regular in the Qu'Appelle Valley, Lazuli and Indigo buntings disputed territory near Craven, SK, from May 27 into June (RL).

Over 675 Chipping Sparrows thronged the Pinawa road May 10 (PT), and both Chipping and Clay-colored sparrows were abundant at Bindloss May 22-24 (MO). One Field Sparrow returned to Roche Percee, SK, May 17 (SS). In Saskatchewan Lark Sparrows were more prominent than usual, and Lark Buntings ranged N to the Saskatoon area (*vide* RKr). Fourteen Le Conte's and 20 Sharp-tailed sparrows May 31 (SJ) provided good counts at Beaverhill L., where a Golden-crowned Sparrow was also seen, Apr. 4 (WF,

RJ). Over 300 Smith's Longspurs dropped in at Beaverhill L. May 13 (RW, MW). At least five Orchard Orioles were banded at L.M.L. in late May (*vide* PJ).

A blizzard of 2000+ Rosy Finches decorated the Kananaskis Valley 45 mi w. of Calgary Apr. 9-12 (DP). House Finches were found at Altona (max. 4, Apr. 12, MK), Brandon, St. Pierre, and Winnipeg, MB (m.ob.); pairs lingered in Regina May 12-26 and from May 16 into June (S & RE, KS, RKr), and a male was at Avonlea May 23 (PG). A White-winged Crossbill pair accompanied fledglings in the Kananaskis Valley Mar. 1 (DP)! Redpolls lingered late in s.e. Manitoba; flocks of up to 100 Commons were widespread well into May (m.ob.) and the last individuals were seen May 14 (CT, RKo); a very late Hoary Redpoll was in Winnipeg May 6 (RKO).

Observers (subregional compilers in bold-face): Brad & Sarah Andres, Martin Bailey, Dennis Baresco (DBa), Leo Belanger (LeB), Lloyd Bennett (LIB), Carol Bjorklund, Flossie Bogdan, David Braddell (DBr), Irma Braddell, Nancy Bremner, Muriel Carlson, Bob Carroll (BCr), Bill Cates (BCt), Brooke Clibbon (BCl), Ken De Smet (KDS), **Ross Dickson**, Wendy & John Elcomb, Sandra & Robert Ewart, Mary Ewing, Warren Finlay, Ken Gardner, Paul Geraghty, Cedric Gibson, Bernie Gollop, Mike Gollop, Dick Gutfriend, Roy Fairweather, Dennis Fast, K. Finke, Gordon Flett, Tom & Roe Florence, Ken Gardner (KGa), Karl Grantmyre (KGr), Gordon Grief, David Hatch (DHa), Chuck & Lois Heath, Len Hills, Frank Hinings, Paule Hjerntas (PHj), George Holland, Don Hooper (DHo), Ron Hooper, Phil Horch (PHo), Hugh Hornbeck, Mark Huebert, P. Ilsley, P. James, Rhonda Johnson, Stefan Jungkind, Richard Klauke (Rkl), Rudolf Koes (Rko), **Roberta Kreba (RKr)**, Mary Krueger, Cliff Kulak, Robert Long, Gerry Lunn, Joan and Malcolm McDonald, Bob & Millie MacGarva, Dale MacGarva, R. Myers, Brian Olson, Michael O'Shea, Robert Parsons, Chris Penner, Jamey Podlubny, Nick Postey, David Prescott, Myrna Priebe, Rob Ramage, Jim Reimer (JRe), Vic Reimer, John Riddell (JRi), Frank Roy, K. Scalise, Stan Shadick, Peter Sherrington, Bob Shettler (BSh), Martin Siepmann (MSi), Wayne Smith, Bea Stanley (BSt), John Steeves, Marion Steeves (MSt), Frank Switzer, Peter Taylor, Catherine Thexton, Richard Thomas (RTh), Terry Thormin, Russell Tkachuk (RTk), Jim Triffo, Eric Tull, Ben Velnor, Mike Veloski, Don Weidl, Merrill Wershler, Ray Wershler, Art Wilkins, Bill Wilson, Bernie & Ruth Zabach, Reto Zach.
—RUDOLF F. KOES, 135 Rossmere Cres., Winnipeg, MB R2K 0G1 and PETER TAYLOR, Box 597, Pinawa, MB ROE ILO.

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Ron Martin

Most of the Region remained extremely dry with very little spring runoff. In North Dakota, only 6% of the wetlands in the Jamestown area held water. Farther west, at Bowdoin, Prellwitz reported only 4.28 inches of precipitation in the eleven-month period from July, 1991, to May, 1992. The few exceptions to this trend were north-eastern North Dakota, with good spring runoff, and eastern South Dakota, which had adequate moisture from rains last fall.

March was very warm, and record-early dates for waterfowl were reported everywhere. Waterfowl peaks were also early, but migration slowed with some cooler weather in April. Late April and May brought early passerine migration with good fallouts in mid-May. May 9 and 10 brought good concentrations of Least Flycatchers, Yellow Warblers, and Clay-colored Sparrows to central North Dakota. A major wave of passerines occurred May 16 in the Malta area, and May 17 brought exceptional warbler numbers to northern North Dakota.

Season highlights included multiple sightings of Black-necked Stilts, Whimbrels, and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. Several warbler rarities were recorded and Green-tailed Towhee made an appearance in both Dakotas. In South Dakota, Bald Eagles attempted nesting for the first time since the 19th century.

LOONS TO WATERFOWL

A Com. Loon Mar. 3 in *Hughes* was the earliest ever for South Dakota (RVs). In North Dakota and Montana migrant grebes were scarce and very few breeders remain after several years of drought. An exception was the 686 Horneds in *Grand Forks*, ND, Apr. 28 (EF). Nesting Red-neckeds were unusual at Freezeout L., MT (MS). In South Dakota grebes were very early, with Horneds in *Yankton* Mar. 15, and Westerns at Sand Lake N.W.R., Apr. 5. A W. Grebe nest was noted on the early date of May 10 in *McPherson*. Clark's Grebes were in 2 South Dakota counties in May and at Freezeout Apr. 21.

Double-crested Cormorants peaked at 775 Apr. 24 at Spiritwood L., ND (J & AP). One Snowy Egret report from each state was down from previous years. Four Cattle Egret reports came from North Dakota in May, and one photographed in *Butte*, SD, May 8 furnished only the 5th record w. of the Missouri River (B & RS). A Green-backed Heron in *Ward*, ND, May 15 provided a first county record (REM). White-faced Ibises were the earliest ever in *Day*, SD, Apr. 13 (TW), and they arrived at Bowdoin Apr. 14. A Trumpeter Swan with a yellow neckband was n. of Freezeout May 13 and two were in *Deuel*, SD, Apr. 4 (BKH). Greater White-fronted Geese in *Turner*, SD, Feb. 27, were the earliest ever, and the species peaked Mar. 18 at Sand L. N.W.R. at 18,000. Snow Geese peaked very early at Arrowwood N.W.R., ND, Mar. 19 at over 100,000 (CRL). Ross' Geese were at Freezeout Mar. 1, and record-early were 24 in *Hamlin*, SD, Mar. 8, and 9 in c. North Dakota Mar. 28. The 145 recorded Apr. 24 at the Minot Sewage Lagoons was a new high for North Dakota.

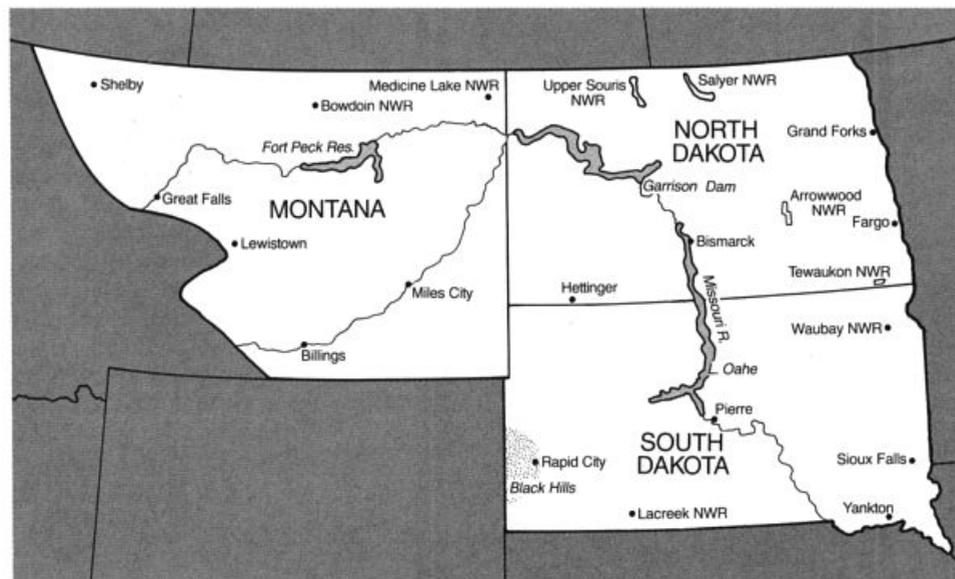
Earliest ever waterfowl dates in North and South Dakota were far too numerous to mention. Most species arrived in very early

March in all three states. Some notable peaks in North Dakota were 27,000 Mallards at Tewaukon, 9165 Pintails Mar. 17 at L. Ilo, and 6000 Blue-winged Teal at Tewaukon May 14. In South Dakota, 5000 Pintails were in *Meade*, Mar. 14, with 5000 Redbeads at Wauby N.W.R., Apr. 2. Cinnamon Teal were early near Bowdoin Mar. 27, and the ratio of Cinnamons to Blue-wingeds was much higher than usual in that area (DP). A Eurasian Wigeon Apr. 16 in *Pierce*, ND, provided the 9th record for the state (GAE), and this species arrived at Freezeout Feb. 9, and was noted as quite common there in March and April (MS). Single Oldsquaw were in *Brookings* and *Yankton*, SD, Mar. 8 (JRK, RVS), and 12 Barrow's Goldeneye were at Medicine Lake N.W.R. Apr. 17 (HH).

RAPTORS TO CRANES

Over 100 Bald Eagles concentrated at Medicine L. the last week of March, and a late migrant was at L. Ilo, ND, June 1 (DJB). In March a pair of Bald Eagles built a nest at Sand Lake N.W.R., SD, but abandoned in April. The last recorded nest in South Dakota was near Yankton in 1885. Cooper's Hawks were found nesting in a Grand Forks cemetery, 2 Fargo parks, and one Minot park, where they seem to tolerate an amazing amount of traffic. Observations of dark-morph Broad-winged Hawks in the w. Dakotas included one Apr. 24 in Hettinger (D & CG), and another May 16 in *Lawrence*, SD (BKH). Early reports of Swainson's Hawks Mar. 17 at Tewaukon, and Mar. 24 at Medicine L. require documentation. Unusual was a rufous-morph Red-tailed Hawk at Minot Apr. 5 (GGB). The Ferruginous Hawk Mar. 1 at Hettinger was the earliest ever by 10 days for North Dakota, and one was far east at Fargo May 23. Nests were fairly

common in n.w. *Phillips*, MT, in mid-May (DP), and nesting activity near Westby also increased this year (TN). In North Dakota 13 were on territory in Bowman May 23, and 2 easterly nests in South Dakota were in *Roberts* and *Beadle*. Golden Eagles were nesting s.e. of Medicine L. for the first documented nesting in the Sandhills (MR). The Merlin at Waubay May 23 was the latest ever there (DRS). A nest was found s. of Fort Peck May 14 in L22 (CC), and a bird seen in *Slope*, ND, May 26 was near a known breeding area. Sixteen Peregrine observations spanned Mar. 2-May 31, with four birds seen after May 26. A female hacked near Helena was found dead Mar. 22 at Benton Lake



(SM). March Gyrfalcon sightings were at Benton L. and Freezeout L., MT, and at Bismarck (LAJ).

Numbers of gallinaceous birds in North Dakota and n.e. Montana continued strong with CRP and mild winters probably the prime reasons. Sharp-tailed Grouse were still dancing actively into June in North Dakota, but numbers on leks at Bowdoin were greatly reduced from 1991. A Yellow Rail May 3 in McHenry, ND, tied the earliest date for that state (GBB), and a King Rail was in *Yankton*, SD, May 30 (RVS). The only Whooping Crane report was of three in *Dunn*, ND, Apr. 21-23 (MK).

SHOREBIRDS TO TERNS

A Piping Plover on L. Oahe, ND, Apr. 16 tied the earliest date, and one was in *Jackson*, SD, Apr. 26 (KG). Black-necked Stilts made a particularly good showing with a single May 8 at Fargo (GEN), and a pair at Minot May 13-27 (GBB). There are now 20 records for North Dakota. In South Dakota four were in *Meade* May 16 (EEM). Still expanding in Montana, 25 were at Benton L. Apr. 14, and the species was present and nesting in greater numbers than ever before at Freezeout. Five birds near Miles City May 2 provided a first record for L34 (DH). Single Whimbrels were at Minot, May 16 (REM), and Lostwood N.W.R., May 20 (RKM). Unprecedented were the 19 found in *McHenry*, ND, May 19 (MA0). In South Dakota one was photographed at Sand L. May 24-25 (DAT), and 35 were at Freezeout May 8. Long-billed Curlews were present in unusual numbers in s.w. North Dakota with 18 in *Slope* May 25. Earliest ever were birds Mar. 27 in *Custer*, SD (MMM), and they arrived at Freezeout Mar. 19. A single **Hudsonian Godwit** at Freezeout May 3 provided about the 10th record for Montana (HM). This species peaked at 180 at both Minot, May 2 and in *Edmunds*, SD, Apr. 25 (JDW). A Ruddy Turnstone was earliest ever at Sand L., Apr. 17. The single Red Knot at Freezeout May 8 provided one of fewer than 20 sightings for Montana (MS). Good peaks of peeps at Minot, ND, were 2300 Semipalmated Sandpipers May 22, 550 Least May 10, 2000 White-rumped May 22, 800 Baird's May 8, and 800 Pectorals May 5 (REM, GBB). Dunlin were early and in numbers with 150 Apr. 18 at Minnewaukon Flats, ND. Record-early by 5 days was a Stilt Sandpiper at Minot Apr. 17. A record high 92 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were in *Bottineau*, ND, May 19 (MAO). Long-billed Dowitchers peaked at over 3000 at Benton L. May 11 (SM).

Larids joined the parade of early species in March with record-early California Gulls in *McLean*, ND, Mar. 14. Early gulls away from

the Missouri R. in South Dakota were Ring-billed in *Lincoln*, Mar. 1, and Herring Gull in *Deuel*, Mar. 7. A Glaucous Gull lingered to Apr. 23 at Fort Peck and the first-winter Glaucous-winged Gull there Apr. 1-18 was assumed to be the same bird seen in the fall and winter seasons (CC). A pair of Caspian Terns at Freezeout furnished a first nesting record, and a pair at Medicine L. provided the 3rd nesting record there. Carlson commented that this species seems to be spreading in Montana recently.

DOVES TO STARLING

Agitated pairs of Barred Owls were in *Richland*, ND, in May and in *Yankton*, SD, Apr. 7 (RAP). Whip-poor-wills were early Apr. 28 in *Clay* (DLS) and Apr. 29 in *Yankton*, SD (SVS). Early in North Dakota were three at Turtle River S.P., Apr. 29 (EF). Four territorial birds were in *Richland*, ND, May 28-29. No confirmed breeding records exist for North Dakota. A Lewis' Woodpecker in *Liberty*, MT, was a first for that county and L5 (HM). A ♂ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was described from L31 s.w. of Roundup, MT, Apr. 28 (JP).

Earliest ever W. Wood-Pewees were at Fort Peck May 9 and Minot May 13. Also record-early in North Dakota were Alder Flycatcher at Fargo May 5 and Willow Flycatcher at Hettinger May 2. At Minot 175 Least Flycatchers May 10 was a new record-high by 125. This species was incredibly common for a 10-day period in mid-May. A Say's Phoebe was extremely early at Benton L., Mar. 24, and they were recorded in 3 counties e. of the Missouri R. in South Dakota. The record-early W. Kingbird at Audubon N.W.R., ND, Apr. 10 will require documentation.

Violet-green Swallows were again seen in 3 w. North Dakota locations after last year's discovery of a sparse nesting population, and 15+ birds in *Pennington*, SD, Apr. 20 were early. A Rock Wren May 10 in *McPherson*, SD, provided a first county record and a Winter Wren at Minot Apr. 28 was the first spring observation there. **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were in Fargo again this year with singles May 8 & 9 (MAO, GEN), and May 9 also produced a single in Grand Forks (EF). These observations were the 9th through 11th records for North Dakota, 8 since 1989. In South Dakota a gnatcatcher was in *Spink* May 26 (PFS), and birds returned to Newton Hills S.P. where they have been regular in recent years. Eastern Bluebirds were very early in Morton, ND, Mar. 10 (RNR), but several observers in Montana and North Dakota commented that breeders did not return to some areas until late-May and early June. Mountain Bluebirds were very early with birds at several locales in all 3 states the first days of March

A Townsend's Solitaire at Westby May 1 was late. The 2nd earliest Veery on record in Fargo Apr. 17 (LLF), and the earliest ever Apr. 20 in *Brookings*, SD (RWK), were matched by a very early nest with eggs in *Richland*, ND, May 29. The thrush migration was again dismal in many areas. Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes appear to have declined drastically in the past 10 years. An exception to the low numbers was a good fallout at Malta, MT, May 16 (TP). Three Wood Thrush reports were all from the e. Dakotas.

A Sprague's Pipit was a rare migrant in *Cass*, ND, Apr. 19. The last N. Shrike reported was in *McLean*, ND, Apr. 12. Loggerhead Shrikes arrived early in Billings, MT, Mar. 16, *Stark*, ND, Mar. 19 and *Deuel*, SD, Mar. 23. Twenty shrikes in *Bowman*, ND, May 2 was a very respectable count. Several Montana observers commented that numbers were above normal.

VIREOS TO WARBLERS

A White-eyed Vireo photographed at Fargo May 23 furnished the 5th record for North Dakota and the first since 1971 (D & DW). A Bell's Vireo May 23 at Bowman-Haley Res., ND, was in an area where one was reported last year. Like many other species, vireos were early in the Dakotas with Philadelphias making a particularly good showing. This species was observed from May 10-25 at Fargo and peaked at 10 in the Minot area May 17. Five were in *Minnehaha*, SD, May 16-24 (JL, MSS).

Warblers were early and exceptional at Minot, and South Dakota observers tallied some exciting species. In contrast Fargo birders reported a disappointing spring as did Nordhagen at Wesby, MT. **Blue-winged Warblers** at Minot May 9 (GBB), Fargo May 10 (RHO), and Lisbon May 16 (DOL), brought North Dakota's total records to 9, with 7 since 1988. Golden-winged Warblers were seen on 5 dates at Fargo May 9-27, and singles were in Bismarck May 16 (RNR), and *Edmunds*, SD, May 20 (MZ). A **Brewster's Warbler** May 10 in *Minnehaha* provided the 2nd record for this hybrid in South Dakota (AH). The Orange-crowned Warbler in *Clay*, SD, Apr. 14 provided a new early date (DLS). Three N. Parula sightings in North Dakota included one May 30 at the S. Unit of Theodore Roosevelt N. P., the first record w. of the Missouri R. (ABL). Doubling the previous peak were an incredible 200 Yellow Warblers in a small Minot park May 9. Cape May Warblers were notable with 6 North Dakota and 3 South Dakota reports May 8-28. A Black-throated Blue Warbler May 9 at Minot was the earliest ever (GBB), and a single was also early at Fargo May 14 (MAB). The peak of three Blackburnians at Minot

May 17 were Berkey and Martin's first spring observation in 11 years. In South Dakota 10 were in *Minnehaha* May 12 (AH). Both Blackpoll Warbler and Am. Redstart peaked at 50 in Minot May 16, and a Black-and-white in Hettinger Apr. 5 tied the earliest date in North Dakota. If accepted, the **Worm-eating Warbler** at Larimore, ND, May 18 would be 5th state record (DV). A N. Waterthrush May 8 in *Pennington*, SD, was far west and a **Kentucky Warbler** was seen by several observers in *Minnehaha* May 21-31 (AH). A Connecticut Warbler May 25 and a Mourning May 26 were first records in *Slope*, ND, the latter species establishing a new early date for the state at Bowman, May 7 (MLJ). A Hooded Warbler was in *Union*, SD, May 20 (DLS).

TANAGERS TO REDPOLLS

The 11th record for **Summer Tanager** was at Jamestown, ND, May 10 (BW), and the male in *Butte*, SD, May 16 was far west (EEM). A Western Tanager was east May 31 in *Edmunds*, SD, (MZ). The Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Medicine L., May 18 was the only report for Montana, and easterly Black-bedeeds were a single at Grand Forks May 30 (EF), and a pair at *Beadle*, SD, May 23 (PFS). Lazuli Buntings in four e. river counties in South Dakota were unusual and an Indigo was at Miles City May 21 (PG). The **Green-tailed Towhee** at Bowman, ND, May 12-13 was the 3rd state record (MLS) and another photographed in *Butte*, May 12 represented the 8th for South Dakota (B & RS).

With 1000 in one flock, the 1350 Clay-colored Sparrows at Minot May 10 surpassed the previous high by 1030. Brewer's Sparrows were reported nesting in CRP lands in the Chester, MT, area (HM). With drought still prevalent in most areas, Lark Buntings were general over most of North Dakota except in the northeast. The Le Conte's Sparrow in *Bowman* May 2 furnished a first county record (GEN). In *Stark*, ND, the Sharp-tailed Sparrows Apr. 28 were the 3rd earliest ever and were also the first recorded in that county (JWH). A male was singing in *Beadle*, SD, May 25 at the extreme s. end of their range. There is no confirmed nesting for that state. Fox Sparrows Apr. 5 at Fort Peck and Apr. 22 at Medicine L. were rare migrants for e. Montana. The Song Sparrow Mar. 12 and the Lincoln's Sparrow Mar. 28 at Hettinger furnished the 2nd earliest records for North Dakota. Crowned sparrow numbers at some Montana

locales were very low, with no White-throats recorded at Chester and no Harris' at Fort Peck. Conversely, the 300 White-crowns in *Slope* and *Bowman* May 2 surpassed the previous high by 180.

McCown's Longspurs arrived at Fort Peck Apr. 6 and a late Lapland was at Minot May 27. Early orioles included an Orchard May 8 at Grand Forks and Northern's Apr. 30 at Minot and Apr. 18 in *Clay*, SD. The House Finch explosion continued with reports from 13 locations in the Dakotas. They were described as fairly common in Fargo and Grand Forks, and numerous after Apr. 16 in Miles City, MT (DH). The last Com. Redpolls were in *Rolette*, ND, Apr. 26.

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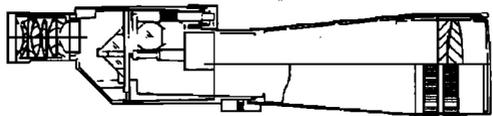
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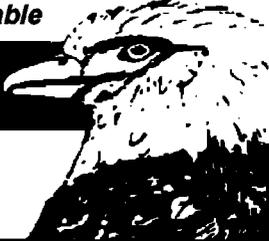
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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Joseph A. Grzybowski

The season was generally characterized by warmer than usual, but dry weather—an extension of the mild winter conditions. However, rainy weather dominated the second half of May in much of the Region.

For birding it meant a virtual plethora of early migrant records. And the early dryness and May rains may also have added their own dimensions to the season. It seemed as if the spring migration were like a chunk of taffy shot out of a gun. Some of the birds got out there fast, but the season still seemed drawn out and sluggish.

Bird populations will reflect the histories of rainfall and other climatic patterns over the past several years, with variations in numbers from which subsequent patterns will emerge. With widespread drought, as occurred in the Region during the late 1980s, time lags in population growth are expected. After a severe drought even a year of normal rainfall will not affect drought conditions.

Cheyenne Bottoms in Kansas, a former mecca for water, marsh and shorebirds, was dry again this year. Water levels at nearby Quivira were low, but provided some habitat for migrating shorebirds. Past drought conditions in western Nebraska made it difficult on these water and shorebirds. Parts of Oklahoma may have provided some refuge.

However, the overall climatic conditions of the past few years have still been good for many breeding populations of landbirds, with reasonable to good moisture during the nesting periods, especially in western and central Oklahoma, and mild winters throughout. Where conditions may have been the best, as in western Oklahoma, numbers of resident species such as Roadrunners, wrens, and Rufous-crowned Sparrows were very high. Northern Bobwhites in at least the western half of the Region likely responded to the mild winter with higher general abundance this season. The Rosches commented on the expansion of Northern Cardinals through riparian corridors in western Nebraska, though they appeared to recede by the end of the period.

The extralimital records of residents, however, showed only a very weak relation to expectations from high populations. Predators also

do well, and may dampen some of the exponential growth patterns, or existing habitat may be in better condition and absorb more birds.

Then there are also the stochastic effects, those randomizations in the system that add a little flavor to the internally dampened oscillations. This year the random catastrophe appeared to have been the persistent series of rainy, dribbly days the second half of May. The Rosches lamented the effects of unfavorable weather in delaying late-arriving migrants at the end of May. Species fledging young in this period showed reduced reproductive success, as was the case for the Black-capped Vireos and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in southwestern Oklahoma. Species taking insects on the wing were likely impacted the worse. Purple Martins in Lawton abandoned and scattered from breeding colonies in late May. Vicki Byre tells of Chimney Swifts, forced to forage over a roadway by rainy weather, being decimated by local traffic.

Abbreviations: Fontenelle Forest (*Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., NE*); Gavin's Point (*Gavin's Point Dam, Cedar Co., NE*); Quivira (*Quivira N.W.R., Stafford Co., KS*); Wichita Mts. (*Wichita Mts. Wildlife Refuge, Comanche Co., OK*).

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Yet another Pacific Loon, virtually unheard of several years ago, was noted in *Pottawatomie*, KS, Apr. 9 (DR). A Com. Loon lingered in *Wyandotte*, KS, until May 19 (LM), and to May 23 in *Tulsa* (PS *et al.*). Eared Grebes arrived in *Linn*, KS, Mar. 15 (CH).

An ad. **Brown Pelican** at Desoto N.W.R., *Washington*, NE, shared interests

from both sides of the Missouri R. (BP, LP, BJR *et al.*). The 15,000 Double-crested Cormorants estimated in *Butler*, KS, Apr. 25 (PJ, GG, IE) was the highest concentration reported in recent years. Neotropical Cormorants were noted Mar. 30-Apr. 7 in *Oklahoma* (MO, JGN *et al.*), May 9-31 in *Linn*, KS (GP), and at Quivira May 23 (SS, DS, DB). Anhingas nested again in *McCurtain*, OK, with 8 nests under construction by May 4 (BH).

Among the declining number of Am. Bitterns reported in recent years were two this season in *Oklahoma* (*vide* JGN), one in *Tulsa* (FP *et al.*), and one from Quivira (PJ). Great Egrets appeared in Fontenelle Forest Apr. 9 (MD, BP). A Little Blue Heron there Apr. 27 (MD) was also a local treat. Three Cattle Egrets arrived in *McCurtain*, OK, by Mar. 9 (JDT *et al.*). Normally a rare summer vagrant, an imm. White Ibis appeared in *Sequoyah* May 11-12 (KM).

Kansas observers, scrutinizing difficult-to-identify species, came up with a **Glossy Ibis** photographed May 3-4 in *Jefferson* (JB, JNL), the first documented for Kansas. A White-faced Ibis in *Jefferson*, KS (DLS) May 31 was the easternmost reported this season.

Four Tundra Swans were present until Mar. 15 at Quivira (MR). Three Trumpeters were identified in *Geary*, KS, Mar. 23 (*vide* LM). No documentation was provided for a "wow-class" surprise—a Black Brant in *Crawford*, KS, Mar. 28. After the hundreds observed last year, the groups of one to eighteen Ross' Geese reported through Apr. 20 at a scattered sample of locales seemed inconsequential. One at Quivira May 2 (m. ob) was noteworthy in being late, as was a Snow Goose May 29 in *Box Butte*, NE (RCR, DJR).

Cinnamon Teal were reported east to *Jefferson*, KS, Mar. 25 (LM). Of very special interest were a **Eurasian Wigeon** photographed Apr. 4-10 in *Sarpy*, NE (RH *et al.*), with another discovered in *Dawes*, NE, Apr. 25 (RCR, DJR). While identification problems limit the ability to discern migration times of Greater Scaup, 10 were observed in *Sarpy*, NE, Mar. 30 (BJR). An Oldsquaw was noted at Gavin's Point Mar. 8 (RVS), and a tardy female was observed Apr. 17-20 in *Keith*, NE (RCR, DJR). A male and probable ♀ **Barrow's Goldeneye** were documented in *Scottsbluff*, NE, Mar. 14 (RCR, DJR).

A sign of wetter years are the number of late extralimital ducks. This year, two pairs of Ring-necked Ducks were in *Linn*, KS,



May 31 (LM). Also lingering were a ♀ Com. Goldeneye May 19 in *Tulsa* (AR *et al.*), a ♀ Hooded Merganser May 29 in *Box Butte*, NE (RCR, DJR), a ♀ Red-breasted Merganser May 15 in *Woodward*, OK (RH), and one May 16 in *Cherokee*, OK (JM, JH).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

Tardy was an Osprey May 26 in *Cleveland*, OK (VB). A Mississippi Kite Apr. 18 in *Mc-Curtain*, OK, was early (BH). One of the three nesting pairs of Bald Eagles in Kansas produced three fledglings in late May (*vide* LM). A Bald Eagle lingered until Apr. 4 in *Nowata*, OK (DV). Six N. Goshawks were reported from Kansas, including four apparently tardy birds in late April. A lingering imm. Ferruginous Hawk was noted May 3 in *Phelps*, NE (RS). The five Merlins reported this season was a surprisingly, perhaps alarmingly low number. Only three reports of Peregrine Falcons were received (also low), those at *Pottawatomie*, KS, Apr. 14 (*vide* DR), Quivira Apr. 26 (KB, JNo), and *Cleveland*, OK, May 9 (VB *et al.*). Wintering Prairie Falcons, possibly in transit to breeding areas, were noted east to Gavin's Point Mar. 8 (MB) and Fontenelle Forest Mar. 14 (BP, LP).

One to two King Rails were noted in *Wagoner*, OK, May 6-16 (JM *et al.*). Black Rails found their way back to Quivira by Apr. 24 (SP). The 12 Sandhill Cranes in *Coffey*, KS, Mar. 28 (MI, GK) were east of normal occurrences. Three Sandhill Cranes lingered until May 23 in *Kearney*, NE (MD). At least 27 Whooping Cranes passed through Nebraska Apr. 11-13 (GL); ten came in to Quivira Apr. 10-12 (*vide* LM).

PLOVERS THROUGH TERNS

Lesser Golden-Plovers were spotted early (two Mar. 8; JW, TM) and late (23 May 29; DI) in *Tulsa*. Rare in the e. portion of the Region, a Snowy Plover Apr. 18-May 3 graced *Sequoyah*, OK (BB, KM). Three Semipalmated Plovers made it to *Lincoln*, NE, Apr. 17 (RCR, DJR). Up to 12 Piping Plovers were noted at Quivira Apr 24-26 (BVD, SP), a traditional peak migration time.

Potentially nesting Black-necked Stilts were thwarted by drought conditions in *Sheridan*, NE (RCR, DJR), the only locality where they are known to have nested in Nebraska. Rosche complained that numbers of Upland Sandpipers were down in w. Nebraska. A group of 10-15 Long-billed Curlews Mar. 29-30 in *Cleveland*, OK (VB), were east of most occurrences.

Early-arriving shorebirds included a Spotted Sandpiper in *Red Willow*, NE, Apr. 18 (RCR, DJR), 12 Baird's Sandpipers Mar. 7 in *Sumner*, KS (MT), and a Dunlin Apr. 12 in *Kearney*, NE (BP, LP). Though not as many as a few years back, 20 Whimbrel May 11 at

Quivira (JNo) is still a healthy number. Other reports came from central Kansas, with additional birds May 2 in *Chase*, NE (RCR, DJR), and one in *Tulsa* May 14 (AR). A flock of 65 Buff-breasted Sandpipers May 14 in *Tulsa* (PS, JL) was the high count of the few reported this season.

Keep your eyes on those gulls. Laughing



This adult Brown Pelican generated excitement for inland at Desoto National Wildlife Refuge, Nebraska/Iowa, on May 6, 1992. Photograph/ B. J. Rose.

Gulls continue to show up in surprise locations, with one in *Jefferson*, KS, May 2 (MI, GK), and one in *Alfalfa*, OK, May 13 (JW, TM). While it has been very rare to report even one Little Gull, there were three this season. Adults appeared Mar. 4 in *Cherokee*, OK (DK, SM), and Apr. 4 in *Bryan*, OK (JWe); one in first winter plumage was found in *Geary*, KS, Apr. 25 (DR). California Gulls are increasing in Nebraska with 50 noted at Lake McConaughy, *Keith*, NE, Apr. 4 (JJ). One Mar. 27 in *Paunee*, OK (JCH), is only one of a handful of current spring records for Oklahoma. An ad. Herring Gull lingered in *Leftore*, OK, May 1 (LA). Also tardy was an ad. Glaucous Gull Mar. 28 in *Lancaster*, NE (BJR). And our "where's Waldo" Black-legged Kittiwake this season was an adult found Apr. 3 in *Jefferson*, KS (CH).

Not an easy find in spring, Com. Terns were noted May 2 in *Jefferson*, KS (MI, GK), and May 3 in *Sedgwick*, KS (PJ *et al.*). An adult was spotted May 17-31 at Gavin's Point (MB *et al.*).

DOVES THROUGH SHRIKES

Black-billed Cuckoos were reported in all eastern sections. A rare breeder in the Region, Long-eared Owls were observed with young in *Sedgwick*, KS, Apr. 17 (DVa, PJ). The N. Saw-whet Owls in *Jefferson*, KS, were last seen there Mar. 7.

Not one, but *five* White-throated Swifts were photographed over the University of

Kansas campus, *Douglas* Apr. 17-18 (CB, m.ob.), the first fully documented for Kansas. This species was unusually common and widespread in *Sioux* and *Dawes*, NE, this year (RCR, DJR). Good numbers of Black-chinned Hummingbirds arrived in the Wichita Mts. in mid-April following the major population pulse the previous year; but with little rain soon faded to perhaps their 2nd best season in this area with modest numbers by mid-May (JAG). An ad. ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird appeared at a feeder in *Morton*, KS, May 5 (VG).

A very early migrant Lewis' Woodpecker was noted May 2 in *Dawes*, NE (RCR, DJR). Red-bellied Woodpeckers were unusually widespread in riparian corridors of w. Nebraska (RCR, DJR). When do Red-naped Sapsuckers conduct spring passage through the area? One Mar. 24 in *Thomas*, KS (CO), provides a data point.

A W. Wood-Pewee taped May 8 in the Wichita Mts. may be the first documented east of the 100th meridian in the Region (JAG). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in *Rooks*, KS, May 8 (JS) was west of most reported occurrences.

A Say's Phoebe Mar. 2 at Quivira was very early (JNo, PJ). Also early were a Great Crested Flycatcher Apr. 10 in *Cleveland*, OK (VB), E. Kingbirds in *Red Willow* and *Frontier*, NE, Apr. 19 (RCR, DJR), Tree Swallows (10+) by Mar. 8 in *Sequoyah*, OK (RSu, BJ), and Cliff Swallows (eight) Mar. 29 at the Kaw Dam, *Osage/Kay*, OK (DV). Cliff Swallows appear to have undergone population growths in Kansas during recent years, where Moore comments that they may now nest at every large bridge and dam site in the state.

Six or seven Fish Crow appeared again in *Cherokee*, KS (SP). Rock Wrens were having a banner year in *Blaine*, OK (JAG). Perhaps an extralimital spin-off was the one detected at Quivira Apr. 26 among some abandoned buildings (JNo, DK, PH). A singing ♂ Canyon Wren near the Missouri R. in Knox (MB *et al.*) was well out of range. Ruby-crowned Kinglets appeared peculiarly absent in c. and w. Oklahoma this spring (JAG).

Nesting Mtn. Bluebirds May 17 in *Red Willow*, NE, were 150-200 mi e. of expected occurrences (WM). Oddball Townsends' Solitaires occurred in *Sedgwick*, KS, Apr. 13 (PJ), and in *Caddo*, OK, on a very late date for this species of May 9 (m.ob.).

A Veery, rare in c. Oklahoma, was noted in *Oklahoma* May 17 (JGN). Gray-cheeked Thrushes wandered to the western edge of the Region at *Sheridan*, NE, May 8 and *Dawes*, NE, May 16 (RCR, DJR). Early arriving Swainson's Thrushes were noted in *Tulsa* Apr. 11 and 14 (JL, PS, AR), and Apr. 11 at *Leavenworth* (*vide* DR). Wood Thrushes appeared more commonly in the central



Swainson's Warbler at Little River National Wildlife Refuge, Oklahoma, May 6, 1992. Photograph/Steve Metz.

strip of the Region this year with four May 6 and 12 in *Cowley*, KS (SMo), at least four males in *Caddo*, OK, May 9 (JAG, m.ob.), and one Apr. 26 in *Cleveland*, OK (VB). One Apr. 14 in *McCurtain*, OK (BH), was early.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS

An early White-eyed Vireo appeared in *Sarpy*, NE, Apr. 6 (RG). Along the w. edge of distributional records for this species was one May 1 in the Wichita Mts. (MS). At least four ♂ Black-capped Vireos were present on territory in the Wichita Mts. by Apr. 10, the earliest yet recorded (JAG). Also early was a Solitary Vireo Apr. 5 in *Sarpy*, NE (BP).

Twelve or more Warbling Vireos in *Cowley*, KS, May 6 & 12 (SMo) were hopefully not all migrants. One Apr. 5 in *Tulsa* (JW) was early. A Philadelphia Vireo observation May 1 in *Cowley*, KS (SMo), may help define the western edge of the migration corridor for this species. They were more common in *Tulsa* this season than in the past (*fide* JL).

Warblers made a good showing this season. There were six reports of Blue-winged Warblers, and an even more surprising five of Golden-winged along the eastern stretches of the Region. Virginia Warblers appeared in *Scott*, KS, May 10 (SS, MR, DB) and exceptionally east to *Sedgwick*, KS, May 14 (PJ). An Orange-crowned Warbler noted May 14 and Yellow-rumped Warbler May 18 in Fontenelle Forest (BP) were later than most.

A N. Parula that arrived by Apr. 5 with three Yellow-throated Warblers in Fontenelle Forest (BP) were the first of these species present there through May (BP, LP). Another southern species, the Hooded Warbler, was also noted there May 5 (BP) & 24 (BGC). Seven Hooded Warblers in *Tulsa* Apr. 28 are likely part of a small breeding group there (JA, m.ob.). Breeding Worm-eating Warblers were observed in *Cherokee*, OK (DI *et al.*). The Swanson's Warblers occupying the Little River N.W.R., *McCurtain*, OK (BH *et al.*), may be part of the only remaining population in the Region. Five Cerulean Warblers observed May 4 in Fontenelle Forest (TB) provided the high count for only a handful of observations for both e. Nebraska and the rest of the Region.

