

**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
P.P.	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.	juvenal 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 28, 1993

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ATLANTIC PROVINCES REGION

Blake Maybank

Spring offered modest relief from one of the worst winters in memory. The weather became unremarkable once interminable March ended, except in Newfoundland, which was still looking for spring in July. Among frequent storms, the only memorable "blow" was the "Winter Storm-of-the-Century" in March (see S.A.). Fortunately (for the birds), migration was largely uneventful and simply a bit behind schedule until the second week of May. Fortunately (for the birders), there were many rarities to brighten a dull day, at least on the mainland.

Reporting was good from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Saint-Pierre et Michelon and spotty from Newfoundland. Only a few sightings were received from Prince Edward Island. New Brunswick now has a Birds Records Committee, a welcome addition to the Region. Nova Scotia, regrettably, lacks a review committee, even a repository for rare bird reports. Most rarities reported to the Nova Scotia Bird Society are undocumented and do not make their way into this report, unless unequivocal.

Abbreviations: G.M. (*Grand Manan archipelago, New Brunswick*); S.P.M. (*Saint-Pierre et Miquelon*).

LOONS TO HERONS

Miraculous, but well documented, was an ad. **Yellow-nosed Albatross** circling a traffic circle (where else?) for 15 min., May 24 at a mall in Dieppe/Moncton, NB (ST, R. Mallet, ph.). The big bird carried the 2nd provincial record, one of few documented for the Region and also (naturally?) the first inland record for the Region.

Southern herons enjoyed an excellent spring in April and May. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick received the lion's share:

	NS	NB	PEI	NF	SP
Great Egret	5	2			2
Little Blue Heron	2	8			
Snowy Egret	7	3	1	1	
Tricolored Heron	6	1			
Cattle Egret	3	2			1
Glossy Ibis		8			
Green-backed Heron		5	2*		

*Extralimital.



S.A.

The winter "Storm-of-the-Century" arrived Mar. 13-14, tracked up the Bay of Fundy, and quickly weakened. To the east of the track was rain, to the west, snow. The storm, which had moved quickly up from the Carolinas, carried several waifs: **Brown Pelican** (corpse), Meteghan, NS; **Great Egrets** in Freeport, NS (Mar. 23, record early for the province), G.M. (two), and S.P.M. (two, Mar. 17 & 21); three **Tundra Swans** in e. Nova Scotia, on G.M.; **Am. Woodcock** (dead) on S.P.M., Mar. 28 (*fide* RE); four "peeps" on Cape Sable, NS, and another in the Annapolis Valley, NS; three **Laughing Gulls** in s.e. Nova Scotia (two alive, one dead) and a dozen around G.M.; two **Black Skimmers** in Nova Scotia, one dead on Sable I., and one picked up live near Lockport, rehabilitated, and released from a ocean freighter off the Carolinas; a hummingbird species at a house in the Annapolis Valley, NS, hovering where a feeder hangs in summer; and single **Purple Martins** rescued in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Both succumbed.

The **Little Egret** on Bon Portage I., NS, returned for its 5th spring.

WATERFOWL

Snow Geese escaped mention in New Brunswick, but Nova Scotia had a large temporary influx, a Flock of 100+ at Connors Brook Apr. 18 (P. Giffin), and a day later 22 at Kingsport (K. Hobson). More than 35 reports

of Wood Ducks in Nova Scotia indicate a continuing expansion. Also expanding on the mainland were N. Shovelers and Gadwalls, with New Brunswick and Nova Scotia each reporting 15 pairs of the former, 20 of the latter. Three ad. ♂ Eur. Wigeons were seen in New Brunswick, at Cape Jourmain Apr. 25; Gagetown I., May 14; and G.M., May 14 (BD), for the 2nd local record.

After the identification difficulties of the overwintering imm. ♀ **Tufted Duck** at Halifax, NS, it was a pleasure to view an ad. male at Waverly, NS, Mar. 21-Apr. 14 (C. Cornell *et al.*, ph.). Away from their burgeoning New Brunswick stronghold (50+ pairs this spring) were three **Lesser Scaup** in Nova Scotia and one each in S.P.M. and Newfoundland.

Uncharacteristically, New Brunswick dominated the **King Eider** sightings, 12 total, all in April and May. These included 10 ♂ birds in the Acadian pen., six with 6000 Commons at Val-Comeau (RD). The other Regional report (and the only female) was at Cape Sable I., NS, Mar. 15 (BMy, JT). The endangered e. population of **Harlequin Ducks** was encouragingly reported, with 18 birds from 3 locations in Nova Scotia, and 6 reports of 27 birds from New Brunswick, including 16 at The Wolves Mar. 28 (*fide* JE).

RAPTORS TO SHOREBIRDS

Turkey Vultures are holding their own in Nova Scotia. A few apparently overwintered on Brier I.; elsewhere in the province, there were 4 reports of a total of nine birds. Confirmation of local breeding cannot be far off. New Brunswick had 5 observations of single birds. The **Black Vulture** captured in Nova Scotia last winter died in early March of unknown causes. The first documented **Mississippi Kite** for the Region was an adult on Brier I., May 15-20 (RS, PM, ph.)—regrettably uncooperative toward listers. Northern **Goshawks** were well reported this season, with 10 from Nova Scotia, five from New Brunswick, and one (shot) on S.P.M. (*fide* RE).

Gyrfalcons were present at Cape Smokey,



Adult Laughing Gull at St. John's, Newfoundland, May 1, 1993. Photograph/Bruce Mactavish.

NS, Apr. 9 (BD) and Slemon Park, PEI, Apr. 4 (J. te Raa). There were 3 April sightings from New Brunswick and ≥ 10 in e. Newfoundland (*vide* BMt).

More remarkable than even the albatross record was a **Corn Crane** discovered on Brier I., May 4–5 (PM; details in *Nova Scotia Birds*). This record was the first for N. America since 1928 (that in Newfoundland), and only the 2nd in spring. The single-observer account is reasonably convincing.

It was an excellent spring for migrant nonregionally breeding shorebirds:

	NS	NB	PEI	NF	SP
Black-bellied Plover		200	120		6
L. Golden-Plover	13				
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	5			1
Ruddy Turnstone	50	5			
Sanderling	300	25			
Red Knot					1
Semi. Sandpiper	13	12			
Wh.-rumped Sandpiper	1	3			
Sh.-billed Dowitcher	3	1			

Three single Upland Sandpipers graced Nova Scotia late April–early May. A “Eurasian” Whimbrel was described on S.P.M., May 17–20 (B. Letournel). Ruffs were reported from Brier I., NS, Apr. 19–20 (PM), and Wishart Pt., NB, May 30 (RD *et al.*). The best spring shorebird was the **American Oystercatcher** on G.M., May 26 (BD), billing the 5th provincial (and 4th local) record. The first successfully overwintering Sanderlings for New Brunswick were 15 on Grand Manan (*vide* BD). Wilson’s Phalaropes are doing well in New Brunswick, turning up in 4 reports of 16 birds.

GULLS TO ALCIDES

The only jaegers reported were Pomarine, and virtually all were from e. Newfoundland in May (2 reports of 14 birds) (*vide* BMt). A Laughing Gull in St. John’s, NF, Apr. 26 (P. Linegar *et al.*) was the earliest for the province by 5 days. An overdue first Regional record was set by a **California Gull** at Lower Jemseg, NB, May 11–12 (J. Wilson *et al.*, ph.). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were scattered, with singles from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and three from Newfoundland. Little Gulls were at Cape Sable I., NS, Mar. 27 (B. Doan), and Tracadie, NB, May 16 (RD). Amazingly early were four Arctic Terns at Renew, NF, Apr. 24 (B.Mt *et al.*) and a single bird at S.P.M. the following day (J.&C. Hebert), heralding the first April records for the Region. The arrival of the birds was preceded by 5 days of strong southerly winds (see S.A.).

DOVES TO FLYCATCHERS

A **White-winged Dove** (virtually annual in the Region) was at Cape Sable I., NS, May 8–10 (W. Atwood *et al.*). Within their limited Regional breeding range were three calling Boreal Owls in the Acadian Pen. of New Brunswick (*vide* RD), five territorial birds in the Avalon Pen. of Newfoundland (*vide*

BMt), and a bird seen in flight on S.P.M. (*vide* RE). It was a good Snowy Owl spring, with two birds in New Brunswick, 10 in S.P.M., and at least 50 in e. Newfoundland.

A desperate extralimital Ruby-throated Hummingbird was photographed May 23 in the town of St.-Pierre, S.P.M., as it hovered at a window, attracted by a display of silk flowers inside (P. Dupont). Three **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** were in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia this spring, including one that overwintered successfully.

SWALLOWS TO WAXWINGS

Tree Swallows may be recovering on the mainland after several disastrous springs; 800+ were at Amherst, NS, Apr. 24 (BMy, A. Covert). They remain scarce on S.P.M. and in Newfoundland. Four extralimital N. Rough-winged Swallows were split between New Brunswick at Hopewell Cape May 15 (ST) and Bancroft Pt., May 17 (BD) and Nova Scotia at Annapolis Royal May 20 (BMy) and Sable I., May 29 (ZL). A Cliff Swallow on Sable I., NS, May 9–12, had a chestnut-colored forehead, suggestive of the s.w. race (ZL).

A singing House Wren at Petite-Riviere-de-l’Ile, NB, May 26–28, provided the first record for the Acadian Pen. (*vide* RD). A Brown Creeper seen Apr. 8 on S.P.M. represented only the 4th record for the islands (RE). A single Blue-gray Gnatcatcher reached Seal I., NS, May 24 (IM *et al.*), but there were several New Brunswick sightings, including a pair at Cape Jourimain N.W.A., May 16 (ST) and singles at Caraquet May 19 (C. Ouellette) and G.M., May 26 (*vide* BD).

Long overdue was Newfoundland’s first **Eastern Bluebird**, an acceptable single-observer sighting of an ad. male on Ramea I., May 24 (RN, *vide* BMt). A **Wood Thrush** on Ramea I., Apr. 20–24 (RN, ph.) gave the province its 2nd record. A Brown Thrasher at Monticello, PEI, May 25 (G. MacDonald) constituted one of few provincial records. Northern Shrikes were scarce, with just 5 reports from Nova Scotia, 3 from New Brunswick, one from S.P.M., and none (!) from Newfoundland. A **Loggerhead Shrike** at Lameque I., NB, Apr. 18 (R. Chiasson) was a good (increasingly rare) find.

VIREOS, WARBLERS

Warblers seemed numerous, despite the absence of foul-weather fallouts. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was noted at Tracadie, NB, May 30–June 1 (RD, ph.). This was only the 2nd time a Pine Warbler overwintered successfully in Newfoundland, at Brigus. The late April southerly flow (see S.A.) brought at least four and *as many as seven* **Prothonotary Warblers** to Brier I., NS (PM *et al.*). Some lingered several weeks. **Worm-eating Warblers** at Three Fathom Harbour (*vide* L. Conrad) and Port Morien (CM), both in Nova Scotia Apr. 24, were part of the same movement. Four Ovenbirds on S.P.M. was a high seasonal count for the islands (RE). An ad. ♀ **Kentucky Warbler** was discovered on Cape

Sable I., May 20 (MN *et al.*). New Brunswick had the only **Hooded Warbler**, in Fredricton, May 19 (M. Acheson).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

S.A.

A persistent flow of S and SW winds during the 3rd week of April brought a flood of unusual or early birds to the Region. The phenomenon was similar to that described in an S.A. in this column 2 years ago, but the fallout this time was more widespread, with more species involved. The bulk of this movement centered on New England, with the number and diversity of the fallout gradually lessening from SW to NE. As before, feeder birds and colorful frugivores were the most readily observed, with insectivores passing mostly unseen, except on some of the islands. Some birds escaped notice on first arrival but were subsequently seen as they moved about. Some species (e.g., Killdeer or Barn Swallow) that were evidently part of the movement in S.P.M. and Newfoundland escaped notice on the mainland, mixed with regular migrants. The following table lists all records thought to pertain to this movement:

	NS	NB	PEI	NF	SP
Little Blue Heron			1		
Snowy Egret	2	3			
Tricolored Heron	6	1			
Cattle Egret	3	2			1
N. Harrier					1
Killdeer					1
Lesser Yellowlegs	1				1
Spotted Sandpiper	1				
Upland Sandpiper	3				
Arctic Tern				4	1
Tree Swallow					2
Barn Swallow					5
Swainson’s Thrush	1				
Wood Thrush				1	
Gray Catbird				1	
Loggerhead Shrike		1			
Red-eyed Vireo		1			
Ovenbird	1				
N. Waterthrush					1
Prothonotary Warbler	7				
Worm-eating Warbler		2			
Hooded Warbler		1			
Summer Tanager	9	1			
Scarlet Tanager	12				1
Rose-br. Grosbeak	20	10		7	2
Blue Grosbeak	16	10	1		1
Indigo Bunting	50	30	8	5	1
Rufous-sided Towhee	1				
Chipping Sparrow					1
Field Sparrow	2				
Orchard Oriole	1				

Rufous-sided Towhees abounded this year, with two in Nova Scotia, 10 in New Brunswick (*vide* ST; BD, JE), and one on S.P.M., May 18, for the 3rd local record (*vide*

RE) Field Sparrows also had a good spring, with 4 Nova Scotia and 4 New Brunswick records. An overwintering Lark Sparrow in W. Pubnico, NS, was last seen Mar. 11 (L. D'entremont), and a migrant was on Sable I., NS, May 17–18 (ZL). Two "Ipswich" Savannah Sparrows on G.M., in March, were the first successful overwintering birds in the province (BD). May 2 several thousand Savannahs were noted on Seal and Brier Is., NS, a concentrated one-day phenomenon. A Seaside Sparrow was reported from Cape Sable I. in late May (MN *et al.*), providing one of few Regional spring records. A cooperative Harris' Sparrow, caught up in the movement of White-crowns (*see below*), was at a feeder at Cape Sable I., NS, May 15–22 (G. Atwood, m.ob.). There are about 4 records for the province. Heavy snow conditions on the mainland in early April concentrated Fox Sparrow migration at feeders; thousands moved through New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Apr. 7–9. At West Pennant, NS, a Lincoln's Sparrow stayed the winter, a provincial first. Five Lincoln's in a "flock" at S.P.M. was unprecedented (*vide RE*). An excellent movement of White-crowned Sparrows (all eastern race) came through May 10–24; Nova Scotia 40+; New Brunswick 30+; Prince Edward I., 3, and S.P.M., 3. Finally, an "Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco was on Seal I., NS, May 23 (IM *et al.*).

Orchard Orioles had a remarkable spring. Except for a first-year male on Seal I., Apr. 21, all sightings were of immatures, May 15–25. Nova Scotia had four, including two at Brier I. and one each at Seal I. and Three Fathom Harbour, while New Brunswick had seven, represented by six on G.M., with three males in the same tree, and another at Westfield. Compatriots of the same movement were imm. N. Orioles, including two "Bullock's"—one at Saint John, NB, May 17 (C. Johnston) and one at Brier Is., May 23 (BMy, K. Allsebrook).

The 3rd provincial, and 6th Regional, Common Chaffinch was an ad. male at a feeder in Elgin, NS, Apr. 13–15 (KM *et al.*). A quick finch report—Pine Grosbeaks, common only in Nova Scotia; House Finches, very common in Saint John, NB, erratic in Nova Scotia; both crossbills, thin everywhere; Pine Siskins, an excellent year; Am. Goldfinches, abundant; and Evening Grosbeaks, widespread. Finally, a wild?/escaped? ♂ Eur. Goldfinch visited 3 proximal New Brunswick feeders Apr. 17–28 (*vide JE*).

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QUEBEC REGION

Yves Aubry and Richard Yank

March proved to be an extension of winter, with generally cold and dry conditions. What some termed "the storm of the century" hit the province March 13, bringing up to 45 cm of blowing snow to parts of southwestern Quebec and dumping 55 cm of the white stuff onto the Gaspé Peninsula. After a warm start, major snow storms moved across southern Quebec April 10–11 and again as late as April 22. Consequently, the effect on early migrant passerines was potentially severe. Dead Tree Swallows reported along the Richelieu River provided direct, but limited, evidence (*vide D. Bird*). May averaged cooler and wetter than normal, despite unseasonably warm weather during the first 10 days of the month, producing several early arrival records (*see table*). The Gaspé Peninsula and the North Shore of the St. Lawrence received snow May 11–13, and the latter part of the month was marked by several tropical storms that tracked up the Atlantic seaboard. These weather patterns brought several noteworthy overshoots into eastern Quebec, including several egrets, southern warblers, and buntings.

LOONS TO WATERFOWL

The St. Lawrence estuary is an important staging area for Red-throated Loons. Unusually large migrant flocks involved more than 1000 birds that flew W past Rivière-Ouelle, Kamouraska, May 14 (CA) and approximately 500 birds farther east off I. aux Basques May 24 (C. Brodeur, M. Darveau). At least 5000 N. Gannets flying E off Métis-sur-Mer, Matane, represented an unexpected concentration so far up the St. Lawrence Apr. 24 (T. Delpôte).

Southern waders made a good showing. A Snowy Egret picked up at Chevery along the North Shore May 23, after being attacked by a Peregrine Falcon, survived and was later released (A. Rowell). Single Little Blue Herons appeared at Saint-Augustin, Portneuf, Apr. 23 (R. Lepage) and farther e. at Baie-Saint-Paul May 25–29 (P. Trudel, H. Mead *et al.*), while a rarely encountered Tricolored Heron was detected at Saraguay, Montreal, May 10 (D. L'Espérance). Cattle Egrets were reported from 7 locales in s.w. Quebec, while one wandered N to Sainte-Blandine, Rimouski, May 29–30 (JRP, LB). Glossy Ibises invaded e. portions of the province. The first was noted at Beauport, Quebec, Apr. 29 (R. Berger), and another reached Havre-aux-Basques, Magdalen Is., May 4 (BL). Up to 15 congregated at Métis-Beach near Matane May 8–15 (S. Massé). Birds probably from the latter flock subsequently appeared farther west along the St. Lawrence R., with ≤4 at Cacouna May 15–30 (*vide LB*) and 10 at L'Isle-Verte, Rivière-du-Loup, May 24 (YG). In w. Quebec, A Glossy Ibis was seen at Saint-Etienne, Beauharnois, May 8 (YG), and 2 birds fre-

quented L. Saint-Pierre late in the month (L. Bélanger).

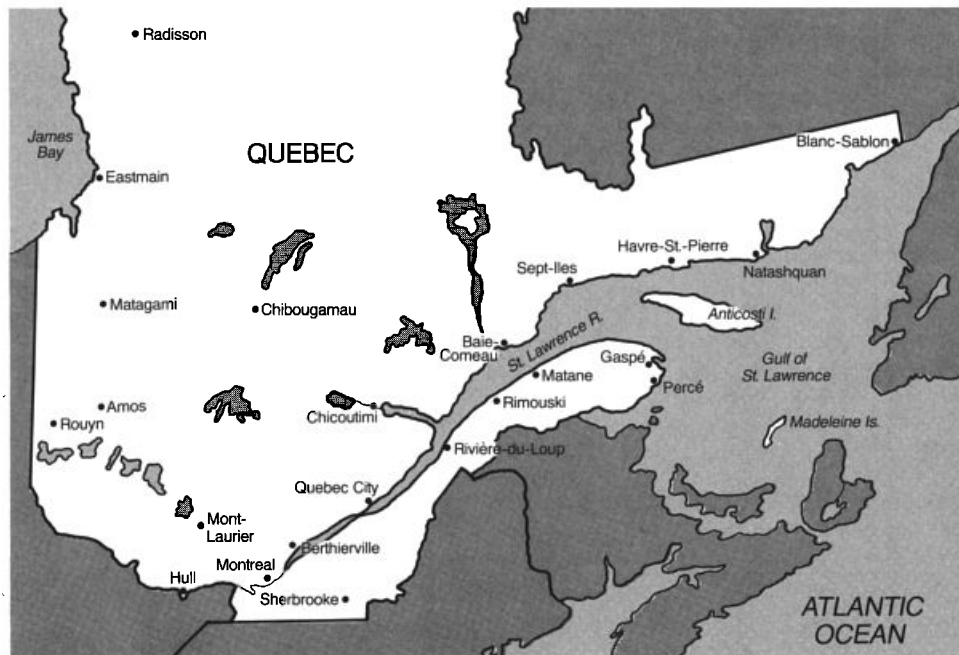
Late and e. of their usual migration route were single Tundra Swans at Portneuf May 2 (CM) and Baie-du-Febvre, Yamaska, May 11–15 (P. Landry, m.ob.). The first Trumpeter Swans to be sighted in Quebec in more than a century originated from a recent reintroduction program in s. Ontario. A pair was observed at Tee L., Témiscamingue, Apr. 19–20 (R. Bérubé), and a single bird was seen and heard at Rapide-Sept, Témiscamingue, May 10 (R. Courlois, C. Brassard). A Mute Swan appeared at Valleyfield Apr. 8 and likely the same bird was discovered May 3 at the nearby Saint-Etienne marsh (*vide PB*). Another ad Mute Swan, unbanded, remained at Saint-Nicolas, Lévis, Apr. 19 (L. Roy), where it had been present for 2 weeks; finally, one was found dead at Boucherville May 27 (C. Grenier *et al.*). The Mute Swan that wintered on the Richelieu R. was last seen Apr. 4 (*vide PB*) and may have moved to one of the preceding sites. The total of 10 Greater White-fronted Geese encountered across the Region was above average. The early May census of Snow Geese staging along the St. Lawrence R. arrived at an estimate of 421,100 geese, down from last year's 434,068 (*vide A. Reed*). Once restricted to a small area e. of Quebec City, these birds now migrate over a broad front; a peak of 250,000 was achieved at Baie-du-Febvre, L. Saint-Pierre, Apr. 21 (*vide J.C. Bourgeois*), and ≤50,000 were reported upstream at Sainte-Barbe, L. Saint-François, in mid-April (*vide PB*). Among the former flock were an impressive eight Ross' Geese, plus a Snow-Ross' intermediate, Apr. 18 (DJ, J. Paquin, P. Bergeron). The only substantial group of migrant Brants observed in w. Quebec was of 700 at Masson, Papineau, May 14 (C. Baumann).

An extralimital ♂ Wood Duck was seen at Natashquan along the Lower N. Shore May 11 (B. Landry). European visitants included three "Common" Teals and approximately 13 Eur. Wigeons, for a fairly typical spring tally. Displaced migrant Com. Eiders involved individuals at La Baie, Chicoutimi, Apr. 17 (CC, GS) and Berthierville Apr. 24 (D. Perreault *et al.*).

DIURNAL RAPTORS TO SHOREBIRDS

An Osprey paused on I. des Soeurs, Montreal, Mar. 5–20 (*vide PB*). Most noteworthy among extralimital Red-shouldered Hawks were the two seen at Bonaventure May 6 (J.M. Pitre), while a large buteo briefly studied at Cap-Tourmente Apr. 23 (J.M. Giroux) was believed to be a dark-morph Swainson's Hawk on the basis of its all-dark underwing. Remnants of last winter's Gyrfalcon invasion included a gray-morph bird at Valleyfield Apr. 4 (MM, B. Barnhurst) and a white morph at Grondines, Portneuf, Apr. 11 (P. Brousseau).

Locally rare were a Virginia Rail at Baie-Comeau May 21 (GBo) and two Am. Coots at Barachois, Gaspé, May 8–9 (PP *et al.*). Wandering E of their usual migration corridor were lone Sandhill Cranes at Plaisance, Pap-



ineau, Apr. 25 (MA, R. Schryer), at Saint-Paul-du-Nord, Saguenay, Apr. 30–May 3 (R. Gilbert), and at Etang-des-Caps May 19–22 (DGG *et al.*)—the latter representing a first Magdalen Is. record. A pair of cranes returned to Saint-Augustin, L. Saint-Jean, May 16–17 where copulation was observed in 1992 (CG, M. Savard *et al.*). A lone bird was seen nearby at Sainte-Marguerite-Marie May 10–13 (L. Rochefort *et al.*).

The season produced 2 exceptional shorebird sightings for e. N. America. An ad. **Common Greenshank** paused at Saint-Gédéon and at nearby Métabetchouan May 1–3 (CC, GS, NB, m.ob.), long enough to be photographed and seen by many. This represents a first record for Quebec. Even more remarkable were two **Green Sandpipers** directly compared with a Solitary Sandpiper at Chicoutimi May 14 (CG). This single-observer report provided a detailed plumage description, highlighting the clear white rump and predominantly white tail. Our only Willet sighting away from the Magdalen Is., where the species has become a regular visitor in spring, was of one at Beauport May 22 (A. Mercier, G. Lemelin, J. Lachance). Five Upland Sandpipers found at Sainte-Marguerite Marie, L. Saint-Jean, May 17 (A. Jomphe, BD) suggested a northward range expansion; the birds occupied a blueberry barren, a habitat apparently not yet exploited by this species. Locally rare was a Marbled Godwit found at Baie-du-Febvre May 15 (S. Dulac), while a few migrating Purple Sandpipers were evidently forced westward, with ≤ 11 seen at Saint Fulgence, Chicoutimi, May 25–26 (CC, GS), 24 at Portneuf May 29 (CM), and three at LaSalle, Montreal, May 29–31 (JM). Flooded fields along the Richelieu R., at Saint-Paul-de-l'Île-aux-Noix, attracted sizable flocks of shorebirds, including 250 Short-billed Dowitchers May 22 and 525 Semipalmated Sandpipers and 250 Dunlins May 29 (*fide* PB). A breeding-plumaged ♂ Ruff attracted local

birders to the latter site May 20–22 (YG, m.ob.).

GULLS TO OWLS

Always noteworthy inland, a Parasitic Jaeger followed northbound Arctic Terns at Saint-Fulgence May 26 (CC, GS). Franklin's Gulls were worthy of mention at Saint-Paul-de-l'Île-aux-Noix May 2–10 (M. Arnaud, JM) and Saint-Fulgence May 6 (CC, GS), as were Little Gulls at Saint-Romuald, Lévis, May 7 (F. Bédard, I. Leclerc), Saint-Gédéon May 17 (CC, GS), and Aylmer May 24 (T. Beck). Common Black-headed Gulls were relatively scarce, with only 2 individuals noted in the St. Lawrence estuary, while a total of four Lesser Black-backed Gulls was typical of recent years. The description of a gull examined at close range at Baie-Comeau Apr. 17 (GB, A. Duval, GC) was consistent with an ad. **Western Gull** (*L. o. occidentalis*). A distant photograph taken a few days later is being made available for examination; it is hoped that it will provide confirmation of the identification. A huge concentration of 1350 Glaucous Gulls appeared at Chicoutimi Apr. 1 (CG); another unusually large flock, of >500 Black Terns, was observed at Baie-du-Febvre

May 23 (PB). Following a strong winter showing in s. Quebec, a Snowy Owl remained at Grosse-Île, Magdalen Is., May 30–31 (BL *et al.*), and two still lingered at Verchères June 3 (R. Labrie). Single Boreal Owls were heard at Jacques-Cartier P.P., Apr. 6 (Y. Hamel), where the species was also located in June 1988, and at Saint-Charles, Chicoutimi (BD *et al.*); both sites are south of the established breeding range for this secretive owl. A N. Saw-whet Owl calling at Mont-Brun, Abitibi, May 4 (J. Soucier, A. Filion) suggested a new breeding locale n. of its range in w. Quebec.

WOODPECKERS TO WAXWINGS

Red-headed Woodpeckers are now to be considered rare anywhere in the Region. Only 2 reports of single birds were submitted this spring. Meanwhile, Red-bellied Woodpeckers have become regular vagrants; one at La Malbaie, Charlevoix, Apr. 9–May 12 was a good find (R. Laberge *et al.*). Few flycatchers highlight this seasonal report, but a Willow Flycatcher identified at Saint-Simon-sur-Mer, Rimouski, May 29 (L. Lefebvre, PF) added to the scant records from e. of Quebec City. Particularly rare in spring was a **Say's Phoebe** seen by a lucky few at Berthierville May 22 (C. Ducharme, J. Lamontagne *et al.*). A Tufted Titmouse noted at Carignan, Chambly, Mar. 28 (C. Adams) furnished our only report since spring 1992.

A Winter Wren that appeared at Aylmer Mar. 1 (JD, MA) may have wintered locally, while a Marsh Wren found at Rimouski May 21 (JRP) was e. of its normal range. A Varied Thrush photographed at Notre-Dame L., Gatineau, was present Apr. 2–4 (E.G. Eeles). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, annual spring overshoots, reached Escuminac, Bonaventure, May 10 (R. Caissy), Quebec City May 14 (AR), Sainte-Hedwidge, L. Saint-Jean, May 21 (NB), and Forillon N.P. the next day (R. Knight). Also locally rare was one at Plaisance, Papineau, May 1 (JD, C. Rimmer). Large flocks of Bohemian Waxwings were encountered in c. Quebec, but the species was unreported elsewhere. Up to 1500 graded

Table 1. New early arrival records

Date	Species	Location	Observers
Mar. 7	Rose-breasted Grosbeak*	Joliette	A. Leroux
Mar. 19	Savannah Sparrow	Philipsburg	DD <i>et al.</i>
Apr. 6	Great Egret	Valleyfield	MM <i>et al.</i>
Apr. 18	Laughing Gull	Montmagny	F. Gerard
Apr. 26	Indigo Bunting**	Saint-Simon	Bagot F. Pelouquin
May 3	Cape May Warbler**	Montreal	L. d'Amour
May 6	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Montreal	<i>fide</i> PB
May 6	Cerulean Warbler	Montreal	CS
May 8	Cerulean Warbler	Philipsburg	<i>fide</i> PB
May 13	LeConte's Sparrow	Saint-Fulgence	CC, GS <i>et al.</i>

*Two birds.

**Equals previous record.

Chicoutimi Mar 6–Apr 25 (L. Imbeau, v o), and 1000 were observed at nearby Jonquièrre Mar. 11 (L. Bouchard). Along the Lower St. Lawrence, peak counts reached 1200 at Rivière-du-Loup Mar. 25 (G. Verreault), 2000 at nearby Cacouna Apr. 11 (R. Deschenes), and 600 at Rimouski Apr. 2 (FS).

VIREOS TO BUNTINGS

The wave of southern migrants that reached the province in late May carried with it the Region's 11th **White-eyed Vireo**, briefly seen at Longueuil May 29 (DD, R. Lavoie). A Blue-winged Warbler, still less than annual in the province, enlivened I. des Soeurs May 27 (J.M. Béliveau, DD), while a ♂ Golden-winged was out of range at Neigette, *Rimouski*, May 25 (LB, PF). Less surprising was a ♂ Pine Warbler at La Pocatière May 5 (CA). An above-average total of six Cerulean Warblers were sighted, including one well n. of its range at Pointe-au-Père, *Rimouski*, May 29 (M.H. Bécot, Y. Roy). Quebec's first Hooded Warblers in 3 years involved a male on Mt. Royal, *Montreal*, May 6 (CS) and a female near Rimouski May 29 (LB, R. Côté, J. Rocheleau)—the latter a first outside of extreme s.w. Quebec. A first-year Summer Tanager was an excellent find at Duchesnay, *Portneuf*, May 15–16 (AR, m.ob.), while a displaced Scarlet Tanager turned up at Fontenelle, *Gaspé*, May 18 (H. Perry).

Several Indigo Buntings were both unusually early and n. of their summer range. These included one at Mistassini, *L. Saint-Jean*, May 1–5 (B. Vanier), another at Joannes L., *Témiscamigue*, May 8 (D. Berthiaume, L. Paré), and 3 more on the Gaspé Pen., at Chandler May 2–4 (GBe, DB, J.R. Lepage), Penouille May 8–9 (M. Chagnon, M. Trudel), and New-Richmond May 13 (E. Boudreau). This early wave was followed by an even larger overflight of blue cardinalines that washed over e. Quebec in late May. The Region's 14th **Blue Grosbeak**, a male, brightened Portage-du-Cap, *Magdalen Is.*, May 26 (FS, A. Richard) preceded by a ♀ Indigo Bunting at nearby Cap-aux-Meules May 24 (DGG). Seven Indigo Buntings were observed along the Gaspé Pen., May 18–29 (*vide* PF, PP), two more reached the Upper Saguenay (*vide* GS), and one—a male, like most of the other individuals involved—was detected at Baie-Comeau May 18–19 (GBo *et al.*). A similar invasion occurred in late April 1991. A gaudy ♂ **Painted Bunting** visited a feeder at Normandin, *L. Saint-Jean*, May 21 (Gaétanne Savard, C. Savard, P. Laliberté); the bird gave no indication of captive origin and likely constitutes a first valid record for the Region.

SPARROWS TO FINCHES

East of their breeding range were a Rufous-sided Towhee at Biencourt, *Rimouski*, May 22–23 (*vide* LB), single field Sparrows at Cap-Tourmente May 4 (D. Talbot) and Sacré-Coeur, *Rimouski*, May 25–27 (C. Robin), and also an Oregon-type Dark-eyed Junco at Saint-Augustin, *Portneuf*, Apr. 30 (E. Gérardin). Very early were 30 Bobolinks seen

at Saint-Barthélémy, Berthier, Apr 13 (A. Leroux *et al.*). The Gaspé Pen. hosted its two first Yellow-headed Blackbirds, which came to feeders at Newport May 6 (G. Blais, M. Castilloux) and Chandler May 23 (DB, *vide* PP), while a large, yellow-eyed ♀ grackle with buffy underparts viewed at Pabos-Mills, *Gaspé*, May 14 (J.M. Smith) suggested a Boat-tailed Grackle. No satisfactory records exist for either Great- or Boat-tailed grackles in the Region. Notably far north were lone N. Orioles seen at Chicoutimi May 19 (M. Tremblay) and Pointe-Lebel, near Baie-Comeau May 25 (GBo), in addition to 3 males in the Gaspé area May 21–30 (*vide* PP).

Montreal area observers reported one of the heaviest movements of Purple Finches in recent memory, good news for a species that has been scarce for several years. House Finches appear to be well established in the Lower St. Lawrence, with a nest discovered at La Pocatière May 9 (CA) and sightings at 5 other locales. Farther east, a pair was present at Chandler Apr. 22+ (GBe). Red Crossbills were unusually common along the Lower St. Lawrence, with ≤28 birds, including singing males, reported at Rimouski (*vide* PF) and as many as 25 at La Pocatière, where pairing behavior was witnessed in late March (CA). Despite having been thinly reported last winter, Com. Redpolls may have bred farther south than usual. An adult was feeding 2 fledged young at Baie-Comeau May 19 (GBo), and 3 other juveniles were sighted there this spring (*vide* GC).

EXOTICS

Three Eur. Goldfinches were observed this spring—one at Laval May 11 (J.P. Pratte) and two at feeders along the St. Lawrence estuary at Sainte-Luce, *Rimouski*, May 7 (L.B. Claveau, R. Claveau) and Baie-Sainte-Catherine May 11–13 (Y. Rochepault).

Corrigendum: The Gray Partridges reported in AB 47:60 were at Saint-Patrice, *Lotbinière*, not Saint-Patrice, *Rivière-du-Loup*.

Initialed observers and area editors (in bold-face): M. Aubé, C. Auchu, P. Bannon, D. Belvin, G. Belvin (GBe), N. Binet, G. Bouchard (GBo), F. Bourret, J. Brisson, L. Brisson, C. Cormier, G. Cyr, D. Daigneault, R. Dauphin, J. Dubois, B. Dumont, P. Fradette, D.G. Gaudet, Y. Gauthier, C. Girard, D. Jauvin, M. Lalancette, B. Leblanc, C. Marcotte, M. McIntosh, L. Messely, J. Mountjoy, J.R. Pelletier, P. Poulin, A. Rasmussen, G. Savard, C. Savignac, F. Shaffer, E. van de Walle.—YVES AUBRY, Canadian Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 10100, Sainte-Foy PQ, G1V 4H5; and RICHARD YANK, 566 Chester Rd., Beaconsfield, PQ, H9W 3K1, Canada.