Chestnut-sided and Magnolia warblers, but not Ovenbirds, went well reported this season in e. Nebraska (*fide* BP). Among some early arrivals were a Nashville Warbler Apr. 3 in *Comanche*, OK, (JAG), a Chestnut-sided Apr. 23 in *McCurtain*, OK (BH), two Black-and-white Warblers Mar. 15 in *Comanche*, OK (JDT *et al.*), and a Louisiana Waterthrush Mar. 20 in *Cleveland*, OK (VB). Exceptionally early were a N. Waterthrush (EB) and a Palm Warbler (BP) Apr. 5 in Fontenelle Forest. Other Palm Warblers were reported in e. portions of the Region. One in *Tulsa* Apr. 16-17 (PS, JL, TM) was also early. Another in *Sedgwick*, KS, May 3 (PJ) was w. of most occurrences, but not as far as one that traversed the Region to *Sheridan*, NE, May 8 (RCR, DJR).

Always noteworthy, Cape May Warblers appeared in *Oklahoma* (MO) May 15 and *Knox*, NE (MB), May 17. Also a hot find was a Black-throated Blue Warbler May 6 in *Cherokee*, KS (JNo). The much-dreamed-about Connecticut Warbler was reported May 16 from Omaha (NR), and May 23 in *Jefferson*, KS (DLS).

A Yellow-throated Warbler May 9 at the very n.w. corner of Kansas in *Cheyenne* (SS, m.ob.) was a real surprise, as was a Black-and-white Warbler May 26 at the tip of the Oklahoma Panhandle in *Cimarron* (VB *et al.*). A Chestnut-sided Warbler in *Alfalfa*, OK, May 10 (JM, JN) was the westernmost reported this season. A Tennessee Warbler May 18 (JAG) in the Wichita Mts. was only the 2nd reported for the Refuge. Black-throated Green Warblers May 11 (MS) & 18 (JAG), and one to two Ovenbirds May 8 & 11, respectively (JAG) in the Wichita Mts. likely define the rarefied w. edge of migration corridors for these species.

Two Prairie Warblers made it out to *Sedgwick* (JN, PH, PJ), and *Riley*, KS, May 10 & 30, respectively. A Pine Warbler May 14 in *Wyandotte*, KS (LM), was out of range. A ♀

Ovenbird captured in *Oklahoma* May 27 (HH) was tardy. A Com. Yellowthroat Mar. 17 in *Woodward*, OK (RH), may have overwintered.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Summer Tanager May 8 in *Sheridan*, NE, is only the 2nd for w. Nebraska (RCR, DJR). A ♂ Scarlet Tanager May 8-9 in *Caddo*, OK (JEM, m.ob) which flirted quizzically with a ♀ Summer (JAG) provided a first county record and was west of most occurrences in the Region.

A Black-headed Grosbeak May 6 in *Cherokee*, KS (PJ *et al.*), was clearly an extralimital discovery. Dickcissels were experiencing a definitive pulse in their populations in Oklahoma and Kansas. From whence these come has always made for intriguing speculation.

A Chipping Sparrow Mar. 15 in *Cleveland*, OK (VB), was early. Baird's Sparrows were discovered in *Butler*, KS, Apr. 24 (PJ, GG, IE). Lincoln's Sparrows noted in *Riley*, KS, Mar. 7 15 (DR) may be early migrants or restless local wintering birds. A "Gray-headed" Junco banded May 25 in



This Gray-headed [Dark-eyed] Junco should have been in the Rockies on May 25, 1992, but instead it was banded in northeastern Oklahoma, at Fort Gibson Reservoir. Photograph/Don Varner.

Wagoner, OK (DVR) would have been a surprise in the winter, but is the second occurrence for n.e. Oklahoma in the last 5 years. Many would not mind seeing the 285 McCown's Longspurs noted in *Sioux*, NE, Apr. 10 (RCR, DJR).

A Rusty Blackbird Mar. 27 in *Chase*, NE, was both early and w. of normal occurrences (RCR, DJR). The 185 Great-tailed Grackles in *Clay*, NE (BJR) document the nature of

this species' recent range expansion. An Orchard Oriole Apr. 11 in *Tulsa* (PS, JMa, JL) was early.

House Finches are now getting ho-hum. The Padelfords indicate they were everywhere in e. Nebraska by late March. According to Hiatt, they have taken over in n.w. Oklahoma. Breeding is likely widespread. Still interesting is the few number of years it took for this species to undoubtedly achieve exponential growth rates. The Pine Siskins in the Region could use some of that good fortune.

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TEXAS REGION

Greg W. Lasley and Chuck Sexton

Texas continued to be very wet statewide. There were no "lingering pockets of drought" (Palmer) to be found anywhere. A series of Pacific fronts in late May really drenched the state; many localities reached their average annual rainfall totals by the end of the season. This abundant moisture, combined with generally mild temperatures, began to be reflected in several ways by the birdlife. Records of waders and waterbirds, especially southern and coastal species moving farther inland or northward, were prominent. Nesting birds got off to an early and successful start; more than most springs, our reporters began describing the abundance of fledging success of many species *before* the peak of the migration even passed. Said migration was inexplicably disappointing in most areas, however. Although good fallouts were detected locally at Goose Island (Central Coast) and in Nacogdoches (primarily in May), dismay and surprise at migrant sparsity was the more common pronouncement in all areas. Observers once again waited and watched for "the migration that never came." One of the more curious effects was that the weather seemed to disrupt the normal pattern of the hawk migration in south Texas, at least as far as ground-based observers were concerned.

Perhaps somehow related to the weather patterns, in far west Texas there was a good showing of eastern warblers and in coastal Texas the more easterly species such as Blackpoll Warbler and Bobolink made a better than average showing. There were also numerous reports of late migrant passerines (especially warblers) in the last few days of May and even into June.

Matt White remarked that, excluding a handful of rarities, the migration was dismal. Seyffert suggests some refocusing of our observations and reports may be appropriate: "Eventually we will need to pay more attention...to what we once considered rather common species." We continued to note this spring that observers often remarked about fair to good diversity of species but relatively low numbers of each, even among the "common" migrants. While the appropriate time for definitive conclusions may not have arrived, Seyffert's exhortation continues to carry greater and greater weight each year.

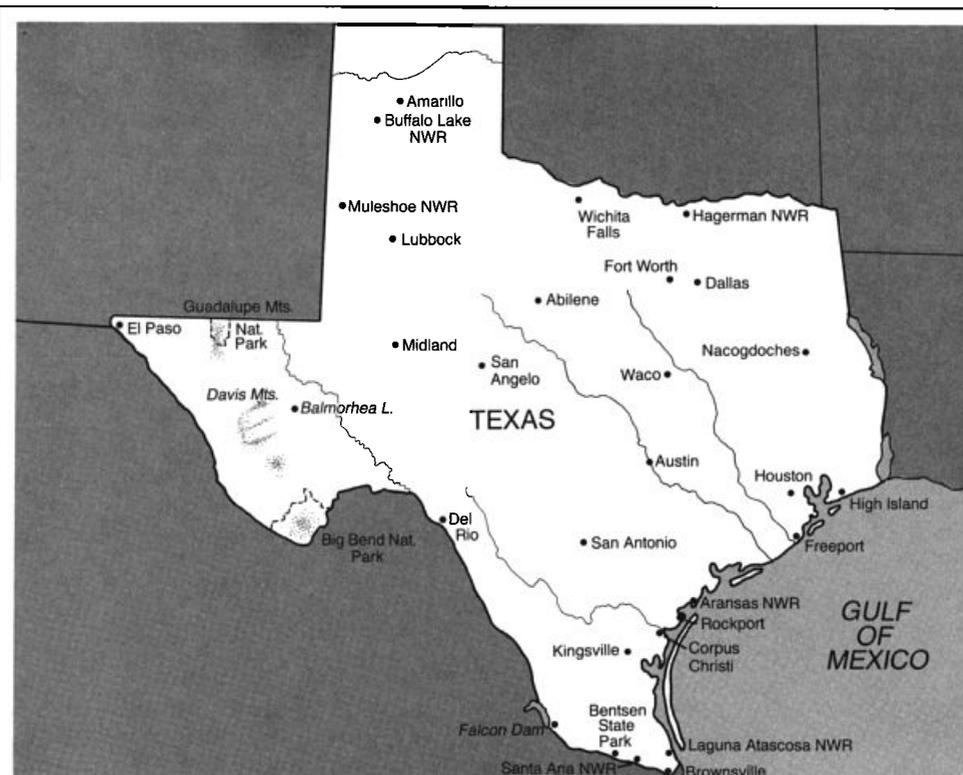
Abbreviations: Laureles (*Laureles Division of the King Ranch*); L.R.G.V. (*Lower Rio Grande Valley*); Norias (*Norias Division of the King Ranch*); T.B.R.C. (*Texas Bird Records Committee* {*Texas Ornithological Society*}); U.T.C.

(*Upper Texas Coast*), Village Creek (*Village Creek Drying Beds, Tarrant*). The following are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks, wildlife refuges, etc.: Anzalduas, Bentsen, Big Bend, Buffalo Lake, Kickapoo, Laguna Atascosa, Sabal Palm, and Santa Ana.

LOONS TO STORKS

Two Red-throated Loons reported last season on L. Texoma were seen through Mar. 14 (HG). A Pacific Loon was on L. Tawakoni, *Rains*, Apr. 12 and *Van Zandt*, May 10 (†RK, GH, JN) establishing the 2nd area record in 3 years. Elsewhere, a Pacific Loon lingered at Galveston's Offat's Bayou until at least May 21 (ph., GDL, GL) while another extremely late Pacific was found at Port Aransas May 28 (ph., TA). A Com. Loon at Catarina, *Dimit*, May 24 (BO) was apparently a first record for that area. A pair of Pied-billed Grebes with young Mar. 26 at Waco provided a very early nesting date (JMu), while a Horned Grebe at L. Meredith, *Moore*, Mar 1 (KS) was a good find. Over 200 Eared Grebes were on Soda L., *Midland*, May 9; many were building or sitting on nests. Rains later significantly raised the water level there and the nesting outcome was unknown (FW). Two W. Grebes were at Bolivar Flats Mar. 14 (GDL) while another visited San Antonio's Mitchell L., Apr. 9-11 (WS). At L. Balmorhea the ad. Clark's Grebe and the hybrid Clark's X Western young remained through the period (TJ). A dead Masked Booby was picked up at Boca Chica, *Cameron*, Apr. 22 (HBu). Two N. Gannets were seen off Mustang I., Apr. 6 (BZ), a little later than they are usually reported.

A flock of 12 Am. White Pelicans Mar. 12-21 in *Glasscock* (CeH, m.ob.) represents at first for that county while a flock of 3500 over *Hays* Apr. 14 (BA) was the largest reported for the season. Brown Pelicans continue in growing abundance on the Texas coast (N & PP, RM) which probably explains the ever-increasing inland reports in Texas. This season, single Brown Pelicans were at Midland Apr. 1-4 (ph., J & DMe, m.ob.), White Rock L., *Dallas*, May 16 (REJ *vide* WP) and L. Amistad, *Val Verde*, May 16 (ph., JW *vide* SWie). Notable Neotropic Cormorant observations included a very early individual at Grand Saline, *Van Zandt*, Mar 1 (RK, GH, JN) and another in *Glasscock* Mar 19-21 for a first county record (CeH *et al*) At least 2 nests of Neotropic Cormorants were found in a *Clay* heronry s.e. of Wichita Falls this spring (DMc). American Bittern is a regular winter resident at Midland, but photo documentation has been lacking. This year one was photographed there Mar. 31 displaying its white dorsal ruffs, behavior seldom seen in Texas (ph., DMe *vide* FW) At



species at present is readily observed along the Rio Grande from Falcon to Roma. Arvin suspects that nesting in that area is now likely. A pair of Wood Ducks at Big Bend's Cottonwood Campground May 22 was a surprise (FW). Up to six Mottled Ducks Apr. 23 at Waco was a surprise for a species normally considered a summer and fall visitor in that area (JMu). An Oldsquaw was at Indian Point, *San Patricio*, Mar. 7-Apr. 11 (DWI, GS, A & MC) while other individuals lingered at two *Dallas* locations until Mar. 14 and Apr. 6 (BG, RR, WP). Two Buffleheads remained at Mitchell L. through the period (WS). A Masked Duck was found Apr. 24 on the Laureles, *Kleberg* (†MF *et al.*).

RAPTORS

There were at least 19 reports of migrant Am. Swallow-tailed Kites in various s. Texas locations with another dozen or so in e. Texas and

least one Am. Bittern remained at Midland through the period which suggested a nesting possibility. Elsewhere, the continued presence of Am. Bitterns in favorable habitat at Big Creek L., *Delta*, suggested similar conclusions (MWh). An ad. Little Blue Heron in El Paso May 2-9 (M & PBin, ph., BZ) provided a rare spring record for the Trans-Pecos. Single Reddish Egrets were well-described along the Rio Grande in Big Bend Mar. 31 (CSa) and May 18 (VE *et al.*), the former being a very rare white morph bird. These sightings represent the first park records for the species. An imm. White Ibis, unexpected in n.c. Texas in spring, frequented Village Creek, *Tarrant*, May 2 (*fide* GK).

Once again this spring Glossy Ibises staged an impressive string of occurrences in Texas; records this season include one at High I., Mar. 8 (WG), one at McAllen Apr. 5-9 (R & LG, ph., BZ), one to three near Petronila, *Nueces*, Apr. 16-17 for apparently the first well-documented Coastal Bend record (†A & MC, m.ob.), one at High I. May 7-8 (FC, ph., JD), one at Dallas May 8-23 (†JJ, RR, m.ob.), and one at Austin's Hornsby Bend May 16-17 (†VE, Bly, DK, ph., GL). The most unexpected Glossy Ibis record, however, had to be an adult at Ft. Bliss, *El Paso*, Apr. 29-May 4 (†ph., BZ). Although expanding dramatically in coastal and e. Texas, a record from the extreme w. Trans-Pecos area is rather incredible. A Roseate Spoonbill Apr. 23 in *Kaufman* was out-of-season for n.c. Texas (MRO *fide* WP). An early Wood Stork Mar. 13 in *Chambers* was soaring with a flock of white pelicans (GDL).

WATERFOWL

Fulvous Whistling-Ducks have been somewhat difficult to find in numbers in recent years so 700 in *Harris* and *Waller* May 12 was encouraging (FC). Elsewhere, a Fulvous in Midland Mar. 14 (*fide* FW) and two to six in *Dallas* May 4-23 (JHa, WRo) provided rare locality records. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks are reportedly increasing in many areas of the Coastal Bend (RMe, N & PP, m.ob.) while two at Village Cr., Apr. 16 (JWS, MP, ph.) and one at Nacogdoches May 3-29 (GrH, CM, D & MW) were unusual. The wintering Tundra Swan at Level-land, *Hockley*, was last seen Apr. 30 (LS). A very late Snow Goose was still near Rockport May 2 (CC). A pair of Canada Geese with 10 young were seen May 25-28 at L. Arrowhead S.P., *Clay*, near where the species was originally confirmed nesting last year (DMc). Muscovy Ducks were seen sporadically through the season along the Rio Grande in *Starr* (m.ob.); a group of 10-12 at Rancho Santa Margarita Apr. 15 was the largest number reported (JA). One of these birds was seen behaving in such a way to lead Arvin to speculate that a nesting attempt might have been in progress. A Muscovy seen flying over Bentsen May 1 (JD) was at an unexpected location. If presumed wild birds are breeding upriver they are eventually going to spread. The status of the wild vs. feral argument concerning these birds will only get worse as the birds move toward Brownsville where "domestic birds are common around the resacas" (JD). Wood Ducks were formerly rare and local winter visitors to the L.R.G.V. The

on the U.T.C. An Am. Swallow-tailed Kite over Ft. Hood, *Coryell*, May 26 was at an unusual c. Texas location and a very late date for a migrant (JJ). The largest flight of Mississippi Kites reported was of 800 birds at Laguna Atascosa in mid-April (*fide* TU). Summering Mississippi Kites are rare in e. Texas except in isolated areas around the prairies w. of Houston and along the Trinity R. watershed (*fide* TG), so a bird at a golf course in Beaumont May 31 presents an unusual record (WG). Graber, acknowledging the possibility of a late migrant, notes the absence of summering birds in that area during the last 30 years. Cooper's Hawks showed signs of nesting in *Hunt* (MWh) and they frequented last year's nest sites in *Van Zandt* (RK). A Com. Black-Hawk, never before documented in *Kleberg*, was studied there Apr. 14-15 (†EM); another was reported in *Dimmit* May 9 (JI). Gray Hawks were occasionally seen in and around Santa Ana during the period and a pair nested at Bentsen during April (m.ob.).

Abnormally low numbers of migrant raptors were noted in Texas this spring. Palmer speculates this is due to the fact that there was almost constant cloudiness and frequent rain during the period when migration is normally at its height. Broad-winged Hawks, normally reported in the tens of thousands, were seen only in small flocks in late March and early April (PP). Most observers noted few concentrations and even Swartz' 6000 in *Nueces* Apr. 5 was minuscule compared with typical spring numbers (GS). A notable exception were the 3000 or so seen daily Mar.

28-Apr. 1 on the U.T.C. at La Porte (GDL). The Swainson's Hawk migration, like the Broad-wingeds, lacked any *observed* large numbers. Returning Swainson's Hawks in the Panhandle can be expected by late March (*vide* KS), so one seen Mar. 4 at Lubbock was very early (CSt). A White-tailed Hawk near Knippa, Uvalde, May 12 (OC) provided a rare local record. A concentration of 35 White-tailed Hawks and three Red-tailed Hawks was at a *Kenedy* ranch pasture Mar. 14 (N & PP *et al.*) foraging over the site of a prescribed burn the previous day. The number of hawks present *during* the burn was estimated at 100-200 (*vide* DG)! A Zone-tailed Hawk with a flock of Turkey Vultures in n.w. Travis Apr. 30 (BA) was at an unexpected location. Two unexpected Coastal Bend area Rough-legged Hawks were individuals reported Apr. 6 at Corpus Christi (GS) and Apr. 20 at Goose I. (RM). Several pairs of breeding Am. Kestrels were seen during April s. of Carrizo Springs in *Dimmit* (JA). Breeding in this area and in parts of *Webb*, *Jim Hogg*, and *Zapata* has been known for several years (*vide* JA). The Aplomado Falcon near Marfa from the winter report was last reported May 26 (PW). The banded Aplomado Falcon reported at Falfurrias during February was seen there 3 times during May (AO). There were several late Peregrine Falcons reports in c. and s. Texas during May. The latest were single birds at *Dallas* May 27 (JJ), *Waco* (JMu), and *Kickapoo* (OC) May 28.

PRAIRIE-CHICKENS TO SHOREBIRDS

Efforts to collect and incubate eggs of the critically endangered Attwater's Prairie-



This female Varied Thrush (with a slightly deformed bill) was at Davis Mountains State Park, Texas, on March 14, 1992. Photograph/Kelly B. Bryan.

Chicken at the bird's own refuge in *Colorado* netted no nests, no eggs, and no chickens (*vide* GDL). Second-hand reports were received of drumming males near Texas City where a population existed for many years before the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service attempted to remove and relocate the birds. Their failure to trap all the birds may be a boon for the race. A solitary Scaled Quail at Santa Ana Apr. 10 (R & LG) surprised observers; the species is usually not reported this far east. Two King Rails at L. Meredith, *Hutchinson*, Mar. 1 (KS) were very early Panhandle records. Soras and Virginia Rails were in greater-than-normal numbers in most of the central areas of the state.

Shorebird numbers in general were deemed low across much of the state probably due to high water levels which reduced appropriate habitat in many areas. Still, there were numerous observations of flocks of 100+ Lesser Golden-Plovers in c. and s. Texas during late March and early April. Most significant of these was 148 in *Rains* Mar. 29-Apr. 5 (RK, JN) more than doubling the previous high count for that area. A Lesser Golden-Plover May 16 in *Cochran* (DS) was a rare record for the Panhandle.

S.A.

Certainly *the* rarity of the season was the first U.S. record of Collared Plover (*Charadrius collaris*). This delightful visitor from the south was first spotted May 9 at the Uvalde National Fish Hatchery by participants of the spring meeting of the Texas Ornithological Society. The bird was initially identified May 10 (†ph., GDL, CDF) and seen by about 40 additional observers May 11-12. The staff at the fish hatchery (we want to especially thank Olivia Castillo) was happy to see perhaps 100 observers on the morning of May 13. Unfortunately, the plover had departed and was not seen again. The record has been submitted to the T.B.R.C.

Single Snowy Plovers at L. Tawakoni Apr. 13 (AV) and at Austin May 4 (GL, BR) provided rare spring records in those areas. Mountain Plover records on the U.T.C. are extremely rare so one in *Waller* during mid-March and four in *Harris* Apr. 8 were a surprise (FC *et al.*). Three Mountain Plovers at McAllen Mar. 30 (R & LG) were at an unexpected location. Willets typically pass over n.c. Texas in small numbers but the species was encountered in large numbers there this spring. McKee reported an amazing 330 Willets in three flocks over L. Arrowhead, *Clay*, Apr.

22. The first Texas **Wandering Tattler** was discovered by visiting British observers (†ph., BMi, MT) Apr. 23 along the Galveston Seawall where everyone knows "nothing ever shows up." The bird was regularly seen for a week, then sporadically reported until May 8, allowing many observers the opportunity to see and photograph it for documentation before it "wandered" off.

A number of observers called this spring the best for Upland Sandpipers that they had seen in years. Single Whimbrels at Village Cr., Apr. 12 (JWS, GK, EW) and Amarillo, *Randall*, May 9 (KS) were rare records. Three Marbled Godwits at San Antonio Apr. 25 (WS) were notable as was one at El Paso Apr. 16 (BZ). Dunlins are rarely reported in the Panhandle and never in large numbers (*vide* KS); the 50 in breeding plumage seen in *Cochran* May 16 (DS) was truly an event of note. Moore twice reported nesting Am. Woodcocks in e. Texas in February. A hatchling was located Feb. 26 in *San Jacinto* and a nest with 4 eggs was found in *Montgomery* Feb. 27. There were a scattering of Red-necked Phalaropes in n.c. Texas and in the Trans-Pecos. A Red Phalarope was reported in *Cochran* May 17 (JC).

JAEGERS TO SKIMMER

A Parasitic Jaeger was at Bolivar Flats May 16 through the period (†ph., MK, BMi *et al.*). An ad. Laughing Gull at Midland Apr. 4 (DHu, TP, FW) provided a first record for that area, while another in Lubbock Apr. 21 (NH) furnished one of very few Panhandle area records (*vide* KS). Records of Little Gull continue to mount in Texas; this spring an adult was at Village Cr. Mar. 6-21 (†JWS, WP, ph., MP) and another (or the same?) was 70 mi n. at the L. Texoma Dam Apr. 2 (KH). An imm. Black-legged Kittiwake was at the L. Livingston Dam Mar. 23-28 (†DW, LD, NB). Unusual Com. Tern records this season included one at San Antonio Apr. 25 (WS), one at Waco May 8 (JMu), and one at L. Tawakoni May 15 (RK). A Least Tern at Uvalde May 11 (ML, GL, WS) was apparently the first for that county. In spite of constant increase in habitat disturbance, Black Skimmers are still present in substantial numbers in *Nueces* and *Aransas* (PP).

DOVES TO SWIFTS

Impressive numbers of Band-tailed Pigeons (250+) gorged themselves on mulberries on the Espy Ranch, *Jeff Davis* in late May (*vide* KB). The expansion of White-winged Doves continues to make news in many areas. A winter roost of some 3000 White-wingeds in s. Austin began to break up in March (T.A.S.). The species continues to push back the n. limits of its range with records this season at Abilene in late March (*vide* LB), Edge-

wood, *Van Zandt*, Apr. 13-18 (RK), Lubbock, May 8 (MR), *Dallas*, May 24 (BG), and L. Arrowhead, *Clay*, May 25-27 (J & DS, T & DMc). An Inca Dove at Wills Pt., Apr. 9 (RK) was a first for *Van Zandt*. Common Ground-Doves seem to be on the increase in *Lee* (HB). The Ruddy Ground-Dove from Big Bend's Cottonwood Campground was last seen May 5. A group of up to 80 Green Parakeets was reported in McAllen during the season (m.ob.) with another eight seen at Laguna Atascosa Apr. 21 (*fide* TU). Red-crowned Parrots were at the usual L.R.G.V. locations while unexpected sightings occurred elsewhere: one Red-crowned was over Rockport Mar. 9 (CC), two were in Falfurrias Apr. 5 (AO), and two were at Laguna Atascosa May 2 (TU).

A small flock of Red-crowned Parrots continues to be resident in San Marcos and is being studied (AB). A Mangrove Cuckoo was photographed at Laguna Atascosa Apr. 25 (†WW) for what will be the 6th Texas record. Out-of-place Groove-billed Anis included one in the Hill Country in *Real* May 19 (BArm) and another well n. at Ft. Hood, *Coryell*, May 20 (JJ *et al.*). In the Davis Mountains two Northern Pygmy-Owls were heard May 20 (†JT). There is currently only one accepted record by the T.B.R.C. of this species in Texas but we suspect it is a rare visitor to the mountains in the Trans-Pecos. Explorations on the Norias continue to turn up unexpected numbers of Ferruginous Pygmy-Owls. Wauer tallied 38 at various sites there on a weekend in mid-March. Eight pairs of Elf Owls were at Bentsen by Mar. 24 (R & LG); several of the birds had wintered in the park. A Short-eared Owl in *Walker* Apr. 24-25 (DPa) was apparently a new county record while one May 2 at Village Cr. was very late (GK). Adding to the rare owl records from the Davis Mts. was a N. Saw-whet heard calling there May 18 (JGe, KB); one was photographed near this same location last June. A Com. Poorwill at *Dallas* Apr. 15 was unexpected (JG) while a calling Whip-poor-will near Elgin, *Bastrop* Mar. 11 (BF) set a new early record for the Austin area. Several Chimney Swifts Mar. 16 in *Gregg* in n.e. Texas (GLun) were early.

HUMMINGBIRDS TO WOODPECKERS

Hummingbirds in general were not showing up at feeders in the expected numbers. Palmer speculated that the wet season had provided such an abundant wild food source that the birds did not need the use of feeders. Buff-bellied Hummingbirds were regularly reported at Goose Island S.P., Santa Ana, and elsewhere in s. Texas (m.ob.), while a Buff-bellied at Utley, *Bastrop*, Apr. 6-May 14 (T.A.S.) provided a rare record for the Austin area. A Black-chinned Hummingbird Mar.

14 in Rockport (CC) was early. The Nacogdoches Rufous Hummingbird mentioned in the winter report stayed until Mar. 22 (TRU *fide* DW). A *Selasphorus* (presumed to be a Rufous) was a very unusual spring find in the Davis Mountains May 18 (KB). The Lewis' Woodpecker from the Davis Mountains lingered until May 10 (*fide* KB). Another Lewis' visited Northeast Pk., *Collin*, Apr. 6-May 2 providing one of only a handful of confirmed



Gray Kingbird in Packery Channel Park, Corpus Christi, on May 25, 1992. Third Texas record. Photograph/Chuck Sexton.

records for n.c. Texas (†AV, JMc, JR, m.ob.). A Red-headed Woodpecker near Fabens, *El Paso*, May 17-31 (BJ) provided the 2nd record for that county and the first in over a decade. Nearby utility poles revealed a well-stocked pecan cache as well as a cavity that the bird frequented. Zimmer speculates that the bird had probably been present some time prior to its May discovery.

FLYCATCHERS TO SWALLOWS

An Olive-sided Flycatcher was reported from Big Bend's Rio Grande Village on the incredibly early date of Mar. 27 (JO), almost a month ahead of its normal arrival dates in that region. A singing Greater Pewee was well-described from the high Davis Mts. May 20 (†JT); there are only a handful of well-documented records of this species in Texas. Once again, explorations near Mt. Livermore in the Davis Mts. found Gray Flycatchers to be numerous; Bryan counted 14 territorial birds there May 19. As many as seven Dusky-capped Flycatchers were singing in the Mt. Livermore area May 18-21 (KB, JGe, JT) where two were photographed last June. The Brownsville Tropical Kingbirds apparently nested there for the 2nd time. The ad. birds showed up at their usual

haunts May 28 (after a several week absence) with two fledglings in tow (BM). Other Tropical Kingbirds were reported near La Feria through the period and two were heard singing at Falfurrias Mar. 17-31 (AO). Despite this flurry of reports in the past 18 months, the species is still very rare in Texas and we request documentation for any report. Couch's Kingbirds were reported to be in higher than normal numbers throughout their range. A bird identified as a Thick-billed Kingbird was studied in Galveston May 18 (†GC). If accepted by the T.B.R.C. this would represent an amazing e. Texas record. An unusual kingbird was initially spotted May 23 at Packery Channel County Pk., *Nueces*, and later identified by the Cooksey's May 25 as a Gray Kingbird. The bird (3rd Texas record, and first since 1974) remained through June 1 and was seen and photographed by m.ob. Cave Swallows were nesting at Clint May 17 (JSp) for a first (but not unexpected) *El Paso* nesting record.

JAYS TO THRUSHES

Green Jays are expanding their range and numbers in *Nueces* (*fide* JSw) and there were other reports in *Webb* May 23 (BO). Up to 20 Green Jays were seen in and around Tilden, *McMullen*, May 15 (AB). Two Brown Jays at San Ygnacio Apr. 16 (JA) were at the extreme n.w. limit of their present range in Texas. A pair of White-breasted Nuthatches, originally found during December on the CBC, remained in Temple through the period and appeared to be territorial (C & JJ). Another White-breasted Nuthatch in Vega, *Oldham*, (RS) Apr. 28 provided a new county record. Out-of-place Carolina Wrens included one in the Davis Mts., Mar. 23 (KB), another at Big Bend's Rio Grande Village May 22-25 (MG, BP, TB) and a singing bird in Amarillo Mar. 8-26 (KS).

A pair of Black-tailed Gnatcatchers was found in *Uvalde* May 9 and later seen building a nest (CC, PBy, m.ob.). Nesting of the species in that area was not previously known. Several pairs of territorial E. Bluebirds, presumed to be of the race *episcopus* (endemic to the Tamaulipan Biotic Province of s. Texas and n.e. Mexico) were found on a private ranch in *Kenedy* Apr. 12 (JA). This is very encouraging as all colonies Arvin had previously known had been deserted for years and he had thought the race might have become extinct. Several Mt. Bluebirds were at Laguna Atascosa Apr. 17 (*fide* TU), an unexpected location and date. Gray-cheeked Thrushes are rarely observed in n.c. Texas, so two netted at Plano Apr. 25 (AV) and another in *Johnson* May 10 (CE) provided noteworthy records. Two very early Swainson's Thrushes were carefully studied Mar. 14 near

Campbell, *Hunt* (MWh, PP), establishing the earliest ever n.c. Texas record. One or two Clay-colored Robins have been reported at Anzalduas sporadically since last summer. This season the two birds were regularly observed there through the period with the male heard singing on numerous occasions (m.ob.). Another Clay-colored Robin was at Zapata May 1 (PL). A ♀ Varied Thrush with a slightly deformed bill visited Davis Mts. S.P., Mar. 8–27 (†JMu, KB).

VIREOS, WARBLERS

A pair of Bell's Vireos was observed carrying food May 7 just s. of Kingsville; two newly fledged young were found there May 10 (N & PP). Although the species historically nested in *Kleberg*, there have been no records of successful nesting there for over 10 years (PP). Other Coastal Bend records this season included birds in *Refugio*, *Brooks*, *Calhoun*, and *Jim Hogg* (CC, AO, A & MC). The Panhandle area, like the Coastal Bend, has experienced a loss of Bell's Vireos in recent years. Records there this season included one in Amarillo Apr. 27 (RS) and another at Buffalo L., May 17 (KS).

Black-capped Vireos were the subject of both glowing and dismal reports depending on the location. A Black-capped Vireo arrived early at San Antonio Mar. 19 (CB). The species apparently experienced a poor season in and around Austin (m.ob.), but numbers of territories at Kickapoo was at an all-time high (ML, OC). Black-capped failed to be reported at several traditional n.c. Texas locations, but one was found at a new site during May at Fossil Rim Wildlife Pk. in *Somervell* (*fide* CH). A ♂ Black-capped Vireo was seen carrying food May 25 in *Mason* (DF) near the site of an observation last year. Warbling Vireos were fairly numerous on Mt. Livermore in late May with a high one-day count of eight; nesting was confirmed. Prior to 1991, nesting by the species in that area was not well known.

To the disappointment of many, the Yellow-green Vireos that had nested for 3 years near the headquarters at Laguna Atascosa failed to show up this year. As a consolation, however, Reiner discovered a singing Yellow-green Vireo at Webberville Paek just e. of Austin May 3. This cooperative bird remained on his territory through the season, providing the first-ever record for the Austin area (†m.ob.). Two separate Black-whiskered Vireos were reported from Packery Channel, *Nueces*, Apr. 15 (†C & WJ) and May 17 (†AC); there are about 10 records of this species in the state.

There were apparently no significant warbler fallouts on the U.T.C. the entire season, but a good variety was reported "in fair num-

bers" from that area (m.ob.). In contrast, Goose I. was the site for a whole succession of localized fallouts from Mar. 28 through May 18, with Melton reporting from 10-19 species of warblers on each of 15 dates. Total warbler species from that location for the season was a remarkable 32, including Black-throated Gray Apr. 29 and MacGillivray's Apr. 19 (RM). Extremely rare for the Panhandle was a Blue-winged Warbler in Lubbock Apr. 26 (DS), while a Golden-winged Warbler Mar. 22 in *Nueces* (GS) was very early. A Tennessee Warbler in El Paso was the first there in 8 years (JK), while one in Dallas May 31 was late (BG).

Elsewhere, single Tennessee Warblers at Vega May 14 (RS) and at Buffalo L., May 26 (NE, PT) provided rare Panhandle records. Orange-crowned Warblers were again confirmed nesting in the high Davis Mountains May 25 (KB). Lucy's Warblers were again present at Big Bend's Cottonwood Campground and were easy to find there by mid-April; they were also present upriver at Ft. Quitman, *Hudspeth* (*fide* BZ). Northern Parulas are seldom seen in the Panhandle; one at Palo Duro Canyon, *Randall*, Mar. 30 (NE, ME, PT) was unexpected. Singing Tropical Parulas were more conspicuous than usual in s. Texas with two at Las Palomas WMA, *Hidalgo*, Mar. 21 (JI), one at Bentsen during March (R & LG *et al.*), four on the Norias Apr. 7 (BZ), two at the now-famous "Sarita Rest Stop" from late March through the season (m.ob.), and one singing at Santa Ana May 31 (PW).

A few Cape May Warblers were reported from coastal locations in April and May, but the most unexpected record of this species was one seen in Vega May 14 (RS) providing only the 5th record for the Panhandle area (*fide* KS). A Black-throated Blue Warbler Apr. 27 in Corpus Christi (AC, E & NA, GS) provided an unusual spring record, while a Black-throated Gray at El Paso Mar. 29 (BZ) furnished the first March record for that area.

Single Townsend's Warblers at Packery Channel Apr. 13 (A & MC) and at Vega Apr. 28 (RS) were noteworthy. Researchers working with Golden-cheeked Warblers in the Austin area declared it was an excellent season with the number of active territories apparently up from last year (*fide* DBo). Grace's Warblers, like last year, were abundant in the high Davis Mts. May 18-25 (KB). A singing Prairie Warbler at Big Bend's Grapevine Spring May 26 (†TB) provided a 2nd park record. A Palm Warbler in *Dallas* Apr. 25 (ChO *fide* WP) was a good find there, while two Blackpoll Warblers May 12 in Greenville, *Hunt* (JN), provided the first records in that location since 1948. Single Blackpolls in *Tarrant* May 6 (JcI) and at L.



After about half a dozen possible reports of Olive Warbler in Texas, this was the first fully documented for the state. It was photographed May 19, 1992, in the Davis Mountains. Photograph/Kelly B. Bryan.

Tawakoni, *Rains*, May 10 (RK, JN) furnished unusual area records.

El Paso seemed to be a hotbed for eastern rarities with a Palm Warbler Apr. 29 (BZ), a Blackpoll May 3-4 (SW), and a Prothonotary May 2 (M & PBin). Another unusual record of an eastern species in w. Texas was provided by a singing Worm-eating Warbler in Big Bend May 1-24 (m.ob.). A count of 23 Cerulean Warblers at High I., Apr. 23 (DPe *fide* GDL) was a noteworthy total. Unexpected MacGillivray's Warblers included individuals on N. Padre I., *Nueces*, May 15 (AC *et al.*), and Rockport May 17 (CC). Elsewhere, one or two signing MacGillivray's Warblers in the Davis Mts. May 21 (JT, JGe) was unexpected.

A Gray-crowned Yellowthroat was identified May 8 on a private ranch near Armstrong, *Kenedy* (†JT); the last documented record of this species in Texas was in 1989. A Hooded Warbler at Buffalo L., May 1 (KS) was a good find for the Panhandle. A pair of Painted Redstarts was found May 20 in the Davis Mountains (JT). Further investigations by Trochet revealed a nest with four eggs thus providing the first nesting record for Texas outside of Big Bend (ph., KB). Still, the most exciting warbler news of the season has to be the discovery of a singing imm. ♂ Olive Warbler May 19 on Mt. Livermore in the Davis Mts. (†JGe, ph., KB). Bryan's photos finally elevate the Olive Warbler into the ranks of the fully documented species in Texas.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Single Scarlet Tanagers May 10 & 19 were first occurrences for *Van Zandt* since 1970 (RK). A W. Tanager at Webberville Pk, *Travis*, Apr. 27 (TVG) provided a rare record for Austin, while another in Waco May 12 (JMu) was also unexpected. Black-headed Grosbeaks were scattered in small numbers across much of c. and s. Texas but one May 2 in *Johnson* (CE) supplied a first record there. Lazuli Buntings put on a good showing with six seen at Kickapoo Apr. 20-May 6 (ML). Other Lazuli Bunting records of note include a pair in Corpus Christi until Apr. 7 (GS) and another at Brownsville May 5 (BM). An Indigo Bunting at Austin's L. Long Mar. 17 (AB) provided only the 2nd March record in that area. A Varied Bunting on N. Padre I., *Nueces*, Apr. 8-12 (ph., A & MC) was at an unexpected location; the species is a rare nester at Laguna Atascosa and other areas on the s. Texas coast, but rarely appears on the Coastal Bend.

White-collared Seedeaters were present in small numbers all season at San Ygnacio. Cassin's Sparrows responded favorably to the wet conditions and were declared particularly abundant in several Trans-Pecos areas. Two Am. Tree Sparrows at Crosby, *Harris*, Mar. 7 (†GDL) provided a first U.T.C. record and one of only a handful of reports s. of the Panhandle/High Plains/Red River corridor (*vide* TG). At least two and possibly four Baird's Sparrows (including a singing bird!) were sighted along the *Jeff Davis/Presidio* line near Valentine Apr. 17 (†JD). Another Baird's Sparrow was photographed at San Antonio Apr. 29-May 1 (†WS) for the 2nd record from that area. A Le Conte's Sparrow in *Uvalde* May 5 (E & SWi) was late, while a Fox Sparrow in *Nueces* Mar. 3-6 (GS) provided an unusual Coastal Bend Record. Among the unusually large number of Harris' Sparrows on the U.T.C. this past winter were two that lingered in *Harris* until May 12 (ph., GDL) for a late area record. Another Harris' in Douglas, *Nacogdoches*, Apr. 12 (CW) was also quite late. There were 20 reports of from 1-25 Bobolinks Apr. 29-May 15 in various locations in the e. half of the state. A Hooded Oriole at Packery Channel, *Nueces*, Apr. 13-May 3 (A & MC, JD *et al.*) was at a somewhat unusual location for the species. Hooded Orioles continue to increase in numbers in the Kingsville area (PP) while several observers (FW *et al.*) thought their numbers in Big Bend were reduced from previous years. Two pairs of Altamira Orioles were nesting in *Jim Wells* by the end of May (AO), 100 mi away from their normal range. Another Altamira was at an equally unlikely site, Artesia Wells, *LaSalle*, May 23 (BO). Nearly 100 House Finches were reported to be in Greenville, *Hunt*, by early March but

their numbers thinned out to only a few birds by May (JN). Nesting was confirmed for this species in *Dallas* for the first time Mar. 16 (KF). A pair of House Finches, rarely reported on the Coastal Bend, was probably on territory in *Live Oak* Mar. 17 (A & MC).

Addendum: Many observers have visited the L. Tawakoni area in search of Smith's Longspurs. There have been some access changes there and persons considering a visit are advised to contact Richard Kinney, Box 375, Edgewood, TX 75117, (903) 896-4506 for further information.

Despite our confident proclamation in the last column that the Corpus Christi mango hummingbird had been identified as a Green-breasted Mango, further correspondence with various hummingbird experts suggests that specific identification of some immature *Anthracothorax* may not be possible without a specimen in hand. Stay tuned.

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IDAHO-WESTERN MONTANA REGION

Thomas H. Rogers

Weather for the spring period was unusually warm and dry nearly everywhere. A number of reporters remarked that the migration was early, even as much as a month. Some observed that nesting was also early. Early snow melt in the mountains indicated a hot, dry summer ahead.

Abbreviations: W.P.A. (*Waterfowl Production Area*).

LOONS TO WATERFOWL

Two Yellow-billed Loons sighted on Coeur d'Alene L., Harrison, ID, Mar. 7 (DS) were again seen Mar. 16 (CV, WH). Three Horned Grebes were seen on Am. Falls Res., Power, ID, Apr. 11 (CT). Red-necked Grebe was in the Clearwater R. at Lewiston, ID, Apr. 27 (WH). An Am. White Pelican was at Lewiston, ID, Apr. 14 (LL) and another flew over Harrison May 7 (SK). Eleven were reported just n. of Somers, MT, May 18 and five were on the n. shore of Flathead L. just s. of there May 23 (DC). Small numbers of Double-crested Cormorants were seen around Kalispell, MT, on several occasions (DC). One of the species Apr. 26 at Salmon, ID, was the observer's 3rd there (HR). An Am. Bittern, rare in the Helena, MT, area, was found May 16, n.e. of the city (MV). On the Missouri R. at Craig, MT, a Green-backed Heron was sighted (PM). Ten White-faced Ibises appeared in Montana just n. of Yellowstone N. P. May 19 (MB).

Trumpeter Swans were dispersing early from the "tri-state" wintering area around Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, MT, by mid-March. The number of nesting pairs was up in the Centennial Valley of that refuge (KN). Farther w., in s. Idaho, many more were appearing as a result of transfers from the Red Rock Lakes area: ten, some with neck collars, were sighted at Mud Lake W.M.A., Hamer Mar. 28 and two pairs were seen on Springfield Bottoms near Springfield, ID, in late April (GT). The species appeared on Indian Creek Res., s.e. of Boise, ID (MC, FK), and at Dry Lakes s. of Nampa, ID (HL, NS), in May. In Montana three adults and one imm. bird were on a small pond south of Ronan May 2—a nearby

homeowner said there were 14 there earlier. The imm. bird lingered until at least May 25 (*vide* DC). Collared birds were also reported at Metcalf N.W.R. Stevensville, MT (VV). McArthur W.M.A., Elmira, ID, had 14 Snow Geese Apr. 29 (PC). Six Ross' Goose were noted at Ft. Boise W.M.A., Canyon, ID, Apr. 14 (DHJ).

A well-described ♂ Garganey, apparently Idaho's 2nd, was observed at McArthur L., May 14 & 18 (PC, RB; WH, CV). Notable were a Eur. Wigeon at a Lewiston pond Mar. 1 (C.B.); one at Benewah L., Kootenai, ID, Mar. 7 (DS), and three at Rose L., ID (PG). In Montana a male appeared at Blasdel W.P.A., n. of Somers, Mar. 21 (DC). Several males were found in s. Idaho: one at McTucker I. in the Snake R., Apr. 11 (JT), one near Thornton May 3 (BH) and one at Camas N.W.R., Hamer in early April (*vide* CT). "The usual" records of the species were reported in the Missoula, MT, area (VV, DH *et al.*). A Greater Scaup appeared at McArthur W.M.A. May 12 (WH, CV).

VULTURES TO GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

Several sightings of Turkey Vultures were obtained in Bonner and Kootenai, ID, including a record early of Mar. 10 along Pend Oreille L. (MD). North Idaho also had early dates for Ospreys and one trapped had been banded 17 years earlier (DJ). The nest of the Bald Eagle pair at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, ID, was blown down, the two nestlings perished. The nest e. of Bonners Ferry had two young still in the nest at May's end (JR). A pair at Red Rock Lakes was incubating by

mid-March with three young noted in it May 27 (KN). A Swainson's Hawk near Clarkia, ID, May 3 was noteworthy (SW).

Five Sage Grouse were found near Cambridge, ID, Apr. 2 (WH, CV). Twin Crags Mts., s. of Cataldo, yielded a Spruce Grouse sighting May 27 (SW). Gambel's Quail were again found e. of Salmon, ID—six Mar. 1 (BH).

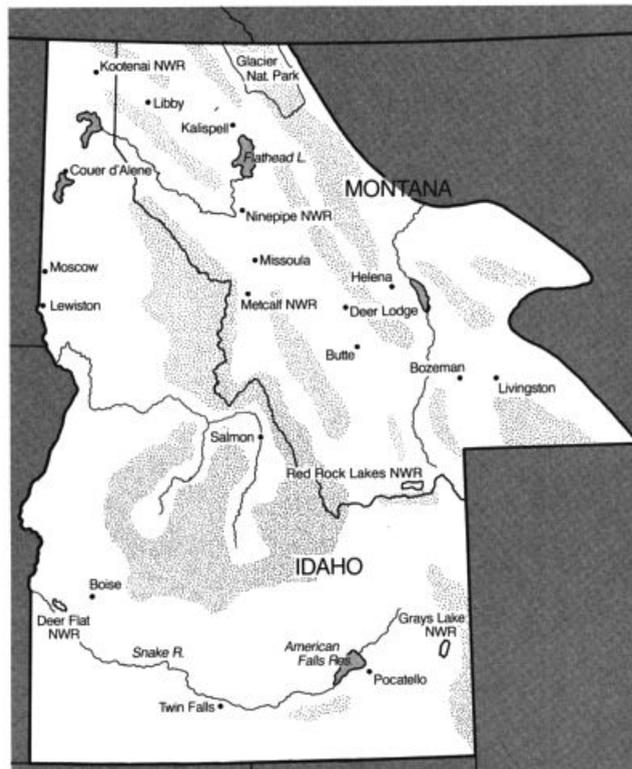
RAILS TO TERNS

A Virginia Rail was spotted along the Coeur d'Alene R., Kootenai, Apr. 7 (SW). A lone Whooping Crane, the same one that has summered at Red Rock Lakes the last three years, was present there May 14 and later (KN). A Sandhill Crane, believed to be nesting, was observed in the Blackfoot W.P.A., n.e. of Missoula, MT (CB). Four of the birds were near Cambridge Apr. 3 (WH, CV) and one was at Mann L., Lewiston Orchards, ID, Apr. 7 (JD). Three Black-bellied Plovers were sighted at Am. Falls Res., Apr. 25 (CHT). A Snowy Plover was photographed at Mann L. May 24–25 (RG). Unusual were four Semipalmated Plovers at Indian Creek Res. May 1 (MC, FK). Black-necked Stilts, unreported in the Helena area since 1977, appeared in three localities there, three-14 birds per locality (MV; GJ; JP; JE, CJ, JH, ST). A vagrant Willet appeared at Mann L., Apr. 25 (MK, CV), as did a Marbled Godwit there and in N. Lewiston the same day (C.B.) The Least Sandpiper was reported at Denton Slough, Pend Oreille L., n. ID, May 9 (GH *et al.*). McArthur L. had four to five Wilson's Phalaropes May 14 & 23 (SS, C.D.A.S.) and one was in marshes near Cataldo, ID, May 30 (SS).

Rose L. had three imm. Bonaparte's Gulls May 9 (DS); one was identified at Salmon May 30 (LH). Mann L. hosted an adult and two immatures May 28 (MK). The Clearwater R. near Lewiston had a Forster's Tern Apr. 27 (WH). Herring Gulls were seen at Black Canyon Res., east of Emmett, ID, Mar. 21 (MC, FK). Rarities were two Caspian Terns reported nesting at Freezeout L., s.e. of Choteau, MT (*MS vide* PW). Common Terns were again almost completely absent during May on the n. shore of Flathead L. at Somers, MT (DC). Arctic Terns were identified at Springfield Bottoms Apr. 25 (CT).

PIGEONS TO WRENS

A Band-tailed Pigeon stayed with domestic Rock Doves at a home near Coeur d'Alene for 2 weeks in mid-May (DF). Several Flammu-





Snowy Plover at Mann Lake, Lewiston, Idaho, on May 24, 1992. Photograph/Russell Gebhart.

lated Owls were heard on Scout Mt., s. of Pocatello, ID, May 12-13 (JT; CT). Banded Owls and young were heard at Killarney L., w. of Rose Lake (ES). A Great Gray Owl was viewed, and two others heard, in the Keuterville, ID, area Apr. 16 (WH, CV). Two N. Pygmy-Owls were tending a nest in a cottonwood tree in Bitterroot N.F., Ravalli, MT, Mar. 21 (CB). A Boreal Owl was heard and seen on Sawtelle Peak, *Fremont*, ID, Apr. 10 & 14 (BH, DM; CT) and another was heard near Grays L., Wayan, ID, in early April (*fide* CT). A Boreal and a N. Saw-whet owl were noted at Cooke City, MT, Mar. 4 (TM). A pair of Lewis' Woodpeckers was courting near the University of Idaho Field Station, Clark Fork May 9 (GH *et al.*) and a pair of Three-toed Woodpeckers was observed near Clarkia, ID, in May (SW). Nest excavating by Black-backed Woodpeckers was noted at St. Maries, ID, Apr. 12 (DS) and three of the species were observed s. of there May 17 (PG). Three were also noted near Clarkia May 1-3 (SW). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was heard s. of Pocatello Apr. 19 (CT). A Blue Jay remained at Coeur d'Alene W.M.A. at least until Mar. 5 (DC). Unusual this far s. was a Boreal Chickadee at Clarkia May 27 (SW). A Bewick's Wren was present into June at Benewah L., St. Maries, ID (DS).

VIREOS TO FINCHES

The Solitary Vireo, formerly common but now rare in the Fortine, MT, area, was observed in May (WW). A breeding-plumaged ♂ Yellow-rumped "Myrtle" Warbler was photographed at Boise, ID, Apr. 28 and May

3 (MC, FK). Grizzly Gulch on the s. edge of Helena had a Townsend's Warbler May 9 (T & BB). The N. Waterthrush was reported for Red Rock Lakes May 12 for apparently a latilong first (KN), and one was sighted at Market Lake W.M.A., Roberts, ID, May 5 (CT *et al.*) A singing ♂ Indigo Bunting on Panther Cr. 20 mi n.w. of Salmon, ID, made only the 2nd record for the area (HR). Five Lark Sparrows near Rathdrum, ID, May 21-28 were unusual (JB) as were a dozen at Salmon May 24 (HR). Lark Buntings, erratic in the Helena area, were found (five to six) at Canyon Ferry Res. May 23 (CJ, SB, J E, JH)

A Fox Sparrow was sighted at Clarkia May 1 for the only report (SW). Two or three Lincoln's Sparrows were singing at W. Forks Lakes 20 mi n.w. of Challis, ID (HR). White-crowned Sparrows lingered at a Coeur d'Alene feeder to the end of the spring period and beyond (PG). A Harris' Sparrow frequented a Gardiner, MT, feeder Mar. 1 to Apr. 16 (JQ). Five Lapland Longspurs, some in breeding plumage, were sighted e. of Mud L. Mar. 28 (CT *et al.*). Eight Com. Grackles appeared at Moiese, MT, May 8 (TT), the species was reported to have been at Polson, MT, for several years (JRo) One was sighted in Boise May 12 (DT). A singing ad. ♂ Purple Finch was observed Apr. 25 at Lucky Peak Dam s.e. of Boise (MC, FK).

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MOUNTAIN WEST REGION

Hugh E. Kingery

"This kind of spring is probably a mixed blessing," observed Janos. "Good for the birds and bad for the birders." The season was "very early, very warm, very favorable for migrants." Thus we birders will probably tell you that it was "a poor migration." April and May had few cold fronts, and the dryness translated into the sixth year of drought in the northern half of the Mountain West. The exception—Las Vegas—had much rain—which evidently triggered nesting urges: Bell's Vireos stayed and sang instead of passing through as usual, and birds which nest in native habitats—like Phainopepla, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and House Finch—already had good broods by May 31 (MC). Farther north some resident species responded to warm weather by nesting two (or more) weeks early—House Finch and Song Sparrow in Logan, Utah and Pine Siskins in Jackson, Wyoming.

The season's list of rarities includes two first state records (Glossy Ibis in Wyoming and Streak-backed Oriole in Nevada), three second state records (Laughing Gull and Blue-winged Warbler in Nevada, Garganey in Colorado), and a first nesting record, albeit unsuccessful, of White-eyed Vireo in Colorado.

Abbreviations: LLBL (*Longmont/Lyons/Bert-houd/Loveland area, CO, using Foothills Audubon Club records*); B.B.S. (*Breeding Bird Survey*); E.S.G.S.L. (*East Shore, Great Salt L.*); G.S.L. (*Great Salt L.*); R.E. (*Regional Editor*); 1st Lat (*First latilong record [a latilong is outlined by one degree each of latitude and longitude, and measures about 50 by 70 miles]*); ph. (*photograph on file with R.E.*); † (*written description on file with R.E.*); †† (*written description on file with, and subject to approval of, state or local records committee*).

LOONS TO GREBES

Pacific Loons stayed to May 9 at Las Vegas and one spent May 29-31 at Denver (JoR *et al.*). The Yellow-billed Loon which arrived at L. Mead, NV, in December stayed to May 9. Denver had a Red-necked Grebe Mar. 25 (PH). The 30,000 Eared Grebes reported from Great Salt L., Apr. 14 (PP) may have been only a portion of the migrants there. In Wyoming observers found 2800 Eareds at Ocean L., Apr. 25 and 1100 at Goldeneye Res., Apr. 28. In Denver, D.F.O. noted only 18 W. Grebes; previous years' counts have ranged from 38-3628.



PELICANS TO IBISES

American White Pelicans had a surprisingly high 9700 nests at Anaho N.W.R., NV, and Double-crested Cormorants had 1000 nests (LN, AJ). Cormorants swamped a Great Blue Heron nesting colony at Denver's Chatfield S.P.; The Colo. Div. of Wildlife had to revise interpretive panels for its Watchable Wildlife viewing site to include cormorants as well as herons. At Stillwater Refuge, NV, Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, and cormorants began to recover from the population crash of 1988 (caused by the drastic reduction in water area), but Cattle Egrets and White-faced Ibis may be declining now; they do not depend so heavily on wetlands (AJ, BH, LN). A surprising six Little Blue Herons visited Colorado—the state had 29 previous records. Two Yellow-crowned Night-Herons stopped at Ft. Collins, CO, an adult Mar. 8-Apr. 19, and a subadult Apr. 27-28. An apparent **Glossy Ibis**, Wyoming's first, stayed with White-faced Ibis at Ocean L. near Lander, May 5-10 (WS).

WATERFOWL

One imm. Tundra Swan stayed at Sheridan, WY, from Mar. 13 to the end of May (B.H.A.S.). Photographs support Brants at Monte Vista N.W.R. Apr. 1 (†JJR) and Pyramid L., NV, May 27 (BG), but two e. Colorado reports lack documentation. The 2 pairs of Wood Ducks at Sheldon N.W.R. gave that refuge in n.w. Nevada its first record (B&DS). At Boulder, CO, an amorous **Garganey**, Colorado's 2nd, courted a ♀ Cinnamon Teal for 3 weeks as a ♂ Cinnamon gamely hung around, Mar. 21-Apr. 10 (F.A.C., †AM). Colorado reported 4 Eur. Wigeons at Colorado City, Denver, and Boulder. At Soda L. 1500-3000 Lesser

Scaups made that species Casper's most common duck during migration. One to 3 Oldsquaws stayed at Cheraw, CO, Mar. 1-Apr. 15 (A.V.A.S.).

RAPTORS

Nelson reports that in its 3rd year, Denver's Hogback hawkwatch recorded 3340 raptors—a 47% increase from 2286 and 2250 in the first 2 years. The totals included 614 Turkey Vultures (almost twice the 1991 count); 783 Accipiters (422 Coopers, 292 Sharp-shinned), up from 595 last year; 920 Buteos (849 Red-taileds), up from 479 last year; and 844 falcons (660 kestrels, 15 peregrines), up from 503. The Accipiter ratio has swung from 2:1, Sharp-shinned to Cooper's, in 1990 to the 40:60 ratio this year. The 30 Broadwingeds outnumbered total regional ground observations, as they did last year. The watch also recorded 52 Ospreys and 45 N. Harriers (57 in 1991, the only species to drop in numbers). Utah recorded its 3rd **Black-shouldered Kite** at Beaver Dam Wash Apr. 10 (W.A.S., †AS ph.). At Casper, another Black-shouldered permitted a 15-minute observation Apr. 15 (†J & VH)—Wyoming's 6th record. The **Mississippi Kite** flew gracefully around Corn Cr. station near Las Vegas for 5 minutes on May 16—Nevada's 4th or 5th record. More Bald Eagles continue to initiate nesting in the Region; at several new sites nests failed (Loveland, Grand Jct., Carbondale, CO) though at other sites success appears likely (e.g. 17 nests at Jackson, WY). San Juan Nat'l Forest biologists looked for 10 N. Goshawk nests active in 1983 near Cortez; they found 5, none active (LB). Broad-winged Hawks were at Corn Cr., Apr. 12 and 3 c. Wyoming sites Apr. 3-May 1. An unusual flock of 22 Golden Eagles migrated

through interior Yellowstone N.P., Mar. 8 (TM). Although Am. Kestrel observations by F.A.C. dropped to 139 from 212 last year, D.F.O.'s 58 sightings fell in the middle of a 7-year range. A Merlin stopped at Sheldon N.W.R. Apr. 13 (B & DS). At Goldeneye Res. near Casper on Mar. 7 a Gyrfalcon made an unsuccessful pass at some Pintails (†J & VH *et al.*). A (the?) Black Rail (possibly two) had returned by May 2 to the La Junta, CO, marsh where it held a territory last year (VT, BP). A Com. Moorhen popped into view at Eckert, CO, May 16 (†JRG, 1st Lat). Two Sandhill Cranes flew over the Denver hawkwatch May 4.

SHOREBIRDS

The Lahontan Valley shorebird count posted the lowest numbers

since 1988; the 42,633 compared with a range of 19,210 in 1988 to 119,200 in 1987. Top species counts were 22,884 peeps and 13,875 Long-billed Dowitchers. Paton continued his intensive censusing of Great Salt L. shorebirds; all unattributed Utah reports refer to his observations on the e. edge of the lake. Stillwater Ref. recorded the most Black-bellied Plovers—150 Apr. 20. They peaked at 100 at Layton, UT, May 9-11 and 32 at Lamar, CO, May 19 (DN). Single Lesser Golden-Plovers stopped at Boulder City, NV, Layton and Ogden, UT, and Casper, WY, Apr. 19-May 17. On Antelope I. in Great Salt L., B.A.S. found a Snowy Plover nest May 23-24. From their previous Lamar, CO, nest site, Piping Plovers moved W 50 miles to Blue L. for a new nesting site on an island (DN). Mountain Plovers, rarely observed in the Great Basin, appeared at Boulder City, NV, Mar. 25-28 (†MC ph—1st s. NV record since 1972) and Layton Mar. 31-Apr. 3, where the bird feasted on brine flies.

Layton boasted 5000 Black-necked Stilts on May 17. Whimbrels inundated the Region—over 70 in 3 states. Of Colorado's 39, Denver had the peak of 15 May 2 (DSc). In Utah the peak of 17 occurred at Layton May 14. Wyoming had two, at Glendo and Jackson. A Hudsonian Godwit stopped at Greeley May 13-18, but the Region reported fewer than 100 Marbled Godwits. Two Red Knots stopped at Cheraw, CO, Apr. 27 (C & PS). The 2 Ruddy Turnstones May 5 at Ogden reflect the new information about G.S.L. shorebirds; Paton's surveys have reclassified them from rare to regular migrants in small numbers. He also found on May 7 at Ogden an extraordinary flock of 7000 Sanderlings—15 times the size of the largest

flock ever before reported in the Region (his 450 last year). Rare in spring, Pectoral Sandpipers appeared at Torrington, WY Apr. 3 (J & VH), Longmont Apr. 25 (AM), and Cheraw May 2 (5—DJ). Paton found 6 Dunlins along E.S.G.S.L. Extralimital Stilt Sandpipers were 6-14 at Ogden May 11-12 and 9 at Saguache, CO, May 19 (†RR). The E.S.G.S.L. had 15,000 Red-necked and 10,000 Wilson's Phalaropes May 6-7. On May 28 a small flock of 35 phalaropes near Kit Carson included all 3 species, with the Red Phalarope (Colorado's 3rd spring record) a male in rusty alternate plumage (†HEK 1st Lat ph.). A Red Phalarope in basic plumage at Ogden May 30 provided Utah's first spring record (†PP, JD).

JAEGERS TO TERNS

Colorado's 3rd Long-tailed Jaeger spent a brief time at Denver's Chatfield S.P. May 28-29 (JoR, ††DSc). Nevada's 2nd Laughing Gull appeared May 31 at Las Vegas (†MC, †EW). Heerman's Gulls are becoming regular at Reno; one was there Apr. 10 (†EK). California Gulls continue to burgeon. A colony on the s. shore of G.S.L. had 15,000 birds, and Casper's Soda L. colony had 2700 May 24 some already with young in nests. An apparent Glaucous-winged Gull (its field marks did not match the field guides perfectly), Colorado's 4th, spent March at Denver's Cherry Cr. Res. (††JoR, †LM). An exhaustive description documents Reno's first Glaucous-winged May 3 (††DBo, JT ph.). At G.S.L., 17 pairs of Caspian Terns built nests on the edge of the aforementioned California Gull colony.

PIGEONS TO WOODPECKERS

Sheldon N.W.R. had its first Band-tailed Pigeon May 18 (†B & DSt), and Baca, CO, had its 2nd Apr. 22 (†JnlT). In May Logan found 3 small owl species—Flammulated, N. Pygmy, and N. Saw-whet (KA). Most of 35 Great Horned Owl territories in the San Luis Val., CO, were occupied, but nesting was later because of snow and the coldest winter in 60 years. One owl "silently glided in and made a direct hit on Lis DeMoss, leaving 3-5 inch scars and tearing her T-shirt. I was a bit envious!" (JJR). Two to four Spotted Owls found n. of Penrose, CO, included one road kill and one active nest (DR, †TG). Short-eared Owl observations included successful nests at Jackson and Antelope I., an unsuccessful one at Stillwater, and one fly-by at the Denver hawkwatch Mar. 30. Rugged Colorado observers found four Boreal Owls near Steamboat Spgs.—in the Flattops (1st Lat) and Mt. Zirkel Wilderness areas (DBr), five near Kremmling (NBa), and three in the S. San Juan Wilderness near Del Norte (JJR). Each of these observations involved night-



Pacific Loon at Lake Mead, Nevada, on April 1, 1992. Photograph/Marian Cressman.

time treks through rugged high mountain terrain and deep snow, and for one, a frosty snowmobile ride, or for the others, rigorous hikes on foot or snowshoe.

A vocal Whip-poor-will spent the night of May 21-22 near Maybell in the n.w. Colorado; Colorado's 9th, it sang the eastern song (†HEK, taped, 1st Lat). After a stormy week, Black Swifts spread out on May 28-30 to the plains—at Denver and way out to Julesburg (†JTb).

It's hard to imagine the pandemonium which must reign at Gifford's hummingbird feeders in Springdale, UT: at the peak on May 25 she had 600 Black-chinneds attending 18 feeders. The Las Vegas area attracted about five Anna's Hummingbirds through May 11 (MC, PL), and one arrived Apr. 19 at Reno, where one has summered for the last 4 years (DBo, JT, EK). An early Broad-tailed arrived at Glenwood Spgs., CO, Apr. 14 and Logan had its 6th spring Rufous on May 21 (MD).

Utahans found a new nesting area for Lewis' Woodpeckers in the Raft River Mts. in n.w. Utah—where four birds worked a riparian zone May 29-30 (ES). A photograph documents Wyoming's first Red-bellied Woodpecker, May 7-9 at Cheyenne (†JC). A pair was nesting at Crook, CO, May 25 (DL). Others visited Colo. Spgs. and Pawnee Nat'l Grassland (A.A.S., KS). Western Colorado's 3rd Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at Paonia Mar. 29 (†JRG). The Redbreasted Sapsucker at Walker L., NV, Apr. 4 had strayed e. of its usual mountain haunts (†JW, JT ph.).

PHOEBES TO PHAINOPEPLAS

A pair of Black Phoebes began nesting at Beulah Apr. 28, close to 2 other Colorado nesting sites (AW). Of Utah's E. Kingbird reports, the westernmost came from Lucin May 17 (CK) but one also visited Las Vegas May 27 (MC ph.). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers strayed to Cheyenne May 16 (†J & GL 1st Lat), Pawnee Grassland, Elbert, and Canon City, CO. Five to seven Purple Martins occupied an old site near Dolores, CO, May 18 (LB). LLBL reported 35 Red-breasted Nuthatches compared with three last spring; last winter's 75 observations contrasted with 2 the previous winter. A singing but unmated Carolina Wren at Beulah, CO, has been present since 1991 (DS). Waves of 100-200 Mt. Bluebirds moved through Yellowstone Mar. 24-Apr. 23. Crow Valley had a Graycheeked Thrush May 19-21 (†NE, WWB). Five Cedar Waxwings were at Escalante, UT, May 16—an unusual desert location (JS). Phainopeplas deserted s.w. Utah—no one found them at the usual sites: Zion, Springdale, and Beaver Dam Wash (SH, JG).

VIREOS, WARBLERS

The first Colorado White-eyed Vireo nest failed due to people- pressure. First found May 15 at Pawnee Grassland's Crow Valley Campground (JH), the nest attracted flocks of birdwatchers who lugged not only binoculars but also tape recorders and cameras. The nest was 3 feet off the ground next to a continuously-used campsite. Zealous bird-watchers may not have caused the nest failure since Memorial Day weekend saw an estimated 800 campers stream in and out of the campground (BR, DL). As a green oasis in a sea of short-grass prairie, the campground acts as a magnet for birds and for people. The Forest Service needs to address the consequent conflicts. So do the birders.

Bell's Vireos were detected in 5 places in s. Nevada Apr. 8-May 28. A Solitary Vireo (W. coast race) was in Beaver Dam Mts., Apr. 19 (AS). Colorado reported 4 Yellow-throated Vireos at Pueblo, Colo. Spgs., Crow Valley, and Chatfield S.P. (where one has maintained a territory with no visible mate for 3-4 years).

Migrant warblers seemed scarce, probably due to good weather. On his May 16 birdathon in c. Nevada, Neel saw two Wilson's and no other warblers. Nesting warblers arrived on early dates at Eagle, CO. Logan reported a Black-throated Gray Apr. 29, very early. LLBL reported 117 of the most common warbler, Yellow-rumped, down from 305 last year.

Crow Valley attracted a number of rare warblers in May: two Golden-wingeds, two Chestnut-sideds, a Townsend's, a Palm, two Blackpolls, and one Kentucky (††JoR 1st Lat).

Nevada's 2nd Blue-winged Warbler, singing and feeding actively, was at Lida May 17 (†JBr). Las Vegas had 10 Lucy's Warblers May 9-11 (PL). Twelve N. Parulas included three at Corn Cr., 4 at Denver, one at Lyons, CO (DWK), and one at Ft. Morgan, CO (JCR). Chestnut-sided Warblers stopped at Walsh (†JnIT) and Cortez, CO (†GF 1st Lat) and at the base of the LaSal Mts. near Moab, UT (†NB). Casper had a Black-throated Blue May 12-13 and 4 Black-throated Grays. Townsend's, unusual in Colorado in spring, visited Cortez, Pueblo, and Longmont. Pueblo had a Yellow-throated Warbler, on territory from May 9† (†VT, MJ). Walsh, CO, had four Palms May 3-15 (JnIT); other Palms were at Denver (early—Apr. 3—†JMa) and Cheyenne. Wyoming had four Blackpolls, Colorado had seven. A good photo documents Nevada's 6th Worm-eating Warbler at Tonopah May 15-16 (†JBr). Others were at Ft. Morgan and Ft. Collins. A N. Waterthrush was at Corn Cr. May 3-8. Reno's first Hooded Warbler sang in a city park May 21 (†EK, †AMu). Cheyenne had one May 6 (†JC) and one was at Kit Carson, CO, May 7.

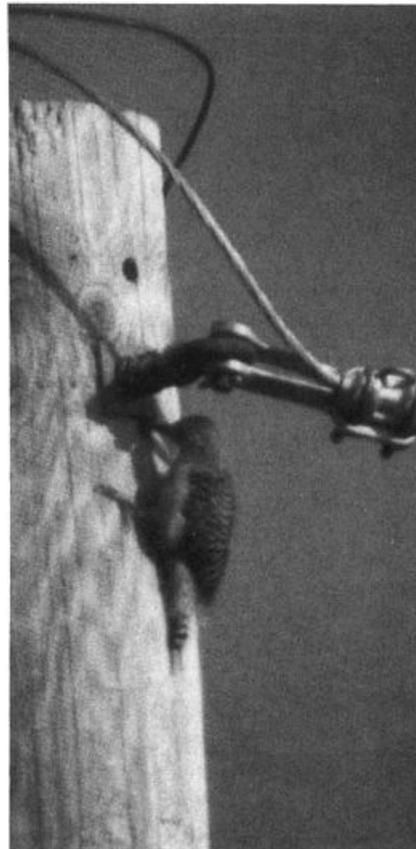
TANAGERS TO REDPOLLS

Colorado reported 5 Summer Tanagers and one Scarlet Tanager, as well as one Hepatic at Pueblo (VT, BP 1st Lat). A N. Cardinal stopped briefly at McCoy Apr. 27 for the first w. Colorado record (†ME). A B.B.S. route near La Junta, CO, turned up two Black-throated Sparrows (MJ). A Sage Sparrow stayed 2 days at Chatfield Mar. 10-11 (††JBH).

Lark Buntings flooded Colorado and Utah. In their normal range, Colo. Spgs. tallied 777 on May 16—the most common bird on the spring count (A.A.S.). LLBL reported 50 cf. 19 last year. More unusual, to the west at Mack, CO, 35-40 pairs are nesting and several appeared at McCoy. A remarkable litany of Utah observations ranged geographically all the way from Hovenweep Nat'l Monument and Moab in the southwest to Logan, Morgan, and Antelope I. in the middle of G.S.L. Peak counts of 40 came from both the east and south sides of the lake.

A Golden-crowned Sparrow was at La Junta Apr. 19 (†VT 1st Lat). Yellowstone had a late Snow Bunting Mar. 19 (TH). A ♀ Bobolink was at Tonopah, NV, May 25 and a male there May 30 (†JBr ph). Eastern Meadowlarks rarely are reported from our Region. Often, but not always, they tend to pick up the Western song, yet they still utter the Diagnostic call note—an unfamiliar note to western bird-watchers. Two non-birding relatives of the Lawrences in s.e. Wyoming mentioned that their meadowlarks were behaving unusually: staying in the trees and

singing the wrong song. The Herolds also heard a meadowlark with the eastern song in Guernsey, WY, as did Webb at Rocky Mt. Arsenal near Denver. Some could really be Easterns, but no one is quite sure. Four Rusty Blackbirds fed on a gravel bar at Gypsum, CO, Mar. 26-Apr. 3 (†JM 1st Lat). It appeared that Great-tailed Grackles were not using most of their s.w. Utah nest sites (SH), although they continue to expand in the rest of the Region. A breeding report came from Kremmling, CO (NBa, 1st Lat); two occurred in Yerington, NV (†JW) and one in



Red-bellied Woodpecker at Cheyenne, Wyoming, May 7-9, 1992. First state record. Photograph/Jerry Cairo. [MTW-3] print

Reno (MW). Northern (Baltimore) Orioles came to Corn Cr. (PL) and Cortez, CO (†AV). Described from Tonopah was a Streak-backed Oriole, a single-observer, first state record from a rest area which equals an oasis in the middle of a large desert valley (JBr). Red Crossbills burgeoned around Carson City, NV, with a high count of 230 May 10 (JW). Singles were seen at L. Tahoe and Mt. Charleston. Jackson had "lots" nesting, and a handful of White-winged Crossbills included two juveniles. At Casper and Yellowstone, lingering Com. Redpolls were present to Mar. 11 and Apr. 5.

EXOTICS

In mid-March the Red-backed Buzzard returned to Gunnison, CO, for the 4th year.

Omitted: Undocumented records including Great Black-backed Gull (Colorado), Barred Owl (Wyoming), and Prothonotary Warbler (Nevada).

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SOUTHWEST REGION

Arizona

Gary H. Rosenberg and
David Stejskal

After last fall and winter's excitement of Blue Mockingbird and the invasion of Eared Trogons, it was difficult to imagine topping either event, but this season's invasion of Flame-colored Tanagers in southeastern Arizona came pretty close. After the wettest winter Arizona has had in recent memory, this Spring found the desert green and alive with sparrows, as was evident by Cassin's Sparrows being found west of their normal range in the state. Waterbirds from Mexico staged a mini-invasion with several Least Terns and the first spoonbill to wander our way since 1977. Surveys of the breeding densities of understory birds along the upper San Pedro River reveal that densities of species such as Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Song Sparrow, and Abert's Towhee have all increased exponentially since the removal of cattle four years ago.

Abbreviations: A.B.C. (*Arizona Bird Committee*); B.T.A. (*Boyce Thompson Arboretum*); L.C.R. (*Lower Colorado River*); P.A.P. (*Pinal Air Park*); S.P.R. (*San Pedro River*); S.T.P. (*Sewage Treatment Plant*); V.O.C. (*Village of Oak Creek*)

LOONS THROUGH MERGANSERS

A Com. Loon at P.R.D. May 23 (CBa) was a bit late for Arizona as most migrants seen in the state away from the L.C.R.V. occur from April to early May. The Horned Grebe that wintered at Fountain Hills n.e. of Phoenix was last seen Mar.17 (SGa). Unprecedented for s.e. Arizona was the nesting of Eared

Grebes at Willcox. Although this species passes through this area commonly during migration, it has never attempted nesting s. of the White Mountains region of n.e. Arizona. At least 14 active nests were located by mid-May (S. Levy, m.ob.) and they were present there throughout the period. Interestingly, an ad. Eared Grebe with three threequarter-grown juveniles were found on Gila Farms Pond s. of Phoenix May 31 (P. Sunby) establishing the 2nd breeding site for this species in s. Arizona. Western Grebe appears to be more of a regular migrant in s.e. Arizona with scattered individuals reported annually in spring from various water areas. In contrast, the status of Clark's Grebe in s.e. Arizona is less clear as there have been very few records there since the two species were split. This spring three were at Picacho Reservoir May 7, and one was at Ruthrauff Pond in Tucson May 8 (both P. & W. McQuarry).

American White Pelican put in a good showing again this spring with numbers being seen statewide between mid-April and mid-May; most notable was a flock of 1200 seen at Katherine's Landing, L. Mojave, April 5 (TC, DT) representing what is probably the largest concentration of this species in the state in recent years. Unusual this early in the year was a single imm. Brown Pelican at Mitty L. near Yuma May 16 (TC, DT). A total of 16 Double-crested Cormorants including 5 nests were found at Scholtz L. near Prescott this spring (E. Morrall *et al.*) where this species has not been known to nest in the past. Nine individuals at Cow Springs L. near Kayenta, and two at Many Farms L. May 24 (both CL) is further evidence that this species is a regular spring visitor to lakes in the n.e. portion of the state.

Both Great and Snowy egrets were seen nest-building at P.R.D. May 16 (TL, DT) representing what may very well be the first nesting evidence for Great Egret in Arizona

away from the Lower Colorado R., and only the 2nd nesting of Snowy Egret away from the L.C.R.V., the first being from Picacho Res. in July 1973. An ad. Little Blue Heron was at Peck's L. May 2-4 (M. & L. Sogge, †C. Van Cleve *et al.*), and an immature was along the upper S.P.R. May 18-20 (JWh); most of the probably fewer than 25 records for the state are from May or June. Cattle Egrets were found in n.e. Arizona again this spring, with three this time at Black Mesa Apr. 24 (CL); this species has proven to be a regular transient in small numbers in this portion of the state in recent years. The best heron found in the state this spring was the ad. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, only the 4th for the state, found at Picacho Res. May 31 (†P. & W. McQuarry). It is somewhat surprising that this species is not reported as frequently as Little Blue or Tricolored heron in the Southwest since all three breed as far north as central Sonora. Amazing was the first **Roseate Spoonbill** in the state since 1977 at the very unlikely locality of Deadhorse Ranch S. P., near Cottonwood, May 10-11 (M. Castillo, ph. C. Raisanen *et al.*); this species has only occurred in Arizona in 6 of the past 50 years!