NEW ENGLAND REGION

Simon Perkins

This spring was highlighted by two particularly memorable events: the famed "Storm of the Century," and a spectacular Easter fallout of landbirds. In actuality, The Storm, which struck March 13, was not quite as destructive as its billing, but it was BIG! Classified as a hurricane, its influence was felt over most of the eastern half of the continent, and it produced plenty of avian "noise." It dragged various species north that never intended to come at all (e.g., Purple Gallinule), transported others that arrived much sooner than they would have liked (e.g., Northern Parula), and the one to three feet (!) of snow it dumped across the Region caused considerable hardship for the birds that were already here. Woodcocks in Connecticut were especially hard hit. The Storm produced the lowest barometric pressure ever recorded in the Region, generating the highest windspeed (81 mph) at Logan Airport since hurricane *Carol* in 1954. Imagine what havoc it could have wreaked had it stayed just offshore and fed on the relatively warm water on its way up the coast!

An unusual combination of weather systems on and around Easter produced a deluge of Indigo Buntings and other neotropical migrants along most south-facing shorelines. Cape Cod, as well as Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard, received the bulk of the flight.

Once things settled down, May 9 and 24 proved to be two of the most productive warbler days in eastern Massachusetts, and Plum Island came up big again on Mother's Day.

Rarities included a curtain call by a Little Egret, at least five kites (two flavors), New Hampshire's first Wilson's Plover, Painted Buntings in four states, and more Boat-tailed Grackles in Connecticut. On the down side, Short-eared Owls in the Region may be breeding on borrowed time.

Abbreviations: Nantucket (*Nantucket I., MA*); Martha's Vineyard (*Martha's Vineyard I., MA*); Monomoy (Monomoy I. N.W.R.); P.R.N.W.R. (*Parker R. N.W.R., Plum I., MA*).

LOONS TO DUCKS

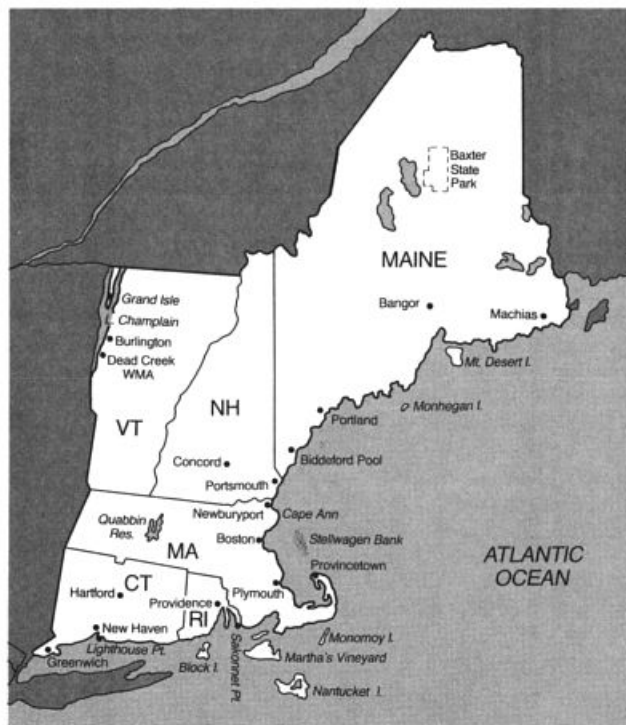
For the 2nd consecutive year, staging Red-throated Loons were noted in very large numbers around Nantucket. This year's maximum of 2500 Apr. 1–10 (BP), like last year's tally, probably represented a conservative estimate. At least 1500 were still there May 1 (SP). Four Arctic/Pacific Loons were identified in the Region. The Provincetown, MA, individual, first discovered in February, was last reported Apr. 9 (RAF), another was found on Martha's Vineyard Mar. 21 (VL *et al.*), and a 3rd was at Matunuck, RI, Apr. 22–23 (D. Kraus). The 4th came from Napatree Pt., Westerly, RI, May 7 (CR). Now that observers have become more familiar with these

species, it has become clear that they visit New England waters more frequently than was previously known. A breeding-plumaged **Eared Grebe** was present at Provincetown, MA, Mar. 27–31 (G. Martin *et al.*) The W. Grebe that just completed its 16th consecutive winter in Georgetown, ME, was last reported Apr. 18, having lingered later than usual this year.

Small numbers of *N. Fulmars* seen this spring included four from shore at Rockport, MA, Apr. 1 (RSH); the largest count came from the Great South Channel, e. of Nantucket, where 50+ were noted Apr. 18 (C. Avenengo). Annual sightings of Manx Shearwaters in Narragansett Bay, RI, continue to fuel the hope that they nest somewhere nearby. Three were seen at Beaver Tail Pt., Jamestown, RI, Apr. 22 (CR). Six Leach's Storm-Petrels, seen in Cape Cod Bay from Sandy Neck Beach in Barnstable during a nor'easter, were extraordinarily early Mar. 5 (T. & J. Cameron). The imm. **Magnificent Frigatebird** soaring over W. Newbury, MA, May 21 (A. & N. Clayton) came as a complete surprise, considering that no storms had passed the area for weeks. Eight to 10 Great Egrets appeared in the wake of The Storm. One of these was found dead on Monomoy Mar. 27 (BN).

The **Little Egret** found on Nantucket last May was rediscovered on the same marsh May 1 (SP). A storm-blown Green-backed Heron was rescued at Martha's Vineyard, where it was discovered frozen to its perch Mar. 22, and an ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, found dead on Martha's Vineyard Mar. 23, was no doubt a storm victim as well. Another ad. Yellow-crowned furnished a rare spring record for Maine, at Sheepscot, May 19 & 25 (J. Hamlin). The three Whooper Swans that appeared on Long Island, NY, late last winter apparently found their way to Massachusetts this spring, where they were seen in Danvers and Newburyport. They were very approachable, no doubt fugitives. Unusually large spring numbers of Snow Geese stopped for several days on L. Champlain, VT, in early April. A maximum of 17,000 at Grand I. Ferry Apr. 4 included a bird that fit the description of a blue-morph **Ross' Goose** (D. Hoag).

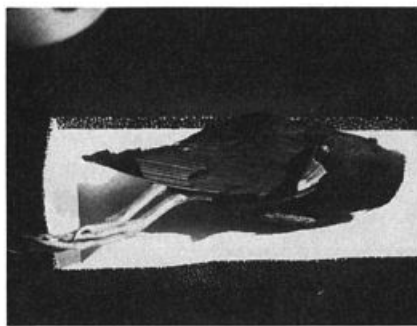
A Green-winged (Eurasian) Teal was in Carolina, RI, Mar. 9 (M. Murray), and two singles were seen in Massachusetts: in Bridgewater Apr. 4–10 (WRP), and Wayland Apr. 17 (SP). Six Eur. Wigeons were reported within New England this spring. These included two at Nantucket Mar. 7–20 (BV), one at West Haven, CT, Mar. 20 & 28 (S. Mayo), and one in Weybridge, VT, Apr. 6–17 (JP *et al.*). Rhode Island's 4th Tufted Duck remained at Truston, N.W.R., Mar. 24–Apr. 6 (B. & W. Gearhart), and the Tufted Duck that wintered for the 2nd consecutive year in



Greenwich, CT, was last reported Mar. 17 (B. O'Toole *et al.*). Among the Region's five reported King Eiders, one was seen on the late dates of May 24–26 at Madison, CT (GH *et al.*), on the Connecticut shore, where the species is seldom seen. The highest Regional counts of Harlequin Ducks came from the traditional spots: "over a hundred" at Isle au Haut, ME, Mar. 21 (*vide* WT), 60 at Squibnocket, Martha's Vineyard, also (coincidentally) Mar. 21 (VL), and a record-high 95 at Sachuest Pt., RI, Apr. 3 (DE). Two Barrow's Goldeneyes were found inland on L. Champlain, at Grand I., VT, Mar. 27 (D. Hoag); other inland Barrow's included an overwinterer in Wayland, MA, last seen Mar. 2 (N. Patterson), and one in Athol, MA, Apr. 4 (BB).

KITES TO SHOREBIRDS

Hawk migration among the regular migrants this year was decidedly unremarkable, though the appearance in Massachusetts of two **Swallow-tailed Kites** and three **Mississippi Kites** made things interesting. The first



This adult Purple Gallinule was found dead in Wickford, Rhode Island, on March 14, 1993, immediately following the major storm's passage. Photograph/Chris Raitel.

Swallow-tailed was spotted at Pilgrim Heights in Truro Apr. 19 (J. Trimble). This site, located where Cape Cod narrows near the n. tip of the peninsula, has emerged as the premier kite trap in New England for birds that drift out onto the Cape on s.w. winds. Another Swallow-tailed, first spotted May 9, spent at least a week on Martha's Vineyard (*vide* VL). The Mississippi Kites were seen in E. Brookfield May 14 (BB), Charham (also on the Cape) May 27 (R. Clem), and Pembroke (found dead) May 29 (**vide* M.A.S.). Black Vulture has become an annual visitor to the Region. This year's version appeared in Kent, CT, Apr. 26 (GH). A well-described dark-morph Rough-legged Hawk in Newbury, MA, was late May 25 (D. Chickering). Five Golden Eagles included one in Pelham, MA, one in Underhill, VT, and three in Maine. Three Gyrfalcon reports from the Champlain Valley, VT, probably did not involve three different birds. The reports were from Middlebury Mar. 23 (JPe), and Grand I., Mar. 27 and Apr. 2 (T. Murin).

Three King Rails were detected in Massachusetts, near the n. limit of their breeding range: one each in Pittsfield (ML) and Rockport (RHS), both May 8, and one in Whitman May 15 (WRP).

An ad. Purple Gallinule, found dead in Wickford, RI, Mar. 14 (ph., CR), was clearly a storm casualty, but a 2nd bird, a road-killed adult on Nantucket May 6 (**vide* EFA) probably arrived later. A Sandhill Crane in Orange, MA, Apr. 15–17 (*vide* SK) was probably the same bird that appeared in Lancaster, MA, 8 days later (D. Lange), and a Sandhill in Truro Apr. 25 was probably the same as the W. Harwich bird seen Apr. 28–29 (J. Colvin *et al.*). Another Sandhill was reported from Bar Harbor, ME, in late April (Mn.A.S.). Very uncommon anywhere in the Region in spring, Lesser Golden-Plovers put in appearances in Connecticut and Massachusetts. The only Massachusetts bird was seen in Newburyport and Rowley May 16–22 (ML *et al.*), and two Connecticut birds were at Groton, Mar. 31, and Hammonasset Beach S.P., May 12 (DP).

New Hampshire's first **Wilson's Plover** was discovered at Seabrook, May 15 (ph., †DJA *et al.*). An early Semipalmated Plover on Nantucket Mar. 18 (S. Reed) and two others on Martha's Vineyard Mar. 23 (E. & M. Sibert) were probably tugged into the Region by The Storm. Though Killdeer is a common breeding bird within most of the Region, for reasons that remain obscure they had never been known to nest on Nantucket, despite plenty of appropriate habitat. So why did 3 pairs suddenly choose to nest there this spring (JPa, P. Dunwiddie)? The brief presence, for the 2nd consecutive year, of a small flock of Am. Oystercatchers in Ipswich, MA, May 5 (CL), suggests that this species is preparing to extend its

northernmost breeding outpost a bit beyond the current limit at Boston's Logan Airport. A flock of 70 migrating Willets in Falmouth, MA, May 5 (ICTN) will have made an impressive sight. A W. Sandpiper, rare in the Region in spring, and very early at Martha's Vineyard Mar. 20–31 (VL *et al.*), was probably ushered N by the mid-March storm. Three Reeves appeared in the Region this spring; no Ruffs were reported. One in Newburyport, MA, Apr. 19–31 (SP) was joined by a 2nd bird May 2 (RAF), and another individual visited Scarborough, ME, May 16 & 17 (LB). American Woodcocks were found foraging along the shoulders of snow-plowed roads following The Storm in mid-March. Others were admitted to local wildlife rehabilitation facilities, where they were found suffering from starvation (*fide* FM). A spate of storm-driven Red Phalaropes in March and April was unexpected at a time when most are assumed to be well south of our waters. The first to appear in Massachusetts, single birds in Rockport Mar. 6 & 7 (JB) and Dennis Mar. 7 (S. Clifton), came on the heels of the 2nd of 2 back-to-back coastal storms. The Storm brought two to Westport, MA, Mar. 14–16 (P. Sheehan), 12 to Eastham Mar. 15 (P. Champlain), and one and four, respectively, to Nantucket (J. Van Vorst) and Martha's Vineyard (W. Manter) 2 days later. The same weather pattern that delivered the Indigo Buntings to the coast brought two Red Phalaropes to inland New Hampshire, in Keene Apr. 11 (R. Herm), and Gofftown Apr. 11 & 12 (R. Quinn *et al.*).

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

The only jaeger reported was a Parasitic at Nantucket May 15 (SP). A Franklin's Gull was found in Barnstable, MA, Apr. 27 (W. Loughran *et al.*), and a Little Gull at Newburyport, MA, Apr. 10–19 (*fide* B.O.) was unique in New England this spring. Among a Regional total of roughly 18 Com. Black-headed Gulls, three were in Maine; the rest were in their usual haunts in Massachusetts—except for an individual on Nantucket, where they are seldom seen. Eight to 10 Lesser Black-backed Gulls reported from Massachusetts included a bird inland at Holyoke Mar. 2–8 (*fide* SK) and another inland in Brattleboro, VT, Apr. 16 (T. Maloney) and at Westport, CT, May 5 (C. Barnard). Caspian Terns were reported from 4 of the 6 New England states. Two birds were in Bridport, VT, Apr. 15 (JPe), singles were seen in Westport, CT, May 4 (R. Soffer) & 15 (C. Wood), and another visited Napatree Pt. in Westerly, RI, Apr. 26 (CR). Eight Caspians in Massachusetts included three inland at Lakeville May 7 (GD) and two in the w. half of the state, where they are rarely seen, in Sheffield Apr. 19 (D. Reid), and in Pittsfield Apr. 25 (D. St. James). A Royal Tern at Nahant, MA, was a bit early May 2 (CL), and a pair of Forster's Terns was present again on the P.R.N.W.R. marshes, where they began nesting in 1991. Perhaps the most remarkable record this season was established with the appearance of a Black Skimmer in c. Massachusetts, at Auburn, immedi-

ately after The Storm Mar. 14 (D. Grocia). The bird succumbed shortly after its discovery and was found to have been banded in June 1989 in Maryland.

Notable alcid reports included a Dovekie found dead on Nantucket following The Storm Mar. 14 (BP), a Razorbill Mar. 7 (DP) in Old Lyme, CT, on Long Island Sound, where they are rare, and an Atlantic Puffin in Cape Cod Bay Apr. 4 (D. Ludlow).

S.A.

Nantucket, the last stronghold for breeding Short-eared Owls in the n.e. United States, appears to be on the verge of losing its treasure. Last year it was feared that the few remaining owls had failed to raise young. This year one resident pair was found (K. Combs Beattie) where, 10 years ago, at least 10 pairs had bred. Many Short-eared populations are highly cyclical, reflecting the nature of their rodent prey. But Nantucket rodent and Short-eared Owl populations have long been known for their stability, so the owl's decline is clearly symptomatic of a much more serious problem. Some surmise that a recent increase in the number of local Barn Owls may have played a role in the disappearance of the Short-eareds. Clearly, the building blitz that struck Nantucket's moors during the 1980s had an effect. But much habitat remains and the island's N. Harrier population is still fairly healthy, so it seems unlikely that development was solely responsible. More likely, a combination of factors was brought to bear on the Short-eareds, and the Barn Owls simply represented the proverbial last straw. The silver lining may be Nantucket's nearest outlying island, Tuckernuck, a locale that has changed little historically, and one that still supports at least 2 pairs of Short-eareds (K. Combs Beattie). This small island may provide sanctuary to the owls until a cure for Nantucket's ills can be found— unless it's already too late.

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

Two Monk Parakeets in Marion, MA, May 23–31 (D. Harlow) may have wandered from the closest colony in Warwick, RI. Two very early Black-billed Cuckoos, in W. Harwich, MA, Mar. 30 (K. Hamilton) and in Nantucket about a week later (D. Sutherland), should not have been back in the United States yet, let alone at 40°N Lat! They were no doubt storm waifs. The last Snowy Owls to depart the Region were at Logan Airport in Boston May 17 (N. Smith) and at Bristol, NH, in the interior part of the state May 11 (C. Parker). March–early April, roughly nine Short-eared Owls were noted in Massachusetts, in S. Dartmouth, Middleboro, Saugus, and Salisbury; in early April, two were seen in Connecticut, at Hammonasset Beach S.P. and Old Lyme.

Northern Saw-whet Owls are in good sup-

ply on Nantucket, where 10 singing birds were counted in one evening, May 8 (JPa *et al.*). Among caprimulgids, an early Com. Nighthawk in Mansfield, CT, Apr. 15 (M. Szantyr) probably arrived with the Easter crowd, two nighthawk counts of 80+ May 23 and 65+ May 28 (B. Devine) were good spring totals, and a "small colony" of Chuck-will's-widows was again present on Martha's Vineyard in May (VL). The "mystery hummingbird" that spent the winter in a greenhouse in Surry, ME, was photographed and videotaped in late May before it was released. At that time it was tentatively identified as a ♀ Ruby-throated, pending confirmation by western specialists. A Pileated Woodpecker was a rare visitor to Cape Cod in Brewster, MA, Apr. 19 (A. Strauss), and a "Red-shafted" Flicker brightened a yard on Nantucket the day after The Storm (L. Van Duyne).

FLYCATCHERS TO WARBLERS

Several early E. Kingbirds were among the species included in the Easter fallout. One was found at Trustum N.W.R., Bristol, RI, Apr. 14 (J. Murphy), and two others were discovered in s.e. Massachusetts Apr. 11, in Westport (F. Thurber) and S. Dartmouth (G. Haydock). The biggest single-day kingbird count was recorded as part of the Mother's Day flight on Plum I., May 9, when 57 were tallied (SP). A Fork-tailed Flycatcher was reported to have been seen on Morris I., Chatham, MA, May 15, but no details reached this compiler.

A thoroughly scrutinized Cliff Swallow at P.R.N.W.R. was decidedly early Mar. 7 (CL), and two Tufted Titmice that visited feeding stations on Martha's Vineyard through the end of April furnished only the 7th or 8th island record (*fide* VL). Carolina Wrens continued to secure their position on Nantucket, where 25 were counted May 8, and 2 pairs were confirmed nesting May 14, to provide the first island nesting records (EFA, SP). An unconfirmed but well-described Varied Thrush put in a brief appearance in a yard in Cumberland, ME, May 18 (B. Burns), and a flock of 75–100 Bohemian Waxwings, also in Cumberland Mar. 9–10, were fairly far south in a year in which few were found elsewhere. A convincing description accompanied a report of a *plumbeous* Solitary Vireo at Mt.



A first for New Hampshire was this Wilson's Plover discovered at Seabrook on May 15, 1993. Photograph/Stephen Mirick.

Table 1. Summary of birds following Easter fallout

Species	MA	CT	VT	ME	RI	NH	Total
Cattle Egret					Apr. 10		1
Green-backed Heron					Apr. 11		1
Red Phalarope	17					2	19
Com. Nighthawk		Apr. 15					1
E. Kingbird	2				Apr. 14		3
Red-eyed Vireo		2			Apr. 11		3
N. Parula	2						2
Prothonotary Warbler	2						2
Scarlet Tanager	14	Apr. 17*			Apr. 18		16
Summer Tanager	12			7	1		20
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	10	Apr. 17*		2	6	1	20
Blue Grosbeak	25	4		14			43
Indigo Bunting	150+			? (many)	16	1	167
Painted Bunting		1 (M)					1
N. Oriole	4						4

*Record early date.

Note: The total for all dates listed is 1.

Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, MA, May 16 (M. Hall). This "form" is rumored to be slated for elevation to full species status in the near future.

Three "Lawrence's" Warblers were noted in Massachusetts. A N. Parula was found dead at Martha's Vineyard Mar. 15, following The Storm, and two more early parulas came in with the bunting flight. The latter were seen at Nantucket Apr. 12 (JPa), and Westport, MA, Apr. 18 (M. Boucher). An Orange-crowned Warbler successfully overwintered at a feeder at Spruce Head, ME, where it remained into April (*vide* WT), and another Orange-crowned in Westwood, MA, Apr. 4 (RHS) was curiously early, unless it, too, had wintered locally.

The biggest day at the banding station on Appledore I., ME, was May 13, when the banders handled 406 birds, a station record. One hundred eighty-six Com. Yellowthroats were handled that day, a station record for a single species. The actual figure for yellowthroats caught was considerably higher, but the banders were forced to release many, to keep pace at the height of the flight. Except for yellowthroats, the most common migrant by far was, once again, Magnolia Warbler. Three hundred forty maggies were banded in 24 days (DH).

Two of the biggest passerine days in e. Massachusetts were May 9 & 24. The former date was busiest at several n. shore points, including Marblehead Neck and Plum I. This was the 3rd consecutive year in which a major passerine flight has occurred at Plum I. on or around Mother's Day. The most significant totals at Plum I., tallied as the migrants passed by a fixed point, included a minimum of 500 unidentified warblers, 35 N. Parulas, 30+ Black-and-White Warblers, 510 Bobolinks (98% males), 250+ Red-winged Blackbirds (virtually all females), and 422 Am. Goldfinches (SP). Comparable numbers the same day at Marblehead Neck included 30 N. Parulas, 75+ Black-and-White Warblers, 17 Ovenbirds, and 35 Com. Yellowthroats (B.

Malcolm). Also at Marblehead Neck, a Yellow-throated Warbler was present May 7-8 (J. Smith). A Yellow-breasted Chat at Nantucket succumbed to the brutally cold backlash behind The Storm Mar 14 (L. Van Duynes).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

An outbreak of Painted Buntings that started on Cape Cod late last fall became even more contagious this spring. A male in Waterford, CT, Apr. 11, probably came in with the indigo flight; one of two Cape Cod birds remained through the end of March, and the other stayed in Brewster until Apr. 9 (A. Furman). Two sightings of a pair in Vermont, presumably the same birds, came from Danby May 11 & 13 (K. Droge), and Winhall, also May 13, roughly 7 hours later, and 15-20 mi away (R. Magyari). The highest local estimate of Indigo Buntings in the wake of the Easter fallout came from Martha's Vineyard, where 100+ birds were reported. A minimum of 43 Blue Grosbeaks were reported from Connecticut, Maine, and Massachusetts. Fifteen were found on Cape Cod alone. Among the Regional total of 20 Summer Tanagers, the northernmost report came from far "down east" in Machias (*vide* JD).

Three Dickcissels came calling at Massachusetts feeders this spring. Two different birds on Nantucket appeared at their respective feeders the same day, Mar. 18, and left within a week of one another in mid-April (BV, F. Reed). The 3rd was seen at Plum I., in Newbury, May 16-17 (*vide* B.O.). An overwintering W. Tanager in Berkley, MA, remained through Apr. 15 (J. Katner), and a high Regional total of six Clay-colored Sparrows included one in Orford, NH, on the intriguingly late dates of May 23-30 (P. Hunt). Among the five Clay-colored in Massachusetts, three were in one field in Sandwich through April (P. Trimble). One would have been nice enough, but two Lark Sparrows seen May 25 around the Appledore banding station was a remarkable spring discovery

(DH). Seventeen Lincoln's Sparrows in e. Massachusetts in May represented a spring total well above average.

Boat-tailed Grackles made it to Connecticut again. Single birds were seen in Greenwich Mar. 31 (P. Dugan) and Hammonasset S.P., May 12 (J. Gaskell). The first state records came in the weeks following the passage of hurricane *Gloria* in fall 1985, and it seems likely that the March "hurricane" delivered the latest birds as well. Northern Orioles that arrived with the Easter flight included one in S. Dartmouth, MA (R. McGeough), and three on Nantucket (*vide* JPa). The Lesser Goldfinch that spent part of the winter at a feeder in Georgetown, ME, was last reported Apr. 13 (*vide* MnAS).

S.A.

Under certain weather conditions, New England birders have come to expect an early coastal fallout of Indigo Buntings on or around Easter. The birds appear suddenly, exhausted and hungry, and quickly gravitate to feeding stations to recharge, rarely moving far beyond the point at which they make landfall. Thanks to the elucidations of the late Aaron Bagg, published in an excellent article in *The Bulletin of The Massachusetts Audubon Society* (39:159-168), we are now aware of the weather conditions that account for this early spring phenomenon.

To make a long story short, a specific sequence of meteorological events coincides with the mid-April passage of the migrant buntings from the Yucatan Pen., across the Gulf of Mexico, to either Louisiana or Texas, or both. These weather systems intercept the birds, deflect them far to the east of their intended flight path, across the Florida Pen., and out over the Atlantic ocean, ultimately depositing them on the coast of New England. When the birds finally touch down on our shores, they do so having survived a nightmarish nonstop flight over 1500 mi of open ocean! Other species typically associated with these phenomenal flights, but seen in smaller numbers, include Rose-breasted and Blue grosbeaks and Summer Tanagers. This year, these four species arrived in numbers that rivaled the highest totals from similar flights in 1956 and 1961. In addition, other species that are usually more capable of avoiding these potentially deadly detours did not. As a result, they, too, arrived 1-3 weeks earlier than normal. These included Com. Nighthawks, E. Kingbirds, Red-eyed Vireos, Scarlet Tanagers, and N. Orioles.

Birds associated with this flight are summarized in the accompanying table. It should be interesting to compare these figures with those on Long Island, NY, and in the Canadian Maritimes. What was the geographical scope of the fallout?

Observers, subregional editors (boldface), and contributors (italics): Dennis J. Abbott, Edith F. Andrews (Nantucket), *Jim Berry*, *Bird Observer*, Brad Blodget, Lyle Brinker, Diane DeLuca (Audubon Society of New Hampshire), *Jody Despres* (*Maine Field Notes*), David Emerson (Rhode Island), **Richard A. Forster** (e. Mass.), Greg Hanisek, Rick S. Heil,

David Holmes, *Kyle Jones*, **Seth Kellogg** (w. Mass.), **Betty Kleiner** (Connecticut Ornithological Association), **Vernon Laux** (Martha's Vineyard), Chris Leahy, Mark Lynch, **Frank Mantlik** (Conn.), *Massachusetts Audubon Society* (M.A.S.), *Maine Audubon Society* (Mn.A.S.), **Blair Nikula** (Cape Cod), Ian. C.T. Nisbet, **Jackie Papale** (Nantucket), Blair

Perkins, Simon Perkins, *Wayne R. Petersen*, **Judy Peterson** (Vermont Institute of Natural Science), David Provencher, Chris Raithe, **Marj Rines** (e. Mass.), **Robert H. Styrmeist** (e. Mass.), **William Townsend** (*The Guillemot*), Barbara Vigneau.—**SIMON PERKINS**, **Massachusetts Audubon Society**, Lincoln, MA 01773.

HUDSON—DELAWARE REGION

*William J. Boyle, Jr.,
Robert O. Paxton,
and David A. Cutler*

The major weather event of the reporting season was the Blizzard of '93, Mar. 12–14, which blanketed the entire Region with 1 to 3 feet of snow and brought with it a blast of cold air that made March several degrees colder than usual. Snowfall at Syracuse totaled 4 1/2 feet for the month, and another foot in April brought the winter total to 16 feet, more than 7 feet above normal. The very chilly March was followed by a wet April that was warmer than normal in the north and colder than normal in the south. Late April snows (18 inches in Old Forge, *Lewis*, NY, Apr. 23) were especially hard on early nesters, such as Tree Swallow, Song Sparrow, and Dark-eyed Junco in the Adirondacks. Weather conditions led to a markedly retarded leaf-out that made birds easier to find during the mild, sunny weather that characterized one of the most beautiful Mays in many years.

One of the consequences of the many clear, pleasant days and nights of May was the lack of the sort of weather pattern that produces major fallouts of nocturnal migrants. Still, there was a good variety plus modest numbers of neotropical migrants on most days, and many observers felt that the season was the best in perhaps 10 years.

The lack of major weather patterns (after the big blizzard), which would ordinarily blow vagrants astray, produced relatively few rarities. Highlights included Vermilion Flycatcher in Delaware, Black-tailed Godwit in New Jersey, Townsend's Solitaire in Pennsylvania, and White-tailed Eagle in New York, a Regional first.

Abbreviations: Braddock Bay (*Braddock Bay S.P. and vicinity, Monroe, NY*); Bombay Hook (*Bombay Hook N.W.R., near Smyrna, DE*); Brig (*Brigantine Unit, Forsythe N.W.R., Atlantic, NJ*); Cape Henlopen (*Cape Henlopen S.P., Sussex, DE*); Green Lane (*Green Lane Reservoir, Montgomery, PA*); Indian

R. (*Indian R. Inlet, Sussex, DE*); Jamaica Bay (*Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens, NYC*); LI (*Long Island, NY*); Little Cr. (*Little Cr. W.M.A., Kent, DE*); Manasquan Inlet (*Manasquan Inlet, Monmouth—Ocean, NJ*); Montezuma (*Montezuma N.W.R., Seneca—Cayuga, NY*); Port Mahon (*marshes and bayside along road e. of Little Cr., Kent, DE*); Sandy Hook (*Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway Nat'l Recreation Area, Monmouth, NJ*). D.R.B.C. (*Delaware Rare Birds Committee*); N.J.B.R.C. (*New Jersey Bird Records Committee*); N.Y.S.A.R.C. (*New York State Avian Rarities Committee*); P.O.R.C. (*Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee*). Place names in italics are counties.

LOONS TO STORKS

There were again some good inland flights of Com. Loon, the biggest single tally being 141 at Minsi L., *Northampton, PA*, Apr. 11 (S. LaBar), but few reports of the later-migrating Red-throated Loon. A Com. Loon that landed on the pond at Cornell's Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary found the runway too short for departure; it was picked up struggling across the nearby parking lot, transported to Cayuga L., and cleared for takeoff. The season's only **Pacific Loon** was a repeat of last year's bird at Manasquan Inlet Apr. 3–14 (RDi, JHD).

Pied-billed Grebe numbers continued very low across the Region, and observers should make efforts to record apparent nesting of

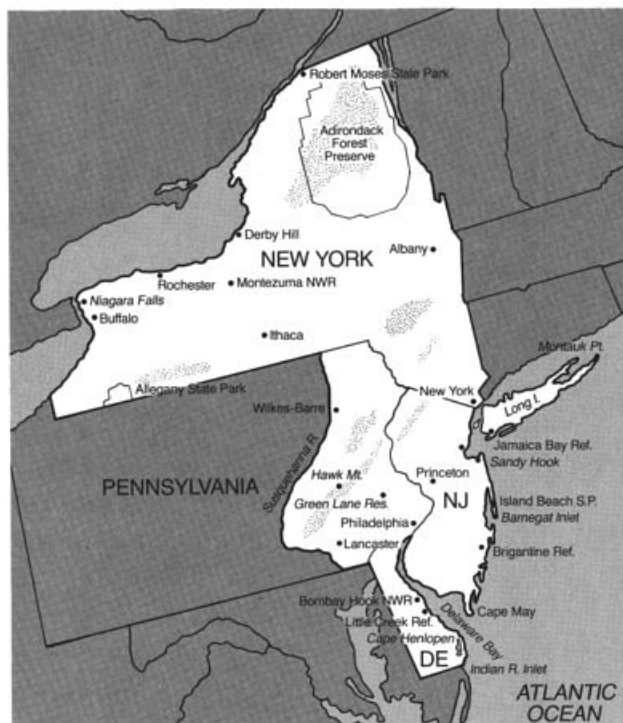
this declining and threatened species. There were fewer Red-necked Grebes in upstate New York and along the coast than last year, but the first week of April produced some good numbers in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. A maximum of nine at Swartswood L., *Sussex, NJ*, Apr. 4 was the highest single count in the state in many years (WJB, MN), and seven were at Minsi L. the previous day (RW); others included two at Green Lane Reservoir, *Montgomery, PA*, Apr. 1 (GLF), two on the Susquehanna R. at Marietta, Apr. 2 (JHe), and 1–2 at L. Musconetcong, *Sussex, NJ*, Apr. 5 (TH), Budd L., *Morris, NJ*, Apr. 15 (C. Kelly), and Culvers L., *Sussex, NJ*, Apr. 19 (FT). An Eared Grebe at Dunkirk Harbor, *Chautauqua, NY*, to at least Mar. 6, a holdover from the winter season, was the only report of the season.

The annual spring pelagic trips produced little excitement, in contrast to last year, and virtually no marine mammals. Several Leach's Storm-Petrels kept company with Wilson's and modest numbers of shearwaters at Hudson Canyon May 29 (ABr, *et al.*), while eight Cory's Shearwaters off Indian R. the next day was a high count for Delaware (AH).

An Am. White Pelican was an unusual fly-by at Cape May, Mar. 15 (FM); another was a real rarity on the Susquehanna R. near Binghamton, NY, Apr. 11 (I. Tomek, R. Marsi); and a third was at Cape Henlopen Apr. 12 (L. Gelvin—Innvær). Sightings of White Pelican at Cornwall Bay, *Rockland, NY*, May 21–22 (K. McDermott), at Jamaica Bay May 23–24 (J. Fritz, H. Martin, TWB), and at Mill Neck, LI, May 26–27 (R. Kelly), might all refer to the same wandering bird.

The season's first Brown Pelicans were a pair at Cape May, Apr. 23 (JDo); record numbers were in Delaware in early May, with ≤47 counted at Indian R., May 8 (DAC). Unlike those in recent years, however, they were not harbingers of a major summer invasion. A Brown Pelican on the Hudson R. near the George Washington Bridge, New York City, on the morning of May 23 was unusual (J.&E. Caspars), but that afternoon a pair was spotted farther s. along the Hudson R. Drive (R. Machover).

Now that Great Cormorants winter regularly along the Delaware R. between Philadelphia and Trenton, they seem increasingly reluctant to leave. Several lingered into mid-May, including at least one in breeding plumage (TBa,



NP). Echoing last year's mini-invasion, three **Anhingas** reported soaring over Swarthmore, Delaware, Apr. 18 would be a first for Pennsylvania, if accepted by the Records Committee (NP, details to P.O.R.C.). An unseasonal **Magnificent Frigatebird** found in a field in W. Babylon, Nassau, LI, Mar. 14, died 3 days later (specimen to American Museum of Natural History).

Wandering herons included a Snowy Egret in Lehigh, PA, Mar. 29 (K. Sieminski), Little Blue Herons near Ithaca Apr. 16 and May 2 (*vide* NB), and another at the Tiff N.P., Apr. 19–22 (M. Galas), providing what was apparently the first spring record for the Buffalo area. An ad. White Ibis was at E. Moriches, Sussex, LI, Mar. 21–28 (J. Kuhlman, m.ob.), and another was photographed at Brig, Apr. 19 (DB). Glossy Ibises were found as far afield as Clinton, NY, Apr. 21–23 (BK, C. Mitchell) and Montezuma May 15–22 (K. David, RGS), while a White-faced Ibis was seen one day only at Bombay Hook (BP, details to D.R.B.C.). A **Wood Stork** seen flying S on L. Champlain, Clinton, May 15, was an extreme rarity for upstate New York (P. Taber, details to N.Y.S.A.R.C.).

WATERFOWL

An ad. Trumpeter Swan, unbanded and showing no signs of captive origin, at the Savannah Mucklands, Wayne, NY, Apr. 23, may have come from reintroduced populations in Ontario, Michigan, or Minnesota (K. Bostwick, NB *et al.*; ph. J. Thurber to N.Y.S.A.R.C.). Six reports of Greater White-fronted Goose all came from Pennsylvania, with 4 in Lancaster and 2 in Chester, all in March. Two more Ross' Geese were also sighted in Pennsylvania, which recorded its first just 2 seasons ago, but now boasts 7 records. One was with a large flock of Snow Geese at Middle Run W.M.A., Lancaster, Mar. 26 (*vide* AH), while another was a *Berks* first at L. Ontelaunee Mar. 30 (K. Lebo). Five Barnacle Geese at Eastport, LI, Mar. 20, were presumed to be the escaped and wide-ranging family group previously reported from Cape Cod and Nova Scotia (PG).

A handsome ♂ **Garganey** at Tonawanda W.M.A., Niagara-Genesee, NY, Apr. 16–19, presents a problem of debatable origin for N.Y.S.A.R.C. (WWa, m.ob.). Thirteen Eur. Wigeons, somewhat fewer than last spring, were well distributed around the Region, with a concentration of five in the New York City–Long Island area. Lingering Tufted Ducks included a pair at Calverton, LI, Mar. 5, and a single at Hook Pond, Sussex, LI, Mar. 5–20 (TL).