A late Canada Goose was at Watson L. near Prescott May 28-29 (CT). Also very late for the state (perhaps providing the latest spring record fo Arizona) were two Snow Geese at L. Pleasant May 1 (B. Glenn). For the 4th spring in a row, Ross' Goose was found in n.e. Arizona; this year two were on Black Mesa Apr. 10 (CL). Wood Ducks again nested in the Prescott area this spring with a pair with six young found at Granite Creek Res. Apr. 29 (CT). More significant was a pair entering a rock crevice along the Gila R. below San Carlos Res. May 18 (TG); Wood Duck is known as a nesting species in Arizona only in the Prescott and Verde Valley areas. Late records of Wood Ducks in s. Arizona

included one male in Tucson May 15 (W. Monroe), and 2-3 at Picacho Res. May 31 (GW, PH). Arizona's 3rd **Garganey** was found this spring, a male at Tucson Mar. 21-29 (MS, ph. J. Hentz, m.ob.), adding to the growing number of spring records of this species in the West in recent years. The ♂ Eur. Wigeon that wintered in Scottsdale was last seen Mar. 29 (JiB); another male was found at Black Mesa Mar. 17 (CL). At least three Redheads along with ten downy young were present at Picacho Res. May 31 (GW, PH); there are very few nesting records for s. Arizona, but nesting at Pichcho Res. is not unprecedented. A very late ♀



Hooded Merganser remained at Kachina Village s. of Flagstaff until at least May 22 (VG). Also very late was a single Red-breasted Merganser at P.R.D. May 23 (CBa); most of the N migration of this species through Arizona occurs in April.

RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS

Reports of Black-shouldered Kites were numerous and widespread this spring from s. Arizona with no fewer than 13 individuals having been seen. It is unclear whether this represents a true increase in numbers of birds present, or just an increase in actual reporting of sightings. A surprising three Broad-winged Hawks were reported with an adult near Willcox May 9 (†GHR), one at Keams Canyon May 23-24 (†CL, ph. JiB), and an immature near Cottonwood May 30 (CT); there are still fewer than 25 records for the state. Well north of its normal breeding range was an ad. Gray Hawk at Page Springs Apr. 18 (†K. Wingert *et al.*); this represents a 2nd local record. Legitimate "Harlan's" Hawks are rarely reported within the state, so one at Sahuarita Mar. 23-31 (LD) was noteworthy. A Crested Caracara was reported from n.w. of Tucson Apr. 28 (B. Gerter), n.e. of its breeding range in Arizona.

A Black-necked Stilt at Cow Springs L. Mar. 28 (CL) was early for this portion of the state, where this species is at best a very scarce migrant. Another rare migrant in n.e. Arizona was a Snowy Plover found at Kayenta May 20 (CL). Somewhat early for n. Arizona was a Long-billed Curlew at Petrified Forest N.P., Mar. 31 (V. Santucci). Always unusual in Arizona away from the L.C.R.V. were two Whimbrels at Gila Farm Pond Apr. 23 (CBa), and another n. of Douglas May 21 (JC, CBe). Willets appeared more abundant this spring than usual with good concentrations of 31 at Gila Farms Pond Apr. 25 (SGa), and 34 at Black Mesa May 24 (CL). An unusually high spring concentration of migrating Lesser Yellowlegs appeared at Willcox with 35 there Apr. 20 (Wh), and 70 there Apr. 22 (DK). An early Baird's Sandpiper was found at Cow Springs L., Apr. 1 (CL); this species is a scarce spring migrant anywhere in the state. Late were six Red-necked Phalaropes at Gila Farms Pond May 31 (PS); there are only a handful of records of this species in Arizona extending into June.

A well-described imm. **Laughing Gull** was at Willcox May 5 (†LD); it is still perplexing that this species is as rare as it is in Arizona given its abundance in summer just over the California border at the Salton Sea. Thirty-two Franklin's Gulls were reported statewide between Mar. 27 and May 27 (m.ob.); after last year's big incursion, numbers appeared to be about normal. For the 2nd year in a row, an imm. **Mew Gull** was found on the

Colorado R., this year at Katherine Landing, L. Mojave, Mar. 31 (J. Elmsberg *et al.*); there are still only 5 records for Arizona. Scattered reports of California Gulls were received mostly from n.e. Arizona with a high concentration of 10 at Kayenta Mar. 28 (CL). The only report away from the northeast was of a single bird at Willcox May 23 (E. VanderWerf). A **Least Tern** was seen at Picacho Res. May 9, 16, and 21, probably (but not definitely) representing the same individual (N. Boyajain, †MS *et al.*). Amazingly, two additional Least Terns were found also on May 21, one at Gilbert (†CBa), and the other at Sierra Vista S.T.P. (JWh); there are still fewer than 20 records for this species in the state, very few of which are from spring.

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

An early Yellow-billed Cuckoo was reported from Portal May 15 (W. & S. Spofford) possibly representing a vagrant from the East, as opposed to an early arriving breeding bird. Seemingly out of place was a N. Pygmy-Owl along Sonoita Cr., Patagonia, Mar. 22 (S. Mlodinow); although this species breeds at similar elevations elsewhere in s.e. Arizona, this individual was found in atypical habitat. Rare as far east as the Chiricahua Mts., two Broad-billed Hummingbirds were found there, one in Whitetail Canyon Apr. 19 (*fide* DJ) and another at Portal May 4 (DJ); at least the Portal individual was seen throughout the period. The now-regular White-eared Hummingbird(s) at Ramsey Canyon was first seen this spring on the early date of Mar. 10 (T. Wood). Two additional individuals were reported, one at White-tail Canyon at the end of May (C. Rau), and another in Madera Canyon May 30 (*fide* SGa). Still extremely scarce in Arizona, particularly in the Chiricahua Mts., a Berylline Hummingbird remained at the Spoffords' feeders from May 4 through the end of the period (G. Vickrey *et al.*; ph BZ, GHR). A ♂ Lucifer Hummingbird, rarely seen in the Huachuca Mts., was at Ramsey Canyon May 2-9 (A. Grenon *et al.*). Two individual ♂ Rufous Hummingbirds were seen at Portal, one Apr. 10 (W & SSp) and the other Apr. 22 (DJ); this species is a sparse spring migrant in e. Arizona.

The pair of **Eared Trogons** that unsuccessfully nested in upper Ramsey Canyon overwintered and was seen sporadically during the spring season by many lucky observers. Another individual was reported from the South Fork of Cave Cr. Canyon May 17 (*fide* DJ); it is likely that one or two overwintered as well in the Chiricahua Mountains. Possibly as many as three pairs of Green Kingfishers were present along the upper S.P.R. between Fairbank and Hereford throughout the period (*fide* DK) and nesting again this year is highly suspected. A pair was seen in-

vestigating a cavity along Sonoita Cr. s.w. of the Roadside Rest Area May 23 (GW, PH), and single individuals were seen both along Sonoita Cr. near Patagonia and at Nogales throughout the spring (m.ob.).

Lewis' Woodpeckers that lingered into spring in s. Arizona included: one at Sunflower Apr. 3-10 (SGa), one at Bylas Apr. 23 (TC), one in the Santa Catalina Mts. Apr. 24 (T. Lamb), and one until the end of May in Whitetail Canyon (DJ). The **Red-headed Woodpecker** found near Continental during the fall was last observed May 10 (m.ob.). The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker that wintered at B.T.A. was last seen Mar. 7 (m.ob.). A late Red-naped Sapsucker was at Granite Reef Dam May 17 (SGa); most wintering individuals in s. Arizona leave by the end of April. A Downy Woodpecker reported from Rustler Park, Chiricahua Mts., May 2 (TC, CBa, BJ) was s. of its expected breeding range, and as there are very few extralimital records of this species in the state, farther sightings away from known nesting areas during the breeding season need to be substantiated further.



Arizona's first Roseate Spoonbill in fifteen years was this adult near Cottonwood on May 10, 1992. Photograph/Carrie Raisanen.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS

A Greater Pewee at Mt. Ord, n.e. of Phoenix, Mar. 30 (SGa), and another (or the same) there May 2 (L. Hatcher) added to the very few records of this species in the mountains of Maricopa County. Three singing Willow Flycatchers found on the Verde R. near Clarkdale Apr. 29 through the end of the period (CT) were most likely breeding birds, as the birds that nest to the n. and pass through the state during migration don't normally begin to arrive in Arizona until mid-May. The status of Buff-breasted Flycatcher in the Chiricahua Mts. is still uncertain, but again this year, individuals were seen at Southwestern Research Station in Cave Creek Canyon Apr. 11 (m.ob.) and again May 12 (J. Ascher), as well as at Rustler Park May 21 (DJ); it is likely that this species breeds in small numbers in this range. Single Thick-billed Kingbirds were found in unlikely spots this spring with one at Florida Work Center n. of Madera Canyon May 13, and another at

Sasabe May 20 (both LD).

Two pairs of Barn Swallows were seen investigating nest sites near Globe May 27-28 (TG) where not known to breed. Two pairs of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers nested for the first time at B.T.A. in early May (CT). An Am. Dipper was found far from its usual mountain haunts at Petrified Forest N.P. Apr. 5 (V. Santucci). A late Townsend's Solitaire was seen at Rustler Park May 30 (*fide* DJ); there are very few spring records of this species after the end of May, and is not known to nest in Arizona s. of the White Mountains. Several W. Bluebirds were again found on Mt. Ord, *Maricopa*, Apr. 25-May 27 (SGa, BD, LH *et al.*), where this species was found breeding for the first time in 1991. A single Varied Thrush was reported from Rucker Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., Apr. 19-20 (J. Singen). The Gray Catbird that wintered successfully at B.T.A. was last seen Apr. 22 (m.ob.). Interestingly, this individual was seen constructing a nest Apr. 5 (GW, PH) but no successful nesting was confirmed. The Blue Mockingbird that created havoc on private property along Sonoita Cr. during December and January was still visible from the road until at least Mar. 6 (JD).

A White-eyed Vireo was at Mesa May 24 (M. Moore) providing only a 10th record for the state. A non-singing Gray Vireo was seen along the upper S.P.R. May 2 (GM, T. Huels); this species is rarely seen in the state during migration away from proper breeding habitat. Two pair of Hutton's Vireos nested at B.T.A. (CT); this represents a local first nesting at an unusually low elevation for the state.

WARBLERS THROUGH GRACKLES

No fewer than eight N. Parulas were detected this spring, marking one of the strongest showings for this species in Arizona in recent memory. Records included one s.e. of Willcox Apr. 25 (GW *et al.*), one at Granite Basin, Prescott, Apr. 27 through the end of the period (CT), two near California Gulch May 2 (CL, B. Jacobs, C. Hunter), two along Sonoita Cr. May 6-10 (KK *et al.*), one at the Roadside Rest Area s.w. of Patagonia May 14 (GHR *et al.*), and one at Portal May 30 (JBo). The Chestnut-sided Warbler that wintered along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson was last seen Mar. 7 (JD *et al.*). Much rarer in the state during spring than in fall, a ♂ Black-throated Green Warbler was at Onion Saddle, Chiricahua Mts., May 2 (†TC). A Yellow-throated Warbler, a very scarce vagrant to the state, was at Portal May 9 (†J. Reddall *et al.*). As usual, this spring produced an array of the "rare-but-regular" migrants; four Black-and-white Warblers, one Am. Redstart, and seven N. Waterthrushes were found statewide. A Prothonotary Warbler

was reported from the upper S.P.R. May 3 (B. McKnight); this species is becoming almost annual in occurrence in the state. Three Worm-eating Warblers were found this season, with one at S. Fork in Cave Cr. Canyon Apr. 18 (B. McKnight), one in Ramsey Canyon May 15 (†B. Grossi, T. Corduroy), and one in Scheelite Canyon May 27 (†A. Grenon). A singing ♂ Ovenbird was heard briefly in a desert wash below Sabino Canyon in n.e. Tucson May 26 (WR). An out-of-place migrant Painted Redstart was seen near the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum w. of Tucson Mar. 11 (M. Ogren). Given the number of Hooded Warblers that turned up this spring in s. California, it is surprising that only one was reported from Arizona; a male was at Patagonia May 20-24 (J. Cooper *et al.*).

S.A.

One of the avian highlights of this spring was the sudden and unexpected influx of Flame-colored Tanagers into s.e. Arizona. After an unconfirmed rumor of one in lower Madera Canyon in late March, a female-plumaged individual was seen briefly and photographed higher up in Madera Canyon Apr. 14 (†LD, ph. J. Johnson). Next, a pair (imm. male and female) was found in Ramsey Canyon May 5 (†A. Grenon; ph. GHR), and was seen by numerous observers through the end of May. Amazingly, another imm. male and female were located at another site in Madera Canyon May 26 (†P. & W. McQuarry) and were also seen through the end of the period. Additionally, another rumor was received of another male seen for 2 days along Sonoita Cr. in late May, but we have not received any details on this sighting. There was only one previous North American record n. of Mexico, a male that paired with a ♀ W. Tanager in Cave Cr. Canyon during the spring of 1985.

Four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found at scattered localities in Arizona this spring. North and east of its normal breeding range in s.e. Arizona, a pair of Varied Buntings along the Paradise Road near Portal May 27 provided a local first record (DJ). A hybrid Rufous-sided X Green-tailed Towhee was found singing a mixed song at the top of Mt. Lemmon May 10 to the end of the period (LK, KK; ph. R. Bowers); this is particularly interesting given that Green-taileds are not known to nest s. of the White Mountain region in Arizona. Details and photographs of this individual will be published elsewhere.

Individual Harris' Sparrows were found at Black Mesa Apr. 24 (CL), and at Prescott Apr. 28 (†C. & D. Rollings, V. Miller). A ♀ Common Grackle was at the Spoffords' feeders in Portal Apr. 27 (SSp); there are only about 10 records in all for Arizona.

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SOUTHWEST REGION New Mexico

Sartor O. Williams III

The mild and moist conditions of the winter continued through the spring, with most areas experiencing above-normal temperatures and some receiving record precipitation. These conditions, which yielded high water levels in most streams and lakes and abundant production of cover and wild food, likely served to disperse birds more thinly over the countryside. Spring migration was generally unspectacular, although concerted efforts at several "hot spots" provided a nice sprinkling of rarities.

Abbreviations: Bitter Lake (*Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge*); Bosque Refuge (*Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge*); E.B.L. (*Elephant Butte Lake*); L.V.N.W.R. (*Las Vegas Nat'l Wildlife Refuge*); R.G.N.C. (*Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque*); R.G.V. (*Rio Grande Valley*); Zuni (*Zuni Indian Reservation*). Place names in italics are counties.

LOONS TO WATERFOWL

The well-documented **Yellow-billed Loon** at Conchas L. was last seen for certain Mar. 14 (CR), while at least one Pacific Loon was present there until Apr. 20 (CR). Also at Conchas L. were four Com. Loons Mar. 1 (JP, LG) to Apr. 20 (CR); other Commons were singles at Storrie L., Apr. 28 (CR) and Bill Evans L. May 27-31 (RF, EL). Horned Grebes persisted at Conchas L. until Mar. 20 (v.o.), with a high of 32 there Mar. 12 (LG); others included one-two at L.V.N.W.R., Mar. 12 & 22 (CR) and one at Holloman L., Apr. 26 (CS). A possible Red-necked Grebe was again reported at Conchas L., Mar. 7 (LG, N. Cox), but verification of this species for the state remained elusive. Eared Grebes were widespread, with highs of 50 at Ft. Union Apr. 22 (JH, RD), 500 at L.V.N.W.R., Apr. 25 (PI *et al.*), and 170 at Zuni May 2 (DC). Unusual were seven Am. White Pelicans at Red Rock Apr. 2 (AF) while late were one at Stinking L., *Rio Arriba*, May 8 (DS) and seven at Laguna Grande, *Eddy*, May 10 (SW). Neotropical Cormorants were scarce, with reports only from Bosque Refuge, where there was a high count of 10 May 21 (RT, PB), plus one at L. Roberts, *Grant*, Mar. 25 & 31 (EL).

Single Am. Bitterns were at San Marcial Apr. 19-20 (RD) and L. Roberts Mar. 25 (EL). Little Blue Herons made a good showing in the R.G.V. with one at Albuquerque May 15 (DL, RM), one-two at Bosque Refuge May 3 (BV) & 5 (RT, PES), and one at San Marcial Apr. 19-20 (RD). The high count for Cattle Egrets in the middle R.G.V. was 50 at San Antonio May 29 (GE); elsewhere, singles were at Mangas Springs (RF), Mesilla (DL), and Holloman L. (GE) in May while eight at Loving May 9 (SW, TJH) were the only ones reported from the Pecos Valley. Early were two White-faced Ibises at Bosque Refuge Mar. 7 (JP), where over 200 were present Apr. 20 (PRS); generally small numbers were seen elsewhere April-May. Wood Ducks were at 5 sites in the R.G.V. from Española south to Percha Dam (v.o.); others were a pair near Canjilon Apr. 19 (DS), one at Zuni May 2 (DC), and one-two at Rattlesnake Springs March-May (v.o.). Unprecedented numbers of Greater Scaups were found, most notably at Conchas L. where there were 34 Mar. 1 (JP, CS, ph. LG) and 14 still there Mar. 14 (CR) plus 22 at nearby Ute L., Mar. 12 (LG, TH); others were one-two at L.V.N.W.R. Mar. 12-Apr. 6 (CR), one at Bosque Refuge Apr. 4 (JP), and eight at E.B.L., Mar. 17 (LG, TH).

RAPTORS TO TERNS

Migrant Ospreys were in all quadrants of the state, and included an early one at L. Roberts Mar. 31 (EL) and late ones near Vadito May

30 (JP, LG) and at Jornada May 23 (CS); noteworthy were four-seven on 3 Jicarilla Reservation lakes, *Rio Arriba*, Apr. 8-25 (DS). A Black-shouldered Kite in the Animas Valley Mar. 16 & 29 (AC, NMC) furnished the state's first report since 1989. A N. Goshawk in the Animas Mts. May 23 (AC, NMC, JP, LG) provided a local first. Unusual was an imm. Com. Black-Hawk at Deer Cr., Animas Mts., May 5 (AC, NMC), undoubtedly attracted there by the year's wetter conditions. A Harris' Hawk near Red Rock Apr. 18 (CS) was north of the usual range. The Harris' population in *Hidalgo* apparently suffered a set-back—a nest with chicks was found suddenly empty in late April (RF) and no Harris' Hawks were found in their usual haunts during May (*vide* EL); in the southeast, however, the population reportedly was "bouncing back" after serious declines (SW). Rare in New Mexico, two Broad-winged Hawks, one an immature, were at Rattlesnake Springs Apr. 25-26 (CB, JP, LG). Easterly was a Zone-tailed Hawk nest in the Capitan Mts. Apr. 25 (SOW).

A N. Bobwhite s. of Conchas L. May 8 (CR) may represent a new locale for the species; however, one-two in Santa Fe (JH) and Las Cruces (GE) were almost certainly escapees. A ♂ Scaled X Gambel's Quail was paired with a ♀ Scaled w. of Antelope Wells Apr. 28-29 (AC, NMC). The only Com. Moorhens were two-four at San Marcial Apr. 6 & 19-20 (RD). Late was a Sandhill Crane flying over Bosque Refuge Apr. 19 (BV). Two Black-bellied Plovers were at Bitter L. May 2 (JP, AK, LG) and another was at Holloman L. May 22 (CS). Fifteen Snowy Plovers were n. of Bottomless Lakes S.P., Mar. 16 (JH, RD), where infrequently reported, and up to 16 were at Holloman L. during May (CS, GE); at Laguna Grande, the earliest ones were seen Mar. 13, a nest was located Apr. 10, and 49 individuals were counted May 27 (SW). Two Mt. Plovers near Santo Domingo Pueblo Apr. 14 (PES) and one in the s. Animas Valley Mar. 14 (CS) were in areas where rarely seen in recent years. There were several Willet reports, including highs of 14 at Bosque Refuge Apr. 15 (CB), about 20 at San Marcial Apr. 19-20 (RD), and nine at Bitter L. May 10 (CS). The only Upland Sandpipers were two near Portales May 22 (CB, RM). Early and westerly were 18 Long-billed Curlews at Nutt Mar. 8 (E. Wootten *vide* CS). Rare in New Mexico, single Hudsonian Godwits were at Bitter L., Apr. 26 (JP, LG, CB) and Holloman L. May 31 (TF, *vide* CS). Marbled Godwits were seen at 5 locales Apr. 15-26 (v.o.) and included a remarkable concentration of 257 at Laguna Grande Apr. 19 (SW). Other notable shorebirds included 19 Sanderlings at Bitter L. May 11 (JP, BP) plus one at Laguna Grande May 14 (SW), three

well-documented Semipalmated Sandpipers at Bitter L. May 2 & 9 (JP, ph. AK, LG) plus others at Holloman L., Apr. 27 (CS) and Laguna Grande Apr. 19 (SW), and a White-rumped Sandpiper at Bitter L. May 2 (JP, LG, AK). Highs for Dunlins were eight at Bosque Refuge Mar. 21 (JP, AK) and two at Bitter L. May 9 (JP, BP). Also at Bitter L. were 130 Stilt Sandpipers May 16 (JP, BP). Three possible Short-billed Dowitchers were among Long-billeds at Holloman L. May 3 (LG) and a ♀ Red-necked Phalarope was with 10 Wilson's there May 29 (BZ).

Notably early Franklin's Gulls were six at L.V.N.W.R., Mar. 22 (CR), while late were five at Wagon Mound May 29 (CR, LG) and two at Holloman L. May 29 (BZ). The **Mew Gull** previously reported at Conchas L. was last seen Mar. 12 (ph. LG). One-two Californias were at Storrie L., Apr. 28 (CR) and Bosque Refuge Mar. 21 (JP, AK). A first-winter probable Thayer's Gull was at Bosque Refuge Mar. 8 (ph. LG), another was at E.B.L. Mar. 7 (SW) where one had been reported in Feb. Out of range, and early for the state, were two Least Terns at Hayden L., *Rio Arriba*, Apr. 25 (DS).

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

One-two White-winged Doves returned to n. Albuquerque by Mar. 18 (BO) and up to six were in s. Albuquerque during the period, where two apparently wintered (AS); one-two were in Silver City by Apr. 16 (EL). Noteworthy was an Inca Dove w. of Antelope Wells May 20-22 (AC, NMC); elsewhere, maxima included one at Red Rock (RF), one at Silver City (EL), four at Socorro (JP, LG), one at T or C (DM), two at Mesilla (DL), and three at Carlsbad (JP). Early were single Yellow-billed Cuckoos at Cliff May 8 (RF) and Rattlesnake Springs May 9 (SW, TJH). Northerly was a Greater Roadrunner near Horse Springs May 30 (DC). In Las Cruces, what was believed to be one pair of roadrunners produced four young in late March, then built a 2nd nest and produced seven young by late May (*vide* GE). Individual **Boreal Owls** were singing at 2 sites in n. *Rio Arriba* Mar. 12 (DS); another, singing n.e. of Santa Fe Mar. 13 (DS), was 8 mi s. of the previous southernmost record. A N. Saw-whet Owl was singing in the Manzano Mts. May 19 (HS), where rarely reported. Common Poorwills were heard in the Animas Valley on the early date of Mar. 15 (AC, NMC). Well northeast of the usual range were several Whip-poor-wills in the Gallinas Mts. near Corona May 14 (HS). The only Chimney Swifts reported were singles at Las Vegas May 24 (CR) and Carlsbad May 11 (JP, BP). A Magnificent Hummingbird was in the Pinos Altos Mts. May 26 (EL) and May 31 (BZ), where more-or-less regular in recent years,

up to eight were in the Animas Mts. May 23-24 (AC, NMC, JP, LG). Lucifer Hummingbirds returned to Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mts., Apr. 4, where there were three-four pairs by the end of the period (RS). Highly unusual was a ♂ **Costa's Hummingbird** at Mangas Springs Mar. 24 (RF). Easterly Rufous Hummingbirds, rare spring migrants, were singles in the Sandia Mts. Apr. 11 (DWM) and the Peloncillo Mts. Apr. 19 & 26 (RS). Peripheral Lewis' Woodpeckers were singles in *Union* May 6 (J. Hall *vide* WC) and Glenwood Mar. 3 (B & DM) and Mar. 25 (SOW). Early was a probable Williamson's Sapsucker at Santa Fe Mar. 14 (JH). Downy Woodpeckers at the southern fringe of their distribution were singles in the Burro Mts. Apr. 8 (RF), Pinos Altos Mts. May 2 (RF), and the Black Range May 30 (BZ).

FLYCATCHERS TO NUTHATCHES

Among the several late migrant Olive-sided Flycatchers reported were two singing in the Organ Mts. May 30 (CB). Greater Pewees were at two Pinos Altos Mts. sites May 25 (EL) & 31 (BZ); up to eight were in the Animas Mts. May 23-24 (AC, NMC, JP, LB). Early was a W. Wood-Pewee at Mesilla Mar. 7 (CS). One-two Willow Flycatchers were at 3 sites at Zuni in May (DC), and a pair reportedly was breeding on the Gila R. n. of Gila (*vide* RF). Two highly probably Least Flycatchers were at Boone's Draw May 12 (JP, BP). Gray Flycatchers found singing in areas where seldom reported included eight in the San Francisco Mts. n. of Reserve Apr. 29 (SOW), one in the Magdalena Mts. May 16 (DWM), and two in the Capitan Mts. Apr. 26 (SOW). Westerly were two E. Phoebes at Percha Dam Mar. 18 (LG, TH). Early was a Brown-crested Flycatcher at San Simon Cienega Apr. 1-5 (RD) as were an Ash-throated Flycatcher in the Playas Valley Mar. 12 (AC, NMC) and Cassin's Kingbirds in the Animas Valley Mar. 25 (AC, NMC); fledgling Cassin's were in the Playas Valley as early as May 8 (AC, NMC). Eight E. Kingbirds were at Maxwell N.W.R. May 28 (CR, LG). Northerly was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Clayton Apr. 8 (WC) while westerly was one at San Antonio May 25 (SOW).

Purple Martins in areas where infrequently reported included two near Fence L. May 31 (DC) and eight in the Animas Mts. May 24 (AC, NMC, JP, LG). Early were two-three N. Rough-winged Swallows at Mesilla Mar. 1 (TG *vide* CS); as was a single, along with an early Barn Swallow, in the Animas Valley Mar. 13 (AC, NMC). Cave Swallow numbers at Carlsbad Caverns N.P. peaked at about 3000 Apr. 14-May 1 (SW), which was typical of recent years. Westerly Blue Jays were singles near Montezuma, *San Miguel*,

Apr. 3 (CR) and Percha Dam Apr. 5 (BV); in the east, numbers were reportedly increasing at Carlsbad (*vide* SW) and Hobbs (*vide* CL, BR). A small flock of Gray-breasted Jays near Pueblo Pk., Mar. 25 (SOW) was beyond the usual limit of the species' range. Moderate numbers of Pinyon Jays remained conspicuous in the west—south at least to Fence L. (DC), Horse Springs (DC), and Magdalena (DWM)—and in the north (v.o.), including at Santa Fe where there were fledged juveniles May 2 & 24 (JH). Peripheral Am. Crows were at Conchas L., Mar. 14 (CR), Edge-wood Mar. 16 (JH, RD), Cedarvale, *Torrance*, Mar. 15 (JH, RD), and Bear Canyon L., *Grant*, Mar. 25 & 31 (EL). Crows are now established as common nesters in the Albuquerque bosque (*vide* BW); in Grant, there were 4 nests near Cliff and another at Mangas Springs (RF). Providing a caution to observers who may casually identify Chihuahuan and Com. Ravens on the basis of presumed habitat preference differences, this spring H. Schwarz and B. Willard found both species nesting on poles or towers in close proximity to each other in arid grassland in *Bernalillo*. In grassland near Stanley, *Santa Fe*, Willard again found both species present and nesting on man-made structures; he concluded that our understanding of the range of *cryptoleucus*, in particular, was "limited by our collective inability to distinguish it from *corax*." Noteworthy were five Black-capped Chickadees e. of Vadito May 30 (JP, LG), as were one-three found singing at La Cueva and Chacon, both *Mora*, May 15 (CR). A survey for Mexican Chickadees in the Animas Mts. in May located seven pairs (AC, NMC). In New Mexico, Bushtits rarely nest in lowland riparian areas, so noteworthy was a nest at R.G.N.C. May 9 (HS). Also in the lowlands was a Red-breasted Nuthatch at Percha Dam May 6 (DL, RM).

WRENS TO VIREOS

Northeasterly were six Cactus Wrens in the La Manga Cr. basin s. of Conchas L. May 31 (CR), where first discovered in February. A **Carolina Wren** persisted in the Sandia Mts. at Cedar Crest, where singing Mar. 14 (JP) & 17 (LG, TH), and another—or possibly the same one—was singing at Sandia Pk. May 11-18 (P. Tallman); remarkable was yet another reported singing at Socorro Apr. 7 (PB). A Sedge Wren at Bosque Refuge Mar. 6 (JP) & 8 (LG, TH) may have wintered there. Several Marsh Wrens were singing at Stinking L. May 9 (DS), where nesting was first documented in 1991. American Dippers in areas where rarely reported included singles at Vadito May 30 (JP, LG) and Tres Ritos Mar. 17 (CR); an adult with a juvenile was at Coyote Cr., *Mora*, May 22 (CR). Noteworthy were reports of E. Bluebirds at Clayton

(WC), Watrous May 29 (CR), s. of Conchas L., Apr. 4 & 20 (CR), and near Hobbs Mar. 28 (CL, BR); a pair with two juveniles was near Cliff May 9 (RF) while a pair that nested at Rattlesnake Springs (SW) was apparently the first to do so there in several years. Western Bluebirds nested successfully near Ft. Bayard (EL), at the southern edge of the usual New Mexico range; notable were eight in the Animas Mts. May 24 (AC, NMC). Late was a Townsend's Solitaire at Bosque Refuge Apr. 19 (BV). Very rare in New Mexico, a probable **Wood Thrush** was at Pleasanton Apr. 21 (M. Sumner *vide* B & DM) and another was reported without details near Clayton (WC *et al.*); there are only about a dozen previous reports, mostly in the fall, with fewer than five verified.

A singing Gray Catbird was at Albuquerque May 17 (JP, BP); 18 were at Bosque Refuge May 5 (RT, PES), where considered an uncommon migrant. Early were seven Bendire's Thrashers on the San Agustin Plains Mar. 26 (SOW); in *Hidalgo* one was near Cotton City Apr. 21 (EL) and two s. of Hatchet Gap May 27 (SOW). Two-three Crissals were in Encino Canyon, Manzano Mts., Apr. 14 (HS), where not previously reported. Late Am. Pipits were singles at Sandia Crest May 31 (PES) and Rattlesnake Springs May 13 (JP). Easterly Cedar Waxwings were two at Conchas L. May 8 (CR) and others at Hobbs through Apr. 12 (CL, BR); moderate-to-large numbers lingered in the south into May, including 22 in the Animas Valley May 12 (AC, NMC) and 330 at Rattlesnake Springs May 9 (SW, TJH). Northerly Phainopeplas were one at Alameda, *Bernalillo*, Mar. 26-28 (BO) and three near Socorro Mar. 3 (LG, TH).

At least six Bell's Vireos were between Red Rock and Virden Apr. 18 (CS) and numbers were believed higher than usual at Rattlesnake Springs (*vide* SW); the only R.G.V report, however, was of one at Percha Dam May 6 (DL, RM). Five Gray Vireos were singing in Soledad Canyon, Organ Mts. May 23-29 (CB) and one-two were in the Guadalupe Mts., Apr. 24 (SOW) and May 14 (JP, BP). East of the usual range were several Hutton's Vireos in 2 Organ Mts. canyons May 28-29 (CB), plus one in the s. Guadalupe Mts. Apr. 25 (SOW). A well-described **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at Rattlesnake Springs May 15 (JP) and a Red-eyed was at Percha Dam May 30 (ph. BZ).

WARBLERS TO FINCHES

It was a productive season for rarer warblers, especially at well-birded migrant traps in the east. Among those reported with supporting details were a N. Parula at Water Canyon Apr. 17 (B. Morris) and a Chestnut-sided at Boone's Draw May 3 (CB, JB, RM) plus an

easterly Hermit there May 12 (JP, BP). Rattlesnake Springs produced a Blackburnian Apr. 26 (CB, JP, LG), a Blackpoll May 13 (JP), a **Yellow-throated Warbler** May 13-14 (GP, JP, BP), and a Magnolia May 14 (JP, BP). An easterly Grace's was at Bell L., *Lea*, May 10 (JP, BP) and Yellow-rumped, presumably Audubon's, were reported as breeding in the Animas Mts. (*fide* AC, NMC). Two Black-and-whites were at Rattlesnake Springs Apr. 25-26 (JP, CB, LG) and two were at Boone's Draw May 2 (JP, LG, AK) & 11 (CB). A Worm-eating was at Percha Dam Apr. 17 (CB). Two Ovenbirds were found: one at Boone's Draw May 2 (JP, AK) and one singing at Albuquerque May 29 (DL, RM); N. Waterthrushes were at 9 sites, from Water Canyon and Percha Dam eastward, Apr. 27-May 15 (v.o.). A probable ♂ **Kentucky Warbler** was at Roswell Apr. 29 (M. Peckinpugh); single ♂ Hoodeds were at Los Alamos May 18 (C. Jervis), near Melrose May 11 (CB), at Water Canyon May 16 (DWM), and Rattlesnake Springs May 14 (JP, BP). The Gallinas Mts. provided a new, and northeasterly, locale for Red-faced Warbler, where one was singing May 8 (HS). Unusual was a Painted Redstart at a Socorro golf course Apr. 1 (PB). Olive Warblers were reported from 4 sites in the Pinos Altos Mts. and from another in the Black Range (*fide* RF); a female was feeding a juvenile in the Animas Mts. May 24 (LG, AC, NMC). Easterly was a Summer Tanager at Conchas L., Apr. 20 (CR). A Pyrrhuloxia in the Mescalero Sands e. of Roswell Mar. 16 (JH, RD) was north of the usual range. Westerly was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak singing at Mangas Springs May 27 (RF); eight others were reported farther east Apr. 27-May 16 (v.o.). A Varied Bunting was at Walnut Canyon, *Eddy*, May 9 & 17 (*fide* SW). Three Abert's Towhees were between Red Rock and Virden Apr. 18 (CS); three-four pairs were at San Simon Cienega Apr. 1-5 (RD). A **Botteri's Sparrow** singing in the Hachita Valley s. of Hachita May 27 (SOW) furnished a 3rd locality for the state, the others being at Rodeo in 1977 and the Animas Valley in 1991. Probably responding to plentiful moisture, singing Cassin's Sparrows were conspicuous in the southwest, with 22 near Columbus May 26 (SOW) and 51 between Lordsburg and Red Rock May 28 (SOW). A Field Sparrow was at Conchas L., Mar. 7 & 12 (ph. LG), while at least three were at Waldrop Pk., *Chaves*, Mar. 16 (JH, RD). Two-three migrant Sage Sparrows were w. of Roswell Mar. 15 (JH, RD), where rarely reported. Noteworthy were 23 Savannah Sparrows singing at Maxwell N.W.R., May 28 (CR, LG) plus three at Black L., *Colfax*, May 22 (CR); nesting is undocumented at both locales. Northwesterly and late was a White-

throated Sparrow at Zuni Apr. 29-May 4 (DC). Single Golden-crowned Sparrows were at Santa Fe May 1 (D. Henderson *fide* CR) and Corrales Mar. 10 (SW). A survey found 27 Yellow-eyed Juncos in the Animas Mts. May 23-24 (AC, NMC, JP, LG), many of them apparently nesting in oak brush sprouted since the 1989 fire.

Brewer's Blackbirds extended their breeding range to Grants, where nests were found in May (TH). Westerly was a probable Com. Grackle at Silver City May 25 (EL). Bronzed Cowbirds continued to be found with alarming regularity in the south, including one-two at Deer Cr, *Hidalgo* (AC, NMC), Ft. Bayard (EL), T or C (DM), Las Cruces (GE), Dripping Springs (CB), and Carlsbad (JP, BP, GP). Unusual was a probable Orchard Oriole at Holloman L. May 31 (TF *fide* CS) while northerly was a probable Hooded at Conchas L. May 8 (CR); a pair of Hoodeds that nested near Acquirre Springs, Organ Mts., Apr. 28-May 23 (H. Harrison, TG *fide* CS) provided a local first. Peripheral Scott's Orioles were one at Zuni May 24 (DC) and two near Newkirk May 31 (CR). The only Rosy Finches were about 150 near Tres Ritos Mar. 17 (CR). Two Pine Grosbeaks were near Holman, *Mora*, Mar. 17 (CR) and four were at the Santa Fe Ski Basin Apr. 12 (BV). Late were one-two Am. Goldfinches at Ft. Bayard May 22 & 25 (EL). Cassin's Finches were notably scarce, with the few reports confined to the Jemez, Sangre de Cristo, and Zuni areas (v.o.). Evening Grosbeaks also were scarce, with most reports confined to the Sangre de Cristo Mts. and adjacent areas, including up to 10 in Santa Fe March-May (JH, LH) and 33 n. of Pecos May 7 (CR); the only southerly report was of three at Acquirre Springs Apr. 26 (D. Ketchum *fide* CS).

Cited observers: Pat Basham, Charles Black, David Cleary, Wes Cook, Alan Craig, Narca Moore Craig, Robert Dickerman, Gordon Ewing, Ralph Fisher, Ted Floyd, Alton Ford, Tom Glenn, Larry Gorbet, Lois Herrmann, Tommy Joe Hines, John Hubbard, Tyler Huning, Pat Insley, Andy Kraynik, David Leal, Carol Levine, Eugene Lewis, Barbara & Daniel McKnight, David W. Mehlman, Ray Meyer, Doris Miller, Bruce Ostyn, Benjamin Parmeter, John Parmeter, Gary Parker, Bob Russell, Christopher Rustay, Catherine Sandell, Robert Scholes, Hart Schwarz, Patricia R. Snider, Dale Stahlecker, Paul E. Steel, Alan Swain, Ross Teuber, Brad Vaughn, Steve West, Bill Willard, S.O. Williams, Barry Zimmer.—SARTOR O. WILLIAMS III, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, P. O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504.

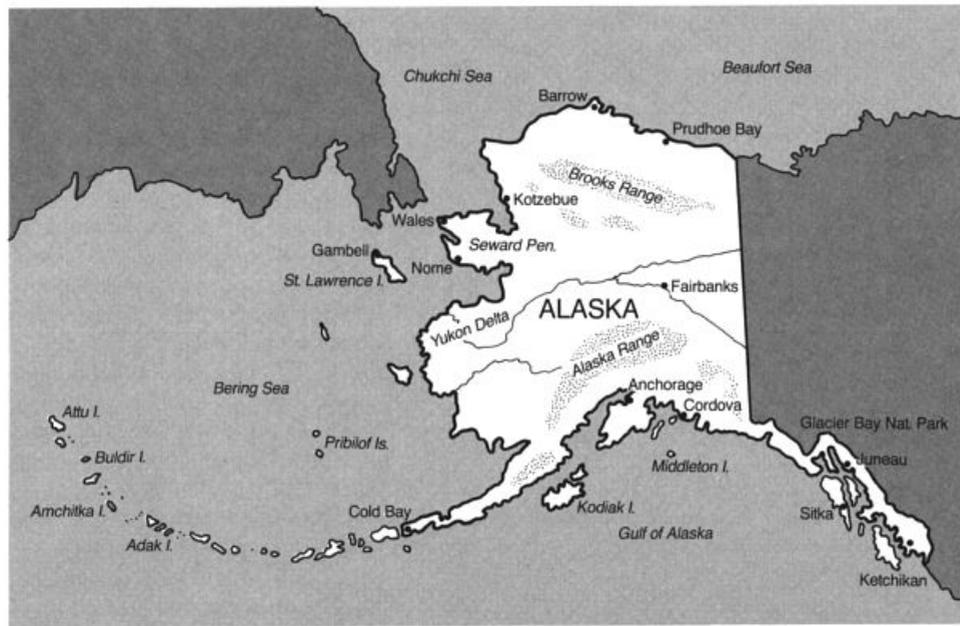
ALASKA REGION

T. G. Tobish, Jr. and M. E. Isleib

Spring 1992 was by all accounts bizarre, mostly uneventful, and interminably late. With a few exceptions the weather picture was more interesting than bird migrations. Since the Aleutian Low drifted, or perhaps stayed to the north of "normal," the typical spring pattern of anticyclones moving northeastward across the Aleutians was disrupted for all of May. The Aleutian Low appears to have been centered in the Gulf of Anadyr and west central Bering Sea. Migration was correspondingly slow and dull at traditionally exciting sites in the western Aleutians likely due to a persistent high pressure zone between 35° and 55° North Latitudes. Instead low pressure cells moved north along the western Bering Sea hugging the Kamchatka coast until they were drawn to the east in the Bering Straits vicinity. Normal spring storm patterns in the northern sections of the Bering Sea include 1-3 systems in a season. This year, there were five low pressure cells in May alone. To what extent weather and its impacts on migration were influenced by a developing strong El Niño, or by the more northerly position of the Aleutian Low, can only be our conjecture. But the spring 1992 weather trends clearly divided the State into three distinct zones.

The winter season steadily faded into above-average warm temperatures and mostly average snow pack statewide by April. The southern two-thirds of Southeast had an early, warm spring and apparently shared the unusually warm and storm-free conditions of the northern Pacific Coast region. Migration into Southeast was early, heavy and unimpeded. Petersburg and Ketchikan observers called the season 2-3 weeks early. Record-early reports were obtained for nine passerine species at Mitkof Island where Walsh has one of the state's longer set of arrival records. The Southcoastal section north to the Alaska Range had a mixed season. Most of the earlier arriving species were on time or early. But it was not until late May that good or even normal representative numbers of any species were recorded. Noteworthy along the north Gulf Coast were concentrations of normally rare migrants which usually overfly the area.

Portions of the state beyond the Alaska Range also began with the early arriving species on time, albeit in small numbers. This trend ceased in early May and cold, often snowy and stormy conditions overcame a broad zone from the southern Bering Sea to Barrow and the Beaufort Sea, and south to the eastern Interior. Entire popula-



31 (AD), a pair at Adak May 13-16 (ILJ, JW), and up to three at Attu June 1-4 (ATTOUR). Indicative of the late season were concentrations of King Eiders at St. Paul I. where flocks of up to 150 birds each were noted May 30-June 2 (FIELD GUIDES). Although good numbers of King Eiders winter within the nearshore areas of the Pribilofs, most are gone by late May. Lower Alaska Pen.'s first Spectacled Eider was a drake in Nelson Lagoon April 7 (CPD, CPZ). Barrows Goldeneyes were noted west of normal winter sites at Neison Lagoon, two males April 25-28 (JS, HS) and at Attu, one drake May 25-June 4 (ATTOUR). What was probably a wintering pair of Smeews was found at Amchitka Mar. 25-31 (AD). Migrant Smeews appeared at Adak I. May 20 (TS,

tions of Arctic nesting shorebirds which had passed through traditional mid-migration staging points, went unrecorded between these sites and northern landfall areas at Nome and Kotzebue. With so few observers on Alaska's periphery and such a vast area, we had no idea where, for instance, thousands of Western and Semipalmated sandpipers or Dunlin were during mid-May.

Spring was the latest in 44 years for Uhl near Kotzebue and unusual southwest winds kept spring birds from reaching Barrow nearly two weeks beyond average. Seward Peninsula arrivals for nearly all species, but especially for those interior migrant fringillids, were at least two weeks late. Associated cold weather and new snow into the central Interior, from Fairbanks to the Canada Border grossly retarded migration and threatened nesting activity and success for resident and early arriving passerines. Fourteen passerine species were record-late in arriving in the Tok area. By the period's end the season had caught up to itself and warm, dry weather prevailed across the Region.

LOONS TO RAPTORS

Recent progress in identification of Arctic Loons has led to better understanding of the status of this species in the Region. A peak count of 28+ migrants at Gambell June 4 (WINGS) is the Region's highest. Arctic Loon was substantiated in the Aleutians from Attu I. where up to three were seen on salt water from mid-May to June 4 (*ATTOUR). Although there are well-described reports from Adak I. in winter, and from Attu in spring, we had no previous photos or specimens. Three hundred Pacific Loons migrating past the point at Gambell June 4 (WINGS) was an exceptional count and indicative of the late season. The season's only

Pied-billed Grebe report came from Sitka April 26 (MLW). A record-high 616 W. Grebes were counted in the traditional staging areas in Sumner Strait off Mitkof I. April 11 (PJ). The Ketchikan area's W. Grebe spring population peaked at 440 April 5 (SCH). At least one Brandt's Cormorant, an immature, was located in s. Southeast, due south of Ketchikan March 4 (†SCH). There are several late winter records of this very rare summer visitor and breeder from the Ketchikan area.

A well-described "Bewick's" Tundra Swan was reported from King Salmon April 16-17 (†TAB, DAD, NAC). This form is often reported but rarely documented from the Region and observers are reminded of the variation in the configuration of yellow on the bills of Tundra Swans. Unusual for Southeast were two blue morph Snow Geese at the Sergief I. staging area at the Stikine R. mouth April 27-May 4 (KB, RC, PJW). A group of 26 Snow Geese on St. Lawrence I. near Gambell June 3 was extremely late; most Bering Strait Snow Geese move through by late May. Single Bean Geese appeared at Attu I. May 14-15 & 29 (ATTOUR) for the season's only report. Up to 12 Brant near Craig on the outer coast of Prince of Wales I., Mar. 18-20 (SCH) were notable since the species is casual in Southeast in winter. Cinnamon Teal made a strong showing around the Stikine R. mouth-Wrangell area where up to six were counted April 28-May 10 (PJW, KB, RC, CAW). A drake Cinnamon Teal just south of Tok May 10-12 (†TJD) was only the Interior's 3rd record. Across the southern half of the Region in average numbers Eur. Wigeon were widespread as usual, with a peak of only 25 at Buldir I. May 20 (ILJ). American Wigeon made a showing in the w. Aleutians, where casual, with two at Amchitka I., Mar.

HB) and at Attu, a pair, May 13-14 (ATTOUR). A pair of Ruddy Ducks arrived at Northway May 25 (TJD) where the species has been annual for 6 years.

We received enticing descriptions of quickly glimpsed falcons, one each from Gambell May 25 (†AK) and Prudhoe Bay May 23 (†EEB). The Gambell bird was glimpsed hovering at the fog line and the description pointed to Eur. Kestrel, although the observer was quick to equivocate the record. Any kestrel at St. Lawrence would be noteworthy. At Prudhoe, Burroughs described what sounded like a N. Hobby but he could not see the facial marks or the wing pattern. An additional Eur. Kestrel sighting came without details from Buldir I. where a female was reported May 24-26 (ILJ, FH). At this writing none of these reports had been verified.

SHOREBIRDS TO PIGEONS

Two Common Ringed Plovers were recorded early May 27-28 at Gambell (ph. AK, PO) and at least one other was located there June 5-6 (GHR, PH, JLD). Casual for spring passage in the w. Aleutians were single Semipalmated Plovers at Attu May 27 (ATTOUR), first in spring, and at Buldir June 6 (ILJ, JW). A pair of Eur. Dotterels was reported on the mountain above Gambell June 4, one was re-located there June 5 (JLD, AK), and a pair was reported from the s. end of nearby Trautman L. June 8 (JK, KZ *fide* AK). Also casual in the w. Aleutians, a lone Lesser Yellowlegs was seen periodically at Buldir May 17-24 (TS, GT, HK, GVB). Record-early for the Region by over 2 weeks was a single Upland Sandpiper at Juneau's Mendenhall wetlands May 6 (MS). Another was found in the same area May 23 (MWS). The species is most un-



Common Ringed Plover at Gambell, Alaska, on May 28, 1992. Photograph/Andy Kraynik.

usual for SE where there are at most 4 previous spring records. Apparently forced down and delayed by stormy cold weather in early May, Bristle-thighed Curlews appeared in small numbers on the n. side of the Alaska Pen. Record-early for the Region was a single near Port Heiden April 24 and small groups were regular May 2-20 (*vide* JS, HS, REG) at Nelson Lagoon. Bristle-thigheds are casual away from snowfree sections of their foothill breeding grounds where they typically arrive mid-May after long-distance flights from the Hawaiian Leeward Is. The species had previously been unrecorded in spring from the Alaska Pen. A single Bristle-thighed Curlew was noted at Adak May 15-19 and two were together there on May 26 (TS, HK). Other Pacific Flyway migrant shorebirds were held up at various Gulf of Alaska coastal sites between Kodiak and Juneau. Extraordinary counts of Lesser Golden-Plovers, Whimbrels, and Pectoral Sandpipers were made at these locations and numbers persisted for the period May 4-20+.

We received excellent descriptions of a **Long-billed Curlew** from Sergief I. at the Stikine R. mouth May 4 (†PJN, CAN). There is only one previous unsubstantiated report from the Region. This dry grassland nester breeds as close to SE Alaska as the Nechako Lowlands in c.s. British Columbia. The spring range of occurrence of Marbled Godwits at Kodiak was expanded this season. Four there April 23 were record-early and one lingered to May 20, the latest by 2 days (RAM). A new local high of 56 birds was recorded within this period. A single Temminck's Stint appeared briefly at Gambell May 31 (ATTOUR) for the season's only report. In the Aleutians, Long-toed Stints were found from Attu, up to two May 14-June 2 (ATTOUR); Buldir, three May 25-31 (ILJ, FH); east to Adak, where irregular, one May 15 (TS, HK). One Long-toed Stint was well-described from Gambell May 27 (†AK, PO). Although Long-toed Stint is reported nearly

annually from St. Lawrence I., we have very few substantiated records.

The Homer area's Slaty-backed Gull, first found in the winter, q.v., remained near the spit to April 12 (GCN). Most surprising was an ad. Red-legged Kittiwake off the point at Gambell June 1 (WINGS, †JLD & PH). This form is rare in the n. Bering Sea mostly as a post-breeding visitant after June. Equally surprising was a single Dovekie on the rocks at St. Paul's Northeast Pt. May 31 (FIELD GUIDES). Dovekie is casual in the s. Bering Sea. Fourteen Band-tailed Pigeons on the s. side of Mitkof I. May 1 (PJW) was one of the Region's highest counts and record high for the island. A singing Com. Cuckoo eased the identification of the season's only report, from Attu I. June 1-5 (ATTOUR). Another gray morph bird was also thought to be a Common there June 2.

OWLS TO MUSCICAPIDS

Northern Pygmy-Owls were seemingly everywhere in s. SE this spring. More systematic coverage of the road systems in the greater Ketchikan area, from Prince of Wales I. east to Behm Canal and Boca de Quadra, pro-



Female Brewer's Blackbird at Ketchikan, Alaska, on April 5, 1992. Photograph/Steve Heintz.

duced reports of up to six birds late March-April 22 (*vide* SCH). On Mitkof I. Walsh located a record high 16 birds March 19-May 18 (PJW) including five April 7. Five different Barred Owls were heard at widely separate locales in s. SE from near Boca de Quadra north to the lower Unuk R., between March 11 and April 25+ (ph. SCH, JC). None were reliably reported from the Juneau area. Record-early for the Region by over 2 weeks and as far as we know the earliest for the Aleutian Commander I. Axis, was a pair of **Fork-tailed Swifts** from Attu May 14 (ATTOUR). This form remains casual in the

Aleutians in spring and fall. A "whitting" migrant *Emidonax* found near Juneau May 28 was convincingly identified by the observers as a **Dusky Flycatcher** (†JLD *et al.*). The "whit" call had eliminated all but Gray, Least, Dusky, or Willow while plumage and morphological characters clearly identified the bird as a Dusky. The only other Alaska records include a single in July on the NW coast and two specimens from the Stikine R. in fall. Say's Phoebe is casual in spring from coastal sites so singles in Anchorage May 23 (RLS) and n. of Juneau May 28 (JLD *et al.*) were noteworthy. Say's Phoebe is probably a rare breeder in extreme n. SE. Migrant N. Rough-winged Swallows appeared near the mouths of SE mainland river systems where the species is found with some regularity in spring. One was on Douglas I. near Juneau May 29 (†JLD *et al.*) and two were noted in a Tree Swallow flock on the mainland e. of Wrangell April 28 (†SCH). A wandering Cliff Swallow reached St. Paul I. in the Pribilofs June 1 (FIELD GUIDES) for one of few spring records there.

Single Northwestern Crows were noted well north and inland of their habitual range, at the extreme limits of the coastal Sitka Spruce/W. Hemlock forest, at Girdwood April 20 (DMT) and up Eagle River valley April 21 (DD). There are 6 prior Upper Cook Inlet records. After a several year hiatus, Red-breasted Flycatcher again reached the w. Aleutians. Two each were at Attu June 1 (ATTOUR) and at Buldir June 3-4 (ILJ, JH, HK). Two Gray-spotted Flycatchers appeared at Attu after passage of a storm from the west, one each on June 1 and 5 (ATTOUR).

THRUSHES TO FRINGILLIDS

Very convincing details of a **Red-flanked Bluetail** were submitted from the w. Alaska mainland, where an ad. male was described from the dunes at Hooper Bay May 22 (DO). This represents the mainland's first record and the Region's first ad. male. Gibson and Kessel (Condor 94:454-467) outline the Region's 3 other records. A ♀ plumaged **Stonechat** was found near Gambell June 4-5 (ph. BJR, WINGS, AK *et al.*). Two of the previous 4 Alaska records have come from St. Lawrence I. at Gambell and all appeared between June 4-6. Too late for a winter lingerer was the Mt. Bluebird at Sitka May 30 (MM *vide* MLH). There are very few records in SE away from the mainland. The season's only Eyebrowed Thrush report came from Buldir June 1-2 (ILJ, JH, HK *et al.*). Although fairly widespread on the Seward Pen., N. Shrike had never reached St. Lawrence I. This spring an imm. type was located near Gambell May 29 (AK, PO, BJR). Still casual in the Region, a late winter wandering **Brewer's**

Blackbird ended up at a Ketchikan feeder March 26-April 5 (JK, ph. SCH).

Leftover Bramblings from the winter season (q.v.) included two at an Anchorage feeder to at least April 17 (DR) and eight and three remained at a Kodiak feeder to April 13 & 24 respectively (RAM). One Brambling at Adak April 5-20 and a 2nd there on the 21st were likely part of this overwintering phenomena. Passage Bramblings made an otherwise unimpressive showing in the Aleutians, where only two constituted the high count from Attu May 13 and June 3, and from Buldir May 18-20 (ILJ, FH). One Brambling reached Gambell May 31 (PH, WINGS). The early June weather break and associated storms brought a ♀ Com. Rosefinch to Kiska I. June 4 (GVB) for the season's only report. Two Oriental Greenfinches at Buldir May 18 (ILJ, FH) were surprising given the poor passerine showing in migration during May in the w. Aleutians. A neat flock of six **Eurasian Bullfinches**, five males and a female, stunned birders at Gambell May 29 (ph. BJR, WINGS). A different plumaged female thought to be a 7th individual lingered nearby May 30-June 3 (GHR, ph. AK, JLD). Essentially all of the Region's May Bullfinch records are from St. Lawrence I. An Evening Grosbeak arrived at a Petersburg feeder April 3 and remained there through the 22nd (DC, KC, KB, PJ). Both crossbill species continued to be locally scarce or absent from throughout the Region.

Observers: ATTOUR (P.J. Baicich, D.D. Gibson, S.C. Heinel, M.E. Isleib, N.S. Proctor, G.B. Rosenband, R.L. Scher, D.W. Sonneborn *et al.*), E.E. Burroughs, T.A. Burke, K. Burton, J. Canterbury, G. V. Byrd, R. Clair, N.A. Cook, D. Cornelius, K. Cornelius, C.P. Dau, D.A. Dewhurst, D. Dolese, T.J. Doyle, J.L. Dunn, R.E. Fairall, FIELD GUIDES (J. Arvin *et al.*), D.D. Gibson, R.E. Gill, S.C. Heinel, M. Hipfner, P. Holt, F. Hunter, I.L. Jones, J. Kelly, H. Knechtel, J. Koerner, A. Kraynik, R.A. MacIntosh, M. Mills, M. North, P. Olsen, D. Ondich, D. Robbins, B. J. Rose, G. H. Rosenberg, R. L. Scher, J. Schmutz, M.H. Schwan, D.W. Sonneborn, H. Stabins, T. Staudt, G. Thomson, H. Trimmingham, D.M. Troy, W.R. Uhl, P.J. Walsh, M.L. Hard, C.A. Helch, G.C. Hest, J. Willaims, WINGS (J.L. Dunn, P. Holt, G.H. Rosenberg *et al.*), C.F. Zeille-maker, K. Zimmer. Details (†), specimens (*), and photographs (ph.) referenced are on file at Univ. of Alaska Museum.—T. G. **TOBISH, JR.**, 2510 Foraker Drive, Anchorage 99517; M. E. **ISLEIB**, 9229 Emily Hay, Juneau 99801.

BRITISH COLUMBIA/ YUKON REGION

Jack Bowling

Record mild winter weather continued through the spring season, courtesy of one of the strongest El Niño episodes in recorded history. A persistent ridge of high pressure off the coast produced a prevailing southwesterly flow off the Pacific, with most of the moisture aimed at northern British Columbia and southern Yukon. The ridge weakened in May, which dropped temperatures back to normal in British Columbia and on to the cool side in Yukon. Two cold fronts, one in April and one in May were responsible for conspicuous groundings of migrants across the northern 2/3 of the Region.

The spring migration reflected temperature anomalies: March and early April arrivals were on the early side; those in late April and early May were close to normal; and most of May they were near or behind schedule. There were two salient features of the season: the westward shift of several interior species to the coast; and a record-large flocks of several usually less numerous species that passed through the interior. A Hermit Warbler in Victoria, a Black-capped Chickadee on the Sunshine Coast, a Black-shouldered Kite in Victoria, and an amazing fallout of Lesser Golden-Plovers in the interior were some of the many notable records.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

A Pacific Loon at Kamloops Mar. 19 (SR) was the only inland report of this scarce interior migrant. Yellow-billed Loons were noted twice in the interior, where casual, with one or two on Okanagan L. May 22 (MC), and one at Tranquille, Kamloops May 22 (SR). Coastal Yellow-billed included an unaged bird which had overwintered off Victoria and was still present Mar. 14 (RS), and one immature off Campbell R., Apr. 6 (DI, MI *et al.*). A single W. Grebe was sighted at Dawson Creek May 12 (MP) for a rare local record.

A flock of six Am. White Pelicans over Courtenay on e. Vancouver I. May 14 (SMV) provided the 3rd spring record for the coast. A seabird survey of the Mandarte I. cliff faces off Sidney, n. of Victoria, May 12 (DFF) tallied 1500 Double-crested, 900 Pelagic Cormorants, and 480 Pigeon Guillemots—new high numbers for the site. Two Double-crested Cormorants were on Grant I., Okanagan L., where casual, May 2 (CC, C.O.N.C.).

An Am. Bittern caught out in the middle of a stubble hayfield at Giscome near Prince

George May 19 (CA) attempted to elude detection by the time-honored "crouch and stretch" routine, a less than perfect camouflage given the circumstances! A pair of Green-backed Herons was attempting to nest at a marsh in Courtenay for the 3rd year in a row (DVM). This is the most northerly known breeding location on Vancouver I.

S. A.

Trumpeter Swans with dyed rusty bodies and green neck-collars with white letters and numbers were noted from widely scattered British Columbia interior lakes and rivers this season. Eleven in a flock of 61 Trumpeters arrived in Revelstoke Mar. 9 (DP, m.ob.) and stayed for a couple of weeks; one near Smithers Apr. 3 (EC); and four on Tabor L. near Prince George Apr. 7 (CA, HA, JB, MP, m.ob.). These marked swans were transplanted from sites in Idaho and Montana to Summer Lake, OR in order to expand and diversify the overcrowded wintering areas. The large concentrations of swans had become dependent on grain handouts, posing a high risk of catastrophic loss from disease. It will be interesting to discover where these birds summered and to which winter home they will return. It should be noted that of the 2256 swans counted in s.w. Yukon April 23 (HG, JW), most were Tundras. No mention was made of collared Trumpeters.

Wood Ducks continue to increase in number at the northern edge of their range at Prince George. Three or four pairs were noted in April and May in Cottonwood Island Pk. (DE, m.ob.), while several other birds were noted from surrounding backwaters. An extralimital Wood Duck pair was spotted in Dawson Creek May 12 (MP), the 2nd record for n.e. British Columbia. A pair of Cinnamon Teal was found in the Dawson Creek area May 16 (MP) for a rare n.e. British Columbia record. A ♂ Eur. X Am. Wigeon was at Swan L., Vernon Apr. 15-24 (CS, m. ob.). One Tufted Duck of unstated sex was with a mixed scaup flock at Esquimalt Lagoon in Victoria most of March (RS). Three ♂ Harlequin Ducks, a rarely-seen Okanagan Valley migrant, brought a dash of color to Swan L., Vernon Apr. 24 (CS). The opportunistic nature of feeding seabirds was confirmed when a mixed flock of 10,000 ducks and gulls staged a feeding frenzy on herring spawn off Denman I. in n. Georgia Strait Mar. 22 (BMS *et al.*) The flock included 4000 Oldsquaw, 2000 each of

White-winged and Surf scoters, 1,000 Greater Scaup, and 500 Com. Goldeneye.

A pair of Red-breasted Mergansers reported from Dawson Creek May 16 (NK, SK, LL, MP) and a single ♂ Red-breasted at Hazelton May 26 (MPF, KM, JL) provided good records of a seldom-seen species in the c. and n. interior.

VULTURES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A late but incredible report of a "California Condor" feeding on a moose carcass 16 km e. of Hazelton Feb. 3-7 (SW, m.ob.) turned out to be a **Turkey Vulture!** This extends N the recorded limits of this species in British Columbia by one degree of latitude, and is surely the best testament to the record-warm winter in the Region. Twice as many migrating Turkey Vultures were sighted from the Victoria area as last year, including several flocks of four to six birds (m.ob.). The high single-day count was 12 over E. Sooke Pk. Apr. 4 (DA). Two were seen attempting to mate on the ground in N. Saanich in late May (RB). An unusual interior sighting of three birds was made near Upper Loon L., e. of Clinton May 26 (PJH). The eulachon run along the Skeena R. near Hazelton produced a tally of 343 Bald Eagles in early March, 2 weeks earlier than normal (NM).

Two well-documented sightings were recorded of possibly the same ad. **Black-shouldered Kite** from the Victoria area Apr.



Female Boreal Owl in a nest box at Rabbit Lake, Okanagan, British Columbia, on May 18, 1992. Photograph/Richard J. Cannings.



21 (†BB) and Apr. 26 (†DA). If accepted, this would be Vancouver I.'s first, and B.C.'s 2nd, record of this beautiful species. After 3 years of tantalizing, but unsatisfactory sightings of Broad-winged Hawks in the Prince George area, the controversy was finally laid to rest when an adult bird—seen both perched and in flight—was well-described from McMillan Regional Pk., just n. of town May 24 (DC, †NK).

The Victoria area had two rare sightings of Swainson's Hawk, the first of one light-morph bird May 9 (†BD, m. ob.) which was seen locally until May 15, and a 2nd unaged dark-morph May 31 (†BW). Two Swainson's Hawks were observed in the Revelstoke airport area May 12 (GW, DW, m.ob.). This species is rare in the area. The Kootenay's first Ferruginous Hawk was photographed at a ground-squirrel colony near Nakusp May 9 (ph.GSD).

An unusual gathering of eight Golden Eagles was seen south of Kamloops Mar. 8 (RRH). The s.e. Vancouver I. area recorded 15 individual Peregrine Falcons this season, including one probable adult on Southey Pt., Saltspring I., the first seen in 20 years of birding there by the observer (DFF). Interior Peregrine sightings included one unaged bird at Vanderhoof Apr. 4 (NK, DR), one adult at McBride May 10 (CA, NK, ES), and one adult near Prince George diving at shorebirds May 19 (CA). Gyrfalcons lingered very late into the season with one or two around Victoria until Mar. 29 (BRG, RS), one at Vernon Apr. 3 (CS), and one unaged bird at Lac du Bois near Kamloops Apr. 11 (BD).

A census of the Wild Turkeys introduced at Armstrong n. of Vernon in early May found the population perilously low, consisting only of three males and two females (CS). A more vigorous population exists in s.e. British Columbia near Creston.

A Virginia Rail calling at a beaver pond w. of Hazelton May 24 (MPF *et al.*) furnished the 2nd w.-c. British Columbia record. At least three calling Virginias were at Cranberry Marsh in Valemount May 29 (CA, JB, m. ob.). A Sora overwintered on Galiano I., off s.e. Vancouver I., for the first local winter record (ph. LM).

The Sunshine Coast's first Sandhill Crane overwintered successfully near Sechelt (m. ob.). Large migrating flocks of Sandhill Cranes in the interior included 2000 over Knutsford near Kamloops Apr. 12 (RRH), 1000 over Quick Apr. 16 (EC), and 1000 in a field near Telkwa Apr. 20 (EC). One albino Sand-

hill was at Telkwa May 6 (RP)—a gorgeous sight it must have been.

S.A.

Lesser Golden-Plovers migrate N through British Columbia in small numbers, mostly at night, stopping off at grassy airport aprons and farm fields during the day to feed and rest for the next stage. In fact, "sightings of six birds or more are exceptional" (Campbell *et al.* in *Birds of British Columbia*, 1990). It was with disbelief then when birders in c. British Columbia and s. Yukon woke up in mid-May to find blustery north winds from a cold front and plover flocks in unprecedented numbers. May 10-22 in the s. Yukon, flocks of "dozens" were common (BM, *vide* HG), and May 19-25 in the c. interior of British Columbia flocks in the hundreds could be seen around the Prince George and Smithers areas. The peak flock in the Prince George area numbered 190 in the hayfields s.e. of town May 24 (LL), while an astounding flock of 250-300 birds was counted along Jollymere Rd. in Smithers May 22 (EP). All the birds scrutinized in the Prince George area were of the *dominica* race. The birds disappeared shortly after the low-level winds swung back S. Were the normal migration routes of this low elevation migrant shifted W by the anomalous weather?

One male and one ♀ Black-necked Stilt were at the Nakusp sewage lagoons May 14 (ph.GSD, MPa) for a first local record. There were numerous reports of Am. Avocet throughout its documented range in British Columbia including rare singles in Courtenay May 14 (SMV *et al.*) and in Revelstoke May 1 (GW). Three avocets were seen in Cranberry Marsh, Valemount, May 12 (BWi, CHi) for the first Robson Valley record.

Two Wandering Tattlers were seen near Whitehorse, Yukon, May 20 and another May 27 (CE, PS). Three Upland Sandpipers were seen in s.w. Yukon May 21-30 (HG, CE *et al.*) A high count of 40 Whimbrel was seen on the Victoria Golf Course Apr. 30 (RS).

Prince George documented its first Whimbrel at Tabor L., May 11 (†NK, †CA, ELA, LL), and added another three at the airport May 20 (ph.LL). A Long-billed Curlew at Tofino from Apr. 30-May 2 (AD) provided a probable 2nd local record, while one at Bear L., 80 km n. of Prince George, May 5-8 (RK) furnished the local checklist area's 2nd record. **Hudsonian Godwits** made a big splash in various places. One ad. male was at the Shelley sewage lagoons in Prince George May 12 (ph. †NK, ph. †LL) for a first local record and only the 2nd for the c. interior. Southern Yukon records included 12 Hudsonians near Carcross in s. Yukon May 18 (CE, PS), singles near Marsh L., May 28 & 31 (CE, JH, PS), and one at McClintock Bay May 31 (DRu). A high number of Marbled Godwits frequented the w. shores of Vancouver I. this past winter and spring, six still lingered at Tofino Apr. 30 (AD).

Semipalmated Sandpipers are casual spring migrants in the s. interior of British Columbia with only one seen at Nicola L., s. of Kamloops, May 17 (SC, DK). However, this species is one of the more common peeps in the Prince George area. Flocks of 100 Semipalmateds were seen on Tabor L., May 18 (CA), and another 100 on the fields of Giscome e. of Prince George May 19 (CA). Relatively large numbers of Pectoral Sandpipers moved out to the coast this spring. High counts for the e. coast of Vancouver I. included 54 in Courtenay May 22 (DVM, PSm) and 45 in Saanich May 25 (RS). Migrating Pectorals on the other side of Georgia Strait along the Sunshine Coast also passed through in big numbers: 18 on May 13, 21 on May 14, and five May 17 (TG). There were no reports of Rock Sandpiper from the Victoria area where usually there is a small influx. There has been a downturn in this species in recent years. Of only spotty occurrence in the interior during the spring, several breeding plumaged Dunlin were spotted with one adult at Kelowna in mid-May (CC) and three at Tabor L., Prince George May 18

(CA). About 5000 total Long-billed and Short-billed Dowitchers were at Tofino May 2 (AD), much higher numbers than usual. One Wilson's Phalarope was at Sechelt May 25 (AS) for the first Sunshine Coast record. Rare on s.e. Vancouver I., one ad. ♀ Red-necked Phalarope was in Duncan May 10 (BRG), and one unsexed bird was in Saanich May 11 (DFF).

JAEGERS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

An unheard-of inland sighting of three light-morph Parasitic Jaegers was made at Marsh L., s. Yukon May 28 (CE, JH, PS *et al.*) One ad. Thayer's Gull was well-described from the Dawson Creek garbage dump Apr. 24 (MP) for the 2nd or 3rd Peace R. record. Very rare transients in the s. interior, two Franklin's Gulls were seen at Kelowna Apr. 27 (CC, DB), and another adult at Swan L., Vernon May 2 (†PR, †CS). The Peace R. population of Franklin's Gulls continues the increase first noted in the mid-1980s. Mark Phinney saw the first in the Dawson Creek area Apr. 4; by May 1 there were about 300; by May 12 "thousands" were in evidence; and by the end of May numbers were declining. This follows the same chronology since the boom began, but with double the number of birds. A record concentration of 30,000-40,000 Bonaparte's Gulls was spotted off Saturna I. in the s. Georgia Strait in early April (*fide* DFF), apparently feeding on migrating herring. The previous record was of 20,000 birds off Victoria Nov. 9, 1983. A vagrant ad. Ring-billed Gull showed up near Whitehorse, Yukon, May 30 (DRu, KRu) for perhaps the first local record and one of the few for the territory. The Whitehorse dump attracted a few rare gulls, including Yukon's first **Western Gull** May 12 (ph.CE). Also at the dump were one first-winter Glaucous-winged Gull May 12, and one adult and one first-year bird May 31 (CE, PS). The appearance of this species was no surprise given the prevailing SW winds. Holdovers from the fall invasion of Glaucous-wingeds in the Okanagan Valley included one immature at Okanagan Landing Apr. 5 (CS) and two adults at the nearby Ring-billed Gull colony on Grant I., May 2 (CC). Caspian Terns are unpredictable vagrants to the interior, thus two near Osoyoos May 17 (CS, m.ob.) and five at Tranquille, Kamloops L., May 24 (RRH, SR) were noteworthy.

Barn Owls were reported from Gang Ranch on the e. Chilcotin plateau for the 2nd year in a row this spring (*fide* AR), the province's most northerly suspected breeding location. Encouraging reports of Barn Owls from e. Vancouver I. include the following: one pair with 4 eggs at Courtenay Mar. 23 (JBi, DI, MI); another pair with three young in Saanich May 6 (DFF, KS),

and a release of four rehabilitated young in Saanich in April which was reported in the local newspaper. Northern Hawk Owls are local breeders at higher elevations of the s. interior of British Columbia. A bird seen at Golden in the s. Rocky Mt. Trench Mar. 6 (GSD) could have been a local bird still lingering in the valleys. Eight reports of N Pygmy-Owls were submitted from the e. strip of Vancouver I. from Courtenay to Victoria, one of the easiest areas in the province to see the species. The last Great Gray Owl from the winter invasion of the Prince George area was seen Apr. 15 (LL). One Great Gray was well-described from Pt Roberts, WA, just s. of the 49th parallel May 24 (†JS, TS), the latest record for the s. coast. A pair of Great Grays with at least two branching chicks was discovered near Dawson Creek May 22 (MP) for a rare breeding record. A Long-eared Owl was heard calling in Vernon Apr. 5 (CS), a rare report. Revelstoke had a Long-eared May 1 (AC) for the 2nd year in a row. One of the year's most exciting owl records was of a breeding Boreal Owl at Rabbit L., e. of Okanagan Fall in a nest box at the 1,500 m level. The female was feeding young May 18 (ph.RJC). This species had nested unsuccessfully at this location in 1987. A few valleys s. of the Boreal Owl location, Dick Cannings found ten nest boxes in a 5 km stretch occupied by N. Saw-whet Owls, suggesting possible polygyny!

Flocks of 600 to 800 Vaux's Swifts were seen in the Victoria area Apr. 28 (*fide* BB), a bit on the early side for large migrant flocks. Also on Vancouver I., eight Vaux's Swifts were released unharmed from a chimney in Royston in mid-April, but on Apr. 29, 14 were found dead in the same chimney (WGH).

A Black-chinned Hummingbird paid a rare visit to a Kamloops feeder May 22 (SR). Calliope Hummingbirds were reported from the n.w. edge of their range in Hazelton with the first male there May 13 (KM) and one pair seen May 16 (MPF). Victoria's 4th recorded Calliope, an ad. male, showed up at Metchosin May 3 (ALM, †RS).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH THRASHERS

Lewis' Woodpecker range once covered most of s. British Columbia. With the draining of insect-rich marshlands, falling of snags, and competition for remaining snags with Eur Starlings, the species' range has contracted back toward its core in the s. dry interior. Thus we welcome the heartening news of one adult in McBride May 10 (†ph.CA, †ph.NK, ES); and a pair in Nakusp attempting an unsuccessful eviction of starlings from a cavity May 14 (GSD). Lewis' Woodpeckers have not been seen in either area for over 20 years. More good news from Sechelt the first

Lewis' for the Sunshine Coast appeared May 22 (AS). Two Red-breasted Sapsuckers returning to Giscome near Prince George Mar. 23 (MA) were at least 2 weeks early. A ♂ and ♀ Downy Woodpecker and a ♂ Hairy Woodpecker at Swan L., Yukon, May 31 (HG) provided rare local records. Also May 31, another Hairy was observed at Marsh L., with another farther n. at Lake Laberge (CE, PS). These species' northern range is largely limited by availability of suitable nesting cavities.

The status of Hammond's and Dusky flycatchers in Yukon is under investigation by local birders. Hammond's were identified 7 times around the s. Yukon in May (CE, HG, PS *et al.*), with another couple of "Dusky or Hammond's?" sightings. Gray Flycatcher may be continuing its N march up the Okanagan Valley with two possible new colonies discovered near Summerland in early May (LR). Two ad. ♂ Pacific-slope Flycatchers were heard and seen in the Rockies of Mount Robson P.P. May 30 (CA, †JB) for a first park record. An ad. Say's Phoebe in Sechelt Apr. 30 (TG) provided the Sunshine Coast's 3rd record. Rare interior Say's Phoebe sightings included two at McBride May 10 (CA, NK, ES *et al.*) and two at Hazelton May 18 (MPPF). Western Kingbirds wandered widely with s. Vancouver I. reports of singles from Saanich May 3 (Bl), Port Renfrew May 11 (BW, ALM), and Metchosin May 23 (KT). The first ever Prince George area W. Kingbird turned up e. of town May 23 (ph.LL).

The small population of Eur. Skylarks on s.e. Vancouver I. continues to decline. The birds are known at only 4 sites with the largest concentration of about 26 birds at Victoria airport (BB). Most Horned Lark flocks swept through the interior during the first week of April on their way to the Arctic. Thus a flock of 25 at Quick near Houston May 3 (JF, JH) is late enough to suggest the possibility of local alpine breeders rather than passage migrants.

A nesting box program for Purple Martin, set up to help the small s.e. Vancouver I. population of 50 pairs, has apparently had some success with larger numbers of returnees being reported from five separate harbors (m.ob.).

A pair of N. Rough-winged Swallows at Whitehorse is expected to nest locally again for another record of a bird "on the edge" of its range. The pair was frequenting a fish pond in May (GJ, CMcE).

A Blue Jay in with a flock of Steller's at Newlands, 50 km n.e. of Prince George, Apr. 11 (†MP, P.G.N.C.), furnished the first record for the checklist area. Locals say the bird had overwintered there. A Black-billed Magpie at Port Renfrew on southernmost Vancouver I, Apr 24-May 8 (m ob) provid-

ed admiring locals with views of this rare vagrant. An unidentified crow sp. was at Carcross in s.-c. Yukon May 18 (CE, PS). Any crow sp. is rare in Yukon.

A Black-capped Chickadee discovered at Gibson's Feb. 20 (TG) remained through the period. This species is common in Vancouver 10 km s. across Howe sound, but casual at best on the Sunshine Coast. It seems large expanses of water are efficient determinants of this species' range. An ad. Chestnut-backed Chickadee discovered 60 km e. of Prince George May 27 (†MP) furnished the area's first accepted record, although there have been a few previous undocumented sightings. The only White-breasted Nuthatches from the winter invasion of the interior lingering into the spring were two at Fort St. James in March (JV, *vide* DK). Marsh Wrens are very local around cattail marshes in the c. interior. Two singing males at Moose marsh in Mount Robson P.P., May 30 (LL, m. ob.) provided a first park record.