An excellent gathering of Com. Eiders at Montauk late March–early April reached a peak of 300 birds, joined by 15 King Eiders. The flock of Harlequin Ducks at Barnegat Light, NJ, numbered 10 as late as Apr. 10 (JDo, VE), while a maximum of 11 were at Pt. Lookout, Nassau, NY, Apr. 3–5 (v.o.). The same conditions that dropped the Red-necked Grebes at several inland locations in early April brought some good concentra-

tions of Oldsquaw to inland New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Nockamixon S. P., Bucks, PA, held 96, Apr. 2–3 (SF), while 65 were on the Susquehanna R. at Marietta Apr. 2 (JHe). Seventy-five Oldsquaws were at Swartswood L. in early April, where they were joined by 22 White-winged Scoters (SA), and 60 Oldsquaws were at Culvers L., Apr. 22 (FT).



American Oystercatcher at Beltzville Lake, Pennsylvania, on April 2, 1993. The last previous Pennsylvania record was 102 years earlier. Photograph/Rick Wiltraut.

A ♀ Barrow's Goldeneye lingered at Rye, Westchester, NY, into early March (TWB), while a male was at W. Hampton, LI, Mar. 19–28 (ABa); upstate, a late female was at Cumberland Head on L. Champlain Apr. 4–10 (BK), and a drake at Fair Haven, Cayuga, Apr. 26, the first spring record for the Oneida L. Basin in 16 years (B. Hughes). A hybrid Bufflehead x Hooded Merganser was at Swartswood L., Apr. 22 (SA), and a drake Hooded Merganser courting a hen Mallard at L. Hopatcong, Morris, NJ, during April and May must have had similar ideas (V. Nixon).

RAPTORS TO CRANES

Poor weather during March and part of April contributed to generally mediocre showings at some hawkwatches, although Braddock Bay tallied a respectable 40,816 and Derby Hill had 42,906 for the season. There was a good selection of rarities, however. American Swallow-tailed Kite was found in 3 of the 4 states. The first was at Jamaica Bay Apr. 17 (M. Penzer), and the 2nd in Greenville, New Castle, DE, May 4 (E. & S. Speck). New Jersey had three, with one at Sandy Hook May 6 (JL), another at Waterford, Camden (G. Cannon, C. Krilowicz, J. Gutsmuth), and the last, accompanied by three Mississippi Kites, at Weatherby Road in n. Cape May May 17 (C. Dooley).

A Mississippi Kite was an outstanding fly-over for the L. Champlain region at Coot Hill, Essex, NY, Apr. 28 (G. Chapman, E. Johnson). In Delaware, a Mississippi Kite was at Big Stone Beach, Kent, May 18 (AH), and 2 probable immatures were described from Mt. Gretna, Lebanon, by birders unfamiliar with the species (JHe, B. Carl). One passed over the Sandy Hook hawkwatch May 11 (JL), and ≥4 were in the Cape May area, May 13–30 (m.ob.).

Bald Eagles were widely reported as migrants, with a record 106 at Braddock Bay for the season, but the 2 nests in Salem, NJ, failed

for the 2nd consecutive year, and a nest in Cape May was blown down in the December storm. The bird of the season was a sub-ad. **White-tailed Eagle** that circled by the hawkwatch at Derby Hill, Oswego, NY, Apr. 24, to the dismay of veteran hawkwatchers Gerry Smith, Ned Brinkley, and others, plus a class of field ornithology students from Cornell. Extensive notes, a field sketch, and a distant photograph were obtained; details will be published elsewhere. A thorough inquiry suggests that the bird was not of captive origin (GS, NB).

Swainson's Hawks were seen at the Mt. Pleasant, NY, hawkwatch, at Varna, Tompkins, Apr. 20 (NB) and at Braddock Bay the same day (BE), quite possibly the same bird. Two others were at Derby Hill Apr. 28, while another report from Westfield, near Buffalo May 2, is under review by the Regional records committee. Unlike some raptor species, Red-tailed Hawk is doing well and spreading into previously unused habitat. A feature article in *The Wall Street Journal* of Mar. 18 detailed the story of a pair nesting on the top floor of a posh Fifth Avenue apartment building overlooking New York City's Central Park. Experts cited could find no previous account of Red-tailed nesting on a city building. The nest subsequently failed.

Where are all these Golden Eagles coming from and where are they going, wondered Brinkley, as 34 passed the Mt. Pleasant hawkwatch for the season, surpassing the 32 at Derby Hill and tying the latter's all-time record. Increasingly high numbers in the fall also suggest increased nesting in e. Canada. Very late eagles were seen in Salem, NJ, Apr. 24 and Burlington, NJ, Apr. 26 (WDA). Six Gyrfalcon reports, all in March and all in upstate New York, was an extraordinarily high total for the spring; only one was a holdover from the winter.

Black Rails were a bit late showing up in Delaware, but good numbers were found in mid-May at Bombay Hook, Port Mahon, and Prime Hook N.W.R. (v.o.); only a few reports came in from the New Jersey side of the Delaware Bay, chiefly by big-day teams. A King Rail was at Alcoa Marsh, near Lancaster, PA, May 8–11 (RMi, JHe *et al.*), where there have been previous sightings, and another was far north at Hamlin, Monroe, NY, near Rochester, May 31 (RGS, C. Spahn); several were at 3 locations in Sussex, NJ, where the species is not found annually, during May. The season's annual Purple Gallinule was seen one day only at Sandy Hook, Apr. 19 (JL).

A Sandhill Crane was over Mauricetown, Cumberland, NJ, Apr. 13 (PDu, L. Dunne), but as usual most of the reports came from upstate New York, where there were at least a dozen. About seven were at Braddock Bay and vicinity, with a maximum of three Apr. 19 (CCa). Two were at Iroquois N.W.R., Orleans-Genesee, Apr. 6, and three were seen Apr. 5 at Henderson, Jefferson, at the e. end of L. Ontario, where they are becoming annual visitors (LBC).

SHOREBIRDS

A **Wilson's Plover** at Napeague Inlet, *Suffolk*, LI, May 28, provided the first Regional report in several years (T. Viso, P. Lindsay, TL). Equally rare for its location was a Piping Plover at Irondequoit Bay, Rochester, Apr. 21 (RMA *et al.*). The inclement weather of Apr. 2 brought an **American Oystercatcher** to Beltzville L., *Carbon*, for the first Pennsylvania record since 1891 (RW); it remained for only one-half hour, to the chagrin of state listers who dashed there in search of the bird.

A Black-necked Stilt was at Cheesapeake S.P., *Middlesex*, NJ, May 1 (T. Gillen), but of more interest was a pair at Goshen, *Cape May*, May 9+ (PDu, RC); the birds remained there and were soon confirmed nesting, the first breeding stilts in the state since the 19th century. The **Spotted Redshank** remained in Brooklyn to at least Mar. 19 and was seen by many observers from all parts of the country, but a **Black-tailed Godwit** at Stone Harbor, NJ, May 9, departed before anyone but the discoverer could see it (R. Blom, details to N.J.B.R.C.). A **Marbled Godwit** at Tucker-ton, *Ocean*, NJ, Apr. 24, was the only other godwit of the season (JHd).

We received second-hand reports of two different **Rufous-necked Stints** at Little Cr. in May, but unfortunately no details were submitted; although now recorded annually, the species still requires thorough documentation. The only **Curlew Sandpipers** were in Delaware, as has increasingly become the rule; one was at Bombay Hook, May 10–24+ (ES *et al.*) and another at the Logan Tract near Kitts Hummock, *Kent*, May 24 (JWR).

Only about three **Ruffs** were seen at Pedricktown, *Salem*, NJ, late March–April. The Bombay Hook–Little Cr. area has replaced Pedricktown as the place to see this species—at least six different birds were present during April and May (v.o.). A **Ruff** was a rarity for upstate New York at Rochester, May 22–23 (DSh, M. Tetlow, m.ob.) and another was discovered at Brig., May 28 (T. Boyle).

A small scattering of **Wilson's Phalaropes** was mainly along the coast, but a pair at Gravelle Farm, *Clinton*, NY, May 18–31+, was thought to be nesting (BK). If verified, this would represent the first confirmed nesting for the state and the Region. A few **Red-necked Phalaropes** were at Port Mahon during May, but the **Red Phalarope** at Captree



Hunting for flies: male Vermilion Flycatcher at Indian River Inlet, Delaware, May 3, 1993. First state record. Photograph/Joel Swertinski.

S.P., LI, Mar. 14, was the only one of the season (P. Murphy).

GULLS TO ALCIDS

Individual Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers were at Cape May May 15 (PB, PDu), and small numbers of both species were seen on offshore pelagic trips. A **Laughing Gull** at the mouth of the Genesee R., Rochester, was an unusual spring visitor June 1 (RGS). About 4–5 **Little Gulls** were around Cape May March–early May, and 1–2 were found during May at their old haunt of S. Amboy, *Middlesex*, where they were regular in the 1960s and early 1970s. Two **Little Gulls** at Marcus Hook, *Delaware*, Apr. 29, were good finds for Pennsylvania, and a single at Chazy Landing, *Clinton*, May 12, was unusual for the L. Champlain basin (M. Gretch). A pair at Oak Beach, LI, Apr. 4 (TWB), and the usual small numbers in w. New York round out the picture.

At least eight **Com. Black-headed Gulls** were seen in New Jersey, including four at S. Amboy; two on Long Island in March were the only others noted. An **Iceland Gull** at Green Lane Apr. 1 was the first adult ever seen at that location (JHo, GAF, GLF), and another adult was unusual at Pennsauken, *Camden*, NJ, Apr. 9 (WDa). A first-year **Iceland Gull** was a local rarity at Owego, *Tioga*, NY, Apr. 12 (H. Marsi, B. Bozdos, G. Kirch). More than 2 dozen reports of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** was a respectable spring total, with the most noteworthy being four for the season in the Cayuga L. Basin (NB).

A **Royal Tern** was very early at Cape May Apr. 22 (VE, BG) but appears to have been the only one of the season. The only **Roseate Tern** away from the Long Island nesting areas was an individual at Cape May May 4 & 19 (DSi, JDo *et al.*). Seven well-described **Arctic Terns** flying with **Com. Terns** along the beach at Cape May May 7 were both very early and unusual close to land (NB, ABy, T. Culver). A **Least Tern** was a rarity for the shores of L. Erie, near Irving, *Chautauqua*, May 18 (J. Goetz), and a **Forster's Tern** was unusual for the Cayuga Basin at Ithaca Apr. 11 (NB).

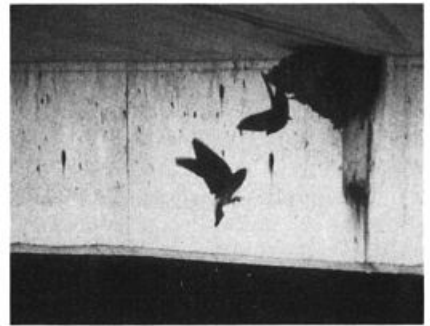
Modest numbers of **Black Terns** were reported from s.w. and coastal New Jersey, where they have become decidedly uncommon in spring, while 40+ were at the Perch R. W.M.A., *Jefferson*, NY, May 20; numbers continue to decline in the St. Lawrence Region. Three **Dovekies** were at Montauk Mar. 7 (TL), and several were seen at sea off Cape May later in the month (F. Ascoli). **Razorbill** numbers were impressive, with a peak of 125 at Montauk Mar. 7 (TL), ≤50 off Cape May Mar. 21, and six observed from shore at South Cape May Meadows Mar. 26 (DSi).

OWLS TO SHRIKES

A **Snowy Owl** was still at Cape Henlopen Mar. 7 (MG, BP), and several were on Long Island to mid-month. One at the Savannah Mucklands Apr. 25 was very late getting started for the tundra (v.o.). The **N. Hawk Owl** at L. Placid, NY, lingered to Apr. 4, establishing a new late date for the state (RH).

Placing a distant second to the **White-tailed Eagle** as the bird of the season was Delaware's first, and the Region's second, **Vermilion Flycatcher**, a beautiful ad. male present at Burton's I., Indian R. Inlet, May 2–5 (T. & C. Barnekov, ph. JS, m.ob.). Somewhat outclassed, but handsome nonetheless, was an ad. **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** at Higbee Beach, Cape May, May 22, that entertained the multitudes on an Audubon weekend (m.ob.).

Three nests of **Cliff Swallows** near Odessa, *New Castle*, May 9, established the first breeding record for Delaware (ph. NP), and a pair of **Com. Ravens** provided the first confirmed nesting in the Poconos at a site near Canadensis, *Monroe*, PA (RW). This is only 20 mi from the Kittatinny Ridge, where the species recently re-established itself as a breeder in New Jersey. A pair of **ravens** at Harriman S.P., *Rockland*, NY, from early May through the end of the period was also suspected of nesting (D. Panko).



Cliff Swallows at nest near Odessa, Delaware, on May 12, 1993. First state nesting record. Photograph/Nick Pulcinella.

The Region's first **Rock Wren**, present at Cape May Pt. since early December, survived the blizzard and was last seen Mar. 28 (m.ob.). Individual **Sedge Wrens** at Cape May May 9 (PDu) and **Sandy Hook May 27** (G. Lewis) were presumably just migrants, but one at Vernon Crossing, *Sussex*, NJ, was a potential breeder. A single report of a **Sedge Wren** at Montezuma (*fide* RGS) was the only one from w. New York, where the species was formerly a widespread, though uncommon, breeder.

Pennsylvania's 4th **Townsend's Solitaire** was a surprise visitor to Revere, *Bucks*, Mar. 22–23 (SF, m.ob.). A **Varied Thrush**, not previously reported, visited a feeder in Theresa, *Jefferson*, NY, February–late March (D. Prosser, ph. KLC). Perhaps taking a cue from their fellow visitor, 14 very late **Bohemian Waxwings** were still at L. Placid Apr. 4, sharing the same quaking aspen with the **N. Hawk Owl** (RH). A few **N. Shrikes** lingered in upstate New York into March, but a **Loggerhead Shrike** at Prospect Park, *Queens*, May 11, was both late for a migrant and a rarity for the New York City area (T. Fiore).

VIREOS, WARBLERS

In addition to destruction of the tropical forests, many of our migrants have to contend with such biological epidemics as the out-

break of forest tent caterpillar in upstate New York; last year the insect defoliated an estimated 110,000 acres in *Lewis, Jefferson*, and adjacent areas. The gypsy moth, on the other hand, seems to be well under control by natural means.

Philadelphia Vireo is a rare spring migrant in the s.e. of the Region, so the appearance of two in New York City (*vide* TWB), one in Bayonne, *Hudson*, NJ, May 15 (D. Roche, J. Holinka), and another at Sandy Hook the same day (RDi) was noteworthy. Rising noted some interesting, but sad, facts on the status of Golden-winged Warbler (which seems to be holding its own in some areas but rapidly declining elsewhere) in w. New York. The Buffalo Ornithological Society may count produced almost as many hybrids (4) as Golden-winged (5), compared with 106 Blue-winged warblers. Data from the counts held in the 1930s and 1940s show that Golden-winged outnumbered the Blue-winged at that time (GRR).

A Yellow-rumped Warbler of the Audubon's subspecies, a form rarely seen in the Region, was at Cape May, Apr. 11 (VE, T. Parsons). One of the surprises of the season was a Black-throated Gray Warbler, captured and banded at Island Beach, *Ocean*, NJ, May 3 (GEM); the overwhelming majority of the records for the Region and all but one of the previous New Jersey records are from the fall and winter. Even rarer at any season was a Townsend's Warbler at Alley Pond Park, *Queens*, NY, May 9 (ABa, details to N.Y.S.A.R.C.).



Common Raven near a nest in Monroe County, Pennsylvania, April 25, 1993. This was the first confirmed breeding record for the Poconos. Photograph/Rick Wiltraut.

Warblers wandering N of their usual range included a Yellow-throated Warbler at Rochester, May 10 (RGS), six others in the New York City area, and a Prothonotary at Greece, near Rochester (m.ob.). A Kentucky Warbler was also at Greece May 8 (B. & B. Powell). Connecticut Warbler was a rare spring migrant at Warren, *Somerset*, NJ, May 24 (S. Sobosinski) and at Henderson, *Jefferson*, NY, May 3 (LBC); three others were in the Rochester area in late May.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

An early spring warm front brought a wave of overshooting migrants to the Long Island shore Apr. 11, including five Summer Tanagers and 13 Blue Grosbeaks (TL). A single Summer Tanager visiting a suet feeder in Sergeantsville, *Hunterdon*, NJ, Apr. 9–11 was

somewhat out of range (J. Mitchell). Much farther out of range were a ♂ W. Tanager in breeding plumage at Rochester, May 9 (J. Browning), and a ♀ Black-headed Grosbeak at a *Tioga*, NY, feeder, May 19–31 (H. & S. O'Connell, details to N.Y.S.A.R.C.).

The previously reported ♂ **Painted Bunting** at a Broomall, *Chester*, PA, remained until Mar. 31, but another (or perhaps the same) appeared at a West Chester, *Chester*, feeder for 3 days, May 10–12 (*vide* P. Hurlock). A pair of **Painted Buntings** was found in Central Park, New York City, May 23 (D. Etheridge); the male stayed until May 26. Two different Dickcissels appeared at feeders in Hillsborough and Bernardsville, both *Somerset*, NJ, during the first week of May (*vide* RKa), one was in Wantage, *Sussex*, NJ, May 13 (SA), and another was at Higbee Beach, Cape May, May 15 (DSi, PS). A Clay-colored Sparrow photographed at Indian R., Apr. 9, provided the first such documentation for Delaware (APE); other Clay-colored were at Bull's I., *Hunterdon*, NJ, May 11 (DB), Scriba, *Oswego*, May 1 (S. Adair), and Braddock Bay, May 25 (KCG, D. Lown). An apparent ♂ **Lark Bunting** was reported with strong supporting details from New England Road, Cape May, May 15 (P. Beining, G. Flannery); there are only 5 acceptable records for the state.

Eight Henslow's Sparrows were at Perch R. W.M.A., *Jefferson*, NY, in late May, in the same area in which a nesting colony was present last year (BMW); elsewhere in the state, the species continues to decline. A **LeConte's Sparrow** on the campus of SUNY, Oswego, Apr. 28, was the 2nd for the Oneida L. Basin of New York (C. Foxdick). There were eight reports of Yellow-headed Blackbird in coastal New Jersey; others were at Rockland, *New Castle*, DE, Mar. 13 (ES), the SUNY Preserve, Binghamton, NY, May 13 (*vide* MD), and 3 in the Oneida L. Basin, NY, in late March.

A pair of courting Pine Grosbeaks was in a Cortland, NY, yard Apr. 12–15 (R. Silberman). Meanwhile, the previously reported Red Crossbills in Ward, *Allegany*, NY, nested successfully, a county first; an adult was seen feeding a recently fledged chick on Mar. 19 (EB). A flock of 25 Red Crossbills near Preston, *Chenango*, NY, May 24, probably nested nearby (D. Windsor), but a single, silent ♂ White-winged Crossbill at Kuser Bog, High Point S.P., *Sussex*, NJ, May 11 was not seen again (NB).

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MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

Eirik Blom, Michael O'Brien, Brian Patteson, and Eugene J. Scarpulla

It is no accident that it is taking four of us to fill the void left by Harry Armistead's well-deserved retirement. For more than a decade he has achieved the standard to which we all strive. Collectively we know not quite as much about the Region, write nowhere nearly as well, and have far fewer friends and admirers—but we will try to grow into the job. His counsel and advice have been invaluable in the transition, and his reports will continue to be the backbone of many seasonal summaries.

Spring was cool and wet, with rain averaging nearly 6 inches per month. A major snowstorm March 13 dropped as much as 18 inches in the western half of the Region and 3 to 5 inches on the Eastern Shore. The rain grounded some waterbirds, and the snow delayed a few migrants. The passerine migration was abysmal, contributing to fears that this is not a local or cyclical phenomenon.

Abbreviations: C.B.B.T. (*Chesapeake Bay-Bridge Tunnel*); Chinc. (*Chincoteague N.W.R.*); DC (*District of Columbia*); E.N.N.W.R. (*Eastern Neck N.W.R.*); E.S. (*Eastern Shore*); P.N.A.S. (*Patuxent Naval Air Station*); Mont. (*Montgomery*); U.M.C.F. (*Univ. MD. Central Farm, Howard*); VANS (*Voice of Audubon Naturalist Society*).

Single Red-throated Loons, rare inland, were on the Potomac in DC Mar. 7 & 28 (DC) and at Cobb I., Charles, Apr. 10 (GJ *vide* EMW). The largest concentration of Pied-billed Grebes was 43 at Loch Raven Mar. 1 (SWS), but they were unreported from Huntley Meadows Co. Park, Fairfax, VA, where they have nested in recent years. Horned Grebe numbers, greatly reduced a decade ago, are building back up: 568 were in 2 large rafts on the York R. near Yorktown Mar. 28 (BW), and on the same day Czaplak counted a record 365 in DC. Eared Grebes were at North Beach, Calvert, Mar. 23 and Apr. 3 (JLS). The only Red-necked Grebes were one at Ocean City inlet Mar. 14 (JR, DM) and one at North Beach Apr. 4 (RFR, JLS, MI).

PELAGICS

A pelagic trip to Washington and Poor Man's canyons May 15 found the following tubenoses: 10 N. Fulmars, one Sooty Shearwater, 3304

Wilson's Storm-Petrels, and three Leach's Storm-Petrels (KHB *et al.*). The count of Wilson's apparently represents a new high for Virginia. The Fulmars, along with four Mar. 2, are the first seen off Virginia in several springs. The only highlight from a trip out of Virginia Beach May 30 was eight Leach's Storm-Petrels (BP).

GANNETS TO HERONS

Typical of recent years, N. Gannets were widely reported in the lower and middle portions of the Bay. One wandered up the Potomac to Cobb I., Apr. 11 (GJ), the 3rd consecutive spring for the location. As Brown Pelicans continue to increase in the Region, more wander up the Bay. This spring had two at Pt. Lookout Apr. 18 (PC) and 10 between Smith I. and Crisfield, Somerset, May 8 (MLH). A White Pelican was at Chinc., Apr. 9 (FD). The explosive growth of cormorants continues. The 65 Greats at C.B.B.T., Mar. 20 (HTA), had dwindled to only 20 by Apr. 5 (MG); 18 at Ocean City Apr. 4 (Grubers) is the highest Maryland count away from St. Mary's Co. Inland, Stasz and Ringler saw a breeding-plumaged adult flying over McKeldin with five Double-cresteds Apr. 18, for a first Carroll record. Two Anhingas were back at the Region's only regular site at Stumpy L., Virginia Beach, May 26+ (NB, BP *et al.*).

American Bitterns were seen at 11 locations, about average, but no reports came from Huntley Meadows, where they have bred in recent years. Armistead, who has turned in his typewriter but not his binoculars, found 10 Least Bitterns, a good count for such an elusive species, in Dorchester May 8. A count of 11 Great Egrets migrating over the Potomac at Seneca, Montgomery, Mar. 30, was good for inland (DC). Another good inland find was two ad. Little Blue Herons at Nokesville, VA, May 1 (KHB, BL). There were 39 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons on the HRBC Spring Count, the 2nd highest

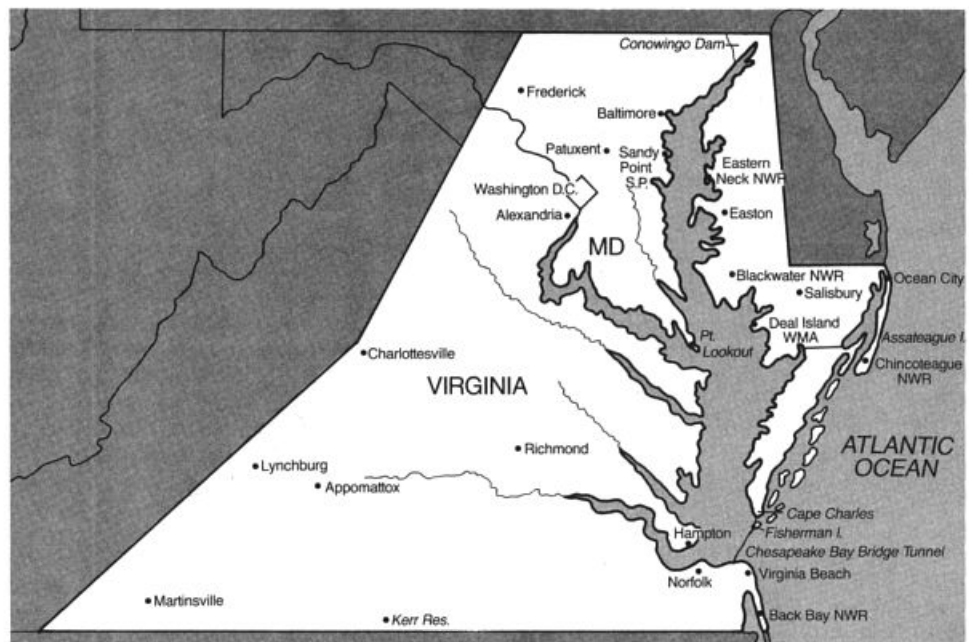
recorded there. Glossy Ibises are scarce w. of the Bay in spring. This year had one report from Virginia and 4 from Maryland. A nest with an egg at the South Pt. Spoils I. colony Apr. 20 is apparently one day earlier than the record Maryland date (DFB).

WATERFOWL

March 10 marked a big flight day for Tundra Swans, with 12,000 flying N over E.N.N.W.R. (Grubers) and 750 over Ellicott City, Howard (BO). Sad to say, Mute Swans are doing well. In the Bay there were 215 at Hoopers' Is., May 8 (HTA, GLA), and 68 at E.N.N.W.R., May 3 (J&TG), and at Chinc. N.W.R., the population continues to thrive, with 30 present May 7 (EMW). Singles of unknown origin were in the Piedmont at Lilypons Mar. 21 and Little Seneca Mar. 28 (DC) and at Piney Run through Mar. 28 (RFR). A first for Carroll was a Greater White-fronted Goose at Piney Run Mar. 20-21 (DM, RFR, EB). It was accompanied by at least three White-fronted x Canada goose hybrids. The number of Snow Geese wintering on the E.S. continues to rise, with 20,000 still at Kennedyville, Kent, Mar. 27 (Grubers), perhaps slightly delayed by late snow. Inland Brants were at Denton Mar. 8 (MWH) and Haines Pt., DC, Mar. 28 (DC, OJ). One of the "small" races of Canada Goose spent the latter part of the winter at Wye I., Queen Anne's, and was last seen Mar. 3 (MO).

Puddle duck numbers were low, perhaps a result of declines in breeding populations to the north. Among the better counts was 200 Am. Wigeons at Violet's Lock Mar. 5 (PO). Drake Eur. Wigeons were found in Maryland at Violet's Lock Mar. 21 (GG), the 2nd for Montgomery, at the North American Wildfowl Trust, Queen Anne's, Mar. 8; and near Longwoods, Talbot, late March-Apr. 4 (JR *et al.*).

Among 350 Canvasbacks at Cambridge, Dorchester, Mar. 21, was one albino (JR). Typ-



ical numbers of Canvasbacks, Redheads, and Ring-necked Ducks were reported from inland lakes and reservoirs. The best scaup count was 10,000 Lessers at E.N.N.W.R., Mar. 7 (J&TG). The latest report of King Eiders was of five at the C.B.B.T., Mar. 16 (TG, DS). An imm. ♂ Com. Eider at Ocean City Mar. 17 may have been the same one there in late May (DFB). Another stayed late in Virginia at Back Bay, last seen May 29 (DFA). The ♂ Harlequin Duck at Ocean City stayed until Apr. 24 (DC, SD, JR *et al.*); presumably a coincidence, the three at the C.B.B.T. were last seen the same day (TF, JW). There were a few inland scoter records, many late enough to suggest birds not destined to make it to the breeding grounds. An excellent count of 340 Buffleheads at Seneca, *Mont.*, Apr. 2 (DC), was part of the same fallout that brought the record count of Horned Grebes to DC. A late Hooded Merganser at Lilypons Apr. 25 was at the location at which a pair had nested in 1992 (DC).

RAPTORS TO RALLIDS

After 13 years of irregular coverage and spotty reporting, Ft. Smallwood, the best hawk-watching site in the Region, was formally adopted by Paul Fritz, resulting in nearly daily coverage. Observers were out 62 days (including one day in February), logging 350 hours—coverage not approached since 1981. Seasonal records were set for numerous species, but the total of 9019 birds fell just short of 1981's 9828, primarily because of the continuing decline in Sharp-shinned. New seasonal records include the following (previous record and year in parentheses): Cooper's Hawk 549 (279/1986), Red-tailed Hawk 335 (231/1983), Red-shouldered Hawk 239 (224/1983), Bald Eagle 22 (12/1981), Am. Kestrel 1331 (854/1983), Turkey Vulture 2750 (1186/1981), and Black Vulture 41 (37/1985). The big jump in kestrels and vultures reflects good coverage early in the season. The best one-day total was 1105 birds Apr. 15 on E winds, traditionally thought to be the least productive. Among the rarities were two N. Goshawks, one each Mar. 8 & 9. They are the first reported for the site and the only ones in the Region this spring. Also notable were single Mississippi Kites May 11 (PF) & 28 (details, first-summer plumage; SR), part of an invasion into the Region. Also with details were a first-summer bird at Hughes Hollow, *Mont.*, May 15 (DC) and an adult at Ellicott City May 22 (JF). Birds without details were reported from Broad Cr., *Harford*, May 8, near Great Falls, *Mont.*, May 23, and near Ellicott City May 31. If only half the reports are correct they represent unprecedented numbers. In Virginia they were back at their regular haunts along the Meherrin R. in *Greenville* in May, but we received no exact dates or counts. A Swallow-tailed Kite near Oyster, VA, Apr. 3 (BT, BW) was perhaps the earliest ever for the state, and one was near Laurel, *Prince Georges*, Apr. 24 (TB). Ospreys continue to increase: 73 on the HRBC May 8 spring bird count was the highest number in 16 years

of counts. The Bald Eagles that nested on the west side of Triadelphia Res. last year moved to the east side this year, providing a first breeding record for *Howard* (JS). An ad. Golden Eagle soaring over Urieville L., *Kent*, Mar. 22 was unexpected (J&TG). A good flight of Am. Kestrels was noted at Elms Environmental Center, *St. Mary's*, where 60 passed in one hour Apr. 3 (PC). The same day 362 were counted at Ft. Smallwood—a new one-day record for the site. At Nokesville, VA, 18 was a good count May 8 (KHB), reflecting a good prey base and an active nest box program.

A drumming Ruffed Grouse at Bull Run, *Prince William*, Mar. 21 (SDE) was 15 mi away from the known nesting site at Quantico Marine Base. King Rails were active at Huntley Meadows despite the construction of a new boardwalk there (v.o.). Two Black Rails calling before dawn at Cornfield Harbor May 8 (PC, AB, JB) represent one of the few *St. Mary's* records. An excellent count of Am. Coots was 800 at Loch Raven, *Baltimore*, Apr. 8 (SWS).

SHOREBIRDS

High water during much of the spring forced shorebirds to abandon the ponds and reservoirs and to use flooded fields, but few notable concentrations were found. Black-necked Stilts were back at their 2 known breeding locations, with a pair at Craney I., *Portsmouth*, VA, May 27 (NB) and a Maryland record 19 at Deal I., May 8 (GG, JO, PP *et al.*). The only other stilts reported were at Poquoson, VA, in April (DM *et al.*) and at Blackwater N.W.R., May 5 (EMW). The sole Am. Avocet was at Herring Bay, *Anne Arundel*, May 6 (JLS). Observers ran across more Upland Sandpipers than usual. Three near Snow Hill, *Worcester*, Apr. 5 (MO) may be a record-early arrival for Maryland. They were back on territory at Lucketts, *Loudon*, VA, by Apr. 20 (BL). The best shorebird of the spring was a Curlew Sandpiper at Chinc., May 21–23 (BH, BL *et al.*). Three Wilson's Phalaropes were seen: May 3 in a flooded field near Williamsburg, VA (BT, BW), and males at Chesapeake Beach, *Calvert*, May 6 & 14 (JLS). The only shorebird concentrations of note were at Chinc. in Virginia and Fairmont, *Somerset*, MD. Reports for Chinc., May 21–23, included "thousands" of Semipalmated and 50 White-rumped sandpipers, hundreds of Dunlins, and 1000+ Short-billed Dowitchers (BH), but only one Red Knot. At Fairmont a large pool was drained in early May, providing the following highlights: 300 Semipalmated Plovers May 8–9, 135 Greater and 70 Lesser yellowlegs May 2, 400 Semipalmated Sandpipers May 15, 340 Least Sandpipers May 8–9, 450 Dunlins May 9, 100 Short-billed Dowitchers May 8–9, and one Stilt Sandpiper May 2–8 (MLH). The only other Stilt Sandpipers reported were two at Worton, *Kent*, May 8 (FP *et al.*).

S.A.

The shorebird phenomenon of the spring was the fallout of Am. Woodcocks at Pt. Lookout, *St. Mary's*. Following the snowstorm of Mar. 14 Patty Craig drove slowly through the park at dusk, counting the Am. Woodcocks and Com. Snipe feeding along the plowed edge of the road. In the 3 days before heavy rains had melted the snow and dispersed the birds, she recorded the following totals: 161 woodcocks and 8 snipes Mar. 14, 199 woodcocks and 22 snipes Mar. 15, and 134 woodcocks and 13 snipes Mar. 16. The peak woodcock count was ≥ 140 more than the previous Maryland high, a countywide May count total. What is not clear is whether these were northbound birds grounded by the storm or birds forced S by the snow.

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

Bass had a Great Skua about 60 mi e. of Virginia Beach Mar. 2. It was a good year for Bonaparte's Gulls in the Piedmont, probably the result of heavy rains forcing migrants down to observable levels. Numbers on the Potomac peaked Apr. 3 with 350 at Haines Pt., DC, and 300 at Seneca, *Mont.*, both excellent counts (DC). The peak at Back R. was a modest 2500 Apr. 4 (EJS). This year an ad. Little Gull was at Haines Pt., Apr. 3 for the 2nd DC record (DC, FD, ph.) and one was at Back R., Apr. 25 (EJS). Common Black-headed Gulls were on the James R. near Williamsburg Mar. 14 (BW), as well as an adult at Back R., Apr. 4 (EJS) and an immature at P.N.A.S., *St. Mary's*, Apr. 22 (KR). After its 4th winter in the Region, the Yellow-legged Gull was last seen at Georgetown Res., DC, Mar. 26 (DC). The only Iceland Gull was at Laytonville, *Mont.*, Mar. 6 (DC *et al.*) and the only Glaucous was an immature at Ft. Smallwood Apr. 17 (MO, HW *et al.*). As usual, Lesser Black-backed were scattered throughout the Region, with a peak of 6 at Laytonville Mar. 6 (DC *et al.*) and the latest one in Baltimore Apr. 25 (EJS). Two Caspian Terns were at Veterans Memorial Park, VA, as early as Apr. 4 (V.A.N.S.), and rain forced 44 into a pasture in *Howard*, Apr. 22 (JF, JS). The only Black Terns reported were two at Seneca May 4 (DC), singles near Frederick May 19 & 26 (SM), and one in *Howard*, May 19 (JS *et al.*). Ideal ocean conditions Mar. 2 allowed Bass to count 62 Razor-bills 30–50 mi. e. of VA Beach, a new high count for the state and one of the highest for the Region. This is the 3rd consecutive year for a large Razorbill flight. A single Atlantic Puffin was off Ocean City May 15 (KHB).

CUCKOOS TO SHRIKES

Black-billed Cuckoos were more widely reported than normal, but no exceptional numbers of Yellow-billed were noted (v.o.). Two Long-eared Owls wintering in *Kent* were present through Apr. 19 (FP). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers continue to be scarce, but four lin-

gered into May (v o) Eight Olive-sided Flycatcher reports was a bit above average. A scattering of non-Acadian *Empidonax* flycatchers was typical, the best being a probable Least flying around the boat offshore near Norfolk Canyon May 30 (BP, DFA *et al.*). Purple Martins had an outstanding spring count of 250 at Lucketts Apr. 29 (EMW). A Com. Raven seen along I-85 in *Dimwiddie*, VA was farther east than expected Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce again (v.o.). An exceptional find was a well-described **Bewick's Wren** at Violet's Lock, *Mont.*, May 1 (BPe). And 41 House Wrens on the HRBC spring count was a new record (TK). Most observers characterized Winter Wrens as low in numbers; one in DC, May 24 was extremely late (DC). The only Sedge Wrens were two in *Kent*, May 8 (J&TG). Ringer notes that Golden-crowned Kinglets no longer breed in the Maryland portion of the Hanover watershed, with logging the probable cause. There were only moderate flights of thrushes, the best nights being May 7 & 13. Gray-cheeked, the rarest thrush of the Region, was reported in better-than-average numbers in Virginia, and two, one in Norfolk May 26 (NB) and one at Edward's Ferry, *Mont.* (DC), were identified as "Bicknell's," a race apparently on the verge of being accorded species status. Loggerhead Shrike barely hangs on in the n. part of the Region, with one at Lucketts and four in Maryland in *Fredrick* (v.o.).

VIREOS, WARBLERS

Virtually all observers noted the dearth of migrants, many calling it the poorest season in memory. No large numbers or movements were detected. Even the usually abundant Yellow-rumped Warbler had a relatively poor showing. Among the expected rarities were 4 reports of Philadelphia Vireo (v.o.); a Swainson's Warbler at Hollywood Apr. 21 (KR), apparently a first for *St. Mary's*; a "Lawrence's" Warbler at Nassawango May 8 (SD), and 12 reports of Mourning Warbler May 7-29 (v.o.). The exception was Blackpoll, which seemed to be in good numbers. The HBRC spring count produced the most impressive totals, including 75 N. Parulas, 39 Black-throated Blues, 173 Blackpolls, 47 Ovenbirds, and 127 Com. Yellowthroats. Jim Stasz's North American Migration Count censuses birds held the 2nd Saturday in May nationwide. He reports that every state compiler e. of the Great Plains commented on the poor migration of passerines, suggesting that this is not just a local phenomenon.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A ♂ Summer Tanager at Patapsco Valley S.P., *Howard*, Apr. 17 was early and out of range (MW). A Blue Grosbeak at Denton, *Caroline*, Apr. 13 was very early (RBF). An extremely early Indigo Bunting was at a feeder in Chestertown, *Kent*, Apr. 3-7 (PY, *fide* JG). Three Painted Buntings showed up in Maryland. A male graced a feeder in Hollywood Feb 8-22 and Apr 4, providing a first *St*

Mary's record, amazingly, a female was discovered at a different feeder in Hollywood during the same period (TD, *fide* PC), and a male stocked up at a feeder in *Worcester*, Feb. 21-28 and Mar. 21-Apr. 8 (MH, *fide* SD). At least four Dickcissels were in s. *Frederick*, May 15-30 (KB, DC *et al.*). Another first for *St. Mary's* was a Clay-colored Sparrow at P.N.A.S., Apr. 18 (DL, ph.). A sparrow in Salisbury, *Worcester*, resembled a field but sang the song of a Clay-colored (SD). Lincoln's Sparrows were in above-average numbers, with a dozen reported, all in the Piedmont, Apr. 27-May 16 (v.o.). Rare inland for spring were Sharp-tailed Sparrows at U.M.C.F., Apr. 27 (CB, HZ) and Virginia's 3rd spring Piedmont record at Nokesville May 1 (KHB, BL). A Red Crossbill at Bellevue, *Talbot*, Apr. 4 was unique.

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SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

Ricky Davis

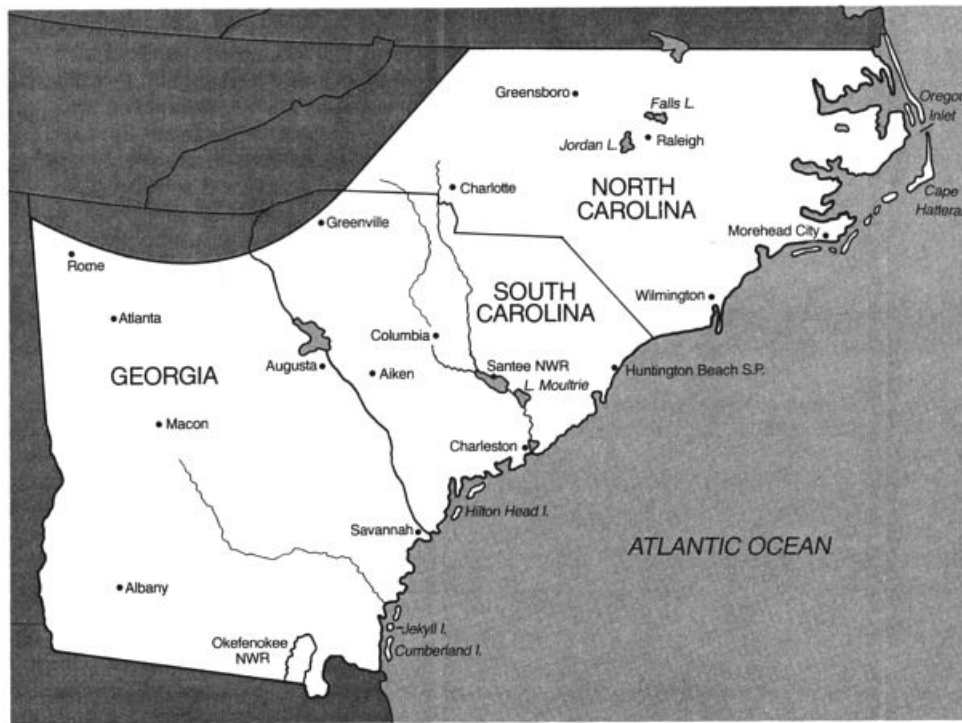
Spring was wet and cool in March and April, contrasted by a rather dry and warm May. The big story was the "Storm of the Century," which moved through the Region March 13. Winds were hurricane force and snow amounts excessive. Coastal areas had major flooding and erosion; in the foothills and Piedmont there was major tree damage. How all this affected birdlife is unclear. There were very few reports of bird mortality, and many feeder watchers reported a definite increase in activity immediately following the storm. Ground-feeding birds such as pipits were hardest hit.

Migration was similar to that of past spring seasons. Most birds arrived on time. There were some very good records, such as Georgia's first Snowy Plover, North Carolina's first Black Guillemot, and several interesting pelagic species. And the Collared-Dove has finally entered the Region in full force!

LOONS TO ANHINGA

Two separate Red-throated Loons near Greensboro, NC, in late March (HLi, *fide* HH) were rare inland transients. Unprecedented were at least two different **Pacific Loons**. A live bird picked up on the beach near Morehead City, NC, in late March was released in early April (PS, *fide* JF). Another (or the same) individual was later seen nearby at Cape Lookout Apr. 30 (PS, *fide* JF). Both birds showed a gray nape patch, and the first one was measured in the hand. Also a Pacific at figure Eight I., near Wilmington, NC, Apr 18 (DC), was seen by several other observers. There are only a handful of valid records for this species complex. Two reservoirs near Greensboro, NC, continued to host four Red-necked Grebes from the winter season well into mid-March (HLi, *fide* HH). Also unusual was one at Huntington Beach S.P., *Georgetown*, SC, Mar. 21 (HA *et al.*). The best count for Eared Grebes was seven at a sewage pond in Sumter, SC (LG *et al.*). Northern Fulmar was reported 3 times in NC—two e. of Cape Lookout Apr. 3 (AB), one off Oregon Inlet May 15 (MT *et al.*), and one found dead at Portsmouth (SD). Black-capped Petrels were found on most offshore trips, while the rare Herald Petrel was reported once (without details). Also the "Soft-plumaged" petrel was reported twice: May 22 (RO *et al.*) & 31 (MT *et al.*) off Oregon Inlet, NC. No details or photos were received for either report.

Observers wanting to see pelagic birds while comfortably on shore should take Brinkley's lead and get to Cape Hatteras Pt., Buxton, NC, when the winds are right. During SE winds following strong NE winds, Brinkley saw impressive numbers of shearwaters: 479 Cory's May 28 and an astounding



shoulder. Observers should be aware of the possible confusion with the similarly marked European race, which has been recorded in the Region before. Dinsmore's shorebird censuses at Portsmouth I., NC, continued this spring; for the 2nd consecutive year, he discovered **Bar-tailed Godwit**. Two noted Apr. 24 were of the nominate race *lapponica*, like last year's bird. Peeps migrate through coastal sites in late May in good numbers, but the report of an estimated 10,000 Semipalmated Sandpipers at the Savannah R. Spoil Site, SC, May 29, was extraordinary (GD *et al.*). Were all those birds Semis? Portsmouth I., NC, hosted at least two Curlew Sandpipers as usual, one May 12 and a different bird May 24 (SD). More surprising were two in basic plumage at the Yawkey Wildlife Center, Georgetown, SC, May 15 & 27 (JL *et al.*, *fide* LG). Four Red Phalaropes off Savannah, GA, May 23, extended the period by more than a month (BB *et al.*). North

866 Cory's and 221 Greaters June 3. A Manx Shearwater off Hatteras Pt., NC, May 18 (BA *et al.*) was a good record, but Brinkley's two May 28 and two June 3 seen from Cape Hatteras Pt. were very rare onshore sightings! He believed that several unidentified small shearwaters farther out were of this species as well. A final note of interest: A shearwater intermediate in size between a Cory's and a Greater, having a dark bill and a dorsal color darker than a Cory's, was observed at close range June 3 at Cape Hatteras (NB). The bird could have been one of the *edwardsii* race (species?) of Cory's Shearwater. This form breeds in the Cape Verde Is. off the w. coast of Africa.

Three species of storm-petrel were reported off Oregon Inlet (MT *et al.*) with peak counts of 875 Wilson's May 15, seven Band-rumped May 31, and 84(!) Leach's May 31. One of the May 31 Leach's appears to be of a dark-rumped form, not expected in the Atlantic. Five Leach's off Savannah, GA, May 23 (BB *et al.*) furnished that state's best one-day count ever! Always exciting in the Piedmont, two Anhingas were over Chapel Hill and Durham, NC, May 2 (J&AR, m.ob.).

BITTERNS TO FALCONS

Both bitterns were reported, and three ad. Least near Augusta, GA, in May were suspected of nesting (AW). For the 3rd consecutive year, Yellow-crowned Night-Herons successfully raised young in a Winston-Salem, NC, park (RS). For the past several years, Reddish Egrets have visited the North Carolina coast. This year was no different, with two at Harkers I., May 28 (PS, *fide* JF) and one at Drum Inlet during May (SD).

Six apparently wild Mute Swans dropped into the Goldsboro, NC, Waste Treatment Ponds Apr. 26 and left the next morning—a confounding event (ED)! In North Carolina,

one to four Com. Eiders were reported at several localities, with two lingering at Cape Hatteras until June (RD, HL, m.ob.). A ♂ Com. Goldeneye in n. Greene, GA, sighted Mar. 6, provided a rare local record (PSy).

The intense storm of Mar. 13 was possibly responsible for some good counts of mergansers inland in North Carolina. Dinsmore found 27 Commons at Falls L. near Raleigh Mar. 14, and 11 were at L. Gaston Mar. 28 (RM). There were 30 Red-breasteds at L. Crabtree Mar. 25 (DS) and 45 at Jordan Res., Mar. 28 (RD).

All 3 states reported Swallow-tailed Kites, but one seen Mar. 12 in Brunswick, NC, was early (PSP, JB, *fide* EP). Up to five birds were found in the Buxton, NC, area in late May (EB, *fide* SD). Migrant Broad-winged Hawk numbers were down in the Tryon, NC, area (ST), but these birds continue to be found locally in the lower Piedmont and Coastal Plain. A rare find was 4 migrants at Portsmouth, NC, May 11 (SD).

The Chimney Rock Park, NC, Peregrine Falcons were regularly observed all spring, although their nesting attempt was unsuccessful (ST). Migrant Peregrines were found in all 3 states; the latest was one at Portsmouth, NC, May 19 (SD). A "very pale adult" was reported in n. Greene, GA, Apr. 10 (P. Sykes, P. Yaukey).

PLOVERS TO ALCIDS

The shorebird of the season was undoubtedly the **Snowy Plover** found on Sapelo I., GA, Apr. 17 (RE, *fide* TM; JS, BB, ph. RE); Ellenberg's photographs should document Georgia's first state record. A count of >200 Black-necked Stilts at the Savannah R. Spoil Site, SC, May 29 was impressive (GD *et al.*). While birding at Bird Shoal near Beaufort, NC, Fussell found an aberrant Whimbrel that had patches of white on the upper back and one

Carolina got 2 specimens at Ft. Macon, near Morehead City—one Mar 14 (JF) and one in alternate plumage May 16 (*fide* RN). Huntington Beach S.P., SC had one Mar 18–22 for a rare local record (JP, HA *et al.*). The only onshore report of Red-necked Phalarope was of a male and a female at the Savannah R. Spoil Site May 29 (GD *et al.*). Dinsmore reported the only Wilson's Phalaropes, all at Portsmouth I., NC, with singles there May 9, 11, & 21.

Jaeger migration seemed about normal, with all 3 species recorded. Pomarines were the most prevalent, followed by Parasitics. Long-taileds were found on only 2 trips off Hatteras, NC (MT *et al.*). Skuas caused some excitement in North Carolina waters this spring. Two S. Polars offshore was about normal, but one from land at Cape Hatteras Pt., Buxton, June 3, provided a rare record (NB). Bryan rode a fishing charter boat off Cape Lookout Apr 3 and photographed a **Great Skua** 30 mi out. This is one of only a handful of records to be documented by photographs. A Skua off Hatteras May 29 (ph. MT) has been the subject of much discussion. Some believe it is of the Antarctic species complex. Whatever the case, the photographs are being reviewed. The best gull records were of an ad. Com. Black-headed in breeding plumage at the Aurora, NC, ferry landing Apr. 7–8 (ph. KM, SC) and an ad. Franklin's at Sapelo I., GA, May 21 (AJ). A Sabine's Gull 30 mi e. of Cape Lookout, NC, Apr. 13 (BH) was an early migrant. Sooty Terns have returned to the Cape Hatteras Pt., Buxton, tern colony, in NC, perhaps attempting to nest. Unlike last spring, Roseate and Arctic Terns were not evident offshore migrants in North Carolina waters. Roseates were found at the usual Cape Hatteras Pt. and Core Banks spots (BA, SD, JN), and Arctics were found only once—one to three off Cape Lookout by Holmes on the

very early date of Apr 13! Alcids are very rare in the Region in spring; consequently, a Razor-bill flying N past Ft. Fisher, NC, Mar. 18 and another Mar. 20 were interesting (RW). Carter saw one going past figure Eight I., NC, Mar. 20, probably the same bird noted to the south at Ft. Fisher the same day. North Carolina's first Black Guillemot was found at the jetty at Wrightsville Beach Apr. 24 on a spring count. The bird was molting into its dark breeding plumage but was still hard to see among the rocks. It was viewed by several lucky observers until about May 3 (SC, DC, SD, v.o.).

DOVES TO HUMMINGBIRDS

After Georgia's first Eur. Collared-Dove was sighted in Jan. 1988, it was only a matter of time before more would turn up in the Region. This spring the inevitable happened, again in GA; two or more birds were found in the St. Simon's I. area during April, (MH) and also around nearby Brunswick April-May (BB). One was also reported farther up the coast at Sapelo I., May 25 (AJ *et al.*).

Yellow-billed Cuckoos had an "outstanding season" in upstate SC (PW), and Black-billed were reported from the mountains to the coast during May. Caprimulgids were not mentioned much; I presume that Whips are still increasing in the Coastal Plain at the expense of Chucks. Hummingbirds made big news in Georgia during fall and winter, with 6 species recorded (**Magnificent, Black-chinned, Anna's, Broad-tailed, Allen's, Rufous, and Ruby-throated!**) Many of these were banded for documentation, and most remained in the Region until mid-March (PSy). In North Carolina, an ad. ♂ Rufous Hummingbird was at a Beaufort feeder late March-April 18 (DM, LC, m.ob.).

FLYCATCHERS TO VIREOS

The rare Olive-sided Flycatcher was recorded twice in North Carolina. One was seen and heard near Winston-Salem May 20-23 (LR, AN *et al.*), and one was in Link's Greensboro yard (RM). Gray Kingbirds are rare in North Carolina, so 2 birds this season was noteworthy—one at Sunset Beach in early April and one at Portsmouth May 24-25 (RT, RM, TH, SD). Upstate South Carolina had 2 reports of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher—possibly of the same bird. One May 27 in n.w. Chester (TK) was only 50-60 mi from one near Campobello, May 23-24 (PB, ST *et al.*)

Almost never found near the immediate coast, 2-3 Horned Larks near Hubert, NC, was a surprise (JH). They remained there through the period and appeared to be nesting! Swallows seemed to be doing well throughout the Region, and new nesting sites for the Cliff Swallow are too numerous to mention. The Com. Raven appears to be holding its own, with birds reported at the usual sites, and the Forsyth, NC, quarry birds nested successfully again (RS).

Reports concerning thrushes were discouraging. Wood Thrushes seemed average in number, but Veeries were low, and Swainson's and Gray-cheekeds were way down! A late

Veery was banded at York, SC, June 2 (BH), and an early Swainson's was found in Oconee, GA, Apr. 11 (PSy). American Pipits were discovered feeding along highways after the Mar. 13 "blizzard." High counts were of >100 in n. Greene, GA (PSy *et al.*) and ≤200 in Guilford, NC, where they hadn't been reported since 1977 (HH). Vireo reports were slim, but LeGrand continued to find Solitaries on territory in the lower Piedmont, NC, where 10 singing birds were in Uwharrie N.E., May 12 & 13. Georgia also had a rare record, with a Piedmont nesting pair near Parksville in late May (AW).

WARBLERS

Reports were mixed but generally negative concerning warbler migration. Some early migrants were seen, such as an ad. ♂ Cape May Apr. 10 n. Greene, GA (PSy, PY) and a Swainson's Apr. 4 (!), n.e. Edgecombe, NC (RD). Late birds included a Magnolia banded at York, SC, June 2 (BH) and a singing Kentucky in Buxton, NC, June 1 (PSy). A Cape May found near Lynn, NC, Mar. 1, was obviously an overwintering bird (ST). Always exciting in the Region, the Yellow-rumped "Audubon's" Warbler was found on 2 occasions—a female in Edgecombe, NC (RD) Apr. 24 and another female at Kennesaw Mt., GA, Apr. 25 (JS). Prothonotary Warblers are scarce in the upper Piedmont and foothills of North Carolina, so birds at Hendersonville Apr. 18



Adult Common Black-headed Gull on the Pamlico River at Aurora, North Carolina, April 7, 1993. Photograph/Kevin Markham.

(WF) and at L. Adger n. of Tryon May 26 (ST) were good finds. Respectable numbers of Black-and-White Warblers were found in the upper Piedmont of South Carolina—six singing in one Breeding Bird Atlas block in Abbeville (TK) and 3 pairs in McCormick (AW). A territorial Black-and-White on a Breeding Bird Survey route in the Green Swamp, Brunswick, NC, May 30, provided a rare local record, but not without precedent (RD)! Ceruleans are doing well in the Tryon, NC, area (ST, HL), but the Roanoke R. population seems to be losing ground, warranting continued monitoring.

BUNTINGS TO FINCHES

An early ♂ Blue Grosbeak Apr. 10 n. Greene, GA (PSy, PY) was preceded by a very early male at Zebulon, NC, Apr. 5 (RD). Hilton reported that Indigo Bunting numbers were far above average in York, SC, this spring, continuing this species' recent trend. Painted

Buntings were farther north than usual; a pair visited a feeder in Frisco on the North Carolina Outer Banks Apr. 11 (BR). Since Dickcissel is a very erratic migrant in the Region, 3 birds at the Cherry Hospital grounds near Goldsboro, NC, May 15 (ED) was noteworthy. Bachman's Sparrows, as usual, were reported from several Piedmont localities. The best sparrow of the season was an Am. Tree found near Falls L. n. of Raleigh, NC, Mar. 14 (SD). This species is rarely found in winter in the Region, so a spring record is all the more unusual. Good news for Grasshopper Sparrows: they returned to the Augusta, GA, airport this year after a 4- to 6-year absence (AW). A Lincoln's Sparrow at Mason Farm near Chapel Hill, NC, Apr 3 provided a notable spring record (L&EP, PC).

Bobolink numbers were a little down this spring, but five at Portsmouth, NC, May 15-19 was unusual for that locality and date (SD). Behavior exhibited by one male and three females in w. Forsyth May 5-20 indicated that possible territories were being established (TMB, m.ob.). **Shiny Cowbird** continues to increase, reported now for several years. This spring an ad. male was at a Figure Eight I., NC, feeder mid-May to June (DC). A nesting pair of N. Orioles found s. of Greensboro, NC, during May was at the e. edge of the breeding range for the state (HH). Purple Finches, practically nonexistent during the winter season, staged a Regionwide influx in March, noted by feeder watchers and banders. Was this related to the March 13 storm? A belated report of **Red Crossbill**, erratic breeders in the Region, was Georgia's first documented nesting. A male and female with 2 small fledglings (barely able to fly) were observed coming to a feeder in Cedartown, Floyd, May 19, 1991 (LH, BD, JS, CL, AM). Photos were taken of the male and a fledgling June 11 (LH). Pine Siskins were just as scarce as Purple Finches during the winter, but they never increased the way the latter did in March.

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FLORIDA REGION

H.P. Langridge

Catching Floridians and wildlife by surprise March 13, the "Storm of the Century," with 109-mph winds on the Dry Tortugas and 118 at Lake City, caused 44 human deaths on land, plus five off the coast. From central Florida, Herb Kale reported that this storm knocked Bald Eagle and Great Horned Owl nestlings out of their nests, and Park Small said that it stopped and delayed nesting of Scrub Jays for two to three weeks. From the Tallahassee Region, Tom Morrill reported the destruction of a Red-shouldered Hawk's nest. From Homestead, Bill Robertson said that the storm bent the pole of his new martin house 20 degrees out of vertical—but the martins used the house successfully anyway. From Pinellas County, Lyn and Brooks Atherton estimated 1000 Common Terns bunched at Fort DeSoto Park, and from Sarasota County, the Stedmans visited a refuge center to see an exhausted Leach's Storm-Petrel picked up on the beach. From the Dry Tortugas, several of the Geiger trees inside Fort Jefferson were uprooted. Ted Below wrote that the storm "caused about as much damage as Andrew along the southwest coast." From the Dry Tortugas to the Tallahassee area, this storm left its mark on human beings and wildlife alike.

A storm every week in March—with some days of record rainfall, fierce winds, and very cloudy skies—swept a few scenic rarities and hundreds of Northern Gannets near the beach, causing minor but widespread gannet fatalities. The Big Event was the storm of March 13. A very wet March and a damp April changed abruptly to a very dry late April and May. The result was generally clear flying conditions with few migrants evident, but a few weather disturbances with west winds did create a few fallouts. Caribbean strays included a Red-footed Booby, two LaSagra's Flycatchers, three Bahama Mockingbirds, and two ♂ Black-faced Grassquits.

The use of Robertson's and Woolfenden's *Florida Bird Species* has been indicated by quotation marks.

Abbreviations: Dog I. (*Dog I., Franklin*); D.T. (*Dry Tortugas N.P., Monroe*); E.N.P. (*Everglades N.P.*); F.R.C. (*Florida Rarities Committee*); Ft. DeSoto (*Ft. DeSoto Park, Pinellas*); St. Marks (*St. Marks N.W.R., Wakulla*).

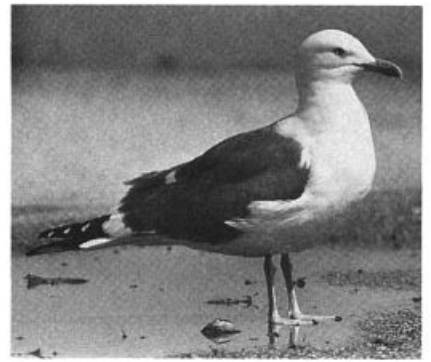
PETRELS TO WATERFOWL

A Black-capped Petrel, "rare to locally common," was spotted 10 mi s.e. of Cosgrove Shoals, *Monroe*, Apr. 20

(DS, m.ob.). "Rare ... with about 35 reports," a Leach's Storm-Petrel was picked up exhausted on the beach in *Sarasota*, Mar. 13, for a first March record (SS, AS). Also "rare with about 10 reports," a **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel** Mar. 23 perched in the surf and flew within 10 ft around B. Hope, providing the 2nd *Palm Beach* sighting for another unprecedented March sighting of a storm-petrel. Another early Band-rumped was spotted at Rebecca Shoals, *Monroe*, Apr. 10 (WR, DS, m.ob.). Seldom visiting D.T. during the past few years, the White-tailed Tropicbird was photographed there May 1-6 (JMS, BS, m.ob., ph. BS). The Mar. 13 storm destroyed 60 percent of the pelican nests then active at Alafia Bank; this was believed to be a short-term loss. A N. Gannet was seen on Lower Tampa Bay near Anna Maria Mar. 25. A cooperative "intermediate"-plumaged **Red-footed Boo-**



The western "Audubon's" form of Yellow-rumped Warbler had been reported in Florida several times before, but photographic documentation was obtained for this first time with this male at the Dry Tortugas on May 3, 1993. Photograph/Brian E. Small.



Adult Lesser Black-backed Gull at Key Biscayne, Florida, on April 10, 1993. Photograph/Alan Wormington.

by, a "first" for this form for Florida and a very rare visitor, thrilled hundreds of observers by perching regularly among nesting Magnificent Frigatebirds on Long Key at D.T., Apr. 10-May 17 (CB, DG, m.ob., ph. BH, SRK, PH, GJA). One "Great White" Heron was seen along Alligator Alley in the Big Cypress Swamp May 9. During late April (JCO), results of Wood Stork nesting were poor at E.N.P., with 25 pairs in 2 rookeries. Seldom seen in *Pinellas*, a Fulvous Whistling-Duck was found on a golf course May 15 (RWS). The 200 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in Myakka Valley, *Sarasota*, Mar. 12 (PSt, *fide* AR) appeared to be the largest number ever reported in Florida and attested to its recent breeding success. A ♂ Blue-winged Teal was very late at Orlando May 28 (RP, JLB), and a ♂ Oldsquaw in *Charlotte* Mar. 20 (OH) was a surprise.

RAPTORS TO TERNS

The status of the "rare" Black-shouldered Kites in s. Florida continued to look encouraging, with a pair on the *Broward/Palm Beach* line w. of Hwy 27 Mar. 3, a pair building a nest n.w. of Homestead Mar. 10 (PWS, SAS), and with a female bringing food to a nest in s. *Broward*, May 2 (JLB, WG, ER, m.ob.). Three sightings of Swallow-tailed Kite along the Hillsborough River suggest possible nesting there. Off course over open water, a Bald Eagle flew near Cosgrove Shoals miles w. of Key West Apr. 26 (DS). But even as far s.w. as D.T., a juvenile (WBR) and an adult (BH) were seen at different times a few years ago, so the April sighting was not all that startling. An ad. Golden Eagle, "rare" but regular, was reported at St. Marks Apr. 23 (RWB, JWB, RLB). A Crested Caracara, occasionally known to wander even to the Keys, shocked an observer on Boca Chica, *Monroe*, Apr. 19 (PW). Several pairs of Short-tailed Hawks were reported in the n.-c. peninsular area, so the species seemed to be doing well; sadly, one was found shot in *Volusia* Apr. 8 (RCO). A rare Yellow Rail was sketched at St. George I.,



Franklin, Apr. 16 (†JEC). The phosphate mines in s. Polk are still producing excellent numbers of shorebirds (PJF). A Sanderling, considered rare inland, was reported at Avon Park May 18 (DF) and also inland at Leon, May 5 (GM). A rare Baird's Sandpiper was photographed Apr. 18–21 (ph. DSE, LRM, TL) at Dog I.

On Lower Tampa Bay near Anna Maria, two Parasitic Jaegers were seen harassing gulls. Rarely seen in Florida waters, an ad. Long-tailed Jaeger flushed from the water s.e. of Key West Apr. 30 (†DS *et al.*). A very rare



Apparently a returning bird from the previous year was this Bahama Mockingbird at Key West, Florida, on April 19, 1993. Photograph/ Robert Bradbury.

winter visitor and first for Palm Beach, the wintering Common Black-headed Gull at Riviera Beach was last seen Mar. 5 (BHH). In Newfoundland, three Herring Gulls through the years have been suspected of being of the Eurasian race (*AB 45:409–410*), so of all places for this subspecies to occur first or 2nd in the United States, D.T. was an unlikely location. [Note: a "Yellow-legged" race photographed at Pompano Beach, winter 1991–1992 (RB), is in the process of being reviewed (*vide* LSA).] A Herring Gull in first-summer plumage on D.T., Apr. 25–29 (DS, m.ob., ph. GL, KC), however, was thought to be of the Eurasian race. Photographs were sent to Europe for scrutiny. Considerable contention arises on most sightings of Iceland Gulls in Florida, so it was reassuring that studying a photograph of an Iceland Gull taken Mar. 10 (†R.B.C., ph. RB) at Pompano landfill convinced Lyn Atherton of its identity because of its "size, extension of primaries, and plumage color." Thirty-five imm. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were counted at Pompano Landfill Apr. 10 (ph. AW), for a good number, and an adult, unusual inland, was seen in Orange, Apr. 3 (RP). During strong e. winds Mar. 23 (BHH, HPL *et al.*), a Glaucous Gull, considered a "rare winter visitor" this far s. in Florida, flew over observers on Boca Raton Beach for a Palm Beach first. Least Terns with 9 nests were using the experimental nesting platform at St. Marks (JR). Two Sooty Terns inland over Archbold Biological Station, Highlands, Mar. 13 (GEW), the day of the "Storm of the Century," seemed outrageous but credible, but the sighting of two Bridled Terns n. of Archbold May 14 (R.B.C., JF) could not be ex-

plained by weather patterns. Very rarely seen near Bush Key, D.T., a Bridled flew among Sooties there Apr. 28 (DS). At Bush Key, Black Noddies, a "rare, regular summer visitor" at D.T., were detected during April and May, but a high of three Apr. 21 (DS) was surprising.

DOVES TO MOCKINGBIRDS

The Eur. Collared-Dove expanded its range to Orange and Taylor last fall, so the first nesting for Alachua Apr. 22 (JHH) continued this expansion. Only Palm Beach's 3rd sighting, a Mangrove Cuckoo overshot the Keys to permit careful study all day in L. Worth Apr. 25 (AYW *et al.*). One was seen at McKay Bay May 4. A Groove-billed Ani, considered rare, was identified at Payne's Prairie, Alachua, Apr. 12 (JEW) and another, on Dog I., Apr. 20 (DSE, LBM). A rare Lesser Nighthawk was reported at St. George I., Franklin, Apr. 23 (JMS). Wintering Vaux's Swifts were last heard in Alachua Apr. 7 (TAW, R.B.C., with sonograms). This species may now finally be verified for Florida. For the 4th consecutive winter at a Ft. Lauderdale feeder, the very rare Buff-bellied Hummingbird lingered until Mar. 25 (TC, BC). For about the 13th and 14th state sightings, two LaSagra's Flycatchers were found—one at McArthur S.P., Riviera Beach, Apr. 10 (and May 30, BHH) fed on gumbo limbo berries and uttered its whistle call (†R.B.C. AW, ph. AW); later that day the bird was seen and heard using its regular *weet* alarm call (BHH, HPL, GSH. SB). And another stayed at D.T., May 5–8 (ph. JMS, BS, KC, m.ob.). A "rare irregular transient," a Couch's/Tropical Kingbird posed for its photo on D.T., May 5 (JMS, BS, ph. JMS). "Erratic" in Florida, the Horned Lark was a good find at Merritt I. N.W.R., Mar. 9–10 (ph. SR—*vide* BP). A Cave Swallow, rare this far north, was spotted at St. Marks Mar. 14 (JMS). At Polk phosphate mines, 20 Barn Swallows were late May 23 (PJF, CLG); 3 young at Orlando May 28 (JLB, RP) indicated nesting there. A Golden-crowned Kinglet in Hillsborough Mar. 30 (SCB) was unusual this far south. The Wood Thrush migration was best in "recent memory" at Ft. DeSoto, with highs of 15 seen Apr. 7 (RWS) and 20 Apr. 6 (MSW). Considered "very rare," three Bahama Mockingbirds were found this spring: one at D.T., Apr. 25 (GL, HPL *et al.*),



A regular migrant, but not often photographed, was this Swainson's Warbler at the Dry Tortugas, Florida, on April 14, 1993. Photograph/Russ Cressman.



Male Shiny Cowbird at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, Florida, on April 8, 1993. Photograph/R. W. Ballman.

the same date as last year's sighting there; another singing and fighting with a N. Mockingbird at Key West Apr. 13–May 31 (JO, m.ob., ph. BH, BB) at the same location as last year; and one singing at Ft. Lauderdale May 21–24 (JLB *et al.*, R.B.C.).

VIREOS, WARBLERS

A Warbling Vireo, "very rare to rare," visited the water fountain at D.T., Apr. 19 (†TB, JM, BB). A Black-whiskered Vireo, very far north, was banded on Dog I., Apr. 24 (ph. DSE, LRM). A Blue-winged Warbler, rarely seen in spring in Alachua, was spotted Apr. 7 (RKR), and a total of five, including a "Brewster's," were counted at Ft. DeSoto Apr. 5–May 1 (LSA, m.ob.), with a late bird in s. Pinellas May 15 (JMc) and a banded bird in Sarasota Apr. 3 (AS, SS). The only Golden-winged, rare in spring, was reported from Bonner Park, Pinellas, Apr. 4 (KDN). "Rare" but regular, a Nashville Warbler was seen on Cedar Key, Levy, Apr. 21 (†JHH). An impressive fall-out of Cape Mays, Blackpolls, Am. Redstarts, and Com. Yellowthroats, with about 150 individuals of each species, occurred on D.T., Apr. 28 (DS *et al.*). There were 3 sightings of Yellow-rumped Warblers of the "Audubon's" form: a male Apr. 28–May 3 (DS, m.ob., ph. BS) represented the 6th seen at D.T. and a male at Key West Apr. 17 (JO) and an immature at Dog I., Apr. 28–30 (DSE, LRM *et al.*) furnished the 10th and 11th Florida reports. A superb photograph by Brian Small of the D.T. bird finally verified the "Audubon's" form for Florida. First breeding of Yellow-throated Warblers in Highlands was clinched May 17 (DSt). Considered "very rare," a Kirtland's Warbler—securing about the 16th report in Florida—was spotted on a barrier island in Indian R., Apr. 22 (†R.B.C. IFW). The high count of nine Bay-breasted Warblers occurred at Ft. DeSoto May 16 (LSA, MSW). Rare in spring, five Cerulean Warblers turned up: at Ft. DeSoto, two in April (RWS, MSW *et al.*) and one May 15 (LB); at Cedar Key, Levy, one Apr. 11 (BPM, DCH), and at D.T. one Apr. 16–19 (HPL *et al.*). Life is tough on D.T. On May 8 (BH, SE), a Black-and-White Warbler caught and swallowed a 2½-inch anole and continued searching for insects with the tip of the tail dangling from

its mouth. Considered rare on D.T. in spring, a Swainson's Warbler ignored pleased observers Apr. 17 (WR, m.ob., ph. RC). A singing Swainson's at Steinhatchee Springs W.M.A., May 26 (BPM, KG), suggested possible restoration of its historical breeding range in Florida. A good count of 20 Kentucky Warblers occurred at Ft. DeSoto Apr. 6 (MSW *et al.*). After last year's good show of Connecticut Warblers in Florida, only a few were reported this spring, with none at Ft. DeSoto! More than 100 Hooded Warblers flooded Ft. DeSoto Apr. 6 (MSW *et al.*).