Two Golden-crowned Kinglets, rare in Yukon, were at Lewes Marsh, Whitehorse May 31 (CE, PS). An astonishing spring flock of 72 Golden-crowns was noted on Valdez I., in s. Georgia Strait, May 17 (*vide* BB) in a fir/cedar forest.

The Arrow Lakes Naturalists report two pairs of Mountain Bluebirds occupying nest boxes in their area which have been up but unused by bluebirds for the past 10 years. Life is never that easy though. One pair was subsequently driven away by Tree Swallows which laid their eggs atop the dead baby bluebirds. Survival of the fittest indeed. At Mount Robson May 30 (GS, Rku, SKu) was the park's first Veery, a common summer resident 200 km farther s. along the Rockies.

PIPITS THROUGH FINCHES

Warbling Vireos reach the limit of their range in the s. Yukon, so it is noteworthy that small numbers were seen at 4 separate locations in s. Yukon and n. British Columbia. One at Swan L., Yukon May 31 (HG) was building a nest. A well-documented ♂ Red-eyed Vireo, seen and heard singing 50 km n. of Quesnel May 3 (†NK, LL), ties the earliest arrival date for British Columbia (*vide* RWC). An ad. Tennessee Warbler was found on Mt. Tolmie near Victoria May 30 (KT, m. ob.) for one of few confirmed reports of this accidental Vancouver I. species. Hazelton was enlivened with a singing ♂ Chestnut-sided Warbler May 28 (†MPPF, KM), the first record for the Bulkley Valley area of the c. interior. This species is a casual stray west of the Rockies.

There was a small but very notable N incursion of Hermit Warblers into the s. coast in April. On Mt. Douglas near Victoria, an ad male was first seen Apr 18 (BRG, RS,

MMcG, HV, BD) associating with Yellow-rumped Warblers. If accepted, this would be the Victoria area's first confirmed record. This bird was last seen there Apr. 29, at which time a Hermit X Townsend's Warbler was also seen in the same area. Another apparent Hermit X Townsend's was described from Queen Elizabeth Pk, in Vancouver Apr 25 (†MW, †MP *et al.*), a first for the local area. Specific determination of these apparent hybrids may prove problematical. In a recent museum collection search, Dick Cannings found many birds labelled as Hermit Warblers with olive green backs. There may be rampant hybridization between the two sibling species or more variability in plumage pattern in Hermit Warblers than field guides suggest. A singing ad. ♂ Ovenbird, heard first then seen, in Mount Robson P. P., May 30 (CA, JB) was a first for the park.

Two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen in Mount Robson P.P. in late May (RR, CR) for the first park record. A ♂ *Pheucticus* sp was heard singing there May 30 (JB). There were 2 sightings of possibly the same Lazuli Bunting on Mt. Tolmie, Victoria, where rare, May 17 (JG) & 30 (m.ob.).

Brewer's Sparrows are rare and local in the Yukon, being nesters in the subalpine zone. Thus it is noteworthy that one was sighted at Marsh L., in s. Yukon May 31 (CE). One Lark Sparrow was in Sechelt Apr. 27 (AS) and two were together in the same area May 21 (TG) for the 2nd Sunshine Coast record. A record from the edge of a species' range in the s. Yukon was of a Song Sparrow at Marsh L., May 31 (DRu). This species' niche is largely filled by Lincoln's Sparrows at these latitudes. Huge flocks of Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows touched down across interior British Columbia n. of 51° N latitude Apr. 25-May 3. Flock sizes ranged from "hundreds" at Smithers Apr. 25 (EP), 1,500+ near Kamloops May 2 (RRH), and 300+ w of Prince George May 3 (HA, AB, JB). These are among the largest flocks reported for White-crowns in the province.

The holarctic Lapland Longspur may have one of the widest ranges of any songbird but most birders get only a brief glimpse of the hordes as they zip through on their way to and from the tundra. The cold front of early May stopped many of them in their tracks in s. Yukon, with large flocks lingering in the Whitehorse area May 10-21, much longer than the norm (HG). On May 14, a flock of 1000 birds descended on a newly sewn lawn of a few square metres and probably did not leave a single seed.

An ad. ♀ Brewer's Blackbird at Hyland R, British Columbia, just s. of the Yukon border May 11 (CE, PS) was about 200 km n.w. of its documented range. Large flocks of Rosy Finches were seen in a couple of widely sepa-

rated interior locations: many hundreds frequented the railway tracks of downtown Revelstoke Mar. 28-Apr. 8 with a one day maximum of about 3,000 (!) along the tracks Apr. 7 (AC); and 180-200 were at Quick near Houston Apr. 11 (EC). A window-killed Pine Siskin in Smithers May 1 (EP) had been banded near State College, PA, Apr. 13, 1990.

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OREGON/WASHINGTON REGION

SPRING 1992

Bill Tweit and Jeff Gilligan

The Pacific Ocean continued warmer than normal, due to the strong El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) episode. This may have affected numbers of Northern Fulmar and Cassin's Auklet on the ocean, and was likely the cause of the early and large northward movement of Brown Pelican.

The ENSO also had a dramatic influence on our onshore weather, bringing a warm, dry spring. It was the warmest spring on record in the Columbia Basin, with an average temperature of 5°F above normal. Throughout the Region, March and May in particular were warmer than average. The Regional drought continued. Rainfall was below normal for all three months throughout the interior, and in March and May on the westside. Water levels dropped on Malheur Lake by about 18" through the spring, when normally the lake rises 4".

April was cooler, stormier and wetter than normal on the westside and the April migration of Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warblers on the westside was quite conspicuous. Otherwise, few passerine migratory concentrations were noted. Warbler migration in the Columbia Basin was described as "awful" (BW) and "pathetic" in central Oregon (TC). By late May, passerine migration had almost ceased through the eastern Wash-

ington migrant traps. Apparently the mild, dry spring posed few problems to passerine migrants. There were no Region-wide trends of migrants appearing earlier than normal, except for some of the latest migrants such as Willow Flycatcher and Red-eyed Vireo.

A listing of the unusual events of this spring would include many more White-faced Ibis and Calliope Hummingbird on the westside than normal and a very heavy spring flight of Pectoral Sandpiper. Fourteen individual of seven species of vagrant warblers were found in *Harney*, a bit above average for recent spring migrations.

Abbreviations: Fields (*Fields, Harney Co., OR*); Malheur (*Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Harney Co., OR*); O.S. (*Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., WA*); Sauvie (*Sauvie I., Columbia Co., OR*); S.J.C.R. (*south jetty of the Columbia R., Clatsop Co., OR*)

LOONS TO MERGANSERS

Heavy migratory movements of Pacific Loons were noted past coastal points from Apr. 19 through the end of May (KM *et al*), in contrast with last year when loon migration was not nearly as visible. A Com. Loon pair with one young on Hozomeen L., *Whitcom*, WA, May 24 (BK) was of interest as there are only a handful of breeding pairs left in the state. A Yellow-billed Loon was at Alsea Bay, *Lincoln*, OR, Mar. 7-13 (THH). Other sightings were one at Neah Bay, *Clallam*, WA, May 1 (BT, TW) and one in breeding plumage going N 25 mi off Westport May 30 (TW). Last spring there were no Yellow-billed Loons reported.

There were 3 pelagic trips off Westport, WA (TW, BT), on Apr. 25, May 16 & 30, one trip off Neah Bay, WA, May 1 (TW) and one trip off the Columbia R. mouth May 16 (BO). Two of these trips covered waters beyond the Continental Shelf: the Apr. 25 trip out of Westport and the May 16 trip off the Columbia R. The count of 268 Black-footed Albatross off Westport Apr. 25 was unusually high, and may reflect the coverage of further offshore waters. Single Laysan Albatross were found off Westport Apr. 25 and May 16; they are rare after March. A



Laysan Albatross deep in Puget Sound off the Nisqually N.W.R., Apr. 24-29 (Doug Williams, ph.) was remarkable, as tubenoses of any size are accidental that far south in the Sound. Northern Fulmars were very scarce all spring, after a winter of low numbers. Where did they spend their winter? Apparently not off our coast, nor to the south of us. None were seen in March off Westport (PA), when good numbers of wintering birds should still have been present. Later in the spring, when migrants should have been passing, the high count was a mere twelve May 16 off the Columbia R. mouth.

S.A.

We gained some insight about N migration of Murphy's Petrel this spring. At least this year their migration appeared to have ended before mid-May. The boat trip off Westport Apr. 25 found 24 Murphy's, all in waters beyond the continental shelf (†TW, m. ob., ph). However, 3 weeks later, on May 17, none were found in the same habitat off the Columbia R. mouth (BO). Additional spring boat trips into the areas beyond the shelf will help our understanding of their occurrence in our Region. The sightings off Westport represented the first record for Washington. The only previous Regional records are of single birds seen off research vessels in April 1986 and March 1988 (AB 43:410).

The high count of Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel was hundreds 40 mi off Cape Flattery, WA, May 24 (PA).

Brown Pelicans came north early and in large numbers, in a movement that appears characteristic of ENSO years. They were noted flying N past Brookings, Curry, OR, Apr. 25 (PS) and had reached Grays Harbor, WA, by May 1 (Julie Krick). On May 15, 230, almost all adults, were at S.J.C.R. (HN). Washington's first successfully wintering Cattle Egret remained at Mt. Vernon, Skagit, until Mar. 20 (K & JW). The other spring sightings were one at Zumwalt, Union, OR, May 27 (Rita & Jim Coleman) and up to two at Malheur during May (RV). A Green-backed Heron was at Hat Rock S.P., Umatilla, OR, Apr. 25 (TG); they are quite rare in the interior.

The goodly sprinkling of White-faced Ibis reports away from their breeding areas at Malheur and the Klamath Basin may indicate that breeding conditions were less to their liking in those areas than the past few years. In the interior, five near Umatilla, OR,

May 5 (CC), eight near Bend, OR, Apr. 25 to May 8 (TC *et al*), one at Reardan, Lincoln, WA, May 21 (JA) and three near Othello, Adams, WA, May 30 (Richard Lindstrom, Pat Evans) were all locally rare. Ibis are highly unusual w. of the mountains; this spring's records included 40 at Steigerwald N.W.R., Skamania, WA, May 6 (WC, ph.), eight at Forest Grove, Washington, OR, May 8-12 (PS), two at Hyatt L., Jackson, OR (RS), 30+ at Tillamook, OR, May 13-17 (HN, JE), one near Medford, OR, May 17 (HS), and one near Amity, Yamhill, OR, May 18 (BB).

The Trumpeter Swans transplanted to Summer L. in c. Oregon wandered very widely this spring. A swan with collar number 'X99' was released at Summer L., Dec. 12 and left there Feb. 5. It showed up at Ladd Marsh, Union, OR, Feb. 24 to Mar. 6 and at Fopiano Res., Wheeler, OR, Mar. 15 to Apr. 18 (DL, LW, PMu). Up to twelve of the Summer L. transplants moved to the westside in the Ridgefield N.W.R., WA, area from Feb. 18 to Apr. 18 (HN). A Ross' Goose at Monroe, Snohomish, Apr. 20 for several weeks (John O'Connell) was about the 5th western Washington record. An apparent Emperor X Canada Goose hybrid was at Finley N.W.R., Benton, OR, Mar. 8-11 (†HH). A drake Garganey was at Bay City, Tillamook, May 9-13 (MA & JS, m.ob.), for the 2nd Oregon record. Five pairs of Gadwall were at Fort Stevens S.P., Clatsop, throughout the spring (HN). They are very rare breeders on the Oregon coast, but their numbers are rapidly increasing on the westside.

Nineteen Eur. Wigeon were found in the interior, which is slightly above average. Notable ones included two at Warm Springs, Jefferson, OR, Mar. 1 (DA) for a first county record and a late one at Quincy, Grant, WA, Apr. 25 (JT). A ♂ Ring-necked Duck X L. Scaup was at Bay City, Tillamook, OR, May 8-9 (HN). Male Tufted Ducks, described as pure-breds, were found in Seattle Mar. 4 (Ruth Taylor) and near Tillamook, OR, Mar. 23-29 (DBa), for the usual couple of spring records. A ♂ Bufflehead X Hooded Merganser, accompanying a ♀ Bufflehead, was at Clallam Bay, Clallam, WA May 1 (†BT, TW). The numbers of Surf Scoters on Bellingham Bay, WA, peaked at 3000 Apr. 19 (TW), which is the largest prolonged concentration on the Bay in 30 years.

KITES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

It has been several years since Black-shouldered Kite breeding was observed in Oregon away from the Rogue valley, so reports of three nesting pairs are appreciated: a nest in Eagle Point, Jackson, Apr. 22 (Evelyn & John Ousterhout), a pair fledged four young in Lane, (Wayne Morrow) and a pair attempted to nest near Astoria, Clatsop, but abandoned



An overdue first for Washington was this male Hooded Oriole at Tokeland on April 25, 1992. Photograph/Heidi Reisbick.

(MP). Other Oregon sightings included a pair at Denman, Jackson (BT), one near Brookings, Curry (PS), two near Tillamook (MA & JS) and one in Linn (GG). In Washington, Black-shouldered Kites were found at Francis, Pacific, Apr. 8 (Mal-Pina Chan) and at Raymond, Pacific, Apr. 25 (B & GR). After several springs of lower-than-average numbers, this is an encouraging number of reports.

An imm. Red-shouldered Hawk was in Everett Apr. 24 to May 15 (†Darrell Smith) for Washington's 4th record and in Oregon, an adult at Fern Ridge Res., Lane, Mar. 8 (T & AM, M & EE) was n. of their usual range. A Broad-winged Hawk was in the Catlow Valley, Harney, May 23 (Bob Archer, ph.); there are less than 10 Oregon records. The Swainson's Hawk over Bellingham, WA, Apr. 17 (Paul DeBruyn) was a rare spring migrant on the westside. American Kestrels began nesting early in the Portland area. Young had fledged by early April, almost 6 weeks ahead of their usual schedule (HN). The last Gyrfalcons of the winter were at O.S., Mar. 12 (Phil Persons) and at St. Andrews, Douglas, WA, Mar. 14 (BT). Washington had 2 early Sora records: two Mar. 22 at Fort Lewis, Pierce (B & GR), and one near Elma, Grays Harbor, Apr. 5 (BT).

Seven Lesser Golden-Plover reports included an early record at Dungeness, Clallam, WA, Apr. 18 (DP), three *fulva* at O.S. Apr. 25 (DP), one *dominica* in basic plumage at Baskett Slough N.W.R., Polk, OR (RG, m. ob.), another *dominica* at S.J.C.R. May 3 (MP) and an unknown type at O.S. May 17 (B & GR). This is an average number of reports for a non-flight year; observers should continue to identify golden-plovers to type when possible. Two Black-necked Stilts at the Pistol R. mouth, Curry, OR, May 11 (CD) may be the first county record. Two Am. Avocet at Steigerwald N.W.R., WA, May 6 were Skamania first records (WC). There were no other reports of westside stilts and avocets away from the Rogue Valley. The usual two handfuls (approx. 20) of Solitary Sandpipers were reported this spring.

The peak counts of Whimbrel represented typical numbers: 126 near Elma, Grays Har-

bor, WA, Apr. 30 (Pt Su) and 300 in a field near Tillamook, OR, Apr. 29 (CC). A ♀ Hudsonian Godwit was at O.S., Apr. 26-28 (†DP, ph.) accompanied by 250 Marbled Godwits. Hudsonians are very rare in spring and the Marbled Godwit count may be a Regional record for the spring. The peak count of Red Knot in Oregon was 75 at S.J.C.R. May 17 (Dale Haar) and in Washington it was 300 on Grays Harbor Apr. 25 (DP). Both peak counts are comparable with the last two years, but are lower than the long-term average. There were 4 reports of Semipalmated Sandpiper on the westside May 7-13 (Dick Viet, DB, HN, JE), which is about normal. The peak count of W. Sandpipers was 7000 at S.J.C.R. May 9 (MP), which is not an imposing peak count for our Region. Least Sandpipers were found in some fairly impressive numbers on the westside in late April. Sixteen hundred were at Sauvie Apr. 29-30 (DB, HN) and 200 were at one spot on Grays Harbor, WA, Apr. 25 (DP). The number of reports of Pectoral Sandpiper, a rare spring migrant, were far above normal, especially in n.w. Washington. Fourteen were at Seattle May 10-24 (KA), 30+ were at Port Angeles, *Clallam*, May 17 (D & SS), and 50 were at Lummi Flats, *Whatcom*, May 15-20 (Stan Wallace). Western Oregon had 3 records: one near the S.J.C.R. May 9 (MP), one at Lincoln City May 12 (DFa, m. ob.) and one at Forest Grove, *Washington*, May 17 (PS, m. ob.). Often, there are only one or two individuals found each spring on the westside. Red-necked Phalarope migration along the coast was very heavy during the latter two-thirds of May: 100/minute were passing Brookings, *Curry*, OR, May 11 (BT) and 730 were still off Yaquina Head, *Lincoln*, OR, May 31 (KM). There were scattered reports of a few Red Phalaropes from along the Oregon coast in May and very small numbers were found on the Westport pelagic trips (TW).

JAEGERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Pomarine and Parasitic jaeger reports totalled about 15 each, mostly from pelagic trips (TW, BO). These are fairly respectable spring totals. Little Gulls have been found annually in spring in the last 5 years. One was at Point No Point Mar. 17-18 (Vic Nelson) and another record came from Blaine Apr. 30 to May 1 (Bob Morford, Joe Meche, ph.). A Mew Gull at the Yakima R. delta, *Benton*, WA, Mar. 11 (BW) was very late for an interior location. The peak count of Sabine's Gulls was a healthy 89 off Westport May 16 (BT).

Early Caspian Terns were at the S.J.C.R., Mar. 28 (MP), the Yakima R. delta, *Benton*, WA, Mar. 30 (BW) and at Bellingham, WA, Mar. 25 (GWk). The recently discovered Caspian Tern breeding colony at Swinomish Slough in Puget Sound (WD W) was not

occupied this spring. Oregon observers noted a good coastal migration of Com. Tern from May 13 through the rest of the month (HN). Four Arctic Terns at the Everett, WA, breeding colony Apr. 27 (George Gerdt) seemed early. None were noted off Westport this spring, which is unusual.

Three Marbled Murrelet heard 12 mi. up the Winchuck R., *Curry*, OR, at dawn Apr. 26 (PS) indicate probable breeding in the Siskiyous. Cassin Auklet numbers were low throughout the spring off both Westport and Neah Bay (TW). A similar decline was noted in 1983 during the previous strong ENSO phenomenon. A Parakeet Auklet off Westport Apr. 25 (TW, †EH, †BT) was the 5th record of a live individual for Washington, and follows last spring's record.

Numbers of Band-tailed Pigeon in *Clatsop*, OR (MP), and in *Whatcom*, WA (TW), were thought to be encouraging; there is a lot of concern about this species. A Flammulated Owl calling along Salt Creek Rd. in *Jackson* May 11 (BT) added to the list of Rogue Valley records and the suspicion that they may be regular in the area. A hybrid Barred X Spotted Owl has apparently established a territory near where a mixed pair bred last summer along Salt Creek Rd. in *Jackson*, OR (HS, BT). A pair of Long-eared Owls bred near Blaine, *Whatcom* (Bret Gaussoin); there are few w. Washington breeding records. Two unusually early arrival dates for Com. Poorwill were at Hermiston, *Umatilla*, OR, Mar. 30 (CC) and at Wapato, *Yakima*, WA, Mar. 31 (AS).

White-throated Swifts may be nesting on Lower Table Rock, near Medford, *Jackson*, OR, which would be a first westside breeding record. Up to three were seen visiting nest sites in suitable habitat in May (HS, †RE). A ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird in South Salem, OR, May 1-3 (†RB) furnished the 2nd Salem area record of this eastside species. An Anna's Hummingbird in Tonasket, WA, May 9 (F & MP) was an *Okanogan* rarity, although the species is not unexpected anywhere in the Region. The only Costa's Hummingbird report was a male attending a feeder in s. *Jackson* through May 31 (MM); they have become annual vagrants in Oregon. The unusual numbers of Calliope Hummingbird reports from the westside, where they are not of regular occurrence, included: Astoria, *Clatsop*, OR, Apr. 19 (MP), five in lowland locations in the Rogue, Umpqua and Willamette valleys (†RB, PS, MM), Seattle, WA, May 1 (†Rachel Lawson), Bellingham, WA, May 10 (TW) and Vancouver, *Clark*, WA, May 12 (Bill Shelmerdine). Five Calliope at Bear Camp, OR, May 2 apparently provided the first *Curry* record (CD). A pair of Acorn Woodpeckers were at Lyle, *Klickitat*, May 2 & 8 (EH, WC)

which is their only regular haunt in Washington. It was apparently a good year for finding White-headed Woodpecker on the e. slope of the Washington Cascades (JT).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS

Willow Flycatchers, one of the latest passerine migrants, returned early: May 16 at Fort Klamath, *Klamath*, OR (Craig Roberts), May 17 in *Washington*, OR (PS), and May 18 at Fort Lewis, *Pierce*, WA (GW). A Least Flycatcher at Fields May 27-29 (GL, JG) and another in the Catlow Valley, *Harney*, OR, were the only reports of this scarce migrant. Two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were found in Oregon: one at Cascade Head, *Tillamook*, May 17 (†Patricia Kemner) and one at Blue Lake Pk. near Portland May 25 (†Paul Osborn). Oregon has less than 5 records for the species. Two nesting pairs of W. Kingbird on Ft. Lewis, WA, this spring (GW) were unusual in the Puget Trough.

Horned Larks have largely disappeared as breeders in westside areas away from the coast and the Cascades. Thus, two in the Oregon Coast Range on Sugarloaf Mt. May 15 (RG) and some near McKenna, *Pierce*, WA, Apr 18 (Sam Agnew) may indicate remnant populations in those areas. The last remains of the fall/winter incursion of jays were a Blue Jay in E. Wenatchee, WA, Mar 26 (Carolyn Kirby) and Scrub Jays in both Bend, OR and at Pelton Dam-Warm Springs, *Jefferson*, OR, all spring (TC, PS). On the westside, the N advance of Scrub Jays was marked by birds near Sequim, *Clallam*, WA, through Apr. 2 (D&SS), at Normandy Park, *King*, WA, May 24 (Jim Sanford), Eatonville, *Pierce*, WA, May 25 (Dale Thompson), in Newport, *Lincoln*, OR, May 17 (Dennis Arendt) and dead on the road in Lincoln City, *Lincoln*, OR, May 2 (PS).

American Crows are increasing in the arid interior. They are much more common in Bend, OR (TC), now outnumbering ravens. A Bushtit nest found Apr. 4 in the Yakima Canyon, *Kittitas*, WA (AS), along with a few other nests found in *Kittitas* recently, indicates that they are increasing their breeding range on the eastslope of the Washington Cascades. A Canyon Wren at Locke L., *Klickitat*, WA, Mar. 24 (WC) and another nearby at Catherine Cr. May 29 (DM) are a good indication they are expanding their range W in the Columbia Gorge. A pair of Canyon Wrens at Carbon R. glacier, Mt Rainier N.P. May 16 (Marcus Roening, Heather Ballash) that appeared to be nesting represented a more dramatic breeding extension into western Washington.

THRUSHES THROUGH FINCHES

Golden-crowned Kinglets were scarce this spring in n c Washington (JT), and were un-

remarked elsewhere. A heavy migration of Ruby-crowned Kinglets was noted through Malheur May 2-3 (MD) and they were common in the Portland area Apr. 25 (James Davis). A pair of W. Bluebird on the Miller Peninsula, *Clallam*, WA, Apr. 11 on were probably nesting (D & SS). This area is part of their former breeding range that has been unoccupied for decades. The Region's first documented *plumbeus* Solitary Vireo was in the Catlow Valley, *Harney*, May 25 (JG, m. ob., ph.). Two Red-eyed Vireo on Sauvie May 19 (HN) were 2 weeks ahead of their normal June arrival. The movement of Orange-crowned Warbler on the outer coast during most of April was very conspicuous; very large numbers were observed Apr. 12 (Tom Williams) and Apr. 26-27 (DP, BW). The Yellow-rumped Warbler migration was also notable. A "flood" of Yellow-rumped Warblers was noted in Bellingham, WA, Apr. 15 (GWk) and large movements were observed in *Skamania*, WA, Apr. 27 (WC) and at Malheur May 2-3 (MD). The proportion of *D. c. coronata* was noticeably higher than usual in *Benton*, WA (BW, TG), they are normally scarce in the interior. The Hermit Warbler breeding distribution in the Puget Trough may be wider than currently thought. They were found nesting in several locations on Ft. Lewis, *Pierce*, and *Thurston*, WA (GW), for a first *Thurston* breeding record.

It was a somewhat above-average spring for vagrant warblers, with most records coming from s.e. Oregon, as usual. Some of the vagrants appeared on very early dates. **Northern Parula** were unusually frequent: records included a singing male in Seattle, WA, May 30 (†Jim Elder) for the 5th state record, a female at Malheur May 22-23 (CC, GL), a male in the Catlow Valley, *Harney*, May 25 (JG, GL, HN) and a male at Malheur May 29 (TC, JG). An early Chestnut-sided Warbler was at Malheur May 13 (E. Novak), a male was in the Catlow Valley, *Harney*, May 30 (TC, JG, GL) and another male was in Jordan Valley, *Malheur*, OR, May 30 (John Gatchet). Male Magnolia Warblers were seen at Fields May 22 (HH) and May 27 (JG, GL). A ♂ **Cape May Warbler** on the Oregon coast at Harris Beach S.P., *Curry*, May 30 (Gary Lester, †AB) was the 7th state record. Palm Warblers are strictly coastal in the Region, and much more frequent in the fall than the spring. The 4 spring reports included ones at John's River, *Grays Harbor*, WA, Apr. 5 (†BT), Newport, *Lincoln*, OR, Apr. 18 (GG), Ona Beach S.P., *Lincoln*, OR, May 3 (PS) and Nehalem, *Tillamook*, WA, May 3 (Deb Scrivens). Two extravagantly early Blackpoll Warbler males were reported from Malheur: May 8 (Barry McKenzie) and May 19 (Martha Gannett, Maurita Smythe). The sole Black-and-white Warbler report was at Malheur May 24 (R & JK) There were 4 *Harney* reports of Am Red-

start May 27-29 (m. ob.), a male at Seattle May 25 (Kathy Slatteback) and a male at Hat Rock S.P., *Umatilla*, OR, May 31 (TG). Oregon's 6th **Hooded Warbler** was at Malheur May 31 (Dan van de Broek, TC, m. ob., ph.).

A first-year ♂ **Summer Tanager** was at DeMoss County Pk., *Sherman*, May 24 (†RG) for about the 5th Oregon record. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are an annual vagrant: Oregon reports included one in Brookings May 17-19 (†CD) and a male at Hunter Creek, *Curry*, Apr. 11 (CD). The 3 Indigo Bunting reports were all very early for this regular vagrant. One hit a window on San Juan I., WA, May 19 (Susan Vernon, ph.), a male was in Diablo, *Skagit*, WA, Apr. 22-24 (Jim & Julie Kelly, ph.) and a male visited a Portland feeder May 12-13 (Joyce Osborne, PS). The Washington records were about the 7th and 8th for the state. A Clay-colored Sparrow found in Tonasket, *Okanogan*, WA, May 10 (F & MP) is probably another indication that their breeding range extends into Washington in the Okanogan Highlands. The Black-throated Sparrow at S.J.C.R. May 17 (JE) is the first coastal record in several years. A singing ♂ Grasshopper Sparrow was at Baskett Slough N.W.R., *Polk*, May 5-11 (RG); they are irregular breeders in the Willamette Valley.

The expansion of the Tricolored Blackbird breeding range into e. Oregon continued to be documented. Up to 100 were found at a Hermiston, *Umatilla*, colony during April (CC); the same numbers were also found at a colony at the Painted Hills section of the John Day Fossil Beds N.M., *Wheeler* during April (DL *et al.*). They were apparently seen feeding young there on May 10 which seems an early date. In w. Oregon, ten were at the Portland area colony from Apr. 18 on (PS, m. ob.) and 100+ were in the Medford, *Jackson* area Apr. 9 (HS). A Great-tailed Grackle was in Madras, *Jefferson*, May 23-26 (JG, GL, ph.); there are about 10 state records. Common Grackles are much less frequent in Oregon than the larger species, with only about 5 records. This spring two appeared: one at Brothers, *Deschutes*, May 2 (DB) and another at Malheur May 30 (GL, ph.).

Washington's long-overdue first **Hooded Oriole** appeared on the outer coast during late April (Heidi Reisbick, ph.). A male came to a hummingbird feeder for 3 days during the last week of April at Tokeland, *Pacific*. In Oregon, where they now seem to be annual in spring, a male was at a feeder near Hunter Creek, *Curry*, Apr. 25 to May 1 that has had Hooded Oriole for several consecutive years (Dorothy Sevey, PS), a one-year-old male was in Medford May 15 (†HS), and an ad. male was in Medford May 26 (Stewart Janes). A "Baltimore" type N. Oriole was in Brookings, *Curry*, OR on Mar. 7 (Marion Chapman) and another was at Malheur May 29 (GL)

Red Crossbill were well scattered through central Oregon (DL) and in *Kittitas*, WA (AS), in early March. After mid-March, they were almost unreported. In contrast, White-winged Crossbill attracted observer attention throughout the spring in n. Washington. Thirty were near Bonaparte L., *Okanogan*, Mar. 8 (Alan Richards), 40 White-winged Crossbill were at Hurricane Ridge, Olympic N.P. May 2 (BT, TW) and 500 were at Freezeout Ridge, *Okanogan*, May 18 (WC). In Oregon, 50 White-winged Crossbill at Tollgate, *Umatilla*, May 2 (Steve Kornfield) were unusual. Near Lyle, *Klickitat*, WA, May 2-3 (DM)—the northernmost extent of their range—Lesser Goldfinches were plentiful. In most parts of the Region, the spring movement of Evening Grosbeak was mediocre, so 2000 in one flock near Loup Loup, *Okanogan*, WA, in early April (Jennie Smith) makes a grand finale.

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OREGON/WASHINGTON REGION

WINTER 1991-92

Bill Tweit and Jim Johnson

An abundance of statistics indicates the mildness of the winter In the Columbia

Basin, the winter period was the warmest in 25 years. At Malheur, it was only the third winter since 1939 with no subzero temperatures recorded. At three recording stations in eastern Washington, January and February were both about 7°F warmer than the average. All three winter months were also drier than average and snowpacks in the mountains were below average.

Consequently, there were large numbers of reports of lingering birds that included well-described individuals of Lesser Yellowlegs and Chipping Sparrow, two species that are often mistakenly reported in winter. Other obvious lingerers included Cattle Egret, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, four species of swallow, Marsh Wren, four very unusual warbler species, and Lincoln's Sparrow.

On the ocean, the El Niño/Southern Oscillation continued to affect our waters, and may have caused the virtual lack of Northern Fulmar and Black-legged Kittiwake.

Oregon had its first records of Steller's Eider and Lawrence's Goldfinch, and Washington had its first Orchard Oriole. This winter was also notable for a flight of Brambling, with most reports from the interior.

Abbreviations: Malheur (*Malheur N.W.R., Harney, OR*); O.S. (*Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor, WA*); W.W.R.D. (*Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla, WA*)

LOONS TO CORMORANTS

The only Yellow-billed Loon report aside from the CBCs was a bird at Garibaldi Dec. 14 to Feb. 1 (DL, m.ob.). Usually, between five and ten are found per winter, but this fall there were only two reports. In Washington, where wintering birds are very rare, one Clark's Grebe was at O.S. Jan. 18 (†G & WH) and two were at Ilwaco, *Pacific, WA*, Dec. 28 (†NL). In Oregon, one on the Columbia R. at Cascade Locks Feb. 27 (HN) and six from western Oregon were typical numbers of the most recent winters. We received reports from pelagic trips out of Westport, WA (TW), and Newport, OR (BO), both Feb. 8. One Laysan Albatross was found with three Black-footed Albatross off Westport and eight of each species were off Newport. Only five N. Fulmar were found on each trip, which are very low numbers for the most abundant winter tubenose off our coast. The few shearwaters found included ten Pink-footed off Newport and one off Westport, quite unusual in mid-winter, one to two Sooties and two to five Short-tailed.

Two Am. White Pelican at Malheur Jan. 6 (GI) were a rare winter record for there. There were several comments on the increasing numbers of wintering Double-crested Cormorant. The Columbia R. basin population included at least 80 at the Yakima R

mouth Jan. 22 (RW), 50 at Ice Harbor Dam Dec. 8 (AS), and 150 (mostly immatures) at the Dalles Dam Dec. 6 (DL). In w. Washington, numbers at one roost in Bellingham Bay continue to grow—over 700 were counted on Mar. 7 (TW). An imm. **Magnificent Frigatebird** flew N past Cape Arago, *Coos*, Feb. 1 (†Joe Kaplan) for about the 5th Oregon record. A Great Egret at Sunriver, *Deschutes, OR*, Dec. 15 (Dave Danley) was very late for the interior. Three Cattle Egret, which normally have disappeared by early January, remained for much of the winter. One was at Mt. Vernon, *Skaqit, WA*, from mid-January through the end of the period (J & KW), another (the interior record) was at Othello, *Adams, WA*, through Jan. 19 (RH), and one was at Glide, *Douglas, OR*, Jan. 22 into Feb. (DFi). There were 8 additional December reports.

WATERFOWL TO FALCONS

The **Whooper Swan** residing just s. of the Oregon border on Lower Klamath N.W.R. was seen on the Oregon side Feb. 22 (†JE) for the first state record. After several years of poor breeding success of the Wrangell I. population of Snow Geese, first winter birds comprised 33% of the flocks on Skagit Flats this winter (J & KW) indicating more normal reproductive success. Two ♂ Tufted Duck were found near Skamokawa, *Wahkiakum, WA*, Dec. 26-31 (†Alan Richards, Bill Shelmerdine) and at Sheridan, *Yamhill, OR*, to Feb. 9 (PS, m.ob.). There was continuing evidence of the shift from Lesser to Greater Scaup wintering on the Columbia R.: counts of 100 scaup, mostly Greaters, at Mosier, *Wasco, OR*, Dec. 7 (DL), 1000+ scaup, almost entirely Greaters, at Biggs, *Sherman, OR*, Jan. 11 (M & MLD) and 300 Greater at Chelan Falls, *Wenatchee, WA*, Feb. 16 (EH).

Greater Scaup are still unusual in e. Oregon away from the Columbia: one at Prineville Dec. 15 (TC, SS) was the 2nd *Crook* record and three during late January at Deschutes R. Crossing, *Jefferson (BB, DL, PS)* were also unusual. The ♀ **King Eider** that appeared at Bandon Nov. 5 remained until Feb. 29 (m.ob.) for Oregon's 4th record. The first Oregon record of **Steller's Eider** was a male at the n. jetty of Coos Bay, *Coos*, Feb. 10 to 17 (John Griffith, m. ob., ph.). The ♂ **Smew** returned to the Columbia Gorge for the 3rd consecutive winter from Jan. 2 on (Carroll Davis, Charles Walker). It was observed injured Feb. 11, was last reported Feb. 16 (Nancy MacDonald), and from the extent of the injuries most assume it died. The count of 15 Red-breasted Merganser at Steamboat Rock S.P., *Grant, WA*, Dec. 7 (AS) was quite large for the interior; elsewhere seven were found in e. Oregon (DL, CC, Craig Miller)

Lingering Turkey Vultures were found at several Washington locations: on Whidbey I., Jan. 5 (DP), near Auburn, *King* Jan. 12 (TB, RM), near Sequim, *Clallam* Jan. 16 (Jack Fletcher), over Seattle Jan. 22 (A Hamilton), and at Samish I., *Skagit* Feb. 16 (*fide* BK). Both states had winter Osprey records: at Lyons Ferry Hatchery, *Franklin, WA*, Dec. 8 (AS), near Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion, OR*, Dec. 26 (MP), near Springfield, *Lane, OR*, throughout January and February (MH), near Tahuya, *Mason, WA*, (Carole Sheridan) Jan. 5, at the confluence of the Rogue and Illinois rivers, *Curry, OR*, Jan. 15 (*fide* CD), and near Allyn, *Mason, WA*, Jan. 29 (Joe McGuire). Bald Eagles were found in above-average numbers in e. Oregon: 1000+ wintered in the Klamath Basin (JE), 79 were counted in the Harney Basin (*fide* Rick Vetter) and 96 were in the John Day Valley in *Grant* (TWi).

Five Red-shouldered Hawks were found away from *Curry* and *Coos* (JJ, MM *fide* HN), following an unusual number of reports in the Willamette Valley this fall. An imm. Ferruginous Hawk was near Central Point, *Jackson* Jan. 12-18 (RE, ph.); there are few valid w. Oregon records, but one was in the same area last fall. Rough-legged Hawks were in good numbers in *Grant, WA*, (RH), *Kittitas, WA* (B & GR), and more numerous at O.S. than last few years (G & WH). Farther south, they were less common than normal in the n. Willamette Valley, particularly on Sauvie I. (JJ). Merlin numbers were above average in s.e. Washington (M & MLD), in w. Washington (DP, J & KW) and 16 were reported from 10 e. Oregon counties (JE). It was a good winter for Gyrfalcon in w. Washington, with at least 10 reports including two on the outer coast (NL, G&WH) and two from the lower Puget Trough (Ken Brunner, Mal Pina Chan). In e. Washington, one was at W.W.R.D. (M & MLD) and two were in *Lincoln* (JA). There were 10 Prairie Falcons reported from w. Oregon and none from w. Washington, which is a normal total.

CRANES TO SHOREBIRDS

A Sora at Malheur Feb. 2 (TWi) was probably the record that best epitomizes the mild winter. In Oregon up to 23 Snowy Plover wintered at Bandon (*fide* HN) and 12 wintered both at Siltcoos and at Baker Beach (BS). All 3 of these flocks contained birds banded in the Coos Bay area. A Lesser Yellowlegs at North Bend, *Coos, OR*, Jan. 19 (†HH) was well-described; most winter reports of this species are suspect. Counts of 34 Long-billed Curlews and 168 Marbled Godwits Feb. 15 at O.S. are the highest ever wintering numbers for each species at that site (RW). A Marbled Godwit at Dungeness, *Clallam* Dec 29 to Feb 11 (John Winkler) was a first

wintering record locally. Two Red Knots at Port Angeles, *Clallam*, WA, Feb. 22 (†D & SS) were also a local first winter record. Three Red Phalarope were found out of Westport Feb. 8 (TW). Along the Oregon coast in February, small numbers of Red Phalarope found in early February at several locations (PS, CD *vide* DFa) had increased to "hundreds" at the Coos Bay mouth (JJ) and thousands on Yaquina Bay (HH), both Feb. 22. There were no subsequent reports.