GROSBEAKS TO ORIOLES

Blue Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings were reported in large numbers in *Seminole* (JGB), Ft. DeSoto (LSA), *Levy*, and *Alachua* during April (*vide* BPM). "Very rare" in Florida, with only about "8 reports," two ♂ **Black-faced Grassquits** were located—one singing at Key West May 6 (†F.R.C., JO, CS) and one n. of Homestead near a destroyed avocado grove Mar. 26 (†JCO). Lark Sparrows have become very scarce, so two at Delray Beach Mar. 1–25 (RB) was remarkable. During March, a field w. of Homestead produced excellent numbers of hard-to-find sparrows for s. Florida: 20 Clay-colored, 8 Field, 15 Grasshopper, 3 Lincoln's, and 20 White-crowned sparrows (PWS, SAS *et al.*). Farther north, White-crowns totaled 8 at L. Wales Mar. 13 (PJF) for a good number. The wintering Henslow's Sparrow in *Lake* stayed until Mar. 6 (JGB, TR). The wintering flock of five Yellow-headed Blackbirds 20 mi w. of W. Palm Beach was



Black-whiskered Vireo was banded at Dog Island, Florida, on April 24, 1993. Photograph/Duncan Evered

last sighted Mar. 6 (BHH). An ad. ♂ Yellow-headed was seen daily at a feeder in Hudson after the Mar. 15 storm, though mid-April. The "rare" Bronzed Cowbird, with about 25 Florida reports, visited a feeder in Jacksonville Apr. 1–May 31 (TDW). Only a few Shiny Cowbirds were evident on D.T. this spring, but they were seen regularly at Key West (JO), *Levy* (DCH *et al.*), *Wakulla* (JMS, ph. RWB), *Leon* (JMS), and *Franklin* (DSE). At Ft. DeSoto, 34 Orchard Orioles was an impressive number Apr. 6 (MSW). On the lower e. coast, many reports of Spot-breasted Orioles were received, so this species appears to be making a comeback.

Corrigendum: The Curlew Sandpiper sighting should be deleted (AB 47:83).

Contributors (subregional editors in boldface):

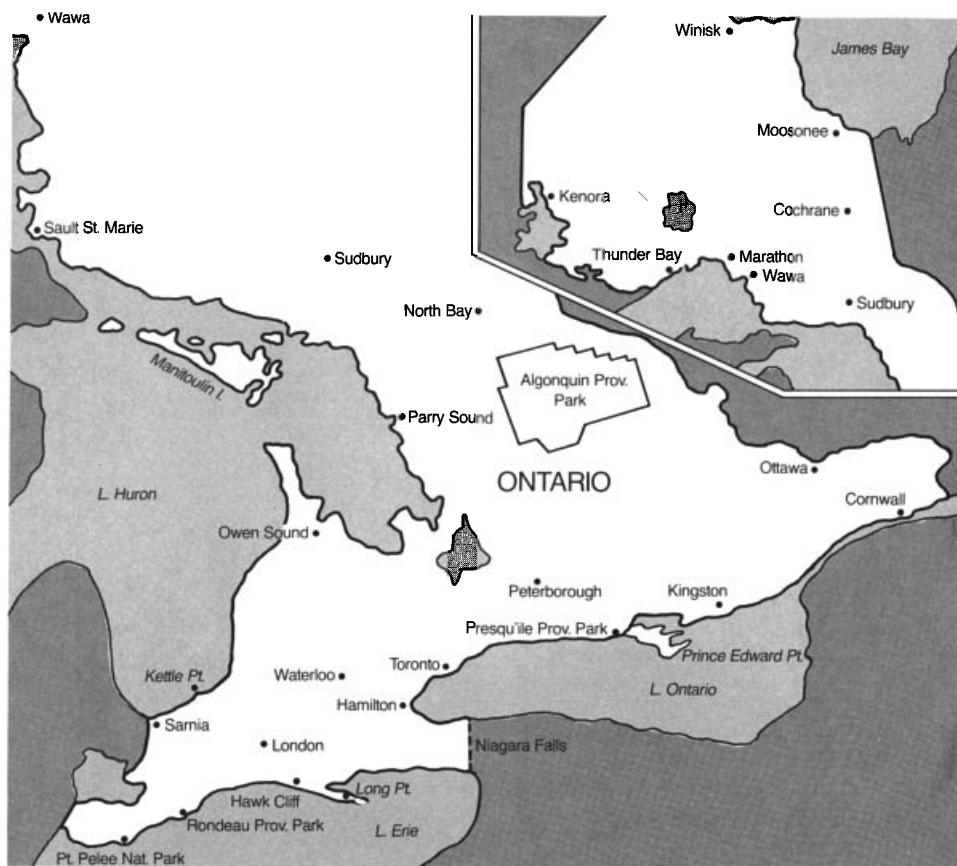
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ONTARIO REGION

Ron Ridout

With the exception of one warm period in early May, spring was dominated by cooler-than-normal temperatures that delayed the migration of most species by up to 2 weeks. The exception to this rule occurred on a few days in May, when warm fronts nudged into the southwest, carrying a flood of migrants. Observers south of the line from Hamilton to Sarnia raved about the finest birding in many years, while those to the north lamented yet another dismal spring.

Diving ducks (primarily mollusk feeders), continuing the trend of recent years, staged in large (sometimes record) numbers on Lakes Ontario and Erie early in the period. Most migrant waterfowl were impeded by frozen bodies of water into early April in the south and into late April in the north. High water levels across the Region restricted migrant shorebirds to a



few scattered beaches and whatever sewage lagoons happened to be drawn down during their passage. Passerine numbers in May were generally impressive in the south, less so in the north. Peak movements occurred May 8th to the 10th and 18th to the 23rd.

Apart from some of the diving ducks, strong passage was noted for Red-throated Loons, Brants, and Sandhill Cranes. Species in low numbers included Canvasbacks, Red-heads, and Tree Swallows. Rarities included Brown Pelicans, Ontario's first and 2nd Garganeys, Snowy Plovers, Rock Wrens, Kirtland's and Swainson's Warblers, and Painted Buntings. All rarities mentioned in the report are subject to the approval of the Ontario Bird Records Committee (O.B.R.C.).



Adult Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Dundas Marsh, Ontario, on May 19, 1993.
Photograph/Robert G. Finlayson.

Abbreviations: Pelee (*Pt. Pelee N.P. and vicinity*); P.E.Pt. (*Prince Edward Pt.*); L.P.B.O. (*Long Pt. Bird Observatory*); T.C.B.O. (*Thunder Cape Bird Observatory*). Algonquin, Presqu'île, and Rondeau are Provincial Parks. Place names in *italics* refer to counties or Regional municipalities.

LOONS TO IBISES

With increased coverage of the *Bruce* shore of L. Huron during the past 3 years, a major inland staging area for Red-throated Loons has been discovered. The first group of six arrived off Pt. Clark Apr. 8 (AM), building to a peak of 200 near Kincardine by Apr. 22 (GS). Other highs in the province included 31 at Hamilton Apr. 8 (RC, JD) and a season total of 32 at Thunder Cape, with five each May 16 & 30 (T.C.B.O.). Mixed in with this migration was an ad. Pacific Loon at Thunder Cape May 13 (MH, DS). Another individual was on L. Ontario off Pickering May 4 (MH, m.ob.). The inaugural Manitoulin I. Com. Loon Count tallied 941 birds May 2 (JN). Other large numbers were 150 at P.E.Pt., Apr. 24 (K.F.N.), and 120 at Rondeau May 16 (SC). Horned and Red-necked Grebe migration was lackluster, with the exception of a count of 550 Horneds and 75 Red-neckeds at P.E.Pt., Apr. 24 (JE, RDW). Also of note were 150 Red-neckeds off Murphy Pt., *Manitoulin*, Apr. 23 (JN). Lone Eared Grebes were at Pუსlinch L., *Wellington*, Apr. 17 (AS *et al.*), Rondeau May 2 (JP), and Burlington May 3 (DP *et al.*).

Two Am. White Pelicans near Sault Ste. Marie May 3-9 (DW) were the only extralim-itals for the season. An imm. **Brown Pelican** seen Mar. 14 at Holiday Beach, *Essex*, (JL), likely a victim of the mid-March "storm of the century," was probably the same bird seen Apr. 30 at Saginaw, MI. An ad. Great Cormorant was seen flying by Amherst I., May 15 (RDW *et al.*). Reports of Great Egrets were widespread, with one as far north as Cobden Apr. 17-18 (KH). Sightings of Snowy Egrets were lower than usual, with individuals at London May 8 (CH) and Ottawa May 9 (TH *et al.*). Matching that total were Little Blue Herons at St. Clair N.W.A., *Kent*, Apr. 23-May 18 (RM) and Long Point May 5 & 19 (AM & RR, DA). Away from s.w. Ontario, the only Cattle Egret seen was at Wesleyville May 28 (PB). The lone Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was at Dundas Marsh May 16 22 (BDu, JS). With the exception of one Glossy Ibis reported at Cooper Marsh, *Stormont*, May 22 (*vide* LN), observers could not be specific about the other 11 dark ibises. Sightings included two at Pelee May 12 (WL), a flock of eight on Pelee I., May 24 (PAW), and one at Stoney Pt., May 28 (HH).

WATERFOWL

Tundra Swan numbers were noticeably lower because of the lack of open water throughout the southwest. Flocks spread inland to feed and concentrations were absent with the exception of large numbers near Grand Bend, where a feeding program attracted a peak of 13,100 birds Mar. 29 (AR). Numbers were lower at frozen Long Pt., where a peak of 2695 birds Mar. 22 (RK) was below average. Good numbers of Greater White-fronted Geese appeared, with two at Port Dover Mar. 27 (EC, AWa), two at Laurel L., *Waterloo*, Apr. 4 (RD *et al.*), two at Aylmer Apr. 6 (PR), and one each at Bearbrook (RB) and Manotick (MT) Apr. 11. The Brant flight was early and exceptionally strong, with 2000 at Presqu'île May 8 (AB, AG, CV), 7500 at Millhaven May 9 (K.F.N.), and 6000 over Kingston May 15 (K.F.N.). Several more flocks of 1000-2500 were noted in the east. The first maxima Canada Geese molt migrants were 1100 birds over Evansville May 29 (DB).

Noteworthy concentrations of dabbling ducks included 75 Wood Ducks at Wildwood L., *Oxford*, Apr. 3 (JMH), 1000, 300, and 200 N. Pintails at Pinery P.P., Apr. 17 (AR), *Elgin* Mar. 27 (SP), and Wainfleet Mar. 27 (BFa), respectively, as well as 107 Gadwalls at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham*, May 16 (MB). Ontario's first **Garganey** appeared at Micksburg Apr. 18-22 (CM, m.ob.). Less than a month later, a 2nd bird was found at Fish Pt., Pelee I., May 12-15 (PS, m.ob.). The spring's only Cinnamon Teal was a male near Forfar, *Leeds Grenville*, Apr. 25 (AMe, PH *et al.*). A N. Shoveler nest with 8 eggs at Townsend May 19 (JMc, A.M. & RR) handsomely provided *Haldimand Norfolk's* 2nd confirmed breeding record. While lower than 1992's total, five Eur. Wigeons was a respectable tally. Individuals were seen at Burlington Mar. 8 (RD),

Wainfleet Mar. 27-28 (BFa *et al.*), Pelee Apr. 10 28 (KO, JLe, JG, m.ob.), Port Royal Apr. 11-May 6 (TS, m.ob.), and Cranberry Marsh May 2 (m.ob.). A 2nd male at Cranberry Marsh May 2 (MB) was considered a hybrid Am. x Eur. Wigeon.

S.A.

Numbers of mollusk-feeding ducks continued their phenomenal increase both on L. Ontario at Burlington and on L. Erie at Pelee and Rondeau. Record counts included 10,000, 7500, and 6750 Greater Scaup at Rondeau Mar. 27 (SC), Pelee Apr. 15 (AW), and Burlington Mar. 9 (AW), respectively; 5400 Lesser Scaup at Pelee Apr. 15 (AW); 58 and 32 Surf Scoters at Pelee Apr. 29 (AW), and Burlington Mar. 9 (AW), respectively; 11,100 White-wingeds at Burlington Mar. 9 (AW); and 7000 and 4950 Com. Goldeneyes at Rondeau Mar. 21 (SC) and Burlington Mar. 9 (AW), respectively. High counts elsewhere included 3000 Greater Scaup at Presqu'île Mar. 27 (TB), 3000 White-winged Scoters at P.E.Pt., Apr. 24 (K.F.N.), and 4000 Com. Goldeneyes at Wolfe I., *Frontenac*, Apr. 4 (JE, RDW).

Numbers began increasing at Pelee in 1988, paralleling the increase in Zebra Mussels there. As the mussels increased eastward along L. Erie and into w. L. Ontario, so too did the diving ducks feeding on them. Close observations of these ducks actually feeding on the mussels, as well as examination of stomach contents of specimens, have supported the postulation that the increase in numbers of these ducks is directly related to the spread of the Zebra Mussel in the lower Great Lakes and that their numbers will continue to increase and spread with the mussel (AW, JHL, C.F-N.).

Among the thousands of ducks, an imm. ♂ Com. Eider was at Burlington Mar. 6-Apr. 4 (JPo, BW, ASa, m.ob.), as were up to nine Kings Mar. 6-Apr. 4 (m.ob.). Other Kings were at Long Pt., Apr. 22 (PP, PC, JDi), and Pelee Apr. 27-May 4 (L & WF). Six sightings of Harlequin Ducks was above average. Singles included the Burlington female present from the winter until Apr. 4 (m.ob.), one at Cranberry Marsh Mar. 28 (RP), the first spring records for Pelee Apr. 15-May 2 (AW, m.ob.) and Long Pt., Apr. 28 (MR, SL, v.o.), one at Reid Pt., *Bruce*, May 3 (PL, B. & DF), and two at Kincardine May 6+ (AM, v.o.). Barrow's Goldeneyes included an overwintering male at Oakville to Mar. 7 (m.ob.), two at Pt. Abino, *Niagara*, Apr. 46 (WD, v.o.), and a record-late *Frontenac* sighting at Wolfe I., Apr. 25 (JE, RDW).

Sightings of Tufted Ducks continued at a record pace in s. Ontario. Birds remaining from the winter included the male at Hamilton's Windemere Basin, staying until May 29 (m.ob.), and possibly the female at Toronto's



Male Garganey at Pelee Island, Ontario, May 13, 1993. The second record for the province, it followed the first record by less than a month. Photograph/James N. Flynn.

Bluffer's Park from Jan. 14, seen again Mar. 7 (RS). New sightings included an imm. male at Burlington Mar. 9–29 (AW, m.ob.), a male at Pelee, for the park's first record, Mar. 28 (AW, SP1 *et al.*), and Presqu'île's first, a female Apr. 12–26 (GC, v.o.). At least two on L. Ontario this year were banded, raising some question as to their origin.

VULTURES TO CRANES

A Turkey Vulture at Port Stanley Mar. 7 (RH) likely wintered there. Pelee's annual Mississippi Kite appeared May 1617 (KM, GN *et al.*). There were no details for one reported at Blenheim May 13 (PLo, DWa). Bald Eagle reports were too numerous to detail, although a kettle of 11 at Rainy R., Apr. 11 (M & DE), was noteworthy. Record day counts at the Beamer Hawkwatch, Grimsby, included 50 Cooper's and 449 Red-shoulders Apr. 5 (N.P.H.). Three Swainson's Hawks were reported, involving two birds at Beamer, one each Apr. 20 & 27 (GM), and a light-morph bird at Atikokan May 7 (DG). A respectable 16 Golden Eagles were reported, mainly from c. Ontario. Peregrines totaled 23, right on the 10-year average. Lingering Gyrfalcons included one at Sault Ste. Marie to Mar. 20 (EC, v.o.); two at Ottawa, one remaining until Apr. 20 (BD, m.ob.); one on Amherst I. until Mar. 7 (DSh, SH); four at Thunder Bay, with one until Mar. 29 (m.ob.); and one at the Gore Bay Airport Apr. 10 (RTa *et al.*).

Observations of Yellow Rails included Algonquin's first record May 23 (MRu, WC, PBu), a notable 12 birds n. of Rainy R., May 28 (DE *et al.*), and reports from *Durham* and *Victoria* May 22 & 31, respectively (*vide B.J.*). King Rails were heard at Turkey Pt., Apr. 23 (DA), and Pelee May 12 (WL, DGa). A record 199 Sandhill Cranes were counted across the province during the period. In the north, noteworthy concentrations were 56, 42, and 35 at Massey Apr. 25 (JN), Shipsands I., *Cochrane*, May 22 (M.R.N.), and *Cochrane* May 29 (LT), respectively. In the south, 6 migrants passed through Pelee Mar. 28–May 16 (m.ob.) and 10, four of which were resident, were seen at Long Pt., Mar. 19+ (m.ob.). For the 2nd year, a pair was seen with young at Grass L., *Waterloo* (m.ob.), in mid-May.

SHOREBIRDS TO TERNS

Lack of habitat was assumed to be responsible for a paucity of shorebirds in many areas, although the period was not without highlights. Very notable was a tally of 5000 Black-bellied Plover in Dover Twp., *Kent*, May 24 (J & JM, S & GPo). Ontario's 3rd **Snowy Plover**, a male, appeared at Strathroy Apr. 27 (H & ST). Ninety-five Semipalmated Plovers at Aylmer W.M.A., May 28 (DM), was an exceptionally high number. The only Piping Plover was a lonely male displaying at Long Pt., May 26 & 28 (L.P.B.O.). For the 4th consecutive spring, Am. Avocets appeared, with two at Port Elgin May 25 (AM), likely the same two just n. at Southhampton May 16 (MC, m.ob.), and one each at Nonquon, *Durham*, May 21–28 (JS, m.ob.) and Holland Landing May 22+ (J & KMn, m.ob.). Whimbrels were noted in slightly sub-par numbers, although the passage on Manitoulin's s. shore exceeded 1600 birds May 18–25 (JN). The only Hudsonian Godwit was a bird at Toronto May 19 (GSa). Marbled Godwits matched their 10-year average at 6 birds, with singles at Cranberry Marsh (RG, TSm) and Cloud Bay, *Thunder Bay* (GW, MM), both May 1, at Pelee May 6–7 (PRo), and three at Hurkett May 17 (SBr).

A Red Knot at Pelee May 11 (AR, v.o.) was early, while 250 at Cobourg May 29 (RP) was a very high count. Thunderstorms and strong NW winds across s. Ontario on May 31 precipitated several high counts of Semipalmated Sandpipers, including 1000 at Port Stanley (A & MSm), 750 in *Kent* (SC), 350 at Tavistock (JMH), 225 at Aylmer W.M.A. (DM), and 105 at Hamilton (RD). Always unusual in spring, lone W. Sandpipers were seen at Maple May 17 (GB) and Port Stanley May 30 (A & MSm, SP, LW), and two were at Wahnapiatae May 25 (CB). An even rarer two Baird's were located at Sudbury May 31 (JN) and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper stopped over at Pelee May 22–23 (G & PD, v.o.). Lingering very late were two Purple Sandpipers at Niagara Falls May 17 (WD). Single Curlew Sandpipers appeared at Bright's Grove May 17–20 (RTy, CBu, v.o.) and Oshawa May 30–31 (PBu). Individual Reeves were sighted at Nonquon Apr. 28–May 3 (BH, m.ob.), a different, darker bird there May 24 (EA, v.o.), and at Peters Corners May 12–16 (RC, m.ob.).



A small portion of the massive flock of White-winged Scoters off Burlington, Ontario, on March 25, 1993. Photograph/Alan Wormington.

Increasingly scarce in spring, the only Franklin's Gull was at Blenheim Apr. 23 (KB). A single Black-headed Gull was at Presqu'île May 28 (SL), providing the park's 4th record. For the 4th consecutive spring, California Gull was recorded, this time an adult at Kin-cardine May 26 (AM). An imm. Black-legged Kittiwake, rare in spring on the Great Lakes, was seen at Long Pt., Apr. 22 (PP). Arctic Terns, migrating along the Ottawa R. valley, peaked at a remarkable 90 birds May 30 (BD, MG). Ten birds at Wahnapiatae May 31 (JN) were the first for *Sudbury* and very rare away from the Ottawa valley. Two Forster's Terns at Hurkett May 22 (AH, M & SBr) were *Thunder Bay's* first.

OWLS TO SHRIKES

Northern Hawk Owls, remaining from the winter, involved singles at Sudbury until Mar. 12 (JN), Moscow (J & FB) and Smiths Falls (B & RDW), both to Mar. 13, and Dunrobin until Mar. 22 (BD). A Great Gray Owl at Algonquin May 30 (RL) was likely a resident bird. Boreal Owls were found at Ottawa Mar. 6 (BD, CT), Algonquin Mar. 26 (MRu, RRu, PBu), and Tobermory in mid-April (BHa). Four singing males at Atikokan Mar. 23 (DE, DG) could be heard more than a mile away. A Com. Nighthawk at Ottawa Apr. 15 (MG) was record early. Repeating 1992's records, single Chuck-will's-widows were territorial at Long Pt. (DBr *et al.*) and Burpee Twp., *Manitoulin* (M & RTa, AM & RR), both May 22+. In the south, Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen at Oakville Apr. 5 (DR), Thickson's Woods, *Durham*, Apr. 13 (GE *et al.*), and the Doon Tract, *Waterloo*, Apr. 15 (PC). Black-backed, left from the winter's southern incursion, were at Delaware Apr. 19 (AMc) and, a very late bird, at Turkey Pt., May 7 (S & GPo).

The only Acadian Flycatcher, away from s.w. areas, was one at P.E.Pt., May 24 (K.F.N.). A Least Flycatcher at Cochrane Apr. 23 (DPa) was astoundingly early. The sole W. Kingbird was at Whitefish L., *Thunder Bay*, May 28 (KA, EA). *Haliburton's* first Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was a well-described individual May 12 (RPo). Most observers commented on the very low numbers of Tree Swallows, while Banks had a very strong passage, most notably at Long Pt., May 14–20, with a peak of 5000 May 16 (L.P.B.O.). An extralimital Com. Raven at Long Pt., May 5–6 (L.P.B.O.), might just as well have strayed from the population to the south as to the north. Ontario's 4th, and Pelee's first, **Rock Wren** was very cooperative May 1–6 (M, L, M, & JBa, m.ob.). Long Pt.'s first Mt. Bluebird turned up at Port Rowan Apr. 3–13 (IP, m.ob.). Townsend's Solitaires remaining from the winter were at Thunder Bay until Mar. 26 (SBr) and Toronto Mar. 31 (m.ob.). The Varied Thrush at London overwintered until Mar. 21 (m.ob.). Reports of N. Mockingbirds continue to increase across central regions, with the most northerly at T.C.B.O., May 12 (DS). Concern over Loggerhead Shrikes continues, with just 21 reported. One at Bleazard Valley Apr. 6 (JN) was the farthest north.

Table 1. Totals at Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch Spring 1993

Species	1993
Turkey Vulture	1852
Osprey	45
Bald Eagle	14
N. Harrier	126
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3475
Cooper's Hawk	209
N. Goshawk	28
Red-shouldered Hawk	1030
Broad-winged Hawk	1963
Swainson's Hawk	2
Red-tailed Hawk	2684
Rough-legged Hawk	35
Golden Eagle	6
Am. Kestrel	93
Merlin	9
Peregrine Falcon	2
Unidentified	533
Total Raptors	12,106
Hours Counted	534

VIREOS TO FINCHES

The 46 White-eyed Vireos seen represent a continued strong presence. Away from the southwest, birds were at Toronto May 5 (PSS), Ingersoll May 15-16 (DBu), and Thickson's Woods, *Durham*, May 15 (RT, v.o.). Cold NW winds on May 22, following a few days of southerly winds, stalled migration across a broad front in the south, resulting in some spectacular passerine (mainly warbler) counts. Two such counts are chronicled in Table 2. Blue-winged Warblers continued to consolidate their hold over Golden-winged in the south. As compared with 42 Blue-winged, just nine Golden-winged were censused at Long Pt. during May (L.P.B.O.). Are Golden-winged retreating into the north? Witness the singles at Thunder Bay May 9 (NE) and T.C.B.O., May 22 (DS). Individual Lawrence's Warblers were seen at Toronto May 10 (TC), Pelee May 10-11 (R & WSt), a

Table 2. Two high passerine counts: May 22, 1993

Species	Long Pt.*	Toronto I.†
Least Flycatcher	550	
Swainson's Thrush	600	125
Philadelphia Vireo	30	
Red-eyed Vireo	450	40
Chestnut-sided Warbler	300	
Magnolia Warbler	850	200
Cape May Warbler	75	20
Bay-breasted Warbler	350	250
Blackpoll Warbler	125	
Am. Redstart	450	300
Ovenbird	145	
Mourning Warbler	10	
Common Yellowthroat		150
Wilson's Warbler	175	
Canada Warbler	35	20
Lincoln's Sparrow	150	

*J.M. Holdsworth.
†R. Yukich.

female was banded at Long Pt., May 11 (DA, RK, JDi), and Hamilton May 23 (JK). Peak counts of warblers, apart from May 22, included 100 N. Parulas at Hurkett May 17 (SBr) and 400 Yellows May 10, 250 Magnolias May 21, an early group of 22 Black-throated Blues May 2, and 1500 Yellow-rumpeds May 21, all at Long Pt. (L.P.B.O.). Five Yellow-throated Warblers was an excellent spring total, with singles at Long Pt., Apr. 28 (RB, CW, PG), Toronto May 13 (TSw), Thickson's Woods May 13 (MB, v.o.), P.E.Pt., May 15 (JPe), and Toronto again May 18 (RTa). Ontario's earliest ever **Kirtland's Warbler** delighted hundreds of observers at Pelee May 9 (G & EP, M & JHu, m.ob.). Four singing ♂ Prairie Warblers at Burnt I., *Manitoulin*, May 10+ (DB) would represent a range extension in the province if breeding were established. Totals of the "southern" warblers included 19 Prothonotaries, 22 Worm-eatings, 18 Kentuckys, and 77 Hoodeds, representing an average spring. Extralimitals of this group encompassed Prothonotarys at P.E.Pt., May 8 & 16 (RDW, RW, KHe); Worm-eatings at Holland Marsh, *Simcoe*, May 12 (WT, RCo) and P.E.Pt., May 16 (RDW, RBS) & 27 (CBk); a Kentucky at Lynde Shores C.A., *Durham*, May 22 (DT *et al.*), and six Hoodeds at P.E.Pt., May 8+, with one record-late May 29 (K.F.N.). A well-described **Swainson's Warbler** at Stoney Pt., May 6 (EM), if accepted by the O.B.R.C., would supply Ontario's 4th record.

Summer Tanagers were present in good numbers. Apart from four at Pelee and two each at Rondeau and Long Pt., singles were at Mississagi Light, *Manitoulin*, May 4 (JN), Woodstock May 12-15 (CJ *et al.*), 2 sightings of possibly the same bird at Presqu'ile May 22-23 (SH, m.ob.), P.E.Pt., May 24 (RE, KE, RDW), and Cameron L., *Bruce*, May 27 (DWi). An exceptionally early Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen at Presqu'ile Apr. 11 (SH). Sightings of Blue Grosbeaks included 2 different females at Pelee May 13-20 (GY, m.ob.) and May 20 (KK, JF, m.ob.), as well as a male at Kingston May 16 (N & PGr). A ♂ **Painted Bunting**, seen by several observers at a Warsaw feeder May 6 (JNi, v.o.), fell within the species' spring vagrancy period. *Oxford's* first Dickcissel was found at Beachville Apr. 27 (JMH). Other lone birds were at Pelee Apr. 29 (SPi) and May 11 (AW *et al.*), Long Pt., May 17 (PP), and Thunder Bay May 25 (LJ, JW).

The overwintering Lark Sparrow remained at Guelph until Mar. 22 (m.ob.), while another was reported at Harrington Apr. 13 (DBn). Migrant Henslow's Sparrows included six at Pelee Apr. 20-May 15 (m.ob.), two at Long Pt. May 2 & 4 (L.P.B.O.), and one at Amherst I., May 15 (RDW, RBS, MBn). Four Gambell's White-crowned Sparrows were observed at Long Pt., May 5-22, and seven at Pelee May 7-21, while one was at Tavistock May 6 (JMH). Harris' Sparrows arrived in Atikokan May 15, 10 days late (DE). Lone extralimitals were at Bolton Apr. 10 (DMi), an overwintering bird at Espanola until May 1 (R & Wfa, CBl), and Moosonee May 30 (EH). Singing

W. Meadowlarks in the south were located at Long Pt. P.P., Apr. 8 (DAS, JMc), Port Ryerse Apr. 30 (S & GPo), York May 4 (RLu), Puslinch Twp., *Wellington* (MCa, v.o.), and Kanata (RHo), both May 8, and Bruce Twp., *Bruce*, May 25 (AM). Among many sightings of Yellow-headed Blackbirds, the easternmost was at Port Hope Apr. 5 (EB). A lone male was territorial at Big Cr. N.W.A., *Norfolk*, May 13+ (JR, m.ob.). Easterly Brewer's Blackbirds included one at Carlsbad Springs Apr. 1 (MG, SG) and four at P.E.Pt., May 1 (K.F.N.). More than 100 pairs were counted along Hwy 6 between Allenford and Ferndale May 21 (DF, JJ). White-winged Crossbills appeared in good numbers across the south. A nest containing 3 eggs at Long Pt. furnished that area's first breeding record and Ontario's most southern for the species (L.P.B.O.). It was abandoned Apr. 18, likely due to a shortage of spruce cones. Elsewhere in the south, a displaying pair was noted at Dingman C.A., *Middlesex*, Apr. 25 (H & SI) and 2 recently fledged young were seen at Ellice swamp, *Waterloo*, May 23 (W & HW). A Hoary Redpoll at Marathon Mar. 21 (WCl) was the only one reported.

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APPALACHIAN REGION

George A. Hall

If every season is different, this one was more so. In contrast to winter's slow arrival in late February, early March brought cold weather and heavy snowfall. Extremes of temperature and precipitation were accompanied by extremes in birding that ranged from dull to remarkable. The climax came March 13–15, with "The Blizzard of '93." Snowfall totals varied from 15" in the southern lowlands to 30" in the north, with greater amounts at the higher elevations. Several days of record-breaking cold followed. Early April was cool with variable rainfall. May had normal precipitation and was quite warm. Flowering of early vegetation had been delayed by the cold weather, so everything bloomed at once—and heavily.

The early migrating species were quite late, partly because of the "Blizzard," and most of the March species did not arrive in the north until after Apr. 1. Once the weather changed, the migration time-table accelerated, and many of the late April–May species arrived early (very early in some cases). There were no pronounced frontal systems during May and so, without major groundings, the May migration was generally thought to be poor. Many birds apparently overflew the Region.

Other than delaying the migrants, the "Blizzard" did not have as much effect on the birds as had been anticipated. Most of the mortality was in the south, where E. Bluebirds, which were already nesting, were found dead in boxes. In *Union* and *Townes*, GA, the May 8 Spring Count logged fewer of several permanent residents than had been logged on the Jan. 2 CBC in the same area (DF). In the north, most observers found that the snowfall had little effect on the populations.

Abbreviations: B.E.S.P. (*Bald Eagle S.P.*, Centre Co., PA); G.B.W.M.A. (*Green Bottom W.M.A.*, Cabell Co., WV, formerly known as



Glenwood Swamp); M.C.F.H. (*Minor Clark Fish Hatchery*, Rowan Co., KY); O.R.I. (*Ohio R. Is. N.W.R.*, Parkersburg, WV); P.I.S.P. (*Presque Isle S.P.*, Erie Co., PA); P.N.R. (*Powdermill Nature Reserve*, Westmoreland Co., PA).

LOONS TO IBISES

Red-throated Loons included one at Conneaut L., PA, Apr. 10 (Rfl) and two at Stone Valley L., PA, Apr. 22–23 (GG). An unusually high number of Com. Loons remained late into May. A pair of Pied-billed Grebes with young in *Nicholas*, WV, May 29 was noteworthy for that part of the state (GB). Horned Grebes were more common than usual. Three different Red-necked Grebes were present near Jersey Shore, PA, Apr. 4–18 (G & PS), and 2 were seen in *Lycoming*, PA, Apr. 18 (SS). An Eared Grebe was at P.I.S.P., Apr. 18 & 26 (JM). Tennessee's 4th record of an *Aechmophorus* grebe at Nickajack L., Mar. 18–23 proved to be the first positive *Clark's Grebe*, for the state (JPK). Hawkwatchers at Town Hill, MD, logged 70 Double-crested Cormorants for the season, with 33 Apr. 14 (JPl), while 160 were seen flying over an Ohio R. is-

land near Parkersburg, WV, Apr. 14 (SM, GH, MS).

A season's total of 23 Am. Bitterns was observed at dusk at P.I.S.P., leaving a marsh and flying N (JM). Other reports came from Stone Valley L., PA, Apr. 11 (GG); B.E.S.P., Apr. 18 (m.ob.); Conneaut Marsh, PA, Apr. 30, May 8 (Rfl); Ashton, WV, Apr. 29 and G.B.W.M.A., May 1 (WA, MG); and Shady Valley TN, Apr. 25 (WC, JS). Least Bitterns were reported from P.I.S.P., May 21–22 (m.ob.); Mosquito L. OH, May 15 (CB); G.B.W.M.A., May 1–9 (WA, MG, LW); and Roanoke VA, (MD, MS). The two Great Blue Heron colonies in *Mercer*, PA, had 775 birds (EB), and O.R.I. reported 287 nests (PM). A Snowy Egret was in *Centre*, PA, May 17 (MH) and a Tricolored Heron was at L. Chillisquaque, *Montour*, PA, Apr. 15 (BG). A new Black-crowned Night-Heron colony of 25 nests was located on the Ohio R. 15 mi downstream from Huntington, WV (PM), and 3 pairs of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were nesting near Elizabethton, TN (RK). A Glossy Ibis (ph.) at Apple Grove, WV, May 17–18 (WA et al.) was a state first record. Six Glossy Ibises were at P.I.S.P., Apr. 18 (GC).

WATERFOWL

Although generally poor, the waterfowl flight had a few bright spots. A new impoundment (once opposed by conservationists) at G.B.W.M.A. produced a good flight. The flight was delayed in the north, as the heavy snow cover prevented the breakup of the ice. Some concentrations of Tundra Swans were reported: 1500 at *Butler*, PA, Mar. 5–6 (GW); 680 at Pymatuning L., PA, Mar. 20 (Rfl), and 400 at Warren, PA, Mar. 8 (DD). Reports of small numbers of swans south of the main flight line came from Meyersdale, PA (TM), *Hardy*, WV (AW), Gallipolis Dam, WV, (WA), and *Augusta*, VA (YL, CC). Mute swans were reported from P.I.S.P., May 10 (EK) and O.R.I. (PM). Snow Geese were at B.E.S.P., Mar. 31 (2 blues and 2 whites) (TF & JSo), at Staunton, VA, Mar. 11 (first spring record) (YL), at S. Holston L., TN (BC). A ♂ hybrid Mallard x N. Pintail was seen at

P.I.S.P., Mar. 7 (JM). A Eur. Wigeon was seen in Fayette, PA, Mar. 11 (DK). More Redheads and Canvasbacks were reported than usual. Oldsquaws were unusually widespread and numerous. They remained quite late, and many observers in the Region got their first views of the breeding plumage. The only Scoter records came from P.I.S.P.: Surfs, Mar. 3-31 and Apr. 16-17, and White-wingeds, Mar. 6-Apr. 15 (JM). A pair of Hooded Mergansers nested in a kestrel box at Warren, PA (WH).

RAPTORS

Two season-long efforts studied the raptor migration. The group watching along the L. Erie shore counted 3644 birds of 13 species, with 1682 Turkey Vultures and 537 Sharp-shinned Hawks topping the list (JeS, JiS, JM). Town Hill, MD, tallied 914 birds of 12 species. The high count? 349 Broad-winged Hawks (JPI).

The Black Vulture is apparently following its relative northward. One noted at the Erie Airport Mar. 30 supplied the 3rd county record (JM); 2 additional records were furnished in Centre, PA, Mar. 3 (DB & BB) and Apr. 18 (JP). Ospreys were not widely reported, but Bald Eagles were reported from 11 locations throughout the Region, with nestings, in Butler (fide PH) and Warren, PA (fide WH); 3 nestings in n.e. Ohio (fide CB & NB); and 4 (possibly 5) nestings in W. Virginia (CS). Sharp-shinned Hawks were in good numbers at most places. Three pairs of N. Goshawks were nesting in Warren, PA (WH); there were 3 reports from Centre, PA, one at a late date of May 29 (fide JP), and single reports came from Town Hill, MD (JPI) and Natrona Heights, PA (PH). Red-shouldered Hawk numbers are dwindling, but Red-taileds were thought to be unusually numerous in Allegheny and Butler, PA (PH.). Rough-legged Hawks were found again as far south as Highland, VA (JI), while 10 were counted on the L. Erie shore (fide JM). Twenty Golden Eagles were counted at Town Hill, MD, with seven Mar. 7 (JPI). Other reports came from Highland, VA (2 adults and 1 immature Mar. 2; one immature Apr. 17)(JI); Shady Valley, TN, Mar. 6 (JS); and Orleans, MD, Apr. 18 (MO).



Glossy Ibis at Apple Grove, West Virginia, on May 17, 1993. First state record. Photograph/Wendell Argabrite.

In Warren, PA, 48 nest boxes held 41 nesting pairs of Am. Kestrels (plus the Hooded Mergansers mentioned above) (D & BW). At least 10 Merlins were seen during the season at P.I.S.P. and the L. Erie shore (JM), and a total of 11 were recorded flying along the Ohio R. (PM). Other reports came from S. Avis, PA, Apr. 15 (first county record) (P & GS), Centre, PA, May 1 (JSo), and Town Hill, MD, Mar. 30 (JPI). Six Peregrines were reported: *Unicoi*, TN, Mar. 4 (FA & RMa); *Sullivan*, TN, Mar. 31 (JF); Roanoke, VA, May 2 (MD); Ligonier, PA, May 22 (MR); and *Erie*, PA, Mar. 31 and Apr. 1 (Je & JiS), Apr. 30 (JM). Peregrines did not return to the 1992 nesting site in West Virginia (CS).

TURKEYS TO SHOREBIRDS

Wild Turkeys are faring well in e. Ohio and W. Virginia. The Bobwhite has disappeared from most of its previous range in the north; a noticeable decline has disappointed observers in n.e. Tennessee, where the Elizabethton Spring Count averaged 11.4 per year for 1989-1993, compared with 38.2 for 1969-1973 (RK).

Two pairs of Virginia Rails were present at Phipps Bend, TN, and one bird at Kingsport, TN, May 11, (RK) and 3 pairs were thought to be nesting at G.B.W.M.A. (WA). The only reports of Sandhill Cranes came from n. Georgia, May 3-27, peaking at 420 in *Whitfield*, Mar 5 (JJ).

Good or better shorebird flights were reported at most locations. The new impoundment at G.B.W.M.A. was especially productive. In e. Tennessee, the flight was "unremarkable" (RK), and high water levels at M.C.F.H. produced a sub-par migration (FB). The common "peeps" and both Yellowlegs were in good numbers, but the gem of the season was the usually rare White-rumped Sandpiper, reported in numbers from all parts of the Region. Pectoral and W. sandpipers were also sighted in better-than-normal numbers.

The shorebird of the year was West Virginia's first **Black-necked Stilt** (ph.) at G.B.W.M.A., May 15-18 (WA, m.ob.). Other "goodies" were Lesser Golden-Plover, P.I.S.P., Apr. 29 (JM); Black-bellied Plover, Sand Cr., WV, May 13 (first local spring record) (KC); Willet, P.I.S.P., May 15 (JM), and G.B.W.M.A., May 16 (WA & JH); Upland Sandpiper, *Tucker*, WV, May 8 (JP); Whimbrel, P.I.S.P., 14 sighted May 16-23 (JM); Marbled Godwit, P.I.S.P., May 12 (2nd spring record for county (JM & EK); Ruddy Turnstone, South Avis, PA, May 25 (G & PS); Baird's Sandpiper, Wise, VA, May 24 (RP); Short-billed Dowitcher, *Erie*, PA, Apr. 15 (earliest spring record for county) (JiS); G.B.W.M.A., May 12 (52 birds) & 18 (WA), and *Wood*, WV, May 8 (first local spring record) (fide JE); and Wilson's Phalarope, P.I.S.P., May 15-25 (m.ob.).

GULLS TO FLYCATCHERS

The once rare Laughing Gull was reported from P.I.S.P., May 21 & 23 (JM), and State

College, PA, Apr. 26 (NBo). The northward migration of Bonaparte's Gull crosses the mountains in the s. part of the Region. This year it was widespread from w. North Carolina to w. Maryland and e. Kentucky, with no reports to the north. The Lesser Black-backed Gull reported at Nickajack L., TN, in the winter report remained at least until Mar. 23 (JPK). This species was also reported from P.I.S.P., Apr. 12 & 17 (JM). Other unusual gulls at P.I.S.P. were Franklin's Apr. 17 (L & JM), Little Apr. 17 (JM), and Glaucous Apr. 15 (GR) & 17-30 (JM). 27-30.



Long-eared Owl near Warren, Ohio, on March 26, 1993. Photograph/Carole Babyak.

Caspian Terns were seen in *Augusta*, VA, Apr. 10 (early) (YL), South Holston L., TN, Apr. 25 (WC), and G.B.W.M.A., May 8 (MG & WA). Common Terns were seen at M.C.F.H., Apr. 8 (FB), *Butler*, PA, Apr. 10 (DBy), Stone Valley L., PA, Apr. 26 (GG) and G.B.W.M.A., May 8 (WA & MG). Forster's Terns were at Boone L., TN, May 16 (RK), L. Shenandoah, VA, Apr. 26 (CZ) and at 2 locations on the Ohio R., Williamstown, WV, May 8 (PM) and Huntington, WV, Apr. 25 (WA). Black Terns arrived at P.I.S.P., May 8 and were defending territories by the end of the period (JM). Other reports came from G.B.W.M.A., May 12 (WA) and Conneaut Marsh, PA, May 19 (Rf)

Black-billed Cuckoos yielded more than the usual number of reports. As usual, the only Barn Owl reports came from the Elizabethton, TN, area (3 nesting sites) (RK), and the Shenandoah Valley, VA (3 sites) (RS). A total of 16 Long-eared Owls (most ever) were at P.I.S.P. during the season, with 10 found Apr. 10 (DDr). Other reports came from Moraine S.P., PA, to Mar. 21 (DDr) and Warren, OH, Mar. 26 (CB). There were two *Erie*, PA, reports of Short-eared Owls, Mar. 31 (JeS) and Apr. 18 (GC), but the *Clarion*, PA, and *Jefferson*, OH, stations for this species did not report. Northern Saw-whet Owls were at 8 locations. Migrants were at P.I.S.P., up to 4 to Mar. 28 (DDr), Sheffield, PA, Mar. 8 & 10 (CN), Moraine S.P., PA, to Mar. 24 (DDr). Probable breeding records came from Roan Mt, TN, May 6 (MB); Unaka Mt., TN, May 6 (RMa); Cranessville, Swamp MD/WV, 3 calling, Apr. 24 (MO); Barton Knob, WV, May 7 (TK), and Canaan Valley, WV, May 14 (JP). There were reports of 3 Chuck-will's-widows in *Augusta*, VA (fide RS). Most heart-

ening is the report of 22 Whip-poor-wills heard on a 2.5-mi stretch of road in *Centre*, PA, May 16 (JP). Olive-sided Flycatchers were more widely reported than usual: P.I.S.P., May 31 (JM); *Elk*, PA, May 26 (LC); P.N.R., May 20 & 21 (RCL, RM); *Shenandoah*, VA, May 8 (DDv), Wise, VA, May 14–15 (RP); and the Appalachian Trail near Mt. Rogers, VA, May 23 (RY). An E. Wood Pewee in *Centre*, May 2 was quite early for that location (J & BP), but this species was generally in low numbers, with none banded at P.N.R. (RM, RCL). An Acadian Flycatcher in *Centre*, PA, May 2 was early (J & BP) but a Least Flycatcher in *Elk*, PA, Apr. 11 (DWO) was extremely early. There had been some apprehension that E. Phoebe populations might have been depleted by the "Blizzard" but, although arrival was late at most places, numbers seemed quite normal.

SWALLOWS TO VIREOS

Twelve pairs of Tree Swallows nested at Austin Springs, TN, where they have now become regular (RK). In its 4th year, the new colony of Cliff Swallows at L. Arthur, PA, boasted 45 nests (PH.).

The Com. Raven nest on the mine structure in *Somerset*, PA, failed this year, but another on a railroad bridge succeeded (TM). The only reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches came from the breeding grounds in Tennessee (RMA) and West Virginia (GAH), where they were in low numbers.

A good candidate for a "Blizzard" casualty was the Carolina Wren, but apparently they came through the ordeal in fine shape. House Wrens were in good numbers and one at Butler, PA, Mar. 30 was about 3 weeks early (MG). That no Bewick's Wrens were reported is getting to be a standard sentence for every seasonal account. Sedge Wrens were seen at G.B.W.M.A., Apr. 10 and May 8 (MG, WA). Marsh Wrens were in *Centre*, PA, May 2 (JF) and at Mosquito L., OH, May 8 & 15 (CB).

Eastern Bluebirds in the north generally arrived after the blizzard, so no unusual mortality was evident. The migration of spotted thrushes was very poor at most sites, echoed by the scarcity of Hermit and Swainson's thrushes in the West Virginia spruce belt (GB, GAH). And the number of Wood Thrushes banded at P.N.R. was the lowest in 10 years (RCL, RM). A Varied Thrush was found in *Erie*, PA, Mar. 10–21 (CBr, ph.).

American Pipits were in *Centre*, PA, Mar. 20 (HH) and Apr. 6 (JFo), in *Butler*, PA, Apr. 10 (DBy) & 26 (MG), and at Boone L., TN, Mar. 15 (SSt), remaining at S. Avis, PA, until May 18 (P & GS). The N. Shrike that had wintered near P.N.R. was last seen Mar. 6 (DK). Another was found at P.I.S.P., Mar. 8–22 (JM, DDr). After a respectable winter showing in n.e. Tennessee, spring had few reports of Loggerhead Shrike (RK). From s.-c. Pennsylvania came the good news of 2 Loggerhead nests in *Franklin* and one in *Adams* (KG). The only other report came from *Augusta*, VA, Mar. 24 (YL).

Five White-eyed Vireos at P.I.S.P., May

2–10 (JM, WS, RB), were noteworthy so far north. Red-eyed Vireos were in good, or even very good, numbers throughout, but the Yellow-throated Vireo continues its gradual decline.

WARBLERS TO FINCHES

The warbler flight was rated uneventful to poor. It started early, but the birds dribbled through, some still moving in late May. The locally breeding species seemed to be in the usual numbers, but most transient species were missing or in low numbers. That the weather was favorable for overflights by the transient species was evidenced by the occurrence of such southern species as Prairie, Worm-eating, and Kentucky warblers at P.I.S.P. (JM). An exception was the Yellow-rumped Warbler, which staged a fairly heavy flight. Some locations had unusually high numbers of N. Parulas as well. The Orange-crowned Warbler that wintered at Huntington, WV, was last seen Mar. 23 (MK). The only other report was from P.I.S.P., May 21 (JM). The Yellow-throated Warbler continues to move northward, with reports from *Lycoming* (SS) and *Warren*, PA, where it occurred last year (DW). From the newly established O.R.I. comes information of nesting Prothonotary Warblers in *Wetzel*, *Wood*, and *Pleasants*, WV (PM). Yellow-breasted Chats remain scarce in the Region. Two different "Brewster's" Warblers appeared at Wise, VA, May 14 & 24 (RP) and a "Lawrence's" Warbler was seen at Waterstreet, PA, May 4 (GG & DKy).



Male Painted Bunting at Fairview, Erie County, Pennsylvania, on April 21, 1993.
Photograph/Jerry McWilliams.

From Dalton, GA, came reports of large numbers of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at feeders, and 18, mostly males, at one time at a feeder, Apr. 20 (HD) must have been quite a sight. May 8, 24 grosbeaks were seen at the summit of Brassstown Bald, GA (DF). Dalton also had a major influx of Indigo Buntings, many at feeders, Apr. 12–May 6 (HD). To put the icing on the cardinaline cake, not one—but two—Painted Buntings added local color to Stuart's Draft, VA, Apr. 15+ (JW, LG, ph.) and to Fairview, PA, Apr. 20–27 (D & RR, ph.), the first recent record for the state.

Three Grasshopper Sparrows on territory in *Buncombe*, NC, a relatively new location (RY), were of interest, as were the 10

Henslow's Sparrows viewed in a field in *Centre*, PA, during mid-May (JFo). The first Henslow's Sparrow in 15 years was banded at P.N.R., May 8 (RCL, RM). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow rediscovered May 14 at Austin Springs, TN, represented the 2nd local spring record (RK). An "Oregon" Junco was at P.I.S.P., Apr. 7 (JM). The sole report of Lapland Longspur came from *Somerset*, PA, Mar. 5 (TM); the only Snow Buntings mentioned were at S. Avis, PA, Mar. 9–18 (G & PS).

A ♂ Brewer's Blackbird was seen at Morehead, KY, Apr. 26 (FB). Most unusual was the N. Oriole that showed up at McVeytown, PA, Mar. 14, the day after the blizzard (MKE).

Small numbers of Red Crossbill were reported in the s. highlands. Common Redpolls were at Edray, WV, Mar. 12–14 (*vide* GB) and at McVeytown, PA, Mar. 14 (MKE). Pine Siskin numbers were low. The finch of the year was the Am. Goldfinch, which seemed to appear in the hundreds at every feeder at scattered locations throughout the Region. The only reports of Evening Grosbeaks came from *Augusta*, VA, Mar. 2 (YL) and Huntington, PA, Mar. 20 (DKy).

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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

James Granlund

Throughout spring the Region had lower-than-average temperatures and above-normal precipitation, particularly in March, when several massive winter storms passed through. April temperatures were closer to normal, but May remained cool until the very end of the month.

The overall migration received mixed reviews. Waterfowl migration was reportedly late and numbers down in all 3 states. The wet weather provided good shorebird habitat throughout the Region; however, very few concentrations of migrants were reported. The warbler migration in Wisconsin was reported as spotty and poor, while both Minnesota and Michigan reported one of the best migrations in several years. Rarities reported during the season included first state records for Wilson's Plover and Virginia's Warbler in Michigan and the first confirmed record of Great-tailed Grackle and second record for Garganey in Minnesota.

Abbreviations: M.B.R.C. (*Michigan Bird Records Committee*); W.A. (*Wildlife Area*); W.P.B.O. (*Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Chippewa, MI*); p.a. (*pending acceptance*).

LOONS TO IBISES

In Michigan, W.P.B.O. reported 151 Red-throated Loons, slightly above the 10-year average of 150. Common Loon numbers continue to decline at W.P.B.O., with a record-low total this season of 3826, far below the 10-year average of 6,200 and the record-high total of 9267 reported in 1989. A Red-necked Grebe lingered May 14+ unusually far south at Nayanquing, Bay, MI (RW, MW). Wisconsin reported Eared Grebes from 7 counties, including four on Goose Pond, *Columbia*, May 31 (PA) and possible nesting in *Dunn*, Michigan had reports May 17 in Coopersville, *Ottawa* (CR), Mar. 10–May at the Muskegon Wastewater, *Muskegon* (m.ob.), and Mar. 27 at St. Joseph, *Berrien* (WB). Minnesota had its 10th record for *Clark's Grebe*, an individual appearing May 1 in Traverse at the same location at which possible nesting occurred in 1991; two were present May 25. In Wisconsin, Am. White Pelicans were reported from about 10 locations, with a maximum of 40 individuals. Michigan also had a good migration, including an individual May 14 at Waterloo, *Washtenaw* (RWy, DC, DB, MB), providing only the 2nd county record. Unexpected in Michigan was an imm. *Brown Pelican* Apr. 30 on a small pond along

interstate 75 in *Saginaw* (RSe, WW); the record is pending review by the M.B.R.C. An Am. Bittern Mar. 29 in *Becker* (BB) provided the earliest ever record of this species for Minnesota. Snowy Egrets were reported from 2 locations in Michigan and Minnesota and 4 locations in Wisconsin, with possible nesting near *Green Bay*. Little Blue Herons were reported Apr. 25 in Madison and May 9 in *Dane* (KB) in Wisconsin, and May 11–12 in *Yellow Medicine*, MN (JH), and May 19 in Kent, MI (BG, RG). Cattle Egrets appeared in outstanding numbers, with a minimum of 105 seen in Minnesota, groups of 10–70 in scattered locations in s. and c. Wisconsin and reports from 6 counties in Michigan. Michigan reported Yellow-crowned Night-Herons Apr. 28 in *Berrien* (DS) and May 22 in *Gratiot* (JR, m.ob.). Minnesota had individuals Apr. 17–20 in *Hennepin* (*vide* PB) Apr. 23 in *Murray* (ND), and May 21 in *Cottonwood* (ED), while Wisconsin reported one May 3 in *Dane* (SR). A *Glossy Ibis* May 10 in *Berrien* (RS) provided a rare spring record for Michigan.

WATERFOWL

The only Ross' Goose report for the Region came Apr. 24–25 from Lac Qui Parle, MN (MBu, FE). A *Garganey* seen May 1–5 in Jackson (m.ob.) was the first to be photographed, providing Minnesota with its 2nd record. Also in Minnesota a pair of Cinnamon Teal was located Apr. 24–25 in *Lac Qui Parle* (MBu, FE), while a single at a different location was there May 3. A Eur. Wigeon present Apr. 5–21 provided a first county record for *Berrien*, MI (RS), while in Minnesota another was seen Apr. 20–May 4 in Wright (GS, m.ob.). Impressive were the 6500 Greater Scaup encountered Mar. 18 in Milwaukee, WI (MK). Harlequin Ducks overwintered to Mar. 27 in Ottertail, MN (DM, SM) and Apr. 16 in Milwaukee, WI

(m.ob.) with three at that location Mar. 26 (MK). Oldsquaw remained late and in excellent numbers in Michigan with 3100 on Apr. 10 at Tawas Point, *Iosco* (RW, BBe) and 2,100 on Mar. 21 in *Manistee* (BA). Also unusual in *Manistee* were 1750 White-winged Scoters Mar. 21 (BA). Two ♀ *Barrow's Goldeneyes* Mar. 15–16 in Milwaukee (DG) provided a rare spring record for Wisconsin.

RAPTORS

The 13,887 diurnal raptors counted at W.P.B.O. was the 2nd lowest total since 1983 and well below the 16,848 average. Much of this lower total can be explained by the 2nd consecutive year of very low totals for Broad-winged and Sharp-shinned hawks. At a newer Michigan hawkwatch location in Port Crescent S.P., *Huron*, numbers were good, notably 1202 Turkey Vultures, 637 Red-tailed Hawks, and a peak of five Golden Eagles Apr. 18 (*vide* ME). Golden Eagles were also more numerous in Minnesota, reported in 8 counties, while one Apr. 17 in Wood, WI, was considered worthy of note. A *Mississippi Kite* in *Berrien*, May 11 would provide only the 7th Michigan record for this species, if accepted by the M.B.R.C. A *Prairie Falcon* was reported Apr. 4 from *Columbia* (BH*et al.*), securing a rare Wisconsin record, while in Minnesota, where the species is uncommon in spring, an individual was reported Mar. 21 in *Wilkin* (DM, SM). Peregrine Falcons were reported from 22 Minnesota counties, well above the 1992 number of 16 counties. A Gyrfalcon was reported Mar. 7 in *Wilkin*, MN (DM, SM).

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

Yellow Rails were reported from Michigan at Seney N.W.R. as well as an unusual record of a bird hit by a car Apr. 25 in suburban Livonia, *Wayne*; it was rehabilitated and later released (MKi). Minnesota had reports from 5



counties, including an unusual report of 2 birds May 30 in Grand Marais, *Cook* (KE) and a possible migrant May 4 in Dakota (KBa). Wisconsin reported birds from 6 counties, with a maximum of 5 birds May 21 in *Green L.* (TS). In Wisconsin King Rails were reported from 4 counties, while Michigan's only report was May 16 near Mud L., *Washenaw* (MK, BP). A **Wilson's Plover** May 1-7 at Tawas Point S.P., *Iosco* (MW, m.ob.) provided a first state record for Michi-



Male Garganey taking flight in Jackson County, Minnesota, on May 3, 1993. Second state record. Photograph/Peder Svingen.

gan. Piping Plovers continue to decline throughout the Region, with Wisconsin reporting no sightings, Minnesota having sightings only in *Lake-of-Woods* and Michigan having small number of birds at their traditional locations. Unusual were inland sightings of Whimbrel in Wisconsin in *Outagamie* May 17 (BH), Madison May 29 (PA), and Mead W.A. in late May. In Michigan the 172 Wimbrels tallied at W.P.B.O. was well below the 10-year average of 251. The Hudsonian Godwit flight was characterized as poor in Wisconsin, with a maximum of 10 birds seen, while Michigan had reports May 1-2 at Nayanquing, *Bay* (RW, SRo) and May 18 at W.P.B.O. In Wisconsin, Marbled Godwits were reported from 6 counties the maximum being 16 at *Ashland* May 14 (DV), while in Michigan five were seen Apr. 25 in *Monroe* (DB) and two in *Marquette* May 4 (FT, LT). In Minnesota, Red Knot numbers were well up from last year's five birds with reports of four in St. Louis May 23 (PB), one May 24 in *Hennepin* (SC) and May 28 in *Clearwater* (AB), and two in *Lake-of-Woods*, May 30 (KBa). Wisconsin had inland reports from *Oshkosh* and *Dodge*, while in Michigan the 29 counted at W.P.B.O. was a new high total, eclipsing last year's 23. In Wisconsin a white-morph **Ruff** was recorded May 4 e. of Shioc-ton, *Outagamie* (DN *et al.*)

JAEGERS TO TERNS

After last year's absence, Parasitic Jaegers returned to W.P.B.O. with reports May 22 & 29 as well as an unidentified jaeger May 30. In Minnesota where the species is extremely rare in spring, an ad. light-morph was reported May 24-31 in Duluth (*vide* KE). A very early **Laughing Gull** was reported Mar. 22 in *Berrien*, MI (RS), while a more timely bird

was seen Apr. 22 in *Houston*, MN (KBa). A first-summer Little Gull was reported May 14 at Agassiz NWR (AE *et al.*), an unusual location for Minnesota, while in Wisconsin *Ashland* had only its 2nd record for this species May 19 (DV). In Michigan Little Gulls were seen May 7-8 at Tawas Pt., *Iosco* (JF, BBe, BGr) and May 19 at W.P.B.O. In Wisconsin exceptional concentrations of Bonaparte's Gulls were seen feeding in flooded fields; for example, 5000 were counted May 13 in *Calumet*. Also in Wisconsin the **Mew Gull** present in Milwaukee during the winter was last seen Mar. 13. A large concentration of gulls present at the mouth of St. Joseph R., *Berrien*, MI, provided a number of rare species, including a **California Gull** Apr. 30, four **Thayer's Gulls** Mar. 26-May 25, an **Iceland Gull** May 4, and an ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull May 2 and sub-adult May 10 (RS, KM). Elsewhere in Michigan a Thayer's Gull was reported Apr. 3 at the *Muskegon Wastewater* (JG, JR), while Wisconsin had reports Apr. 11 in *LaCrosse* (JD) and 24 in *Manitowoc* (WM). Iceland Gulls were reported from Wisconsin Mar. 12 & 14 in Milwaukee (DG, DN, MK) Apr. 2 (RGr) and May 9 (MK) in Port *Washington*. Michigan had additional reports Mar. 21 in *Ottawa* (JP, GW) and Apr. 3 at the *Muskegon Wastewater* (JG, JR). Minnesota recorded its 13th Lesser Black-backed Gull with a 3rd-summer bird May 2 in *Anoka* (KBa *et al.*), while Wisconsin had a report May 27 from Milwaukee. In Michigan the individual at *Bay City* S.P., *Bay*, returned Mar. 29 and remained to Apr. 26 (BGi, JS, MW). An **Arctic Tern** was reported May 8 at Port *Washington* (MD, RSu, MK *et al.*) providing a rare spring record for Wisconsin.

OWLS TO FLYCATCHERS

The N. Hawk Owl at Pelican L., Oneida, WI, remained to Mar. 17 (BR), while the individual in *Douglas* remained until early March (RJ). In Michigan this species was seen until late May on Sugar I., *Chippewa* (WP), while another was captured during nocturnal banding Apr. 7 at W.P.B.O. Wisconsin's 3rd confirmed nesting of **Great Gray Owl** was discovered s.e. of Clam Lk., *Ashland* (KMe), also a migrant was photographed Mar. 23 in Iron (GK). Michigan had Great Gray reports Mar. 7 and Apr. 24 on Sugar I., *Chippewa* (WP) and Apr. 22 and May 22 at W.P.B.O.



Prairie Warbler found dead near Cyrus, Minnesota, on May 1, 1993. About the sixth state record. Photograph/Anthony Hertzell.

Boreal Owls were reported from their usual n.w. Minnesota locations, while the migration of seven individuals at W.P.B.O. was only a fraction of last year's total of 158. In Wisconsin a **Chuck-will's-widow** returned to Hintz, Oconto, for the 3rd consecutive year. A Willow Flycatcher May 29 in St. Louis was well north of its normal range in Minnesota. Also out of range in Minnesota were W. Kingbirds in St. Louis May 24-25 (*vide* KE) and Cook May 30 (m.ob.). Michigan had a single report of a bird near Vermilion, *Chippewa* May 25 (TB) and Wisconsin had a report May 23 in *Superior* (RJ).

WRENS TO WARBLERS

A well-described **Bewick's Wren** May 12 in *Oakland* (WH) provided the first Michigan record since 1983 (p.a. M.B.R.C.). Last winter's **Townsend's Solitaire** invasion in Minnesota continued into March with two new birds seen in Duluth and singles Mar. 7 in *Scott* (DMA) and Otter Tail (SM, DM), bringing the Oct. 92 to Mar. 93 total to 24 birds. In Wisconsin a single bird was seen in *Door* Feb. 20-Mar. 28 (*vide* RL, CL). Varied Thrushes have been scarce in Michigan over the past 2 winters, so it was surprising when birds appeared in Holland, *Ottawa* Mar. 13-14 (CM, JM) and *Chippewa* May 10 (WP). Loggerhead Shrikes seem to be increasing in Minnesota with reports from 19 counties of 26+ individuals as compared with 1992's totals of 15 counties and 24+ individuals. Michigan also had increased reports, with birds in *Gratiot*, Mar. 28 (JR), *Muskegon* Mar. 27 (JP, GW), and *Marquette* Apr. 28 (LT, FT), although the only breeding pairs found were in *Allegan* (m.ob.). Wisconsin reported its situation as dismal with reports only from May 16 in *Grant*, May 22 in *Marathon* (JRo) and *Crex Meadows* W.A., May 20 (MK). A **White-eyed Vireo**, normally a casual migrant to Minnesota, was reported for the 3rd consecutive year from *Houston*, this year May 9-15 (BPe *et al.*), while another was reported from L. Louise S.P., *Mower*, May 9 (SM, DM). In Wisconsin Bell's Vireos were reported only from Trempealeau and Governor Dodge S.P., raising concerns that the species is declining. The highlight of the season must be the Region's first record for **Virginia's Warbler**. The individual, identified as a 2nd-year female, was captured May 13 during a mist netting near Dearborn, *Wayne*, MI (JC, JF, m.ob.). The bird was banded and released however; birders were unable to relocate it. Yellow-throated Warblers were more numerous in Wisconsin, with birds in 5 locations and migrants at 2 additional sites. Michigan also had good numbers in the traditional *Berrien* locations as well as a bird in *Hillsdale*, May 8 (JR) and most unexpectedly in Alpena May 1-2 (MO, SO) far north of normal. Prairie Warblers also appeared in good numbers in Michigan with 8 reports, the farthest north being at W.P.B.O. Wisconsin had a territorial bird in w. *Sheboygan* (m.ob.) and a migrant in *Dane* May 2-8 (DCE). More significant was the **Prairie Warbler** found

May 1 near Cyrus, Pope (*vide* PB) providing only the 6th report and the first fully documented record for Minnesota. Wisconsin had Worm-eating Warblers at several sites, including a territorial bird in Sauk, while Minnesota had records May 8 in *Hennepin* (TT) and May 9 in *Washington* (DNe). Michigan had sightings May 13 in *Wayne* (JC *et al.*) and in *Hillsdale*, (JR). Kentucky Warblers were more abundant in Minnesota with reports May 8 in *Hennepin* (TT) and *Murray* (DD) May 9 in *Washington* (*vide* PB) and Winona (SS *et al.*) and May 11+ in Nicollet (RGL *et al.*). Michigan's reports were also more numerous, with individuals May 22 in *Oakland* (RW), May 5 & 22 in *Washtenaw* (DR, MK), and a maximum of four in *Hillsdale* May 8+, with two remaining on territory. Connecticut Warblers were more common in migration in Michigan; 11 counties boasted reports, including 3 apparent breeders near Trout L., *Mackinac*. All 3 states reported increased numbers of Hooded Warblers, while Yellow-breasted Chat numbers seemed lower than normal.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Summer Tanager reports included an individual May 1–2 in *Lac Qui Parle* (FE) in Minnesota, while Wisconsin had birds May 1–4 in *Manitowoc* (JK) May 8 in *Dane* (RH) and May 6 at the Schlitz Audubon Center (JSt). Michigan had singles May 4 in Kent (BJ, JW *et al.*) and May 14 in *Macomb* (DL). Wisconsin's *Western Tanager* that wintered in Milwaukee remained until Apr. 30, while another ad. male appeared in Mt. Horeb Apr.

28, remaining until May 1 (SR). In Minnesota a ♂ W. Tanager was reported May 2 in Becker (BK). A ♂ *Blue Grosbeak* appeared at a Wisconsin feeder May 10 in Amherst and was joined by a female the following day (DBo). Dickcissels were reported as scarce in Wisconsin; however, Michigan had several early records, including one Apr. 19 in *Monroe* (LV). Lark Sparrows were reported as numerous in Minnesota with reports from 17 counties, while Michigan's one had May 18–24 at W.P.B.O. Snow's Sparrows were absent from Minnesota for the 2nd consecutive year, and there were few reports of this declining species in Michigan. Wisconsin had a single report of Sharp-tailed Sparrow from Crex Meadows W.A. The *Golden-crowned Sparrow* reported last season remained until Apr. 18 in *Sheboygan*, WI (RR). A Smith's Longspur, an uncommon spring migrant to Minnesota, was reported May 2 in *Pipestone* (AB). The highlight for Minnesota was its first confirmed record of *Great-tailed Grackle* from *Rice*, Apr. 3–10 (KS, RGI, m.ob.). Minnesota's other sighting, in 1982, was not accepted by the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee, as the photograph failed to rule out Boat-tailed Grackle. This year's documentation included an armamentarium of photographs and sound recordings.

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MIDDLE WESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

Kenneth J. Brock

Regional weather patterns generally vary across the states, but this spring's theme was uniformly cool and very wet. Although flooding, especially along the Mississippi River, provided ample habitat, shorebirds and waterfowl were in short supply. In some areas, extensive standing water undoubtedly dispersed migrating shorebirds, thereby explaining their feeble flight. Despite the poor shorebird season, one of the three new state records established this spring was a plover.

Apparently benefiting from the excess water, excellent numbers of the larger waders, especially Cattle Egrets and *Plegadis* ibis, invaded the Region. Another spin-off of the stormy weather was a very memorable passerine migration. A major wave appeared during the second week of May, producing impressive daily counts at many locations across the Region. Many observers afield during this interval characterized the spring warbler flight as "the best in years."

Abbreviations: L. Cal. (*L. Calumet, Chicago*); J.P. (*Jackson Park on the Chicago lakefront*); R.E.D.A. (*Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, MO*); S.C.R. (*Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, MO*); Spfld. (*Springfield, IL*).

LOONS TO IBISES

A single Red-throated Loon appeared at Oxbow L., s.e. IN, Mar. 22 (TL), for the Region's only report. The Com. Loon migration was fairly typical, except for a major movement in *Lake*, IL, Apr. 3, in which 148 were observed (DJ). The largest Horned Grebe concentrations, by far, consisted of 500 in *Gibson*, IN, Mar. 21 (GB) and 200 at Summit L., IN, (JS). The only Red-necked Grebes consisted of one at Hueston Woods, OH, Apr. 10 (*vide* NK), one or two at Cardinal Marsh, IA, Apr. 19–21 (*vide* DC), and one at Spirit L., IA, Apr. 21 (†LSw).

Within their normal range, Am. White Pelicans peaked at 2742, Apr. 17 at Big Cr. L., IA, (BEn). Extralimital birds included four on the Chicago lakefront, May 24 (RHu), one in the L. Cal. area Mar. 20–June 3 (WM, JL ph.), and one at Ottawa N.W.R., OH, May 2 (TB). For the 3rd consecutive spring a *Brown Pelican* was reported within the Region. This individual appeared at Rathbun Res., IA, May 30 (†RCu, RA, ph.).

Encouragingly, the spring bittern report was the best in recent years. Some 54 Am. Bitterns were found at sites across the Region and 17 Least Bitterns were distributed among every state except Missouri. The season's only Tricolored Heron was at Ottawa N.W.R., OH, in May (no date) (*vide* LR). Excellent Cattle Egret numbers across the Region were accompanied by an invasion in the w. states. Birders just s. of St. Louis counted an amazing 650 (no date) on the Illinois side of the Mississippi R. (*vide* DA). Other impressive Missouri counts included 250+ near St. Louis, May 24, and 174 near S.C.R., May 25 (*vide* DA). The invasion extended into Iowa with reports from 27 locations that included 79 at Moeckley Prairie May 10 (DT), 78 n. of Des Moines, May 26 (AJ), and 56 at Ames, May 7 (JDi, HZ). Further e. 100+ Cattle Egrets were found in *Fulton*, KY, May 22 (PB, JBe, BBC), 24 in *Will*, IL, May 8 (JM), and 18 in *Erie*, OH, May 16 (LSz, LR). On Apr. 30 an evening Black-crowned Night-Heron census at the L. Cal. rookery yielded a remarkable 1511 birds as the herons departed roosting sites to forage (WM). *Plegadis* ibis made an excellent showing in the Region. Glossy Ibises were identified as follows: one adult at Crabtree Forest Preserve, *Cook*, IL, May 6–7 (DH, †CW, m.ob.), two in *Pulaski*, IL, May 8 (TF, JDe), one adult *St. Charles*, MO, May 22



(†JVb), and one at Ottawa N.W.R., OH, May 16–25 (†RHI). White-faced Ibises expanded into c. and e. Missouri, with one reaching R.E.D.A., Apr. 23–30 (*vide* DA). Unidentified, or inadequately documented, *Plegadis* ibis were seen in *DuPage*, IL, May 8 (AWe), L. Cal., May 8 (†WM, JL), and Marion, OH, May 9 (†D & BM).

WATERFOWL

A Tundra Swan that remained in *St. Joseph*, IN, through May 24 (VR), was unusually late. The Greater White-fronted Goose flight was unimpressive. The highest tally in Iowa was only 100 at Snyder's Bend Mar. 26 (BH); the maximum count e. of the Mississippi R. was 14 at L. Renwick, IL, (JM). Snow Goose counts were even more dismal. Numbers were down across the entire Region; very few were seen even in the w. states, where large numbers usually appear. East of the Mississippi R., one or two Ross' Geese were reported at Geneva, IL, Mar. 11–14 (DS), at Fermi, IL, Mar. 15 (DM, m.ob.), Spfld., Mar. 23 (DBo) and at L. Waveland, IN, May 8 (†AB ph.). The latter report was a first May record for Indiana.