JAEGER TO ALCIDS

Spokane's wintering Franklin's Gull stayed until Jan. 2 (JA), another indicator of the mild winter. Little Gulls were reported for the 4th consecutive winter in Washington: at American L., *Pierce*, WA, through Dec. 15 (Wally Wilkins) and an adult at Point No Point, *Kitsap* Feb. 15 (Vic Nelson). A potential first-year Iceland Gull was at Banks L., *Grant*, WA, Dec. 7-11 (†AS, JA); there are no accepted records for the state yet. Typically, the few Thayer's Gulls found in the interior do not remain past December, and this year was no exception. A first-year bird was at Ice Harbor Dam, *Franklin*, WA, Dec. 8 (AS), an adult was at Richland, WA, Dec. 31 (AS, RW), and in Oregon, singles were at the Deschutes R. mouth and Hood River Dec. 16 (PS). An ad. W. Gull was reported at McNary Dam Jan. 25 (CC); they are very rare so far inland. Glaucous Gull numbers appear to have returned to more normal levels after the record numbers of last winter: 10 in w. Oregon, six in w. Washington, and three in the interior were at *Walla Walla*, WA (M & MLD), and at Ice Harbor Dam (AS).

Only 54 Black-legged Kittiwake were seen Feb. 8 off Westport (TW). The small numbers seen from shore included ten at Westport, *Grays Harbor*, WA, Jan. 17 (G & WH), ten at the n. jetty of Coos Bay Feb. 15 (HH) and 100 there Feb. 22 (JJ). An ad. Sabine's Gull in breeding plumage was with other gulls and phalaropes at the herring spawn in Yaquina Bay, OR, on the incredibly early date of Feb. 22 (†HH). A **Horned Puffin** seen on Puget Sound near Edmonds Dec. 15 (†DP) was amazing—puffins of any species are highly pelagic in winter and Horned Puffins are quite rare in Washington. Indeed, no puffins of either species were found offshore on Feb. 8, which is not unusual for a winter pelagic trip over the continental shelf.

PIGEONS THROUGH TROGLODYTES

A few more Snowy Owls were reported than last winter's record low. The westside reports were one on Dungeness Spit, *Clallam*, WA, Dec. 27 (D & SS), one on Leadbetter Pt., *Pacific* Dec. 29 (NL), one on the Skagit Flats Jan. 4 (J&KW), one at Lummi Flats, *Whatcom* Jan 7 (PD), and one near Stanwood, *Sk-*

agit, WA, Feb. 9-Mar. 1 (Ken Brown). In the interior, where Snowy Owls have been more regular, one was near Moses L., *Grant*, WA, Feb. 28 (G & WH), and up to two immatures were in the Mondovi area, *Lincoln*, WA (JA). The Snowy Owl near Hermiston, *Umatilla*, OR, Feb. 14-22 (CC) was the first Oregon record since 1985. A Burrowing Owl in *Walla Walla*, WA, Jan. 17 furnished the first winter record in the county for the last 12 years (M & MLD). Short-eared Owls were scarce in w. Washington (TW, J & KW). A further indication of the substantial Boreal Owl movement noted last fall was an injured bird found near Snohomish, *Snohomish*, WA, Jan. 14 (*vide* J & KW, ph.). This is apparently a first record for the Puget Sound lowlands.

The Anna's Hummingbird in Bend, OR, staying until Dec. 24 (Kathi Crabtree) was 7 weeks late. Lewis' Woodpeckers were absent from the s.c. Washington oak groves where they often winter (Bob Boekelheide, AS) and were unremarked elsewhere in the Region. Apparently they moved out of the Region this fall. A Black Phoebe wintered at Eugene, *Lane*, OR (MH), which is unusually far north. Reports of a remarkable four species of lingering swallows consisted of the following: four Violet-greens near Asotin, WA, Dec. 8 (MK) and two near Medford, OR, Dec. 24 (*vide* MM); single Trees at Seattle Jan. 3 (KA) and at Salem, OR, Jan. 21 (*vide* BB); a Cliff at Seattle Jan. 1 (Erika Norwood); a Barn near the Ringold Fish Hatchery, *Grant*, WA, Jan. 25 (Dale Litzenberger); and a swallow (sp.) at L. Whatcom, *Whatcom*, WA, Jan. 12 (Tom Friedland).

Since record numbers of Blue Jays were reported this fall (eleven), it was not surprising that three were recorded in the interior this season: Kennewick, *Benton*, WA, through Jan. 18 (*vide* Tony Greager), near Ellensburg, *Kittitas*, WA, Dec. 12-14 (*vide* PM), and near Metolius, *Jefferson*, OR, from Dec. 16 to the first week of January (TC). A Scrub Jay near Sequim, *Clallam*, WA, through Feb. 24 (D & SS) indicated that their westside range continues to expand. In the Oregon interior where a major fall movement occurred, two wintered at Bend (TC), one was at Mt. Vernon, *Grant* (Pat & Sharon Sweeney), and one stayed at Prineville, *Crook* from Nov. 6 to mid-December (Greg Concannon, Chris Carey). A Pygmy Nuthatch at a Salem, OR, feeder Dec. 19-20 (*vide* BB) was a rare westside record. The Canyon Wren at Mt. Rainier N.P., WA, Feb. 6 (†Betsy Rogers) was a first *Pierce* record, they are accidental on the westside. The mild season allowed Marsh Wrens to winter in the Columbia Basin in large numbers (RH).

THRUSHES THROUGH WARBLERS

Observers on both the westside (B & GR)

and the interior (Jerry Tangren) noted a genuine scarcity of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, even though the mild weather should have encouraged wintering. The severe freeze last winter may have had a strong impact on their population—we urge observers to pay attention to their numbers. Western Bluebirds returned to the Ft. Lewis, WA, on the early date of Jan. 22 (*vide* TB). Bohemian Waxwings were scarce in e. Washington (M & MLD, TR) and n.e. Oregon (PS). A Loggerhead Shrike in the Rogue Valley at Central Pt., OR, Jan. 1-18 (*vide* MM) was unusual for the westside. The ♂ **Tennessee Warbler** at Newport, *Lincoln* Jan. 5-14 (Bill Tice, DFa, m.ob.) provided the first winter record for Oregon. The ♂ **Black-throated Blue Warbler** which hit a window in Spokane on Feb. 19 (†Jean Atwater) was stunned but recovered. There is only one previous Washington record. A ♀ Black-throated Gray Warbler, rare in winter, was at Grants Pass, OR, Jan. 18 (RE). There were six reports of Palm Warbler from the coast and one reported without details from the interior, where they are very rare at any season. A **Wilson's Warbler** wintered in Seattle Dec. 28 to Jan 11 (†MDo, KA, m.ob.); there is one prior winter record for Washington. Finally, a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Bandon, *Coos*, OR, Dec. 29 (†DL, m.ob.) for possibly the first Regional winter record.

GROSBEAKS TO WEAVER FINCHES

Even though relatively few Am. Tree Sparrows were reported from e. Washington, at least 25 were found in e. Oregon (CC, SS, m.ob.). A Chipping Sparrow at Bandon, OR, Jan. 21 was well-described (†SS), several others were reported without details. Clay-colored Sparrows are rare winterers in Washington, one was found at Kent, *King*, Jan. 25 (SEH) to Feb. 4. They are less unexpected in Oregon, where three reports included two from the coast (MP, CD) and one in the Rogue Valley (RE, m.ob., ph). Lincoln's Sparrow were found wintering in Richland, WA, for the first time (RW). Swamp Sparrow reports continue to surpass those of only a few years ago. Four reports came from the interior, thirteen from w. Washington and at least 58 from w. Oregon. Five Harris' Sparrow reports from w. Oregon was an above-average number. A flock of 2000 Snow Buntings in *Lincoln*, WA, Jan. 12 (JA) is an impressive number for this Region.

Again this winter, Tricolored Blackbirds were found wintering in e. Oregon, away from the Klamath Basin. Eight were with 100 blackbirds at Prineville, *Crook*, Feb. 19 (TC) and 40 were near Powell Butte, *Crook*, Feb. 20 (SS). An **Orchard Oriole** at Samish I., *Skagit* Dec. 15 to (Richard Youel, mob ph) provided the first Washington record A

N "Baltimore" Oriole at Brookings, *Curry*, OR, Dec. 1-Mar. 7 (CD, m.ob.) was the only other wintering Oriole. The Region's largest number ever of wintering Brambling records included one on the coast at Westport, *Grays Harbor*, WA, Dec. 15-Feb. 8 (Bob Morse, m ob.), and three in the interior: a male at Walla Walla, WA, Feb. 20-24 (Shirley Muse, M & MLD, ph.), one at Richland, WA, Jan. 30 (Nancy LaFramboise, †RW), and one near Umapine, *Umatilla* Feb. 8 (M & MLD) which was probably the 4th Oregon record.

Even though good numbers of Red Crossbill appeared in the mountains during the fall, they were generally scarce this winter in the Blue Mtns. (M & MLD), in the Spokane area (TR), and around Seattle (EH). However, many were in the n. Oregon Cascades Feb. 23 (DL). Common Redpolls were also scarce this winter (TR). Pine Siskin were uncommon in many lowland locations (m. ob.); apparently they were more abundant in the Oregon Cascades (MH) where they fed on red cedar seeds. A ♂ **Lawrence's Goldfinch** that came to a Florence, *Lane* feeder Dec. 24-Jan. 11 (B & ZS, m.ob.) furnished the first Oregon record. Evening Grosbeaks were scarce in much of the interior (RW, TR) and in n.w. Washington (J & KW, TW).

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MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

David G. Yee, Stephen F. Bailey, and Bruce E. Deuel

Signs of the El Niño mounted. The trends noted in the winter season continued, and our Region received its first Dark-rumped Petrel and Great Frigatebird. As in the 1983 El Niño, storm-petrels appeared close to shore. Many seabirds at the Farallon Islands, Castle Rock, etc., skipped breeding or failed early.

Apparently as a response to the continuing drought, many species of dabbling ducks nested in unusual numbers at sewer ponds throughout the Central Valley and coastal areas.

However the most noted events of the season were among landbirds. Many observers felt most migrants moved through earlier and in smaller numbers than normal. The early migration was epitomized by the March 19 fallout on southeast Farallon Island that set early arrival island records for many species. As for the small numbers, it has been suggested that lush vegetation to the south, especially in the deserts, caused by healthy rains during late winter, dispersed migrants wider than normal. But where regular migrants were few, vagrants, especially among warblers, were many. What is notable besides the sheer numbers, with little exception, were their early arrival dates.

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (*California Bird Records Committee*); C.C.R.S. (*Coyote Creek Riparian banding Station, Santa Clara Co.*); C.V. (*Central Valley*); F.I. (*Southeast Farallon Island*); I.C.R. (*Inner Coast Range*); S.F. (*San Francisco*). All records from F.I. and Palomar should be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Place names in italics are counties.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS

Although tens of thousands of Pacific Loons migrate along our coast on some spring days, enormous staging flocks are not common. Up to 3400 staged in Drakes Bay, *Marin*, May 10 (RS, m.ob.). Three Pacific Loons strayed inland, two at L. Almanor Mar. 14 (†LJ) and one at Fall River L., *Shasta*, Mar. 7 (BY, JW). A Horned Grebe lingered to May 31 at Hayward Shoreline (RJR). With the 6-year drought, Eared Grebe no longer breeds in Sierra Valley (LJ).

Another Laysan Albatross was found in a street, this time in S.F., Apr. 6 (B. Good). Three were far offshore S.F. May 2 (SBT, BHi) A Dark-rumped Petrel *Perodroma*

phaeopygia that flew close past a boat 69.2 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes May 3 (†SFB, †m.ob.) was the first for North America within the 200-mi limit. One had been seen 226 mi s.w. of San Miguel I., California, Aug. 2, 1991 (AB 45:1160). This year's bird was probably related to El Niño and was at least as likely to have been a "Galapagos Petrel" as a "Hawaiian Petrel." The same day only two Murphy's Petrels were seen s.w. of F.I. (SFB), in contrast to the 34 Murphy's and one "Cookilaria" petrel in the same area the day before (SBT, BHi).

Pink-footed Shearwaters remained numerous off *Monterey* (DLSH), and a remarkable spring count of six Flesh-footed Shearwaters was there Apr. 4 (DLSH, RN). A Flesh-footed was far s.w. of Pt. Reyes May 3 (SFB) and another was off *Monterey* May 30 (DLSH), but even rarer was the one seen from Pt. Pinos during high winds Apr. 21 (†DR) Four late Short-tailed Shearwaters were seen far s.w. of Pt. Reyes May 2 (SBT, BHi). Up to 200 El Niño Black-vented Shearwaters were at Pigeon Pt., Mar. 24 (JMR) and Monterey Bay Apr. 4 (SBT, DLSH), with lesser numbers until the last one was at S.F. May 9 (E MacLochlainn).

Storm-petrels in Monterey Bay showed clear signs of El Niño, in being unseasonally numerous and inshore. Three Leach's were in Monterey Bay May 21 (RT) and singles were only 8 mi off the Monterey Pen. May 27 & 30 (DLSH). Two Fork-tailed and 75 Ashys May 30 were unseasonal so far south, and an Ashy was at Moss Landing Pier May 29 (REM *vide* DLSH). Topping these were our first May **Black Storm-Petrels**, three on May 27 and 20-25 on May 30, with one just over a mile offshore (DLSH).

Brown Pelicans were far above average at F.I. A subadult ♀ **Great Frigatebird** buzzed F.I. closely Mar. 14 (†PP, †LE). This was North America's 2nd, following one at Perry, Oklahoma, Nov. 3, 1975.

RAPTORS

A pair of Bald Eagles built a nest at L. Berryessa (M. Kirven) but later deserted it (RLCL), reportedly as in previous years. Three N. Goshawks were reported with marginal details in the hills of *Alameda* and *Contra Costa* Mar. 27-Apr. 8. A Broad-winged Hawk passed San Bruno Mt., *Sain Mateo*, May 9, and a coastward Swainson's Hawk passed there Apr. 28 (both HBr). A "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk was s.e. of Hollister, *San Benito*, Mar. 9 (†GFi), and others were in *Modoc* (RR) and *Lassen* (RJR) in March.

SKUAS THROUGH ALCIDS

Two S. Polar Skuas off *Monterey* May 27 (DLSH) were rare in spring. Ten Franklin's

Gulls scattered throughout the Region included *Sacramento's* first, at Tyler I., May 10 (†TDM, AM). Although W. Gull is perhaps regular just downriver in *Sacramento* (TDM), a first-year bird at Bouldin I., Mar. 4 was only *San Joaquin's* 2nd (†DGY). Three more coastal Glaucous Gulls passed through in early March, but one at Freshwater Lagoon, *Humboldt's*, May 15 (RLeV) was rather late. Sabine's Gulls were ashore at Pt. Reyes May 9 (WT) and S.F. May 15-22 (M. Bergstrom, ASH, m.ob.). Many Sabine's Gulls transited in late May, producing counts of 60 at Cordell Bank May 24 (THK) and 70 and 100 offshore *Monterey* May 27 & 30 (DLSh).

Away from major nesting colonies, 500 Caspian Terns at Mad River Estuary, *Humboldt's*, Apr. 10 (LD) was a large migratory concentration. Both sightings of early Elegant Terns were Apr. 26: seven flying N at Pt. Cabrillo, *Mendocino* (DT), and four at Salinas R. mouth (BJW). A strong wind storm May 10 caused 510 Com. Terns (85% alternate adults) to shelter in Crescent City Harbor, *Del Norte*. Six with all-black caps showed the black bill and legs and the darker underparts typical of the Asian subspecies *longipennis* (†ADB). Three Arctic Terns were ashore at Bolinas Lagoon May 20 (PP). North of the Least Tern's normal range were singles at Abbott's Lagoon May 11 (ASH) and Bodega Harbor May 31 (DN). Black Terns in s.e. S.F. Bay Apr. 19-May 31 (PJM, m.ob.) included 21 at Hayward Shoreline May 2 (RJR). Two others were in Monterey Bay May 30 (DLSh, RFT). Except for one trio, sightings of migrant Black Skimmers were all of pairs and progressed up the coast, so there may have been only three birds. They visited Salinas R. mouth May 10-11 (JHb, RC), with the trio there May 17 (B. Monahan), then Moss Landing Harbor May 19 (S. Bailey), and finally Princeton Harbor May 29-30 (D. Powell, RSTh).

Xantus' Murrelets were often seen in *Monterey* waters, with a high of ten May 27 (DLSh, RT, m.ob.), and singles were beyond F.I. May 2 & 3 (SBT, SFB). Though rarely seen from shore, pairs were at Pigeon Pt., Apr. 26 (†RSTh) and Cypress Pt., *Monterey* May 23 (SHa). The decline of Tufted Puffins on Castle Rock, *Del Norte*, preceded the current El Niño, but certainly was compounded by it. Typical maxima from 7 years ago were 150, then they dropped to 60-70, but this



year there have only been two to four visible (all ADB).

BITTERNS THROUGH DUCKS

Rarely reported in the Region, a Least Bittern was at Gilsizer Slough Marsh, *Sutter's*, May 5 (BED, PBS). If confirmed, a Great Blue Heron nesting attempt on the upper Owens R. May 28 (PJM) would be the first in e. *Mono*. Stragglers away from their normal spring range, single Cattle Egrets were at L. Dalwig, *Solano*, Apr. 24 (DTk) and Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, May 24 (BY). Every May since 1985 White-faced Ibis have reached the coast and S.F. Bay, but the 1992 flight was very heavy, especially n. of S.F. Notable was a record of 50 near Oakley Apr. 27 (DES), thought to be *Contra Costa's* 2nd.

Two ad. Tundra Swans on L. Earl, *Del Norte*, May 11 (ADB) were very late. Late migrant geese along the coast included a Greater White-fronted at L. Earl May 14 (ADB), a Snow at MacKerricker S.P. and a "Cackler" at Talmage, *Mendocino*, both May 2 (RJK *et al.*), and a Ross' at Halfmoon Bay Apr. 29 (G. Deghi). Brant were out of place at White Slough, *Solano*, Apr. 21 (ABtt, RLCL) and Hayward Shoreline, *Alameda*, May 4 (S. Traver) & 30 (RJR), while there were more than usual in *Monterey* (*vide DR*).

Single Wood Ducks, still only casual in *Modoc*, were at Modoc N.W.R., Apr. 5 (RLR) and Ash Creek W.M.A. May 11 (BED). It was a slow season for Eur. Green-winged Teal reports with single migrants at

Pt. Reyes Station Mar. 30 (RS, G. Bryan) and Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt's*, Apr. 4 (RS *et al.*), and a wintering bird at Redwood Shores, *San Mateo*, until Apr. 6 (RSTh). Up to 16 Blue-winged Teal on Santa Fe Grade, *Merced*, Apr. 25 (DSg *et al.*) was a large number for one location, but they were widely reported throughout the Region. A Eur. Wigeon at L. Almanor, *Plumas*, Mar. 14 (†LJ, H. Durio) was the only bird reported away from the coast.

Many observers reported continuing declines in Redheads away from the permanent ponds of refuges. A ♂ Greater Scaup at Bridgeport Res. Apr. 26 (RJR) was only the 7th recorded in e. *Mono*. Bodega Harbor's stellar Steller's Eider was last seen May 2 (BDP). An imm. ♂ Oldsquaw at Tule Lake N.W.R., *Modoc*, May 21 (RE, JVM) was only the 3rd inland in Spring. Six Barrow's Goldeneyes were in Fall R. Valley, *Shasta*, Mar. 7 (BY, JW), with four at

Eagle L., *Lassen*, Mar. 8 (BMS), and one at Greenville, *Plumas*, Mar. 14 (LJ *et al.*). They are rarely reported from mountain districts. A ♀ Com. Merganser with three chicks was at Michigan Bar on the Cosumnes R. May 30 (D. Hamilton), establishing the 1st *Sacramento* breeding record. More Red-breasted Mergansers were inland than usual, including three in *Mono*, one in *Sacramento*, and four in *Siskiyou*. Observers frequently report albinistic waterfowl, but more unusual were two melanistic Ruddy Ducks at Hayward Shoreline in mid-May (RJR).

MOORHENS THROUGH PHALAROPES

Humboldt's 3rd Com. Moorhen was an adult at Arcata Marsh Apr. 15-May 31 (BBA *et al.*). Providing a rare *San Mateo* record was a Sandhill Crane flying over El Grenada Mar. 16 (BS). A flock of 1600 Black-bellied Plovers along Rd. 155, *Yolo*, Mar. 29 (*vide TDM*) was a huge concentration for the C.V. A rare spring migrant in the northern C.V., a Snowy Plover was at the Lodi sewer ponds Apr. 16 (DGY), while 56 birds at Mono L., Apr. 25-26 (m.ob.) is a good number for anywhere in the Region. A Black Oystercatcher was well inside S.F. Bay at Pt. Pinole, *Contra Costa*, May 23 (S. Traver).

Sixteen Black-necked Stilts in the Pudding Creek Basin Apr. 24 (DT) provided only the 3rd *Mendocino* record. Only 4 reports totaling eight Lesser Yellowlegs seems low for recent years. Regular but scarce in spring, 10 Solitary Sandpipers were found

coastally from *Alameda* to *Del Norte* Apr. 19-26. One in *Wooden Valley* Apr. 24 (†F. Scarlett) was only *Napa's* 2nd at this season. Two *Whimbrels* were found at *Mono L.*, Apr. 25-26 (m.ob.) where they are considered rare transients. A *Longbilled Curlew* at the *Loyalton sewer ponds* Mar. 20 (MMC) surprisingly produced the first *Sierra* record (LJ).

Very rare in the Great Basin, a *Red Knot* was at *Lower Klamath N.W.R.*, Apr. 14 (†RE), 11 were at *Crowley L.*, *Mono*, Apr. 21 (†THd, JHd), and three were at *Mono L.*, Apr. 25 (ES, MMC, RJR). An ad. *Semipalmated Sandpiper* at *Hayward Shoreline* May 2 (RJR) and a bird at *Pomponio Beach*, *San Mateo*, May 29 (ph. RSTh) were the only ones reported. Single *Baird's Sandpipers* were at *Mad R. Beach*, *Humboldt*, Apr. 3 (*vide* BBA) and *Hayward Shoreline* Apr. 19 (RJR). Though now annual, they are still rare in spring. An alternate-plumaged *Short-billed Dowitcher* at the *Lodi sewer ponds*, *San Joaquin*, May 22-24 (DGY, RAK) was very late for the C.V.

Two pairs of *Wilson's Phalaropes* in s.e. *Sacramento* May 27 (TDM) were suspected nesters. *Red-necked Phalaropes*, normally uncommon before mid-April, arrived very early, with 38 at the *Hayward Shoreline* Mar. 29 (RJR). Small numbers of *Red Phalaropes* came ashore at many coastal locations throughout May, whereas only a single bird was reported doing so in 1991. "Thousands" in breeding plumage surrounded F.I. May 17-EOP, the first time this has occurred in spring in over 10 years (*vide* PP). Is this an El Nifio effect?

OWLS TO HUMMINGBIRDS

A *Flammulated Owl* at *Schilling Ranch*, *Mariposa*, Mar. 23-30 (PLN) not only matched the Region's earliest arrival date, but was low at 1750 ft. The *Barred Owl* on *Big Hill Rd.* May 2-5 (RLeV *et al.*) was at a new site for *Humboldt*. *Great Gray Owls* continued to be found near *Shaver L.*, *Fresno*, as one was at *Markwood Meadows* Apr. 15 (*vide* RAK). Coastally rare *Lesser Nighthawks* included singles at F.I. and the *Cordell Bank* (THK) May 24. A *Chordeiles sp.* in *Robinson Cyn.*, *Monterey*, May 25 (DLSh) was also probably this species. Most of our *Black Swifts* move through in mid-May, so one at *Devil's Slide*, *San Mateo*, Apr. 24 (JsC) was quite early. Three *White-throated Swifts* at *Tule Lake N.W.R.*, Apr. 28 (RE) were record early. This is *Siskiyou's* only colony that was established in 1985.

One of the stunners during this spellbinding Spring was the imm. *Violet-crowned Hummingbird* in *Renwood*, *Sonoma*, Mar. 28-30 (M. Van Zandt, ph. †DN, ph. †m.ob.). Tropical hummingbirds have always been treated cautiously in the state since they are

occasionally kept in captivity. However, the bird was identified as *elliotti*, the expected migratory race from n.w. Mexico. If accepted by the C.B.R.C. it would establish the Region's first and the state's 3rd records. A ♀ *Black-chinned Hummingbird* in *Sierra Valley* May 21 (LJ, RL) was *Plumas'* 2nd. Single *Costa's Hummingbirds* at *Garin Regional Park*, *Alameda*, Apr. 22 (RJR), *Anderson*, *Shasta*, Apr. 25 (BAP, J. Burge), and *Pt. Reyes Station* May 2-31 (RS) were below the recent average for extralimitals. The *Costa's* wintering in *Fair Oaks* remained until Mar. 17 (GEw).

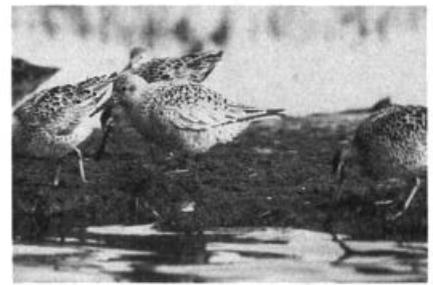
A *Calliope Hummingbird* in *Yreka* Mar. 31 (RE) was *Siskiyou's* earliest ever. Coastally, this hummer is sporadic in occurrence. Along the n. coast, observers in *Marin* and *Humboldt* see an annual passage. However, a male at *Oakmont* Apr. 15-17 joined by a female Apr. 17 (J. Ryan *et al.*) and a male near *Santa Rosa* Apr. 18 (I. Morrison) were records 5-7 for *Sonoma*. The *Broad-tailed Hummingbird* in *Sierra Valley* May 22 (LJ) was *Plumas'* 2nd or 3rd and one of few n. of *Mono*.

WOODPECKERS TO WRENS

A *Red-naped Sapsucker* in *Snelling*, *Merced*, Mar. 16 (†S. Tank) was possibly a county first. The *Red-breasted Sapsucker* along *Gazos Creek Rd.*, *San Mateo*, May 12 (GFi, MPI) was a very tardy migrant. Other sapsucker news was the ♀ *Willamson's* on *Mines Rd.*, *Alameda*, Apr. 15 (†B. Sanders) where they are casual. *Solano* has few nesting *Hairy Woodpecker* records, so a pair feeding young at *Monticello Dam* Apr. 24 (T. Jenkins, HCo) was noteworthy.

Though well short of last year's record total, 51 migrant *Hammond's Flycatchers* Mar. 25-May 3 were more than double the 2nd previous high. Noteworthy were the Mar. 25 bird on F.I. that matched the Region's earliest arrival, and one Apr. 26 in *El Granda*, *San Mateo*, where very rare (BS). As usual the majority of the birds were found on *Mt. Diablo* (27), but the bulk of the movement was in mid-April, 2 weeks earlier than normal. *Migrant Dusky and Gray flycatchers* were found in traditional numbers (10 and three, respectively), primarily in April. However, among *Duskys*, a territorial male found on *Mount St. Helena*, *Napa*, May 10 (A. Wight, BiG—a county first) was followed by four territorial males there May 25 (BDP—two each in *Napa* and *Solano*). Since territorial birds were first detected there in Spring, 1986, we may be witnessing a range expansion; they breed just to the n. in *Lake*.

Two separate *Say's Phoebes* near *Three Peaks* on the s. edge of *Ft. Hunter* *Liggett* May 23 (SFB) were well w. of known breeding locales in s. *Monterey*. The two wintering *Vermilion Flycatchers* at *Gray Lodge*



Red Knot (center — with dowitchers and others) at Crowley Lake, Mono County, California, on April 21, 1992. Photograph/Tom Heindel.

W.M.A. remained until Mar. 1 (D. Jensen). Only one pair of nesting *Gassin's Kingbird* near *King City* was found during atlassing work in s. and e. *Monterey* where they were formerly present in small numbers (*vide* DR). On their n. frontier in the I.C.R., the nesting pair returned to the *Hwy 580 golfcourse*, *San Joaquin*, Apr. 26 (C. Lou) for their 4th straight year. And what of the pair 7 mi s. of *Benton*, *Mono*, May 26 (RSTh, MFe), the Region's first e. of the *Sierra*? Perhaps they were overdue since breeding occurs just s. of the Region in desert oases. Always rare before June, the *E. Ringbird* at *Pt. Reyes* May 13 (RS) was record-early. *Del Norte's* 4th scissor-tailed *Flycatcher* was near *Ft. Dick* May 12 (RSTr, ph.ADB, m.ob.); the previous three were also there in May. *Canyon Wrens* were on the comeback trail in *Contra Costa* as singles at *Black Diamond* Mar. 11 (SAG *et al.*) and *La Trampas* Apr 26 (J. Robinson) established that county's 3rd and 4th records since 1983, following a 40-year hiatus.

VIREOS AND WOOD WARBLERS

Yellow-throated Vireo made it 3 springs in a row as two birds were in *Marin*: *Five Brooks* May 9 (†RS) and *Pt. Reyes* May 16 (RS, †LLu, †S. Cox, m.ob.). The *Philadelphia Vireo* at *Pt. Reyes* May 31 (†RS) was only the Region's 3rd in spring. Among seven *May Red-eyed Vireos*, singles at F.I. May 5-6 and *S.F.* May 15 (ASH) were record-early. Of the other five, three were in the *Pt. Reyes/F.I.* area May 24-25 while two were inland: a female banded at *Modoc N.W.R.* May 23 (EckB, RLR—*Modoc's* first) and *Lassen's* 2nd at *Honey L.* May 31 (†TDM).

A *Blue-winged Warbler* was finally recorded on F.I. May 24-25 (†PP), only the Region's 3rd or 4th. *Tennessee Warbler* showed very well with five on F.I. May 4-25 and five divided between *S.F.* and *Pt. Reyes* May 13-29. The pair of nesting *Orange-crowned Warblers* on *Glass Mt.* May 31 (PJM) may be the first confirmed nesting record for *Mono*. A *Lucy's Warbler* near the mouth of *Pilarcitos Cr.*, *San Mateo*, Mar. 4-6 (†DJK, SAG) fit a pattern of late winter sightings. Both *Chestnut-sided* and *Magno-*

lia warblers had an excellent May with totals of ten May 16-June 2 and seven May 16-31, respectively. All were coastal save Chestnut-sideds at Smithneck Cr., *Sierra*, May 23-25 (E. Meyers, †LJ—county first) and Glass Mt. May 29 (PJM), and *Contra Costa's* first Magnolia at Walnut Cr., May 27 (B. Wisecarver). Faithful and hardy were labels assigned to the ♂ Hermit Warbler that returned to a yard near Crescent City, *Del Norte*, Apr. 28 (ADB) for its 8th consecutive spring, singing from the same perches but never yet securing a mate.

S.A.

One of this Region's (and state's - see S. Pacific Coast Region) most fascinating ornithological events had to be the invasion of "southern" warblers this spring. Northern Parula, Hooded Warbler and Kentucky Warbler in particular were found in amazing numbers. When you compare their respective totals of 42, 16, and seven against their recent 10-year spring averages of four, three, and less-than-one, you begin to ask, "What happened?" And these totals do not include additional birds found in June-July! Adding to the mystery were early arrival dates for Hooded (two in late April) and Kentucky (F.I. May 2), territorial behavior of many birds, and the interior locations of some: *Santa Clara's* first N. Parula at C.C.R.S. May 17 (PJM); first county records of Kentucky at Tahoe Donner Ski Area, *Nevada*, May 24-June (L. Edson *et al.*) and Petaluma, *Sonoma*, May 15-16 (W. Nelson, ph.†DN) with another on Glass Mt., *Mono*, May 31 (†PJM). Presently explanations are few, but more will be said in the summer season.

Two Black-throated Green Warblers on F.I. May 18 & 24 were expected, but five Yellow-throated Warblers may have been related to the above-mentioned "southern" warbler invasion: one at Lopez Pt., *Monterey*, May 24 (†SFB), *Sacramento's* first in Orangetown May 25 (†DJo, BMo), and three at Pt. Reyes May 30-June 2 (ph.RS, †JM, †SBT, m.ob.). A Prairie Warbler at Dennison Cr., *San Mateo*, Apr. 12-May 22 (C. Miller, †J. Spitzer, RSTh) was puzzling. The dates and length of stay would suggest it wintered locally and lingered late, but considering how most migrants/vagrants were 2-3 weeks early, it is very possible it, too, arrived early and perhaps attempted to summer. One Palm Warbler at Pt. Reyes Station May 7 (RS) and two Blackpoll Warblers on F.I. May 13 & 31+ were average, but eight Black-

and-white Warblers Apr. 10-May 31 and 11 Am. Redstarts Apr. 28-May 31 along the c. coast were exceptional pre-June numbers.

The Prothonotary Warbler at Orick, *Humboldt*, May 1 (†GSL) was only the Region's 2nd in spring. The first was extraordinary because of its C.V. location, but the June 20th date was typical vagrant timing. In a normal year this spring's bird would be even more unusual because of the very early date. But this year is anything but normal. Worm-eating Warblers at F.I. May 7 (†PRBO—our earliest ever, of course) and Pt. Reyes May 31-June 2 (†JM *et al.*) were our first in spring since 1987. With seven May Ovenbirds along the c. coast being unprecedented, how does one explain only one N. Waterthrush (that certainly overwintered) at Manila, *Humboldt*, Apr. 4 (BBA)? Two Canada Warblers on F.I. May 24 & 31 appeared to be only the Region's 2nd and 3rd for that month. A nesting pair of Yellow-breasted Chats established *Plumas'* first breeding record along Wolf Cr. May 14 (C. Clifton, †LJ *et al.*).

TANAGERS TO ORIOLES

Summer Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks also caught May fever: five and 18, respectively. All were along the c. Coast except for single Summer Tanagers in Pleasanton, *Contra Costa*, May 24 (S. Rovell) and near Benton, *Mono*, May 26 (RSTh, MFe), and single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in *Mono*, *Plumas*, and *San Joaquin*. Blue Grosbeak was finally confirmed nesting in *Shasta* with at least four pairs at the Redding sewer ponds May 12 (BY). Their first arrival at this locale was Apr. 27 (R.Modeen). Indigo Bunting showed its preference for May this spring with the appearance of 14, including two territorial males in the Sierra Nevada: both near Big Cr., *Fresno*, May 13-20 and May 20-27 (DN).

A Green-tailed Towhee in Lee Vining Cyn., Apr. 13 (D. Parker) was record-early for the Mono Basin, one on F.I. May 13 was the island's first in spring since 1977, while one at Ripon, *San Joaquin*, May 3 (DGY, MFe) was a C.V. vagrant. Sparrows in general showed poorly this season, e.g., the only extralimital Brewer's Sparrow was on F.I. May 19. A very rare spring Lark Bunting was at L. Almanor, *Plumas*, May 26 (HG). The state's northernmost record of Great-tailed Grackle was established at Whiskeytown L., *Shasta*, May 16 (W. Spohn, ph.BY *et al.*). However, there are at least three records for Oregon. An Orchard Oriole in Bolinas, *Marin*, Mar. 20-25 (SNGH, KH) probably wintered locally, interesting considering it was a very poor winter for orioles.

Corrigendum: The statement in AB 45:492

that there had been only two previous accepted records of Mississippi Kite, both in autumn, overlooked the bird photographed at Mono L. May 31, 1981.

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Guy McCaskie

This was a spring of contradictions. The movement of *Charadriiformes* through most of the interior was depressing, though one or two unusual species were found on the Salton Sea. The passage of landbirds was disappointing, though we were inundated with vagrants normally associated with the South-eastern United States.

The lack of stormfronts from the north, with no adverse conditions to ground them, may have contributed to the absence of waterbirds in the northeastern portion of the Region, but the lack of landbirds can not be dismissed as lightly.

Our normal occurring migrant landbirds appeared to be in alarmingly low numbers throughout the Region, but with one or two remarkable exceptions, such as the passage of over 2000 birds through Butterbredt Springs in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mts. north of Cantil, Kern, in a couple of hours during the morning of April 18 (MTH), and an even larger number passing through this same small "oasis" on May 9 (MTH). However, it was a phenomenal spring for vagrants, with the scarcer species more common than our traditionally-expected ones as indicated when comparing the occurrences of Yellow-throated Vireos, Northern Parulas, and Hooded and Kentucky warblers, against those of Black-and-white Warblers, American Redstarts, and Northern Waterthrushes. In all, observers were disappointed by the numbers of migrant birds seen, but were excited by the number and quality of the vagrants encountered.

Abbreviations: C.L.N.A.W.S. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme n.e. Kern Co.); E.A.F.B. (Edwards Air Force Base, s.e. Kern Co.); F.C.R. (Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Monument, Inyo.); H.D.L. (Harper Dry Lake, n.w. of Barstow, San Bernardino Co.); N.E.S.S. (north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.); S.B.C.M. (San Bernardino County Museum); S.C.R.E. (Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura, Ventura Co.); S.E.S.S. (south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.); S.F.K.R.P. (South Fork of the Kern River Preserve near Weldon, Kern Co.). As virtually all rarities in s. California

are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are included. Documentation is on file with the California Bird Records Committee (C.B.R.C. c/o Michael A. Patten, P.O. Box 8612, Riverside, CA 92515) for all rarities listed in this report. Records submitted without documentation are not published.

LOONS TO PELICANS

A Pacific Loon, most unusual inland, was near Victorville, *San Bernardino*, May 29 (AME); this species also seemed to be moving N along the immediate coast rather than farther out to sea in May, with many more than normal resting on the water, and dozens found in weak and/or starving conditions—a result of the current El Niño condition? Ten Com. Loons at N.E.S.S. May 2 (WW) was a large number for this location; one in basic plumage on the Salton Sea near Salton City, *Imperial*, May 31 (MAP) would be unusual if attempting to summer as suspected, and another in basic plumage on L. Isabella, *Kern*, May 24 (JCW) may also attempt to summer.

A Black-footed Albatross at 30°30'N 118°12'W Apr. 7 (Jim Citanovitch *vide* SW) is one of a very few seen in the San Pedro Channel in recent years. Larger than normal numbers of Black-vented Shearwaters remained in s. California waters later than expected as indicated by 3000+ off Point Mugu, *Ventura*, Mar. 8 (DDe), up to 2000 off Ventura Mar. 16-17 (DDe) and 1500+ in the San Pedro Channel Apr. 25 (SJS).

Brown Pelicans moved N out of the Gulf

of California into the Salton Sea much earlier than normal, with six at S.E.S.S. Apr. 24 (DDi) building up to about 400 by May 8 (WRR); all were a year old or older, suggesting these birds failed to successfully nest, and dispersed from the breeding colonies earlier than usual.