Eurasian Wigeons appeared at 3 sites: at Markle Pond in n.e. IN, Mar. 9–11 (JCl, BEt, BPa), in *Lucas*, OH, Apr. 8 (KA), and at Hoover Res., OH, Apr. 11–early May (LSz, KA ph.). The 5000 Canvasbacks and 1000 Redheads found in Sandusky Bay, OH, Mar. 20 (RHI), exceeded other Regional counts by a wide margin. Ring-necked Ducks peaked with 2100 at Rice L. Conservation Area, IL, Mar. 13 (MB) and 1200 at Oxbow L., *Dearborne*, IN, Mar. 21 (JS, AWA). The season's only Harlequin Ducks occurred along the Chicago lakefront; two were observed at Miegs Field Mar. 20 (RHu) and two females were near J.P., Apr. 15 (DM). An unusually large number of Oldsquaws appeared away

from the Great Lakes. Ohio's seven inland reports, involving 16 birds, were accompanied by singletons from Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri. A displaced Black Scoter appeared at S.C.R., May 8–24 (DE *et al.*) for the only spring report. Late White-winged Scoters were recorded at L. Decatur, IL, Apr. 25 (MD, RPa) and at Euclid, OH, May 10 (RHI). In early March a ♀ **Barrow's Goldeneye** was discovered with Com. Goldeneye on L. Michigan at the Indiana–Illinois state line. This bird, which reportedly possessed an entirely orange bill suggesting the w. race, was first seen on the Indiana side Mar. 5, and was present at that location the following day (†RHu, †JOb, DM, ASi m.ob.). The bird proved highly elusive, but presumably the same bird was seen at close range on the Illinois side of the state line, Mar. 7 (†ASt). At R.E.D.A. a peak of 1000 Red-breasted Mergansers Mar. 20 (DBe *et al.*) constituted a record high count for Missouri.

OSPREY TO CRANES

Notable Osprey reports included six at the Chicago Botanic Garden, Apr. 18 (LB), nesting at Land Between the Lakes, KY (CP, PB, JB), and a late migrant at Stickney, IL, June 4 (RHe). Two Mississippi Kites were seen throughout May at the *Pike*, IN, site where they nested last year (GB). In conjunction with the release program, Bald Eagle nestings are expanding. Indiana recorded egg laying in 9 nests (JCl), Iowa had 21 active nests (BEh), Kentucky had 10 nests (BM), and Ohio reported a mostly successful breeding year (*vide* LR). The largest reported Sharp-shinned Hawk movement consisted of 168 at Cleveland Mar. 15 (W & NK, RHI, TLp). Twenty N. Goshawks were reported in the Region; remarkably, five of these appeared in Ohio, where this species is casual. Golden Eagle reports included three at New Albin, IA, Mar. 6

(JaD, JoD), one at Indiana Dunes S.P., Mar. 28 (Bjo), and an adult in *Portage*, OH, May 17 (LR). Merlin reports continue to increase across the Region; this spring's 42 sightings came from every state except Missouri. The Region's only Prairie Falcon was seen in *Clay*, IA, Apr. 2–3 (LSw, †RCe, †TK).

It was a good season for Yellow Rails, with migrants recorded at Clinton L., IL, Apr. 17 (†RCh), and the Van Patton Woods Forest Preserve, *Lake*, IL, Apr. 25 (JN). In addition, tardy Yellowlegs were detected at 2 locations—two heard at S.C.R., May 16 (PMC), and one flushed from freshly mowed grass at Montrose Harbor, Chicago, May 22 (†JL, m.ob.). King Rails were seen in Arcola, IL, Apr. 21 (RCh), at Springville Marsh, OH, May 1 (TB), at Sangamon L., IL, May 6–8 (DBo), in *DuPage*, IL, May 15 (EBu *et al.*), Little Cedar Pt. N.W.R., OH, May 14–16 (EPI, RHI, m.ob.), and a probable breeding pair at

Goose L. Prairie S.P., IL, May 22 (RPa). The Com. Moorhen may be in serious trouble. The Region's highest counts were 12 at Green L., IA, May 11 (PP), and 11 at L. Cal., May 8 (WM); these paltry totals suggest that careful monitoring is in order.

S.A.

Sandhill Cranes normally migrate northward from their staging area in n.-c. Indiana, circumnavigating L. Michigan by skirting the w. edge of Chicago. This spring, however, many birds deviated westward from the traditional route, generating an unprecedented flight over c. Illinois. Record counts on Mar. 26 included 176 in *Champaign* and 35 in *DeWitt* counties. The flight continued the following day, establishing new county records of 73 in *McLean*, 39 in *Macon*, and 75 *Vermilion*. By contrast, crane counts in n.w. Indiana and the Chicago area were well below recent years. This diversion was probably weather related, as heavy fog blanked the normal route in late March.

The shorebird flight was deemed poor by virtually every correspondent. Some attributed the scarcity to lack of habitat, and other to an excess of habitat. Clearly, however, several species, especially the early migrants, were uniformly scarce across the Region.

Lesser Golden-Plovers peaked at 5000–7500 in n.-c. *Macon*, IL, Apr. 25–26 (MD, RPa), and a tardy migrant was seen in Chicago June 8 (RHu). Ohio's first **Snowy Plover**, discovered May 13 at Headlands Beach S.P. (†RHk, †RHI, LR, ph.), remained throughout the day, allowing photographers to document the occurrence. The Region's only Pip-



Brown Pelican at Rathbun Reservoir, Iowa, on May 31, 1993. Photograph/Reid I. Allen.

ing Plovers consisted of a pair at a *Woodbury*, IA, power plant May 13 (BH) and three at the Iowa Power and Lights ponds May 9 (B & LP). The Regional trend of increased **Black-necked Stilt** reports continued this spring, with four at Horseshoe L., MO, Apr. 27 (DE), two in Carrol, IL, May 8 (LJ), and two at Amana L., IA, May 20 (†TS, †TK, †RPi, ph. *et al.*). Am. Avocets were reported in good numbers; notable sightings included four in *Jefferson*, KY, Apr. 14 (MM *et al.*), 17 at L. Spfld., Apr. 20 (DBO), a winter-plumaged bird at Headlands Beach S.P., OH, Apr. 25 (LR, JW), and one at the Delaware W.M.A., OH, May 4 (KA). **Whimbrels** are rarely seen away from the Great Lakes; consequently, the four in *Fulton*, KY, May 22 (PB, JBe, BBC), and 13 at Horseshoe L., MO, May 23 (†LK) were extraordinary. The only Marbled Godwit reported e. of the Mississippi R. appeared in *Allen*, IN, Apr. 17 (EPO), to establish a new early arrival date for that state. The Least Sandpiper flight was sparse; peak counts were only 60 at L. Cal., May 15 (WM) and 56 at Colo Ponds, IA, May 19 (HZ). White-rumped Sandpipers were reported in every state; the highest count was 2000+ in n.w. MO, May 25 (DE). Pectoral Sandpiper numbers were disturbingly low; few reports exceeded 100 birds, and several active observers found none. Stilt Sandpipers were also scarce; the highest count was 20–25 near Bondurant, KY, May 11 (CP). A Ruff appeared April 7 in Delaware W.M.A., OH, (†KA) and a bird believed to be a female was at the Woodburn sewage ponds, IN, May 2 (†Haw). Counts of both dowitchers were extremely low across the Region; the only concentration consisted of 200 Short-billeds at Ottawa N.W.R., OH, May 9 (*fide* LR). Indiana's first confirmed Com. Snipe nesting since 1934 was made May 17 when an adult and two chicks were observed in *Orange* (JCt ph.). For the first time this century, Wilson's Phalaropes nested in Missouri; a nest was observed May 22–27 in *Holt*, MO (†DE, ph.).

GULLS, TERNS

Inland Laughing Gull sightings included singletons in *Gibson*, IN, Apr. 18 (GB), at Eagle Cr. Park, IN, Apr. 25 (†CK), at Kentucky Dam May 8 (MM *et al.*), and at Falls of the Ohio, KY, May 23 (BM *et al.*). A Franklin's Gull seen flying over the Mississippi R. in

Fulton, KY, May 22 (PB, JBe, BBC) was noteworthy for that location. A breeding-plumaged Mew Gull at L. Decatur, IL, Mar. 5 (†MD) was unexpected. The Ring-billed and Herring gull colony at L. Cal. was estimated to contain 20,000–25,000 birds (JL). Indiana's first **Slaty-backed Gull**, a winter adult, was seen at Michigan City harbor Mar. 13 (†KB, †SBa, †JCa, †LH *et al.*). A first-year Iceland Gull lingered at Waukegan and the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, IL, until May 3 (JN). Noteworthy among numerous Lesser Black-backed Gull reports were an adult that wandered W to L. Macbride, IA, where it was seen Apr. 16 (†JF) and two adults at R.E.D.A., Mar. 12 (JZ). Glaucous Gulls peaked at L. Cal., Mar. 21, when seven were counted (DM), and a second-summer bird remained at Waukegan until May 29 (JN). An imm. Black-legged Kittiwake appeared irregularly along the shoreline of s. L. Michigan. It was first seen at Johnson Beach, IN, Apr. 24 (JMc), then reappeared May 8 and June 3 at Waukegan, IL (RHu, ASi, JN) and May 28 at Chicago (RHu).

Regionwide, the Com. Tern migration was perhaps typical of recent years. Northwest Indiana, however, experienced the best flight in a decade, with a peak count of 400 at Michigan City harbor May 14 (KB). These may have been birds that normally migrate along L. Michigan's w. shore, as concentrations were very low in Chicago (*fide* EW). An Arctic Tern discovered near Joliet, May 27 (†JM, †JL, †WS, CA, JO, ph.), provided Illinois' 2nd record and the Region's first spring



Snowy Plover at Headlands Beach State Park, Ohio, on May 13, 1993. First state record. Photograph/Larry Rosche.

record. Least Terns returned to the *Gibson*, IN, nesting area May 9 (GB). Outstanding among a number of fine late May Black Tern counts in Iowa was an impressive 1100 at L. Amana May 26 (TK), representing one of the highest Regional counts in a decade.

CUCKOOS TO SWALLOWS

Cuckoos were scarce in every state except Ohio, where both species were more prevalent than in recent springs (LR). In *Cook*, IL, 62 party hours of owl surveys Mar. 5–7, yielded 42 E. Screech-Owls and 25 Great Horned Owls (*fide* SLc). Snowy Owls lingered later than normal. Three were reported at Miegs Field (Chicago lakefront) Mar. 14 and Apr. 8

(ASc, RHu). Inland records included singles at LuVerne, IA, Mar. 23 (*fide* MK) and in *Douglas*, IL, Mar. 30 (*fide* RCh). The Short-eared Owl migration was not impressive, with singletons reported at only 3 locations in Illinois and Indiana. Nesting was suspected near W. Frankfort, IL, where two Short-eareds remained through early summer (LSt). Notable among a handful of N. Saw-whet Owl records were a very responsive bird at Salamonie Res., IN, Mar. 2 (Haw *et al.*), one found in dense red cedar in *Knox*, MO, Mar. 25 (CH, PMc *et al.*), and one in Huron, OH, Mar. 28 (JVa). Rarely detected except on territory, migrant Chuck-wills-widows were found in a Fort Wayne, IN, city park Apr. 28



Rock Wren in Warren County, Iowa, on April 25, 1993. Photograph/Reid I. Allen.

(DWa) and in a lakefront lilac thicket at Michigan City harbor May 11 (LH). A calling Chuck in *Ida*, IA, May 17 (PE) was w. of this species' normal range. Thirty to 40 Chimney Swifts were found dead around L. Spfld., where low-flying birds, forced down by cool spring weather, collided with cars (*fide* DBo). A ♂ **Rufous Hummingbird** that visited a feeder in rural *Boone*, IA, May 8 & 9 (†SLa, †JF, †JSc) provided the Region's first spring record. An early April ad. ♂ sapsucker at the Burr Oaks Nature Center, Blue Springs, MO, created a lively debate among local birders. Observers agreed that the bird possessed a red nape and displayed other characteristics inconsistent with a Yellow-bellied but were unable to reach a consensus on the bird's identification. In Chicago, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker lingered until May 23 (RHu). Pileated Woodpeckers continued to expand, with several sightings in previously unoccupied areas within the Chicago metropolitan area.

Outstanding among a number of excellent Chicago area Flycatcher counts recorded May 23 were 40 E. Wood-Pewees and 25 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers (RHu). W. Kingbirds appeared at 3 Illinois locations: in Bondville May 5 (RCh), in Tinley Park May 28–29 (PW, †JL, JM, ph., m.ob.), and in *DuPage* May 31 (DT). The Purple Martin situation is bleak. Several correspondents lamented their scarcity, and the Region's highest count was only 20 at Heidecke L., IL, May 24 (JM). Tree Swallows fared a bit better, with counts of 2500+ flying S along the L. Michigan lakefront at Highland Park, IL, Mar. 14 (WM) and 1500

in *Gibson*, IN, Apr. 4 (GB). A N. Rough-winged Swallow appeared at L. Rockwell, OH, Mar. 31 (LR), which is quite early for n. Ohio.

JAYS TO SHRIKES

An impressive Blue Jay migration, estimated at 1200 birds per hour, was witnessed at Perkin's Beach, OH, Apr. 29 (W & NK). Few migrant Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported in the Region; the highest count was two in J.P., May 2 (SS). Surprisingly, for the first time in a decade, Red-breasteds nested in Indiana; on May 8 a pair was observed carrying food into a cavity in *St. Joseph* (*fide* VR). A Rock Wren visited the D. Youngblut residence, *Warren*, IA, Apr. 25 (†AJ, RA, ph.), providing one of few spring records for the Region. Extralimital Bewick's Wrens appeared in *Urbana*, IL, Apr. 2-6 (RCh), in *Elkhart*, IN, May 8 (†ABe) and at *Headlands Beach S.P.*, OH, May 15 (†EBa). Winter Wren numbers were very encouraging; high counts included 18 in *Urbana*, IL, Apr. 4 (RCh) and 15 at *Fox Island Park*, IN, Apr. 18 (*Haw et al.*). Two Sedge Wrens in J.P., Apr. 24 (JMc, SS), were early migrants and singletons at *Headlands Beach S.P.*, OH, May 9 (RHk *et al.*), and at *Magee Marsh*, OH, May 7 (KA), were near the e. edge of the nesting range. Both kinglets were reported in good numbers; Ruby-crowneds lingered at S.C.R. through May 15 (PMc) and at *Evanston*, IL, until June 7 (*fide* EW). The two *Townsend's Solitaires* that wintered near *Rock Fall*, IA, remained until Apr. 3 (CN). A very late *Veery* was discovered in *Chicago*, June 13 (RHu). Good numbers of *Hermit Thrushes* appeared along the *Great Lakes*; the peak count was 117+ at J.P., Apr. 24 (SS, EW). The Region's only *Varied Thrush* was a male that appeared at *Carol Gunderson's feeder* in *Union*, IA, Mar. 21 (MP). *American Pipits* were scarce, with no more than one reported in any state except *Illinois*.

SHRIKES TO TANAGERS

The easternmost *Loggerhead Shrike* report came from *Chillicothe*, OH, where one was observed May 28 (TB). *White-eyed Vireos* are expanding northward in *Ohio* (*fide* LR). Unexpected *Bell's Vireos* appeared in *Lake*, IN, May 11 (JBo) and at *Buck Cr. S.P.*, OH, May 22-30 (DO, LG). Impressive vireo counts included 20 *Warbling* at L. Cal., May 8 (WM, JL) and 50 *Red-eyes* in *Piatt*, IL (RCh), and *Chicago* (SM), both May 15.

Birders throughout much of the Region heralded the warbler migration as the best in years. The most glowing reports came from the *Chicago* area, n. *Indiana*, *Iowa*, and *Missouri*, suggesting that the *Mississippi Valley* may have served as a primary migration route. Assessments ranged from "a good warbler year" to "the best ever." Indeed, some reports kindled "the good ol' days" nostalgia. For example, in 5 hours at *Chicago's Wooded I.* (J.P.), May 9, S. Suter found 108 species, including 32 different warblers, within this 20-acre tract. An interesting characteristic of the



Summer Tanagers have been expanding northward in the Midwest, and this male got a head start on the migration season as well, arriving in Will County, Illinois, on the early date of April 14, 1993. Photograph/Joe B. Milosevich.

warbler flight was the early arrival of many species that normally appear in mid or late May. Additionally, the normally early *Yellow-rumped Warbler* flight was delayed, resulting in heavy movement that extended into mid-May. St. Louis birders detected the retarded flight during the afternoon of Apr. 27, when *Yellow-rumped*s were observed passing at the rate of 85 per hour (*fide* DA). The following high daily counts provide a sense of the flight magnitude: 11 *Golden-wingeds* at the *Ryerson Conservation Area*, IL, May 8 (DJ); 200 *Tennessees* in *Chicago* May 15 (SM); 44 *Nashvilles* in *Macon*, IL, May 8 (RPa); 60 *Magnolias* in *Chicago* May 23 (RHu); 40 *Cape Mays* at J.P., May 7 (SS); nine ♂ *Black-throated Blues* at the *Skokie Lagoons*, IL, May 9 (WS); 45 *Wilson's* in *Chicago* May 23 (RHu), and 25 *Canadas* in *Chicago* May 23 (RHu). The Region's only really rare parulid was a ♀ *Townsend's Warbler* discovered at the *Chicago Botanic Garden* May 6 (ph., LB, †JL, m.ob.), which provided the 3rd *Illinois* record.

Summer Tanagers continued their northward expansion, with reports of nine out-of-range birds in *Illinois*, *Indiana*, and *Iowa*. During a 2-day period, ♂ *W. Tanagers* appeared in the w. states at *Lime Cr. conservation area*, IA, May 10 (†CN), *Honey Cr. W.M.A.*, MO, May 10 (CFh), and *L. Manawa*, IA, May 11 (B & LP).

GROSBEAKS TO FINCHES

An ad. ♂ *Black-headed Grosbeak* appeared in *Andrews*, MO, Apr. 20-26 (†D & SS), where this species is rare. *Blue Grosbeaks* continued their northward expansion, with reports of a male in *Will*, IL, May 8 (JM) and seven at *Willow Slough W.M.A.*, IN, May 31 (DP, m.ob.). *Dickcissels* made a good showing in *Ohio*, where 3 reports came from s. portions of the state; one individual pushed northward to *Parma Heights* May 25, where this species is rare (RHl, TLp). The *Green-tailed Towhee* that spent late winter in *Amherst Township*, OH, lingered through April (*fide* LR). At least 11 *Clay-colored Sparrows* were reported in *Illinois*, most in the *Chicago* area. One *Clay-colored* wandered E to *Cleveland*, where it was seen Apr. 29

(RHl). Three *Lark Sparrows* at *Sauerheber N.W.R.*, KY, Apr. 24 (MM, BM, MS) were noteworthy for that state. The Region's only *Lark Bunting* appeared at *Bob Brown W.M.A.*, MO, May 25 (DE). On the heels of *Missouri's* first state record last winter, *Iowa's* first *Black-throated Sparrow* appeared at a *Waterloo feeder* Mar. 16 and remained until Apr. 2 (†JF, †PP, †MP, †TK, RA, †m.ob. ph.). A *Sharp-tailed Sparrow* at *Spring Valley W.M.A.*, OH, May 9 (DG *fide* NK), provided an outstanding local record. The two *Golden-crowned Sparrows* that wintered near *Columbia*, MO, remained until April; the last bird was seen Apr. 21 (PMc). A ♀ or winter ♂ *Chestnut-collared Longspur* was studied at L. Cal., Apr. 17-18 (DM, †Job, m.ob.). The bird, which constitutes one of very few well-documented *Illinois* records, gave the diagnostic "kittle" call. *Smith's Longspurs* were scarce; the only reports consisted of 3 small flocks in *Illinois* and singletons in *Indiana* and *Iowa*.

Although some observers suggested that *Bobolink* numbers were down, fine counts of 150 at *Chicago*, May 15 (SM) and 100+ at *Headlands Beach S.P.*, OH, May 9 (LR, RHk) were reported. Following a poor 1992



Perhaps a straggler from last fall's push of wanderers, this Black-throated Sparrow provided a first record for Iowa at Waterloo in late March 1993. Photograph/Reid I. Allen.

breeding season, *Yellow-headed Blackbird* numbers at L. Cal., the Region's westernmost nesting area, were significantly down this spring. This population may be in trouble (*fide* JL). *Brewer's Blackbird* numbers were up in *Illinois*, where a peak count of 35 was recorded in *Havana* Apr. 2 (KR). The *Great-tailed Grackle* continues to flourish in *Iowa*; a pair was found May 19 nesting in *Cherokee*, n.w. IA (DBi *et al.*).

The Region's only *Red Crossbills* consisted of three at *Clinton L.*, IL, Mar. 3 (RCh), 20 at *Sand Ridge S.F.* Mar. 20 (KR), and three in *Vincennes*, IN, May 22 (GB). Remarkably, the handful of *Regional Pine Siskin* reports included a breeding record for *Indiana*, where a pair was noted feeding young at *Pokagon S.P.*, May 5 (ASl). *White-winged Crossbills*, *Com. Redpolls*, and *Evening Grosbeaks* were not reported in the Region.

Corrigendum: The report of 34 *Red-necked Grebes* at *Buck Cr. S.P.*, OH, Nov. 8, 1992 (AB 47:99) should be deleted.

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

David P. Muth

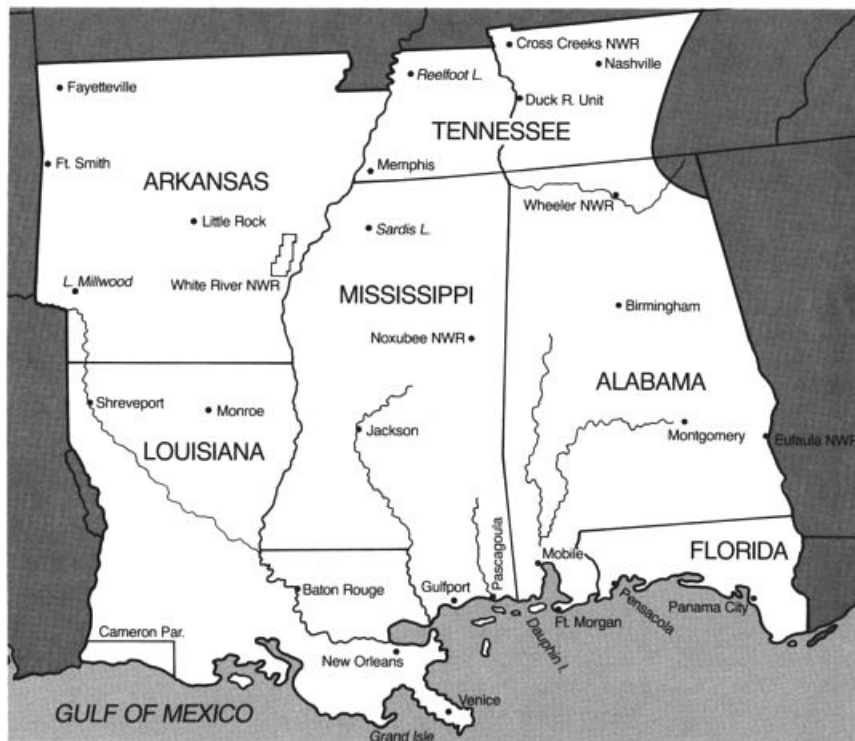
The season saw a return to fairly typical spring weather, with a series of relatively mild fronts reaching the coast into May. Birding was rewarding, but virtually none of the stellar rarities that have brightened the spring report in recent years was found.

Abbreviations: A.B.R.C. (*Ala. Bird Records Committee*); F.H. (*fish Hatchery*); F.P. (*Ft. Pickens*); G.I.N.S. (*Gulf Islands Nat'l. Seashore*); J.L.N.H.P.P. (*Jean Lafitte Nat'l Historical Park and Pres.*); L.B.R.C. (*L.O.S. Louisiana B.R.C.*); L.O.S. (*LA Ornithological Soc.*); L.S.U.M.N.S. (*LA State Univ. Museum of Natural Science*); M.B.R.C. (*M.B.R.C.*); p.a. (*pending acceptance*); W.R. (*Waterfowl Ref.*); T.R.B.C. (*"Tenn. Rare Bird Committee"*).

LOONS TO DUCKS

Four reports of Pacific Loons in the clear waters off Alabama and Florida constitute an amazing spring total. Reports came from Dauphin I., Feb. 28, Gulf Shores Mar. 6, and Ft. Morgan Apr. 19, for Alabama's 12th-14th sightings (BCG, JH, JB, GDJ, all p.a. A.B.R.C.); a very late bird was just east of Ft. Morgan May 2 at Gulf Breeze, FL (RAD, LD). Eared Grebes were widely reported in northern and eastern areas of the Region, where they are unexpected. A large shearwater was reported (for the 2nd consecutive year) off Gulf Shores, AL, Apr. 24 (JH, JB). If only someone could get out in the gulf and document the specific identity. White Pelicans continue to be reported from new localities throughout the Region, perhaps reflecting the recovery of piscivores in general, and the continued adaption of coastal birds to man-made inland lakes and aquacultural impoundments.

There were several inland reports of mi-



grant Am. Bitterns, which are rarely encountered. Five Tricolored Herons at Reelfoot L., TN, May 1-26 were unaccountably inland (WGC). A Glossy Ibis was also unexpectedly far inland in *Colbert*, AL, May 30 (SMc, GNP). Finally, three White-faced Ibises were also well north for spring in *Crawford*, AR, May 4 (BWB).

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks have gained a foothold in the Region at Lacassine N.W.R., LA, where birds are occasionally seen in the rice-fields to the north in winter. Interesting, however, were four seen in flight at Peveto Beach on the *Cameron* coast Apr. 26 (JPO). Two Snow Geese seen Apr. 19 flying W over F.P., G.I.N.S., FL, were an odd sight (RLB). A ♀ duck, thought to be Mississippi's first **Tufted Duck** (or a hybrid), was found on a sewage lagoon in *Yalobusha*, Mar. 23 (GK, m.ob., p.a. M.B.R.C.).

RAPTORS

Interesting movements of Mississippi Kites were detected, with 30 at Grand Gulf S.P., MS, Apr. 25 (TLS, MH) and 24 on the Mississippi R. levee in *Bolivar*, MS, May 14 (TLS); 10 at the Barataria Pres. Unit, J.L.N.H.P.P., LA, May 5 (DPM); and three way up in Ft. Smith, AR, May 14 (BWB). A N. Harrier in *Calboun*, MS, May 31 was exceptionally late (GK). There was but one report of a Swainson's Hawk, and it was far east at F.P., G.I.N.S., FL, Apr. 18 (JWB, RLB). This migration brought a gratifying number of reported Merlins and Peregrines, many of them well inland.

RAILS TO GULLS

A Black Rail detected in *Santa Rosa*, FL, Apr. 13 (JWB, OF, RWB), provided only the 2nd area record since 1949. Inland King Rails were

found at Noxubee N.W.R., May 6 and in *Ok-tibbeha*, MS, May 8 (TLS); another was in *Chicot*, AR, Apr. 24 (DRS). One Virginia Rail was a rare find in *Shelby*, Apr. 5 (JRW), as were two in *Mauzy*, TN, Apr. 7 (TJW). Inland Piping Plovers included one in *Lake*, TN, Apr. 20 (WGC); one in *Chicot*, Apr. 24 (DRS), one Apr. 25 and two Apr. 29 at the Centerton F.H., and one that day in *Benton*, AR (MML). Willets were noted at several inland localities, as were Upland Sandpipers. A Long-billed Curlew turned up at a new locality on the Alabama coast (away from the regular Mobile Causeway site) at Dauphin I., Mar. 13 (CKn). The species is not normally encountered in the Region except in coastal s.w. Louisiana. Numbers of Baird's Sandpipers were sighted well east of their normal route through the Region, as were smaller numbers of Buff-breasted Sandpipers. Yet another Reeve turned up at Ensley Bottoms in *Shelby*, TN, May 9 (JRW, ph., SMC), where they have become nearly regular in spring and fall. Thirty Red Phalaropes in 2 flocks, apparently blown in by an approaching storm, were spotted 100 yards offshore G.I.N.S., FL, Mar. 3 (RLB, JWB).

Laughing Gulls were reported inland in n. Mississippi and w. Tennessee Apr. 25–May 19. The only reports of Lesser Black-backed Gulls were from Louisiana: an alternate-plumaged adult at Grand I., Apr. 8 (AS, JS), and a 3rd-year bird at Holly Beach, *Cameron*, Apr. 24 (BMM, DPM, m.ob.). A single Glaucous Gull was reported, a first-year bird on Rutherford Beach in *Cameron*, LA, Apr. 24 (PW, CS, CK, JS, m.ob.). Finally, the lone Great Black-backed Gull was a worn individual in first basic plumage, also in *Cameron*, LA, Apr. 25 (SWC, DLD, CL, m.ob.).

DOVES TO HUMMINGBIRDS

Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to increase along the coast of Alabama and in near-coastal areas of s.e. Louisiana. The report by a resident of the original Louisiana site, Ft. Pike S.P., that the doves have been there for at least 22 years (*vide* RFC) now needs to be factored into the equation. Quite a few interesting reports of White-winged Doves came in. They continue to be regular, probably breeding in the town of *Cameron*, LA (m.ob.), and were seen and heard at 3 New Orleans locations Mar. 25–Apr. 2 (KVR, AS); there were also the usual reports from extreme s.e. LA, including a very late bird on Grand I., May 22 (PW, CS), one east on Dauphin I., AL, Apr. 24–25 (JH, JB), and a remarkable flock of 28 birds in Gulf Breeze, FL, Mar. 1, dwindling by Mar. 28 to a single diehard (RAD, LD).

Black-billed Cuckoos, a generally scarce migrant Regionwide, were well reported. Alabama's first spring Groove-billed Ani was on Blakely I., Apr. 3 m.ob.). Another was a casual visitor at F.P., G.I.N.S., FL, Apr. 19 (CD, RLB, JWB). An unusual, and late, northward movement of Groove-billed Anis notched Arkansas' first spring records, with one in *Johnson* May 22 (WMS, PS) and one found dead by a farmer on or about May 25 in

Woodruff (specimen to Arizona Audubon Soc.). Though more expected, reports for s.e. Louisiana in spring (away from the delta) are still noteworthy, with two near Waggaman Mar. 27 and one in City Park, New Orleans, Apr. 20 (PY).

An imm. Buff-bellied Hummingbird that wintered in *White*, AR, remained Nov. 12–Mar. 10 (*vide* H & MP). Of the many Louisiana holdovers from winter, the latest lingered until as late as Apr. 28 in Baton Rouge (NM); the hummer appeared the weekend of a freak snowfall Mar. 12–14. Arkansas' wintering Anna's Hummingbird remained through Mar. 8 (*vide* H & MP). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird was in *St. John*, LA, Feb. 27–Apr. 9 (RJS); the species remains quite rare in Louisiana, but has become regular in recent winters.

FLYCATCHERS TO THRUSHES

Six reports of 11 Olive-sided Flycatchers came in from w. Tennessee: one each in *Shelby*, Apr. 28 (VBR), May 16, 22, & 30 (JRW); three in *Dyer*, May 8 (JRW, SMC); and four in *Lake*, May 9 (JRW, SMC). Louisiana's only reports were from *Cameron*, with two May 19 and one May 20 (SWC, DLD). There were unusual spring sightings of Vermilion Flycatchers at Ft. Morgan, AL, Apr. 2 (SMC *et al.*) and

remote private land in coastal *Vermilion*, LA, was still present as late as June 12; a 2nd bird may be present as well, and breeding is at least a possibility (*vide* NLN). Another Great Kiskadee was seen briefly at Peveto Beach in *Cameron*, LA, Apr. 26 (JPO, p.a. L.B.R.C.). A scattering of state records for this species follow no particular temporal pattern, but these occurrences represent the first in more than a decade. Only 5 reports of Bewick's Wren came in, all from w. Arkansas, and all but one were seen in March (v.o.). A Varied Thrush found in the town of *Cameron* Apr. 24 (RFC, RJS, MW, m.ob., p.a. L.B.R.C.), furnished the 3rd recent (inexplicable) coastal spring record for the Region, and only the 4th sighting for Louisiana.

VIREOS, WARBLERS

Warbling Vireos were east for this circum-Gulf migrant, with sightings at Grand I., LA, Apr. 17 (BMM, CS) and at F.P., G.I.N.S., FL, May 14 (RLB, JWB). Philadelphia Vireos were also east, with two found early in *Iberville*, LA, Apr. 21 (DLD), three in *Starkville*, MS, May 6 (TLS), and one at F.P., G.I.N.S., FL, May 14 (RLB, JWB). Red-eyed Vireos arrive on the breeding grounds along the Gulf Coast in late March; thereafter, the species is often the most abundant migrant in

S.A.

The afternoon of Apr. 8 a tornado struck Grand I., LA. Three people were killed, and the small community on this barrier island was devastated, as was the leg of the afternoon's trans-Gulf flight from the Yucatan that was hit by the storm. Al Smalley and John Sevenair had been birding the oak woodland on the island before the storm and had encountered few birds. They rode out what they thought was merely a terrific thunderstorm, only to discover that they had been parked within a short distance of the tornado's path! Trapped on the island by downed trees and wires, they re-entered the woods in late afternoon to find a spectacular fallout: flocks of birds on lawns, trees, and shrubs studded with the brighter species, and small flocks valiantly taking off and heading N. The birds discovered on the island were the survivors. The following day, a party surveyed the beaches. On Elmer's I., just west of Grand I., the wrack line was littered with dead birds: 10,000+ neotropical migrants had perished at sea and washed ashore. More than 30 species were involved, all trans-Gulf migrants, and most of them passerines (no seabirds were involved) (BMM, PW, CS).

The complete dimensions of the catastrophe will never be known, but it is a safe guess that the 10,000 birds that had washed up on the beach were but a fraction of the total destroyed by the tornado. A tragedy of this magnitude reminds us that migration is indeed a perilous undertaking. But such perils are nothing new. For every dead migrant we detect, vast numbers perish in storms and from other etiologies, including simple exhaustion. What is remarkable is that so dangerous a system as trans-marine migration works, having served these species admirably for eons. For the most part, our neotropical migrants are remarkably fecund species, capable of reproducing in numbers vast enough to overcome the drain of migration. The evidence seems to indicate that they are in decline, and the finger of blame has pointed inexorably south, to the wintering grounds. But how much more harmful has our own activity been? The wanton destruction of vital migratory habitat, especially on our coasts, and the relentless clearing and fragmentation of our forests have led to declines in reproductive success below what is necessary to sustain populations. How much greater would the death toll have been in this instance without the tiny patch of woods that survives so precariously on Grand I.?

at F.P., G.I.N.S., Apr. 23 (*vide* RLB). At least one of the Brown-crested Flycatchers that wintered near Venice, LA, was still present Mar. 6 (PW, CS). The report of an apparent migrant at Peveto Beach in *Cameron*, LA, Apr. 19 (JPO, p.a. L.B.R.C.) was remarkable. A Great Kiskadee, first found last winter on

the coastal woods, bound for northerly breeding grounds until migration is over. As evidence, consider the 100 seen May 20 in *Cameron*, LA (SWC, DLD). Black-winged Vireos did not stray farther W than Dauphin I., AL, where two were seen Apr. 26 (CKn), as well as one across the bay at Ft. Morgan May 3

(RAD). Individuals were also recorded in Florida at Gulf Breeze May 2 & 4, and at F.P., G.I.N.S., May 14 (RAD).

S.A.

Given the vagaries of migration, experienced observers on the n. Gulf Coast shy away from bold predictions based on weather observations. Still, it is generally understood that genuine fallouts occur when the trans-Gulf flight encounters adverse weather, such as northerly winds or rain. How, then, to explain the conditions of Apr. 24 along the *Cameron*, LA, coast, when a thunderstorm "front," with little rain but terrific wind, moved through at about noon. Along most of a 50-mi stretch of coast, combed by attendees at the spring meeting of the L.O.S., nothing happened: no fallout. But in one coastal chenièr e. of the town of Cameron, and on another chenièr 40 mi n.w. and 5 mi inland, spectacular fallouts occurred, involving hundreds of individuals. Observers at the latter location watched in astonishment as hundreds of orioles arrived out of a clear blue sky with S winds. Comparison of the lists from the 2 locations deepens the mystery, as species common at one site were scarce at the other (DLD, SWC, PY, BMM, DPM).

A very rare "Lawrence's Warbler," Alabama's 9th, was seen in *Shelby* Apr. 25 (GDJ, DGJ). Two inland Cape May Warblers were found in Arkansas, where they are rarely encountered: one at Millwood L., May 1 (CMi), and one at L. Atalanta May 8 (MMI). Another was at Reelfoot L., TN, May 1 (MAG). Like Cape May Warblers, most Black-throated Blues migrate to the east of the Region—they are generally uncommon on our s.e. coast in spring and rare farther west. There was one inland report this spring, at Vicksburg N.M.P., MS, Apr. 25 (TLS). A very rare "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler was on Grand I., LA, Mar. 20 (CS, PW). A Palm Warbler at Dauphin I., AL, May 9 was very late

(PWS). Several reporters found Swainson's Warblers in better-than-expected numbers in the e. part of the Region, and one sighted Mar. 27 at F.P., G.I.N.S., FL, was quite early (JWB, RLB). Mourning Warblers were east of their usual route, cited in numerous reports from Tennessee. At the other extreme, elusive Connecticut Warblers, rare but regular spring migrants through the n.e. part of the Region, were detected in *Jefferson*, AL, May 4 (RBS, MBS); at Radnor L., TN, May 10–14 (TJW); in *Shelby*, TN, May 12 (VBR); and in *DeSoto*, MS, May 15 (GK).