HERONS TO RAPTORS

An imm. Little Blue Heron at S.C.R.E. May 29-June 2 (BS) was the only one found away from the San Diego area where resident. The imm. Reddish Egret that spent the winter around s. San Diego Bay remained through at least Mar. 29 (GMCC), another immature was there Apr. 17 through the end of the period (RP), an adult was at Point Mugu Mar. 28 (AS) and what may have been the same adult was at Seal Beach Apr. 12-May 9 (SM); this species occurs annually on San Diego Bay, but is considered accidental elsewhere in California. The ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in La Jolla during the winter paired with a Black-crowned Night-Heron, and was attending a nest in April (FH); one of the two present in the Tijuana R. valley near Imperial Beach, *San Diego*, since October was still present Mar. 31 (D & MH). A Wood Stork at Finney L. near S.E.S.S. May 24 (DAu) was the earliest of this post-breeding wanderer to be seen this year, but no more were found by the end of the period.

A Greater White-fronted Goose at S.E.S.S. May 16 (MAP) was late for a migrant. Small numbers of Brant found around the Salton Sea after Mar. 4 (SS, MAP), and up to 16 found on L. Henshaw in the moun-





Red Phalarope (in basic plumage) at Klondike Lake, near Big Pine in the Owens Valley, California, April 3, 1992. Photograph/ Tom Heindel.

rains of *San Diego* Mar. 21-28 (GMcC), were in areas of regular occurrence for birds migrating north out of the Gulf of California, but away from these areas, single birds were found inland on the Twisselman Road Evaporation Ponds near Los Hills, *Kern*, Mar. 9 (DY) and Apr. 27-May 4 (MOC), on Holiday L. in the Antelope Valley, *Los Angeles*, May 17 (KLG), near Lancaster, *Los Angeles*, May 17 (KLG) and at H.D.L. May 18 (EAC). A ♂ Green-winged Teal of the Eurasian form was well-described from Sun Valley in the San Fernando Valley Mar. 11 (DAL, DMA). What was probably the imm. ♂ King Eider initially found in Seal Beach 13 Dec. 1991, and then found working its way from pier to pier N, was at Hermosa Beach, *Los Angeles*, Mar. 29 (KLG) and at King Harbor in Redondo Beach, *Los Angeles*, May 14 through the end of the period (RAE). The two Harlequin Ducks that have been present at Point Mugu since Nov. 1990 were still present at the end of the period (BL), and a male at Cayucos, *San Luis Obispo*, May 24 through the end of the period (GPS) appeared settled in for the summer. Late Oldsquaws included a wintering bird remaining at Point Mugu through Apr. 10 (BL), up to four at Avila, *San Luis Obispo*, Mar. 7-Apr. 28 (TME) and another wintering bird present in Santa Barbara through May 20 (JEL); two worn immatures in Long Beach from the beginning of the period to at least May 28 (MHe), and one on Morro Bay May 17 through the end of the period (B & EE) are likely summering. A Black Scoter seen off Goleta May 7 (RGJ) was late for a migrant, and one on Morro Bay May 17 through the end of the period (TME) will probably spend the summer at that location. A flock of over 1000 Surf Scoters on L. Henshaw Mar. 21 (GMcC), with at least 200 still present May 28 (GMcC), was an impressive concentra-

tion for an inland locality; a ♂ Surf Scoter near S.E.S.S. Apr. 6 (WRR) and a female at N.E.S.S. May 16 (MAP) were the only two found on the Salton Sea where normally more numerous at this time of year. A White-winged Scoter at S.E.S.S., Mar. 1 (SM) was the only other scoter found inland. A Hooded Merganser near Temecula, *Riverside*, Apr. 2-9 (MAP) and four at Saticoy, *Ventura*, Apr. 11-12 (DDe) were a little late.

A first-year Mississippi Kite at F.C.R. May 17 (T & JH) was the 8th to be found at this location at this time of year, but another at S.F.K.R.P. June 5 (JS) was the first to be found in *Kern*. A Sharp-shinned Hawk at F.C.R. May 27 (T & JH) was exceptionally late for such a locality. A Swainson's Hawk at S.E.S.S., Mar. 10 (DAu) was the earliest to be reported this spring, but numbers seen during the rest of the season were disappointing, but did include a single bird on the immediate coast over San Clemente Apr. 10 (DRW). A pair of Zone-tailed Hawks on Hot Springs Mt., *San Diego*, May 16 (DWA) was undoubtedly the same pair that nested here each year since at least 1986. A Merlin at L. Skinner, *Riverside*, Apr. 29 (CMcG) was extremely late.

GROUSE TO ALCIDS

A Sage Grouse near Deep Springs, *Inyo*, Mar. 28 (SM) was at the s. extreme of this species' range in California. A Clapper Rail well photographed in Desert Center, *Riverside*, May 31 (GH), appeared to be of the race *levisipes* based on the amount and intensity of the cinnamon coloration on the underparts, and was certainly at a most unexpected locality.

Three Pacific Golden-Plovers near Santa Maria, *Santa Barbara*, Apr. 5 (JMC), and one at Seal Beach Apr. 19 (SM) were the latest of the known wintering birds. A migrant Pacific golden-plover at S.E.S.S. May 2 (GMcC) was inland where considered very rare, and another Golden-Plover, not identified to species, was at S.C.R.E. May 31 (BHe). An oystercatcher on Pt. Loma in San Diego Mar. 11-May 7 (DRH) showed characteristics of an Am. Oystercatcher but, using Joseph R. Jehl's criteria (Hybridization and Evolution of Oystercatchers on the Pacific Coast of Baja California in *Neotropical Ornithology*, 1985), was clearly a hybrid. Up to five Black Oystercatchers on Pt. Loma Mar. 20-May 2 (B & MM) was an exceptional number for this area. Reports of Solitary Sandpipers included an unusually early individual in Santee, *San Diego*, Mar. 21-23 (GLR), at least 15 scattered throughout the Region during April, and a late individual at F.C.R. May 24 (ST). A Wandering Tattler, a casual straggler to the interior, was photographed at N.E.S.S. May 16 (GMcC, MAP). Two Whimbrels on Owens L. in the

Owens Valley, *Inyo*, Apr. 11 (T & JH), and another on nearby Tinnemaha Res., Apr. 13 (T & JH), were of interest since this species is quite rare in this area of California; however, a little to the s.w. in Lancaster numbers peaked at 900 on Apr. 18 (KLG). Ruddy Turnstones moved N through the Salton Sea between Apr. 18 and May 10, with 25 at Salton City Apr. 26 (REW) being the largest single-day count this year. Two Sanderlings at the Tulare Lake Evaporation Ponds at the s. end of the San Joaquin Valley, *Kern*, Apr. 25 (SF), five on E.A.F.B. May 7-14 (MTH) and one more at C.L.N.A.W.S. May 16 (MTH) were the only ones found inland away from the Salton Sea this spring. A Surf-bird, casual to accidental away from the immediate vicinity of the coast, was on the Los Angeles R. just north of downtown Los Angeles Apr. 3 (KLG). The highest single day count of Red Knots on the Salton Sea this year was 125 on Apr. 26 (REW), but one photographed near Los Hills Apr. 27 (MOC) was the only one found away from the Salton Sea. As usual, a few Semipalmated Sandpipers were found with migrant W. Sandpipers, with three at N.E.S.S. Apr. 26 (REW), one at S.E.S.S. May 9 (RMcK), six together there May 10 (GMcC), two more there May 16 (BED), and single birds along the coast at Point Mugu May 2 (LAS) and the Santa Maria R. mouth May 22 (JSR). A White-rumped Sandpiper at S.E.S.S. May 30-31 (MAP, KAR) was the 12th to be found in California, and the 4th to be found on the Salton Sea at this time of year. A Baird's Sandpiper, very rare in spring, was on Klondike L. near Big Pine, *Inyo*, on the early date of Mar. 13 (T & JH). A Red Phalarope near Borrego Springs in e. *San Diego* Mar. 7 (KE), and another on Klondike L. near Big Pine Mar. 13 (T & JH) were at unexpected localities, especially so considering the time of year.

At least five S. Polar Skuas seen during a pelagic birding trip from San Pedro to Santa Barbara I. and the Osborne Bank May 31 (KLG) was more than expected. Two ad. Laughing Gulls, casual along the coast, were in Goleta May 6 (PEL), two more were on Upper Newport Bay May 9 (RT), one was in La Jolla May 16 (PU) and what was probably the same bird was at the mouth of the San Diego R. later that same day (TC). Reports of Franklin's Gulls included up to three on Oso Flaco L., *San Luis Obispo*, Apr. 25-26 (BKS), two near Santa Maria May 6 (JMC), three in Goleta May 9 (RGJ), two on Owens L., Apr. 19 (T & JH), two at E.A.F.B. May 23 (MTH), another at nearby California City May 24 (AS), two near Lancaster May 9 (KLG), one at N.E.S.S. May 10 (GMcC) and a 17th at S.E.S.S. May 2 (MAP). An ad. Little Gull, a very rare to casual visitor to Cal-

ifornia, was present at Santa Maria and on nearby Oso Flaco L. Mar. 24-May 22 (JMC, JSR), a first-year bird was in Playa del Rey, Los Angeles, Mar. 21 (MHe) and what was probably this same bird was photographed in nearby San Pedro Apr. 26-29 (MHe), and another first-year bird was inland at N.E.S.S. May 10 (GMcC). A 2nd-summer W. Gull, very rare away from the immediate vicinity of the coast, was compared directly with Yellow-footed Gulls at Salton City May 2 (MAP). A first-year Sabine's Gull, rare inland, especially so in spring, was at N.E.S.S. May 31 (GMcC).

Three Gull-billed Terns at S.E.S.S. Mar. 16 (WRR) building up to 25 by Mar. 20 (KCM), and five on s. San Diego Bay Mar. 29 (GMcC) were the earliest to be found this spring; one at the Santa Ynez R. mouth, Santa Barbara, May 12 (BH*i*) is only the 2nd ever to be found along the coast away from San Diego Bay, but the other was at this exact location June 3, 1990 (*Am. Birds* 44:1187, 1990). A Least Tern, a casual to accidental straggler to the interior away from the Salton Sea, was in California City May 23 (TW) followed by two more together there June 3 (JS); in addition one was at S.E.S.S. May 2 (MAP).

An alternate plumaged Pigeon Guillemot in La Jolla May 14-17 (DPo) was only the 2nd to be found in San Diego, though one was photographed a little to the south at the Los Coronados Is. in extreme n. Baja California 6 June 1969 (*Audubon Field Notes* 23:626, 1969). A sick Horned Puffin, rare on inshore waters, was captured at Pismo Beach, San Luis Obispo, Apr. 20 (EVJ).

DOVES TO HUMMINGBIRDS

A White-winged Dove on Pt. Loma in San Diego May 6 (PAG), another near Perris, Riverside, May 7 (RAE) and two in Newport Beach May 26 (RAE) were west of this species' normal range. The ♂ Inca Dove found in Borrego Springs, San Diego, Feb. 16 was still there well into April (AM), and two present at F.C.R. since October were seen feeding a recently fledged young there on May 24 (GMcC) to give us the n. most nesting locality in North America. A Com. Ground-Dove at Butterbredt Springs May 16-23 (MTH) and another at F.C.R. May 24 (GMcC) were well to the north of this species' normal range. The ♂ Ruddy Ground-Dove present in Ridgecrest, Kern, during the winter was still there Apr. 4 (MA), and three (two males and female) at F.C.R. May 17 through the end of the period (GMcC) were believed to have been present since the fall, and suspected to be nesting.

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at F.C.R. May 22 (PR) is the earliest to be found in s. California in recent years; one at Galileo Hill Pk.,

east of California City, Kern, June 4 (MTH), and another on the coast, where most unusual, in Goleta June 5 (DDe) were on more expected dates, this species being one of the latest to arrive in California in spring. Two Black Swifts over downtown Los Angeles May 26 (KLG) were the only migrants reported this spring. The first Chimney Swifts to be seen this year were two over Glendale, Los Angeles, May 15 (KLG); small numbers of these birds now regularly summer in the Los Angeles area. A ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbird at Bluff L. in the San Bernardino Mts. May 19-20 (GH) was away from the limited area of normal occurrence in s. California.



Away from its usual coastal haunts was this Wandering Tattler at the north end of the Salton Sea, California, on May 31, 1992. Photograph/ Deborah L. Davidson.

FLYCATCHERS TO VIREOS

An Alder Flycatcher at Butterbredt Springs May 30 (MTH, DVB, MOC) was only the 2nd reported giving the "fee-beo" song in California, the first being a tape-recorded bird on the S.F.K.R.P. 9-11 July 1991 currently under review by the C.B.R.C.. However, two or three "Traill's Flycatchers" giving "pip" calls attributed to Alder Flycatchers (Whitney and Kaufman. *Birding* 18:153-159, 1986), have previously been reported, but not endorsed by the C.B.R.C.. A Least Flycatcher, most unusual in spring, was carefully identified in San Pedro May 25 (MHe). A ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher near Cantil, Kern, May 7 (DVB) and a female at S.F.K.R.P. May 16 (JS) were away from areas of normal occurrence. The Dusky-capped Flycatcher present in Orange during the winter was last seen Apr. 4 (DRW). A Brown-crested Flycatcher at Ft. Piute, San Bernardino, May 9 (KAR) was in suitable nesting habitat, and not far from the Colorado R. where expect-

ed. The Thick-billed Kingbird that wintered in Seal Beach was last seen Apr. 25 (LRH), and the one that wintered in Lone Pine remained through at least Apr. 1 (T & JH). The only E. Kingbird to be found was one at S.F.K.R.P. June 2 (JS). Four Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported, with single birds on the coast in Laguna Beach Mar. 17-25 (JEP), and inland near Cactus City, Riverside, May 23 (JB), H.D.L. May 18 (EAC * S.B.C.M.) and at F.C.R. May 24 (GMcC).

Two Wrentits, presumably a pair, in Sand Canyon at the extreme s.w. corner of Inyo, Mar. 15 through at least June 9 (T & JH) were the first to be found in that county, and extend the range of this species a short distance E onto the e. slope of the Sierra Nevada Mts.; another pair at Cushenberry Spring near the n. base of the San Bernardino Mts. May 30 (RMcK) were at a desert location. A Brown Thrasher, a casual straggler to California, was at Oasis, Mono, May 24 (NBB).

An unprecedented five White-eyed Vireos were found, with single birds along the coast at Upper Newport Bay May 10 (WG) and in Wilmington, Los Angeles, May 25 (MHe), and inland at Butterbredt Springs May 14-17 (MTH), at S.F.K.R.P. May 24-25 (MW) and at Deep Springs, Inyo, May 31 (T & JH), bringing the total number recorded in s. California to 14, with all but two of these being in spring. An amazing seven Yellow-throated Vireos were reported, with single birds along the coast along Mono Creek, Santa Barbara, May 23 (JMG), in Redondo Beach May 9-10 (BB, EM), La Canada, Los Angeles, June 9-14 (RAE), Orange May 9 (DPu), Huntington Beach May 28-30 (JEP) and on Pt. Loma May 17 (GLR), and inland in Morongo Valley June 3 (EAC). A singing Red-eyed Vireo, a casual straggler to California, was at S.F.K.R.P. May 20 (JS) and another was in San Luis Obispo May 27 (EVJ).

WOOD WARBLERS

Southern California's 11th (6th in spring) Blue-winged Warbler was well studied in Mojave, Kern, May 22 (DVB, JCW). A ♂ Golden-winged Warbler, always an exciting bird to find in California, was at Oasis May 8 (BS). Tennessee Warblers were far scarcer than normal with only five found during May. Northern Parulas appeared to invade S. California, with an early individual on Pt. Loma Apr. 3-4 (PAG) followed by no fewer than 65 scattered throughout the Region by early June, with some of these still present in mid-June—an amazing number for a species unrecorded in the state prior to 1952. Only four Chestnut-sided Warblers were reported, with single birds inland near Big Pine May 28 (T & JH) and at California City May 23 (CL), and along the coast at Oso Flaco L. May 15 (JMC) and in Newport Beach May

16 (DRW).

A ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler over the open ocean about 15 mi s.w. of the Palos Verdes Pen., *Los Angeles*, May 31 (MHe, KLG), and another male on Pt. Loma May 18 (MBG) were unexpected since no more than a dozen have previously been found in s. California in spring, though it occurs regularly in small numbers every fall. A Yellow-throated Warbler, a very rare straggler to California, on Pt. Loma May 8-10 (DK) appeared to be of the western race *albiflora*. Two singing Grace's Warblers on Clark Mt., *San Bernardino*, May 23-24 (RJR) were at a locality where this species may occasionally nest. The Pine Warbler present on Pt. Loma all winter was still there, and in full song, on Apr. 12 (GMcC), and the female that wintered in Laguna Beach was last seen Mar. 15 (RAE). A Palm Warbler that spent the winter in Irvine was still present Apr. 12 (MTH); one at Oso Flaco L. Apr. 25 (BKS), another in Goleta Apr. 1 (SEF), a 3rd in Long Beach Apr. 3 (KLG), and another inland in San Timoteo Canyon, *Riverside*, Apr. 14 (RMcK) all probably wintered somewhere on the w. coast since vagrants from the east are not normally encountered in California until the latter half of May.

A ♀ Blackpoll Warbler, much less common in spring than in fall, was in Redondo Beach May 16-17 (EM). A singing Cerulean Warbler on Pt. Loma June 6 (REW) was only the 4th to be found in California in spring. Fifteen Black and white Warblers between May 9 and June 3 was far fewer than expected, as was 20 American Redstarts between Apr. 12 and June 2. A ♂ Prothonotary Warbler, a rare straggler to California, was near Wildrose Ranger Station in Death Valley Nat. Mon., *Inyo*, May 8 (RHN) and another was found in Newport Beach May 17 (WG). Four Worm-eating Warblers were found, with single birds along the coast in Redondo Beach May 26 (MHe) and Huntington Beach May 7 (DPu), another inland at Butterbredt Springs May 24 (H & PB) and the 4th inland near Big Pine May 19 (T & JH). Seven Ovenbirds, with one at Panamint Springs, *Inyo*, May 23 (NBB), five in e. *Kern* between May 20 and June 4 (RAE, MTH), and one on Pt. Loma May 22 (DT) was less than expected.

The only N. Waterthrushes reported this spring were one near Bishop, *Inyo*, May 3 (DPa), four in e. *Kern* between May 9 & 29 (MTH, JS, AME) and one along the coast in Irvine May 8 (DRW). A cooperative Louisiana Waterthrush in Huntington Beach May 5-6 (BED) was only the 6th to be found in California. Far more than the expected number of Kentucky Warblers were found with 24 reported between May 9 and

June 19. This includes single birds on the immediate coast in Los Osos May 9 (JSR) and Carpinteria May 16 (BA); one in the coastal lowlands near Corona, *Riverside*, June 19 (RMcK); nine along creeks on the upper w. slope of the coast range, with seven of these in the Santa Ynez R. watershed in *Santa Barbara* May 24 through June 19 (JMG, WW—including three near P-Bar May 28-29). Single individuals were at Mountain Homes Village in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mts. May 28 (JG), on Temecula Cr. near Fallbrook, *San Diego*, June 19-22 (KW) and on a small creek near Pine Valley, *San Diego*, June 8 (BC); nine at "oases" in the e. part of the Region with one at F.C.R. May 25 (RST), seven in e. *Kern* between May 9 and June 7 (AH, RAE, JMC, LT, RAH, MTH, MOC) and one in Morongo Valley June 10 (EAC); one on the w. slope of the Sierra Nevada Mts. in S.F.K.R.P. May 22 (MBS), and another high in the San Gabriel Mts. at Chilea June 15 (DS).

A Mourning Warbler, most unusual in spring, was in Mojave May 22 (MTH). Hooded Warblers were also far more numerous and widespread than usual with at least 36 found scattered throughout the Region between Apr. 18 and June 19, including up to six at S.F.K.R.P. May 20-22 (JS) with four of these still present in mid-June, up to four in Descanso Gardens located in La Canada-Flintridge, *Los Angeles*, May 10 (GB) through the end of the period, and a territorial male in Santa Barbara May 16 to the present (SEF), all appearing settled in for the summer.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

As usual, a few Summer Tanagers, all presumably of the nominate race *rubra*, were found with about 15 scattered throughout the n.e. part of the Region, and another 20 along the coast during May and early June. Twenty-five Rose-breasted Grosbeaks scattered throughout the Region during May appeared to be a little fewer than normal. A somewhat early Indigo Bunting on Pt. Loma Apr. 11-12 (GMcC) was followed by at least 15 scattered throughout the Region between May 5 and early June. A Dickcissel at F.C.R. May 22 (MAP, BED) was one of only a few found in California in spring.

A Clay-colored Sparrow, most unusual in spring, was near Butterbredt Springs May 24 (MTH) and another was in Joshua-tree woodland e. of Lancaster Apr. 24 (KLG). A Black-chinned Sparrow in Weir Canyon, *Orange*, Mar. 9 (BED) followed by another there Mar. 11 (BED) were very early for spring migrants. A Black-throated Sparrow on the Palos Verdes Pen., Mar. 31 (FT) and another in Newport Beach Apr. 6 (RAE) were along the coast where rare. A Sharp-



Louisiana Waterthrush in Huntington Beach, California, on May 5, 1992. Photograph/Mitch Heindel.

tailed Sparrow at F.C.R. May 22 (BHe) was the 6th to be found inland in California, but five of these were in this general area at this time of year. A singing Swamp Sparrow in San Diego May 30 (PU) is best treated as a spring vagrant rather than a very late staying wintering bird.

As usual a few Bobolinks were found in the n.e. portion of the Region, with an early male in California City May 8 (JCW), at least six at F.C.R. between May 17 and 24 (T & JH, MAP), and up to eight near Independence, *Inyo*, June 2-14 (AK); along the coast where much rarer, a singing male was at the Santa Ynez R. mouth May 14 (BHi), another was near San Pedro May 24 (MHe) and a 3rd was in Torrance, *Los Angeles*, May 29 (DMo). The Com. Grackle found in Big Pine Feb 16 was still present Mar. 29 (T & JH), and another was seen along the coast on Pt. Loma Apr. 23 (VPJ & BJ). Nine ♂ N. (Baltimore) Orioles found scattered throughout the Region between May 8 and June 7 constituted an average number.

A Lesser Goldfinch showing the characters of the black-backed race *mexicanus* was observed in La Tuna Canyon, *Los Angeles*, May 9 (KFC) and another was seen at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley Nat. Mon., *Inyo*, May 8-14 (T & JH).

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HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

Robert L. Pyle

El Niño conditions continued through the spring, and are expected to persist for another season or two. Despite some rainfall relief during May, precipitation amounts for the season were below normal at 24 of 31 reporting stations, many of them reporting <50% and some <30%. Warm ocean temperatures in the tropical central Pacific disrupted food supplies for seabirds, leading to poor or even non-existent spring breeding seasons for some species. Spring nesting was generally successful for several significant endemic Hawaiian landbird species, although the critically *Endangered* 'Alala is still in deep, deep trouble.

Abbreviations: BPBM (prefix for catalog numbers of specimens in B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu); H. (*Hawai'i I.*); K. (*Kaua'i I.*); M. (*Mau'i I.*); O. (*O'ahu I.*); JCNWR (*James Campbell Nat'l Wildlife Ref., O.*); KPNWR (*Kilauea Point Nat'l Wildlife Ref., K.*).

ALBATROSSES TO FRIGATEBIRDS

One Laysan Albatross chick hatched successfully in the state Natural Area Reserve at Kaena Pt., O., and was ready to fledge in late June (DS). One Black-footed Albatross was seen at sea from Makahu'ena Pt. on the s. coast of Kaua'i May 6 (SB). Sustained observation from Makahu'ena Pt. during late afternoons to near darkness May 6 (2.75 hrs.) and May 8 (1.5 hrs.) yielded the following seabird counts: Dark-rumped (Hawaiian) Petrels (*Endangered*) 45+, 38; Newell's Shearwaters (*Threatened*) 195, 55; Wedge-tailed Shearwaters 2000±, 1100; Sooty Shearwaters 2, 1; and lesser numbers of resident White-tailed Tropicbirds, Brown and Red-footed Boobies, and Great Frigatebirds (all by SB). Such careful observations over sustained periods have not been reported previously by Kaua'i birders; but more of these at various seasons would clearly add much to our knowledge of seabird occurrence near shore. The Hawaiian Petrel counts are particularly interesting since this *Endangered Pterodroma* is believed to breed on Kaua'i only in very small numbers. One Hawaiian Petrel was reported seen Apr. 10 from Polihale Beach on n.w. coast of Kaua'i (CF). Also interesting were three Hawaiian Petrels, one pair and one single, observed May 9 from a small boat three mi offshore of Hawai'i I., n. of Kailua-Kona (TS *vide* BD). Only a very small number are thought to breed on Hawaii I. Most of the known population breeds near the summit of Haleakala Mt., M., where returning birds were first heard Mar 11 (JO)

One storm-petrel identified as a Band-rumped was reported 4 mi off Hawai'i I., n. of Kailua-Kona May 9 (TS *vide* BD).

HERONS TO GEESE

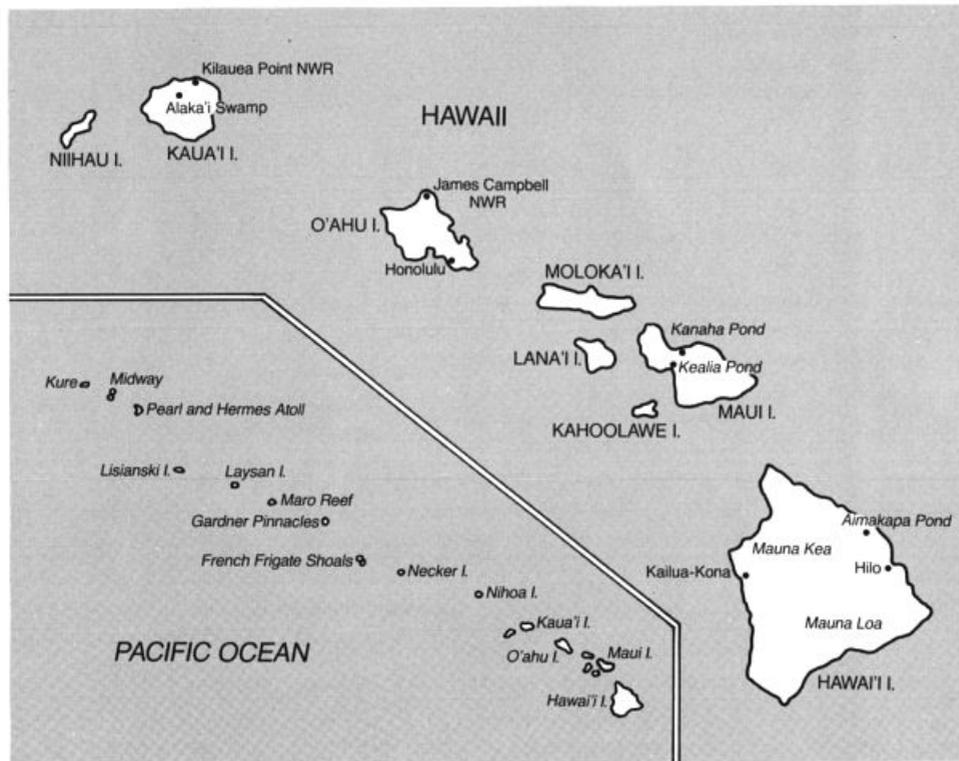
One Great Blue Heron, a non-breeding straggler to Hawaii, was seen at Hanalei N.W.R., K., Mar. 7 and Apr. 24, indicating that it may be resident at least for now in the several river valleys along the n. shore of Kauai (KV). A vagrant Cattle Egret was seen at Johnston Atoll Mar. 8 through at least May 3 (ph DO).

Nene (Hawaiian Goose, *Endangered*) nested successfully this year on Kaua'i at 2 places outside of (but near) the Kipu Kai area where a small introduced population of Hawaii's state bird has been nesting for a number of years. One of these outlying pairs had three goslings hatch Apr. 11, a rather late date. Nesting was also successful at Kipu Kai this year, and the wild population roaming over s. and e. Kaua'i has grown now to around 100 birds. Of 12 Nene transported last summer across the island to Crater Hill, KPNWR, eight are still doing well. They did not breed there this season, but perhaps they will next year (all Nene by TT).

The two imm. Snow Geese wintering at JCNWR departed about the end of April (George Fisher *vide* PD), and the one that remained through the winter at Hanalei N.W.R., K., was last seen with the Cackling Canada Geese Apr. 27 (KV). The group of seven Cacklings including the neck-banded bird that appeared at Hanalai last fall and moved to O'ahu in March, returned to Hanalei Apr. 15 and was last seen there Apr 27 (KV). The marked bird had been originally banded in the Yukon delta area of Alaska in July, 1989; it wintered in 1989-1990 at Tule L. and Sacramento N.W.R., CA, and in 1990-1991 in the lower Willamette Valley, OR (Sue Shafer *vide* GM).

DUCKS TO SHOREBIRDS

The huge flock of Green-winged Teal at Kealia Pond, M. reached a high count of 64 Mar. 28, an extraordinary number for Hawaii. But all had departed by Apr. 4 (JO). The Garganey wintering at Kealia molted into fine male plumage and had departed by Apr. 4 (JO). One N. Shoveler from a small wintering flock at Hanalei N.W.R., K., remained until June 8, a very late date (KV). The Osprey at Kealia Pond remained until season's end (JO), and a light-colored ad Peregrine Falcon was seen at Ulupau Head, O. May 7 (TC). Both species are occasional winter visitors to the islands. One Com (Hawaiian) Moorhen (*Endangered*) was seen May 16 at Waipi'o Pen., O. (PD), and an adult and a juvenile were seen together May 20 at nearby Puohala Marsh in Waipahu



Barbers Pt. Naval Air Sta., O., during April (JM). These follow a Barn Owl strike at Lihue Airport, K., several months earlier, and are causing considerable concern to airport officials and the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Animal Damage Control Unit in Hawaii. A Short-eared Owl seen alive at Laysan I. and found dead Apr. 5 (KK, BPBM 178614) may well turn out to be of an Asiatic race rather than the endemic Hawaiian form. One (Hawaiian) Short-eared Owl (Pueo) was seen May 9 near the junction of Pihea and Kilohana trails deep in the forest of Kaua'i (SB). A group of 14 Rose-ringed Parakeets observed at Waita Res., K., Apr. 7 (PB) is the largest number reported since the somewhat larger flock abandoned its evening roost 2-3 years ago at Kukuilono Pk. in Kalaheo, 8 km from Waita.

(DS), both interesting localities for this species.

Four Semipalmated Plovers, an unusually large group of this uncommon fall and winter visitor, remained at Kealia Pond through Apr. 4, and two were still there at end of May (JO). Two Black-bellied Plovers, another uncommon visitor, were also last seen Apr. 4 (JO). One, and possibly two, with some black coming in on the underparts, were found near the reef runway at Honolulu Airport Mar. 27 (WJ, JM). A Black-necked (Hawaiian) Stilt (*Endangered*) observed well at Sand I., Midway May 2-3 (S. Marston *vide* BF) was way out of range. One Bristle-thighed Curlew was observed Apr. 16 about one mi n. of the beach at Ho'okena on the w. coast of Hawaii, an interesting locality (JE *vide* BD). Two Red Phalaropes were at Laysan I., Feb. 7-Mar. 27 (KK), and one was picked up dead at Sand I., Johnston Atoll Mar. 16 (R. Pitman *vide* RD).

GULLS TO 'ALALA

Single Franklin's Gulls in breeding plumage, an uncommon spring transient here, were reported at Kealia Pond, M., May 5 (JO) and at Amoriet Aquafarm, O., May 15 (PD). One or two were seen several times at Puohala Marsh in Waipahu, O. May 20-June 12 (DS), the latter a very late date. Two imm. Laughing Gulls were at Johnston Atoll Mar. 8-15 (R. Pitman *vide* RD); and single imm. Herring Gulls were reported at Midway (SR), Laysan (KK), and at Hanapepe Salt Pond, K. (TT). These gulls are casual visitors to Hawaii. Two Arctic Terns were at Kealia

S. A.

Intensive legal activity this spring resulted in permitting U.S.F.&W.S. biologists to conduct a thorough survey of the remaining range of wild 'Alala (Hawaiian Crow, critically *Endangered*) on the privately-owned McCandless Ranch in s.w. Hawai'i I. Five pairs on different territories and an 11th unattached bird were found; these are believed to be about all of the birds now remaining in the wild. Three pairs were nesting to the point of incubating eggs; one chick did hatch successfully from one nest in late April and was about ready to fledge at season's end. Another nest hatched two chicks, but both were predated by rats when 3 weeks old. The 3rd nest failed before hatching (JE, FD). The survey will continue until all nesting activity has been completed.

Concurrently, a blue-ribbon committee of the National Academy of Sciences, in a study funded by the F. & W., recommended that in next spring's breeding season first clutches of eggs be removed for captive rearing, in hopes the wild birds will produce 2nd clutches and raise them successfully. The committee also recommended establishing a 2nd captive breeding facility, and creation of at least one more designated preserve for eventual release of captive-reared birds. Meanwhile, in the captive flock at the state's Olinda facility, nesting this year was later than normal, possibly because of the very dry conditions on Maui. One chick hatched successfully at the end of May. Two other eggs in the same clutch developed to term, but the chicks were malpositioned within the shell and died before they could hatch (FD). These and other problems in the Olinda flock result from inbreeding among the captive birds, all of which are closely related as siblings or parents. Adding unrelated birds to this captive flock, while still maintaining maximum productivity by the wild birds, were recommended in the N.A.S. report as the primary steps for trying to increase the total 'Alala population as fast as possible, in hopes of pulling the species back from the brink of extinction.

Pond, M. Apr. 27-May 1 (JO) and one was at Hanalei N.W.R., K., Apr. 27-May 5 (KV). Good numbers of migrating Arctic Terns were observed May 9 from a boat 2 mi offshore of Hawai'i I. between Kailua-Kona and Makalawena. One hundred twenty were counted in one hour, and "probably several hundred were in the area" (TS *vide* BD).

Five Barn Owls were struck by planes at

BUSH-WARBLERS TO GRACKLES

Two Japanese Bush-Warblers heard calling on Kaho'olawe I., Mar. 25 (SO) were the first reported from that desolate military target island. The species continues to increase on Maui; they are reported as now common on the forested slopes of Haleakala Mt. and around Paliku Cabin on the crater floor (CH). One 'Elepaio heard Mar. 18 in Waihole Valley

in windward O'ahu (LP), and an immature seen May 14 near the head of Aiea Loop Trail in c. O'ahu (PS), are encouraging since this species has crashed badly on O'ahu in the past decade. Another species coming back well on O'ahu, the alien Red-billed Leiothrix, was seen and heard in small groups during this season at Old Waimanalo Road (PB) and Waihole Valley (LP) on the windward side of the Ko'olau Mts., and on Aiea Trail (PS, PD) and in upper Moanalua Valley (LP) on the leeward side. A Saffron Finch was heard singing Apr. 14 at Honolulu Airport (JL), an interesting locality for this once-established alien species now nearly extirpated from O'ahu.

In recent years, Yellow-billed Cardinals have been spreading steadily N and S along the Kona coast from their original locality just n. of Kailua-Kona, H. Two interesting reports this season indicate further range extension: two adults and one juvenile May 10 at Ka'alu'alu beach on the east side of South Pt. (TP); and one adult Apr. 25 in Waipi'o Valley near the river mouth on the northeast coast of the island (TS *vide* BD). Both of O'ahu's Great-tailed Grackles were reported this spring: the female flying over settling ponds at Waipi'o Pen., Mar.10 (EE), and the male at its regular haunt in Sand Island Park in Honolulu several times (PB, PD). These single birds have been around for more than 10 and 5 years, respectively; their origin remains a mystery.

HAWAIIAN HONEYCREEPERS

A ♂ Maui Parrotbill (*Endangered*) was seen with Maui Creepers Mar. 27 near 5750-ft. elevation in Waikamoi Preserve, M., and a female was photographed and videotaped in the same area the following day (JJe). It is encouraging that this very rare species continues to be reported in this relatively accessible area. In mid-April, during the state forestbird survey, four parrotbills were found at the opposite end of Haleakala Crater on Kuiki Ridge near Kipahulu Valley (Jim Jacobi, Paul Conry *vide* CH), an interesting new location for this species. Several were also seen during the survey in the Hanawi area (CH), their regular range. None of Maui's super-rare endemics, Nukupu'u, 'Akepa, or Po'ouli, were found. Several Com. 'Amakihi were seen on the valley floor at the back of Waihe'e Valley in windward O'ahu Mar. 13 (LT), another low-elevation record for this endemic species.

Three plus a probable 4th 'Akikiki (Kaua'i Creeper) were found on the Koai'e Stream trail in the Alaka'i area May 10 (SB). In recent years this species has become very difficult to find in accessible areas between Koke'e and the Alaka'i. At Hakalau N.W.R., H., 13 nests of Hawai'i 'Akepa (*Endangered*) were found and monitored through the season. By end of May five had successfully fledged young, and five others still had nestlings. Two nesting males

were 2 years old (not fully orange) and two were one year (no orange). Neither of these classes had been seen to breed before (JL). One of each age class successfully reared its young. 'Iwi and 'Apapane had good breeding seasons at Hakalau this year, associated with unusually heavy ohia flowering this winter and spring. 'Iwi began nesting in October, and some were still incubating in active nests at end of May (JL).

And finally, at Waikamoi Preserve, M., 4 active nests of 'Akohekohe (Crested Honeycreeper, *Endangered*) were discovered during March and April, the first nests found of this species since one was reported 132 years ago. Young birds fledged successfully from two nests, one still contained chicks, and one was

being built Apr. 6 (EV).

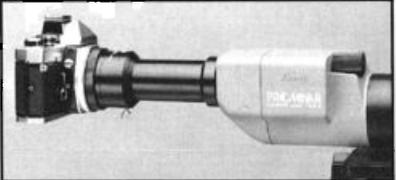
Contributors: Stephen Bailey, Philip Bruner, Tom Coles, Jim Denny, Phil Dingler, Roger DiRosa, Peter Donaldson, Bob Dusek, Fern Duvall, Bruce Eilerts, Paul Ekern, John Engbring, Craig Faanes, Beth Flint, Lorin Gill, Cathleen Hodges, Jack Jeffrey, Wally Johnson, Kay Kepler, Jaan Lepson, Loyal Mehrhoff, Greg Mensik, Jim Murphy, Donna O'Daniel, Jerry Oldenettel, Storrs Olson, Thane Pratt, Leilani Pyle, Scott Robinson, Farida Shaw, Dave Smith, Tom Snetsinger, Alice Stewart, Phil Swan, Lance Tanino, Tom Telfer, Ellen VanGelder, Kathleen Viernes, Alan Ziegler.—**ROBERT L. PYLE, 741 N. Kalaheo Ave., Kailua, HI 96734.**

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