TANAGERS TO COWBIRDS

An ad. ♂ W. Tanager in *Cameron*, LA, Apr. 15 was expected (BF, GOB); however, a **Western Tanager** in Arkadelphia Apr. 1–10 furnished only the 6th record for Arkansas (DW, EG, m.ob.). There were 3 reports of Black-headed Grosbeaks, all from Arkansas feeders, Mar. 1 (a possible winter holdover) to May 4. A **Lazuli Bunting** report from *Bolivar* Apr. 22 was the 2nd sighting for Mississippi (NHe, p.a. M.B.R.C.). Painted Buntings were reported in good numbers along the e. coast of the Region, in the gap between breeding populations, where they are normally scarce spring migrants. There were a few reports of birds north of their breeding grounds in Mississippi and Tennessee. A Clay-colored Sparrow at Ft. Morgan, Apr. 24, provided Alabama's 2nd spring report (JH, JB). To the west, singles reported from L. Bentonville Apr. 10 (RD) and *Yell*, AR, May 1 (JR, MF) were the only other sightings of this uncommon spring migrant. A presumably migratory Grasshopper Sparrow was very unusual on the coast at F.P., G.I.N.S., FL, Apr. 12 (RLB, JWB), and one at Ft. Morgan, AL, Apr. 20–23 was also somewhat late (GDJ, DGJ). One seen May 14 in *Bolivar*, MS, was in an area in which breeding is possible (TLS). Lincoln Sparrows were found north and east of their regular winter range and migratory path at many locations in w. Tennessee Mar. 24–May 12 (m.ob.), at *St. Tammany*, LA, Apr. 3 (PY), and in Decatur, AL, May 5 (A & AM). A Harris' Sparrow in *Pulaski*, AR, May 1 was quite late for this rare visitor to the Region (H&CF). A Dark-eyed

Junco in *St. Tammany*, LA, Apr. 3 was late (PY).

A W. Meadowlark was a rare find in *Benton*, AR, Mar. 6 (MMI). Seven were far east in *Shelby*, TN, Mar. 6, dwindling to one May 15 (JRW). Four Great-tailed Grackles in *Johnson* May 22 were in a new area of Arkansas (MP). Only 3 reports of Shiny Cowbirds were received: Apr. 9 at F.P., G.I.N.S., FL (RAD) and Apr. 10 & 24 at Dauphin I., AL (JH, JB). All reports were of males.

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PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

Rudolf F. Koes and Peter Taylor

Spring weather was typically erratic in southern Alberta and generally placid but cool and cloudy in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Water levels were low in much of Saskatchewan and southwestern Manitoba, but better than in recent years in Alberta and southeastern Manitoba. Overall it was a disappointing season, with migration running a week or more later than average in Manitoba, few major

concentrations of birds anywhere, and a sparse crop of rarities.

Abbreviation: O.H.M. (*Oak Hammock Marsh W.M.A., MB*).

LOONS TO SHOREBIRDS

A Pacific Loon passed through Edmonton Apr. 28 (KV). Bucking the trend of a slow migration were an early Com. Loon at Long L., MB, Apr. 9 (PGr, DBo) and a Great Blue Heron in Winnipeg at -4°F, Mar. 18 (NB). Rare herons made a respectable showing, with four Great Egrets in Manitoba, a Snowy Egret May 15 at Pelican L., MB (RW, TW, PSt), a **Little Blue Heron** May 8–10 at Lumsden, SK (A & BB, ph. KB), a Tricolored

Heron at O.H.M., May 5 & 6 (AC *et al.*), and single Green-backed Herons at St. Adolphe, MB, May 8 (AC) and, for the 5th continued year in Calgary, May 19 (m.o.b.). A White-faced Ibis visited Luck L. marsh, SK, May 29 (*fide* MC).

Large concentrations of Tundra Swans in Manitoba were 800 at Homewood Apr. 10, 800 at St. Claude Apr. 17, and 270 at O.H.M., May 2 (RKO, GG, GH). Single "Bewick's" Swans were reported again in Alberta, at Skiff Apr. 5 and Keoma Apr. 13 (JV, MP). A Trumpeter Swan arrived at a gravel pit near Steinbach, MB, May 6, but died about 3 weeks later (J & VR *et al.*). Geese and ducks were generally scarce, especially Snow Geese in Manitoba (m.o.b.) and N. Pintails in s. Alberta



35 in 25 sq mi, Apr. 19 (PT); much of their time was spent harassing Rough-legged Hawks. A count of 122 Com. Nighthawks within 2 hours at Stonewall, MB, May 29 (KG) was encouraging. Lewis' Woodpeckers staged a mini-invasion in s.w. Alberta, with 6 birds found May 16-31 from the Calgary area north to Kootenay Plains (MP, BS, PS, DM, DL). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker spent over an hour clinging close to the 26th floor of Winnipeg's Toronto-Dominion Centre May 4 (KG).

FLYCATCHERS TO WARBLERS

A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher fed on the ground with Blackbirds on a cool, wet day near Grenfell, SK, May 8 (EF). Two Rock Wrens, a little out of range in Calgary May 17, were chased away when a city backhoe removed their rock pile (IH). A pair of Western Bluebirds frequented a Kootenay Plains, AB,

(RD, LB). Alberta's 4th Garganey spent May 17-31 near Taber, where one was also seen in 1990 (LB). Notable duck concentrations in Alberta were 800 Canvasbacks and 500 Lesser Scaup at Yellow L., Apr. 11, and 650 Com. Goldeneyes at Taber L., Mar. 22, all local records (LB), and 165+ Barrow's Goldeneyes at Elk I. N.P., May 28 (BC).

Twenty-seven N. Harriers were found dead of pesticide poisoning at Beaverhill L., AB, May 1-4; details of this miserable affair are limited, but charges against the culprit are pending (RF). Diurnal raptor migration at Manitoba's usual river-valley hot spots was disappointing, except for a record movement of N. Goshawks at St. Adolphe: 86 in 4 days, Mar. 20-31, with a peak of 47 Mar. 31 (AC *et al.*). Near Brightstone, MB, a vole bonanza attracted a huge concentration of Rough-legged Hawks: an estimated 350 in 80 sq mi, with up to 40 seen on a single scan Apr. 18 (PT *et al.*). Less fanatical birders saw up to 24 Rough-leggeds per day in the Regina area throughout April (RKr, PJ), and at least eight remained until the end of May (CB, PGe). Observers at Mt. Lorette, AB, turned up an astounding 4175 Golden Eagles in 51 days Mar. 2-May 2, with a peak of 845 Mar. 25 (PSh), as compared with just 266 seen in 15 days at Sheep R., AB (WS). Details of the eagles' migration routes are still being unraveled from observations elsewhere in the mountains.

Low numbers of Sage Grouse near Govanlock, SK (SS), and Manyberries, AB (DBo) caused some concern. Several observers reported declining Ruffed Grouse in Saskatchewan, but 18 drumming birds on a 32-stop owl survey along Manitoba's Bird R., Apr. 8-9, was a heartening total (RKO *et al.*). More than 8000 Sandhill Cranes were at Beaverhill L., Apr. 25 (PM *et al.*).

PLOVERS TO WOODPECKERS

Shorebird migration was poor on the whole; the only large numbers reported were 500 Lesser Golden-Plovers and 2500 Silt Sandpipers at Valeport marsh, SK, May 24 (RKr), and the following totals at Beaverhill L., May 29: 1200 Black-bellied Plovers and 1040 Red Knots (RF, BHo), and 4000 Red-necked Phalaropes (E & JJ). One Lesser Golden-Plover (*fulva*) visited Strathmore, AB, May 22 (J&MM). Thirteen Black-necked Stilts in Alberta (m.o.b.) included two as far n. as Beaverhill L., Apr. 25-28 (TT, PM). Good counts of Whimbrels were 65 near Taber May 9-15 (LB) and 20 at Last Mountain L., SK, May 16 (DH). Rare sandpipers included a Western at Monica Slough, SK, May 26 (RKr), a Sharp-tailed at Beaverhill L., May 23 (OD), and a possible Purple at Shaunavon, SK, May 24 (CB, MB). One Ruff at Beaverhill L., Apr. 25-27 was special (PM, TT, KV); a flock of seven Ruffs and Reeves seen briefly by a very experienced observer at Hastings L., e. of Edmonton, May 1 was extraordinary (KV). The only Glaucous Gull reports were of three in Alberta. One Sabine's Gull visited Carseland, AB, May 23 (HT), and a flock of 22 honored Cold L., AB, May 27 (TT). Thirty-seven Caspian Terns was an excellent total at Lost L., AB, May 30 (LB). Thousands of Com. Terns nest on Manitoba's large lakes, but 500+ was an exceptional total of migrants near Seven Sisters Falls, MB, May 29 (RKO, PT, GG, DF). Two Arctic Terns were reported at Monica Slough May 25 (FS), one at Condie, SK, May 8 (RKr) and one near Lethbridge, AB, May 6 (CP). An Eastern Screech-Owl at Medicine Hat Mar. 13-May 9, one of very few recorded in Alberta, has likely been present (heard but unidentified) since Dec. 1991 (DBa). Short-eared Owls were fairly common between Calgary and Lethbridge (RD *et al.*), and ≥20 were seen near Kronau, SK, Apr. 11 (BR). More than 50 Short-eareds in the Brightstone area in mid-April included

nest box May 30-31 (DL). A Townsend's Solitaire was far from breeding range near Lac La Biche, AB, May 16 (*vide* PM). Heavy groundings of *Catharus* thrushes were noted in Calgary May 14 and at several Saskatchewan locations May 15-31. An impressive peak of 130 Gray-cheeked Thrushes hopped around Weyburn May 17 (NP). A ♂ Varied Thrush was seen at Oxbow, SK, Apr. 23 (JP).

Northern Mockingbirds appeared at 3 Alberta locations: Medicine Hat May 30 (*vide* DB), Abraham L., Kootenay Plains, May 30-31 (DL), and Cavendish May 29 (DCo); individuals at Altona (GG) and Steinbach, MB (DF *et al.*) in May were less rare. Well out of range was a Sage Thrasher in Wascana Park, Regina, May 22 (fl, BD *et al.*, ph. KB). Warbler migration was generally sparse and late, the most noteworthy rarity being an "Audubon's" Warbler in Wascana Park May 26 (BL).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Saskatchewan's 3rd Summer Tanager was photographed at Regina May 13-16 (AB, BD, m.o.b.); another was reported at St. Adolphe, MB, May 31 (GL). Single Scarlet Tanagers were noted in Canora, SK, May 11 or 12 (VT),



Summer Tanager at Regina, Saskatchewan, on May 14, 1993. Third provincial record. Photograph/Keith Barr.

Regina May 13 (FB) & 15 (B & SE), and a W. Tanager in Pinawa, MB, May 14 was well described (DE). Additional red goodies were ♂ N. Cardinals at Ponoka, AB, Apr. 27 (G & SP), and Devon, AB, May 6 (LH), while one at Moose Mountain P.P., SK, has now been present for 2 years (GB).

Saskatchewan's 3rd reported **Blue Grosbeak**, s. of Tisdale May 18 (DCI), was described well, but photographs were not diagnostic (*vide* RKr). A Lazuli Bunting offered only a brief glance at Brandon Hills, MB, May 22 (RW), and three were found in the Calgary area May 29–31 (IH, PS, CD). Seven ♂ Indigo Buntings brightened Brandon Hills in late May (RW).

A Dickcissel also appeared briefly at St. Pierre, MB, May 13 (RT). Overall, migrant sparrows were scarce, but 400 Am. Tree Sparrows was a high total at Beaverhill L., Apr. 8 (*vide* PM). One Field Sparrow visited Winnipeg May 8 (DBY), and another returned to Roche Percee, SK, for the 3rd year (BL). A Golden-crowned Sparrow was a rarity in Regina May 6 (A & IT).

Scarcity of Snow Buntings in many areas was compensated by a blizzard of 200,000 birds at Beaverhill L., Apr. 20 (DD, TT) and

50,000 between Brunkild and Lowe Farm, MB, Apr. 19 (MK). House Finches continue to consolidate their position in the Red R. valley, MB. Thirty birds were reported altogether; 2 nests were found in Winnipeg (m.o.b.) and one in Altona (MK). Nesting was also suspected for the 2nd year in Regina, SK (KS), and up to four House Finches frequented Weyburn Mar. 10–Apr. 24 (NP). In Alberta, individuals overwintered in Lethbridge (*vide* RD) and possibly Calgary (BH). A ♂ House Finch in Calgary Mar. 3–Apr. 2 was so aggressive that the homeowner (JD) felt sorry for the House Sparrows!

Erratum: The ad. ♂ Tufted Duck at Luck L., SK, in spring 1992 was found by Bernie and Mike Gollop May 13 and was also seen by Michael Williams and Stan Shadick the following day.

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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Ron Martin

Dry conditions continued in many areas; however, water conditions were improved in some eastern areas, as the drought seems to be losing some of its grip. Much of Montana had average precipitation, and the eastern one-third of South Dakota showed good water levels in wetlands. The season was generally quite cool, and migration peaks for most passerines were later than usual. flocks of

many migrant passerines were still in evidence the last week of May.

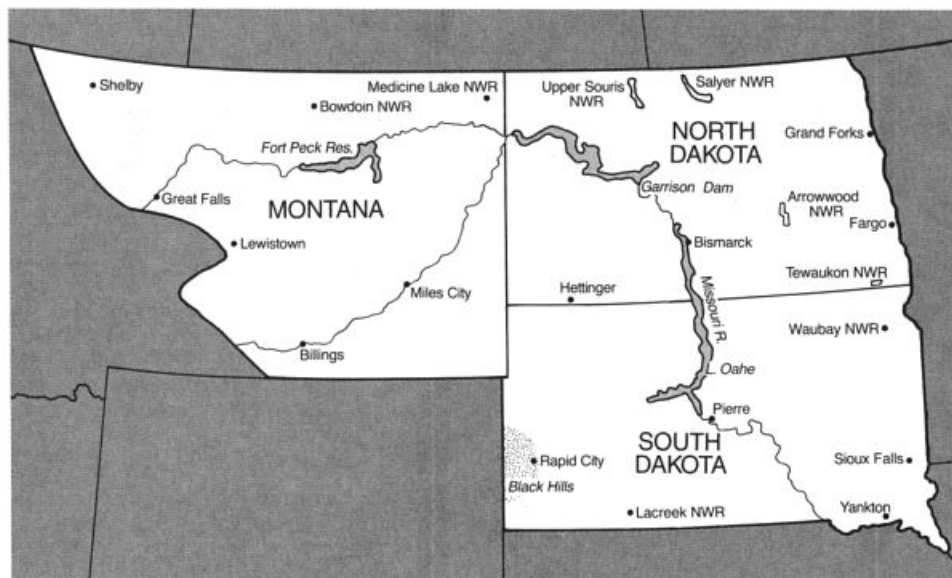
While the usual concentrations of waterfowl were seemingly absent, Garganey sightings in Montana and North Dakota caused excitement. Shorebird migration in Montana and eastern South Dakota was exceptionally poor, but outstanding concentrations were noted in central and eastern North Dakota. Good fallout conditions in early May brought numerous notable warbler sightings. These conditions also rewarded three North American Migration counters in North Dakota with 140–145 species May 8, a remarkable number for that early in the season. A fallout of thrushes in mid-May was the first time in several years for numbers of this group.

LOONS TO CRANES

Horned Grebes were very early at Ft. Peck Mar. 26 (CC) and *Hughes*, SD, Mar. 25 (RAP). An Eared Grebe at Ft. Peck Mar. 25 was 20+ days earlier than average, but grebe migration in general was very poor. The Great Egret in *Cass* Mar. 28 was the earliest ever by 5 days for N. Dakota (CN). A **Tricolored Heron** in *Grand Forks*, ND, provided the 7th record for the state (DV). At Upper Souris N.W.R., a Cattle Egret was early Apr. 17 (GBB). With only 9 previous sightings in Montana, the Green-backed Heron photographed at Bowdoin May 31 was a rare find (DP, DR). *Sixteen* White-faced Ibises in *Burleigh*, ND, Apr. 15, was not only the largest flock ever observed in N. Dakota, but also the earliest ever by 2 weeks (BB). At Ft. Peck, a single May 13 was the first in that area for Carlson.

A Trumpeter Swan found dead Apr. 19 at Hailstone N.W.R. exhibited evidence of lead poisoning. Schwitters noted that increasing numbers are migrating over the plains e. of the Rocky Mt. front. Also unusual was one in *Bowman*, ND, Apr. 17 (MLJ). Goose migration at Freezeout included four blue-morph Ross' Geese, a dwarf Canada Goose described as the size of an Am. Wigeon, and a possible Snow x White-fronted hybrid. A brood of Canada Geese at Audubon N.W.R., Apr. 4, was extremely early (DP).

Second state records of *Garganey* were males at Fargo May 6 (KC) and Bowdoin May 13+ (GN,



CC). The Bowdoin bird consorted exclusively with a pair of Blue-winged Teals, and was seen to defend territory with them. A Eur. Wigeon was photographed in *Yankton*, SD, May 10 & 12 (BC, RVS). The species is hypothetical in S. Dakota. In N. Dakota, an Oldsquaw seen Mar. 8 in *Burleigh* provided one of only a few spring records (RNR), and a Black Scoter in *Grand Forks*, May 21, represented only the 2nd spring record.

Nineteen Turkey Vultures in *Cass*, Apr. 24, was an amazing number for e. N. Dakota (JOH). Late raptors in N. Dakota included a N. Goshawk in *Williams* May 9 and a Merlin in *Stutzman* May 17 (MG). Earliest ever for S. Dakota was a Swainson's Hawk Mar. 19 in *Day*. Three Ferruginous Hawks in *Grand Forks* Apr. 5 were northeast of known nesting areas. After a few observations in March and April, Peregrine Falcons peaked during the 2nd half of May, with 15 sightings in N. Dakota and Montana. The Virginia Rail heard at Freezout May 19 was the first there for Schwitters.

SHOREBIRDS TO WOODPECKERS

S.A.

Declining water levels in the Minnewauken Flats area of Devils L. have created large mudflats during the past few years. This year was no exception. On a trip to the area May 23, I chanced to meet Susan Skagen of the U.S.F.W.S. from Ft. Collins, who was in the area surveying migrant shorebirds. A conservative estimate of 80,000+ birds included 20 species. Topping the previous high counts for the state by 4-6 times were 4 species that made up the bulk of the birds, which included 30,000 White-rumped, 15,000 Semipalmated, and 10,000 Stilt sandpipers, and 25,000 Dunlins. Concerns about identifying staging areas for migrant shorebirds in the mid-continent are commendable but, unlike coastal Regions, the areas used in any given year change with the water levels. Some years alkaline lakes are superb, other times staging areas are receding lakes, and still other years cultivated fields.

Black-necked Stilt showed at Fargo for the 2nd consecutive year, with a single May 29

(BS). An Upland Sandpiper in *Clay* Mar. 27 was the earliest ever for S. Dakota (DB). Six Whimbrels in *Grand Forks* May 22 secured about the 18th record for N. Dakota (EF). Furnishing the 11th record for Montana was a Hudsonian Godwit at Medicine L., Apr. 28 (MR). Red Knots were very early in *Grand Forks* May 1, where numbers peaked May 24 at 34; this was N. Dakota's 2nd-highest tally ever. Two were in *Faulk*, SD, May 23 (DS).

Another shorebird Mecca this spring was L. Williams in *McLean*, ND, where Berkey estimated 800 Sanderlings and 6000 Semipalmated, 4000 White-rumped, and 1500 Baird's sandpipers, all May 26. Equaling the record high for N. Dakota were 70 Short-billed Dowitchers at the Minot Lagoons May 19.

A Thayer's Gull Apr. 20 at Grand Forks supplied only the 4th spring record for N. Dakota (DOL). Thirty observations of Short-eared Owls in N. Dakota was encouraging, with 7 territories identified at various locations.

FLYCATCHERS TO WARBLERS

Doubling the previous high count were 50 Alder Flycatchers in *Ward*, ND, May 30. Earliest ever was a Barn Swallow in *Yankton*, SD, Apr. 9 (SVS). A Rock Wren furnished the first *Cass*, ND, record Apr. 30 at Fargo (CMN). Swainson's Thrushes were unusually common mid-May in N. Dakota and e. Montana, with counts of >100 not unusual. A high of 450 in *Cass* May 19 was a record for N. Dakota. By contrast, Gray-cheeked Thrushes peaked at 15 in Fargo May 19, well below levels of years gone by.

Notable Montana warblers included a Magnolia at Westby May 14 (TN) and a Palm at Ft. Peck May 5, both with fewer than 15 records. These were topped by a Mourning Warbler May 25 in L6B near Gildford that provided the 2nd state record (HM, MK). In N. Dakota, a Blue-winged Warbler at Minot May 30 furnished the 10th state record (REM), and five Golden-wingeds in Fargo May 9 was unprecedented (GN). Sightings of these 2 species in N. Dakota continue to increase. The first Brewster's Warbler for N. Dakota was at Fargo May 22 (RHO). Also notable in N. Dakota were 17 reports of N. Parula and 18 reports of Blackburnian Warbler. The 8th state record for Prothonotary Warbler was furnished by a male in *Bottineau* May 9 (CH), and the 5th and 6th records of Worm-eating Warbler were provided by separate birds in Fargo May 9 (GEN,

DW). Two Hooded Warblers in Fargo May 2 & 6 boosted the state total to 11 (MJB, RHO). In S. Dakota, early warblers included a Blue-winged May 8 in *Lincoln*, Golden-winged May 9 in *Minnehaha*, Chestnut-sided May 4 in *Day*, Cape May in *Edmunds*, May 5, and Blackpoll May 1 in *Minnehaha*. State rarities were a Kentucky Warbler and a Hooded Warbler in *Minnehaha*, May 9 (JL). Notable in the northeast was a MacGillivray's Warbler banded in *Brown* May 26 (DAT).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A Black-headed Grosbeak at a Bismarck feeder Apr. 8 was the earliest for N. Dakota by 24 days (RK). The Dickcissel in *Brown* May 3 was among the earliest ever for South Dakota (JS). Late flocks of Chipping and Clay-colored sparrows were still in evidence the last few days of May in *Ward*, ND. An impressive count of 300 Song Sparrows was tallied at Clark Salyer N.W.R., Apr. 25. Providing the 9th state record was a Swamp Sparrow May 19 at Ft. Peck (CC). Northern Orioles peaked at 45 at Grahams I. S.P., *Ramsey*, ND, May 23. Seldom reported in spring, a flock of 80 Rosy Finches was in *Slope*, ND, Mar. 6. For the 2nd consecutive year, Cassin's Finches were singing in Choteau, MT, where they appear to be invading (MS). The House Finch parade will soon be complete in the Region, with birds appearing in most locations stationed with observers. In e. N. Dakota there were 2 observations in the countryside away from towns. In Montana they nested at Chester for the first breeding record in L6.

Cited observers (area editors in boldface):

MONTANA: Charles Carlson, Marvin Krook, Harriet Marble, Ted Nordhagen, Geoff Nulle, Dwain Prellwitz, Donald Reed, Michael Schwitters.—N. DAKOTA: Gordon B. Berkey, Bill Bicknell, Kieth Corliss, Eve E. Freeberg, Mary Gustafson, Jill O. Hersch, Coral Hoff, Mayme L. Johnson, Randy Kriel, David O. Lambeth, Ron E. Martin, Gary E. Nielsen, Connie M. Norheim, Robert H. O'Connor, Robert N. Randall, Bonnie Stout, Doug Vought, Dennis & Diane Wiesenborn.—S. DAKOTA: Dan Brady, Bob Chabane, Jon Little, Richard A. Peterson, Dennis R. Skadsen, Jerry C. Stanford, Dave Swanson, Dan A. Tallman, Rose van Sickle, Steve Van Sickle.—RON E. MARTIN, Rt. 1, Box 59A, Sawyer, ND 58781.

SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Joseph A. Grzybowski

Could the weather this spring finally be characterized as normal? Certainly, but only in the sense that it was as unlike any other spring as every other spring. The season was neither advanced nor retarded. It rained regularly,

perhaps a little too much on a day or a week or two, here and there (Oklahoma City received 7 inches May 8), but temperatures were mostly about average.

This translated into generally good feelings about the birding, except that the rain left most reservoirs full and created many wet fields that dispersed shorebirds. With no concentrations, there were fewer possibilities for rarities. Marsh birds fared better, but the real story of the season was the warblers. Most everyone saw better-than-average numbers

and a diversity of warblers, but clearly of eastern, rather than western, affinity.

Waterfowl also appeared to do well. The migrations along the Platte River near Kearney, Nebraska, were spectacular this year, with an estimated two million geese and tens of thousands of cranes present in mid-March. The same was true of several species of duck, particularly Redhead and Canvasback.

Abbreviations: Fontenelle Forest (*Fontenelle Forest, Sargy Co., NE*); O.B.R.C. (*Oklahoma*

Bird Records Committee); Quivira (*Quivira N.W.R., Stafford Co., KS*); Salt Plains (*Great Salt Plains N.W.R., Alfalfa Co., OK*); Wichita Mts. (*Wichita Mts. Wildlife Ref., Comanche Co., OK*).

LOONS TO WATERFOWL

Common Loons were noted as late as May 29 in *Tulsa* (m.ob.) and *Keith*, NE (RCR *et al.*). Western Grebes were observed at Quivira (ML, GK) and the Salt Plains (JC, JL, PS) Apr. 25, *Cimarron*, OK, May 9 (three birds, SM) & 28 (m.ob.), and *Oklahoma* May 23 (MO, JGN). A Clark's Grebe photographed the first in *Cimarron*, OK (SM), is the first fully documented for Oklahoma.

American Bitterns arrived in *McCurtain*, OK, Mar. 15 (EP, BH). An encouraging number were reported from across the Region, including 22 at Quivira May 8 (*vide DR*). Great Egrets appeared out of range in *Cheyenne*, NE, Apr. 29 (RCR), and at *Keith*, NE, May 1 & 29 (RCR *et al.*). Very early was a Snowy Egret Apr. 12 in *Lincoln*, NE (RCR, DJR); another May 8 in *Antelope*, NE (MB) was unusual. A Tricolored Heron at Quivira May 16–21 (RP, SC) was early for this normally very rare summer vagrant. Also early was a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron Mar. 15 in *McCurtain*, OK (BH).

Tundra Swans were noted Mar. 3–9 in *Tulsa* (NJ *et al.*) and Mar. 14 in *Noble*, OK (JA), Mar. 25 (three) in *Sedgwick*, KS (JNo, DK), and Mar. 31 in *Kearney*, NE (BJR). Trumpeter Swans are now seen regularly in c. and w. Nebraska (4 records), some birds originating from the the LaCreek N.W.R. in South Dakota (RCR). Two banded Trumpeters were seen in *Douglas*, NE, Mar. 27 (JT), and another was recorded in *Shaunee*, KS, Mar. 6–21 (JB). Snow Geese lingered until May 1 at *Keith*, NE (RCR), and May 29 at Quivira (LM, GP). Ross' Geese were found with virtually all groups of migrating Snow Geese near Grand I., Nebraska Mar. 9–12 (RCR *et al.*). Up to 30 were observed in *Scottsbluff*, NE, Mar. 19 (RCR, DJR).

The only Am. Black Duck to report was one Mar. 14 at *Cedar*, NE (TB, RS). Cinnamon Teals were more commonly seen in w. Nebraska this spring (RCR, DJR), with the easternmost Mar. 24 & 27 in *Wagoner*, OK (VJ, TR *et al.*). A wary ♂ *Eurasian Wigeon* accompanying three ♂ Am. Wigeons titlatted at least seven Nebraska observers Mar. 10–12 at *Cedar*, NE (RVS, MB; *vide BP*). Counts of 5,000 Canvasbacks and 15,000–20,000 Redheads Mar. 21 at *Keith*, NE (RCR, DJR), and another 10,000 Redheads at *Barton*, KS (*vide DR*), were encouraging, in light of recent concern for declines in these species.

Among the uncommon waterfowl, most Greater Scaup observations windowed the period Mar. 12–27, with one noted Apr. 23 in



Linn, KS (LM). Oldsquaws were found Mar. 14–28 in *Tulsa* (TM *et al.*) and Apr. 18 in *Douglas*, NE (RSh, JAl). An average scoter showing included an imm. Surf Scoter Apr. 30 in *Keith* (RCR) and ad. ♂ White-winged Scoter Apr. 12 in *Lincoln*, NE (RCR, DJR); another White-winged was seen in *Platte*, NE, May 21 (MB). Good numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers were noted in e. Nebraska, with a high count of up to 75 birds Apr. 7–8 in *Douglas* (NR). Among waterfowl lingering in the Region was an ad. ♂ Com. Goldeneye May 20 in *Keith*, NE (RCR *et al.*).

RAPTORS TO CRANES

A few Black Vultures slipped outside of their normal haunts to appear in *Tulsa*, Apr. 14 (TM, JW), and the Wichita Mts. in mid-April (RM). Mississippi Kites showed up late but in good numbers in Oklahoma. An adult in *Keith*, NE, May 29 (RCR *et al.*) was north of most occurrences. Bald Eagles attempted nesting at 6 Kansas lakes this spring; only one pair at Perry L. was known to be successful in fledging young by late May (*vide LM*). About 180 Bald Eagles were found on *Keith*, NE Mar. 21 (RCR, DJR). Five N. Goshawks reports appear to generate a migration window from Mar. 25 (in *Oklahoma*; JAG) to Apr. 13 (*Osage*, OK; DW *et al.*), with one Mar. 4 in *Sedgwick*, KS (PJ). A sight record of a possible Gray Hawk in the Wichita Mts., Apr. 17 (RM, VBe) will need to undergo review by the O.B.R.C.. A brief description was received of a possible Crested Caracara in *Bryan*, OK (JWe), a species still without a fully documented report for the Region.

A Peregrine Falcon that wintered in downtown *Tulsa* was observed until May 10. A pair of unbanded Peregrines attempted nesting in *Topeka*, KS, but the 3 eggs rolled off the ledge on which they had been laid. This was the first known nesting attempt in Kansas in >100 years (*vide LM*). Five other Peregrines were reported May 3–18; only 2 reports of Merlins

were received.

With declines of Greater Prairie-Chickens noted in most states, it is encouraging that at least 18 spewed into *Mayer*, OK (JN). A Virginia Rail was discovered in *Cimarron*, OK, May 28 (JS, JDT). Common Moorhens May 4 in *McClain*, OK (VB), May 8 at Quivira (SS) and May 15–29 in *Jefferson*, KS (DLS) are part of an ephemeral series for the Region. Five Whooping Cranes Apr. 11–17 in *Antelope*, NE were east of most occurrences (MB).

PLOVERS TO TERNS

The 900 Lesser Golden-Plovers estimated in *Wagoner*, OK, Apr. 9 (JA) was a sizable count for these times. A Piping Plover observed Apr. 20 in *Jackson*, OK (JDT) is one of few for s.w. Oklahoma. Up to eight were observed at Quivira Apr. 24 (ML, GK).

Four Black-necked Stilts were spotted at the Salt Plains Apr. 18 (DRe). Up to six were noted at their breeding location in *Sheridan*, NE, May 28 (D&BW). Other unusual shorebirds included eight Whimbrels May 9 at Quivira (SS), one May 13 in *Cherry*, NE (MB), and two May 16 in *Tulsa* (PS, JL). Unusual for location and date were three Hudsonian Godwits found in *Texas*, OK, May 28 & 31 (JM, JN). There were very few reports of Buff-breasted Sandpipers this spring, the largest group being 15–20 birds in *Sumner*, KS, May 1 (m.ob.)—only one was reported from *Tulsa*, two from Quivira May 29 (LM, GP), and five from *Knox*, NE, May 21 (MB). A few Short-billed Dowitchers were identified May 12 & 17 in *Tulsa* (JA). Among high counts were 4000 Wilson's Phalaropes May 8 in *Scott*, KS (*vide DR*). An ad. Little Gull in *Tulsa* Mar. 27 (DRe) was clearly a highlight. Also noteworthy was an ad. Laughing Gull at Quivira May 29 (LM, GP). Franklin's Gulls observed carrying nesting material at *Barton*, KS, at the end of May may provide the first nesting record for this species in Kansas (*vide LM*). California Gulls were noted in w. Nebraska, and two—one in 2nd-winter plumage and an adult—were noted in *Jefferson*, KS, Mar. 6 & 21, respectively (GP, LM). A Glaucous Gull lingered Mar. 20–Apr. 9 in *Jefferson*, KS (LM). And our "Where's Waldo?" Black-legged Kittiwake appeared in *Bryan*, OK, Apr. 13–22 (JWe). A very early Least Tern was noted in *Woodward*, OK, Mar. 29–Apr. 12 (RH).

DOVES TO SHRIKES

An upsurge of rare doves appeared this season. Ringed Turtle-Doves were noted in *Bryan*, OK, Apr. 5 (DM); another was seen in *McCurtain*, OK, May 3 (BH, PH); and a pair nested in *Topeka*, KS, May 13 (DLS). Ten more years of that and they will be part of the "official" introduced avifauna. An Inca Dove was present in *Comanche*, OK, from at least

Apr. 15 (JG, *et al.*) through May 11 (KM, SO). Another was found in *Neosho*, KS, Apr. 24 (RR), and those reported earlier from *finney*, KS, may be nesting (*vide*, DR). Two possible White-winged Doves were located in Oklahoma: one Mar. 16 in *McClain* (JSt), and another in *Comanche* Apr. 21 (VBe). If that were not enough, a Com. Ground Dove was reported May 10 in *Garvin*, OK (JSt), and a 2nd undocumented report was received from e. Oklahoma.

A Snowy Owl apparently wintered in *Paunee*, OK; birders were not aware of the bird until Mar. 13 (PS *et al.*), the day before it disappeared. A bird that should be present, but that is seldom noted, is the Burrowing Owl; one was seen Apr. 19 in *Osage*, OK (DRe).



An elusive Lesser Goldfinch in Tulsa, Oklahoma, May 31, 1993. Photograph/Bill Carrell.

A Whip-poor-will was discovered Apr. 27 among buildings in *Cleveland*, OK (VB). The Wichita Mts. have again hosted large numbers of Black-chinned Hummingbirds. The first arrived by Apr. 9 (JAG). Only 12 White-throated Swifts could be found at their traditional breeding areas in w. Nebraska; the Rosches lament the possibilities of local extirpation.

A ♂ Acadian Flycatcher was present in *Sedgwick*, KS, May 22 (JNo). Surprise of surprises on a miserably wet day was an observation of a **Great Kiskadee** May 8 in *Cleveland*, OK (SSh); it will undergo review by the O.B.R.C..

Early were Tree Swallows Mar. 4 in *Bryan*, OK (JWe) and Mar. 27 in *Sheridan*, NE (RCR, DJR); also early was a N. Rough-winged Swallow Mar. 6 in *Comanche*, OK (JDT). Tree Swallows nesting in *Harvey*, KS (BG, CS, BD) provided the first known breeding record for that county.

Fish Crows nudged W into *Bryan*, OK, Apr. 5 (DM). A Black-billed Magpie nest with 5 eggs in *Harvey*, KS, was the first recorded in that county (BG, CS, BD).

A Bewick's Wren was exploring new turf in *Hall*, NE Apr. 3 & 5 (BJR). Similarly, a Rock Wren in Fontenelle Forest Apr. 28 (BP, LP) was also out of its normal range. A very early Sedge Wren was discovered Mar. 26 in *Nowata*, OK (DRe, MD).

Veeries were more commonly reported this year, with seven from e. Nebraska, May 11–31 (*vide* BP), and stragglers seen May 8 west to *Cleveland*, OK (JAG, KH), and *Sedgwick*, KS

(JNo). A Gray-checked Thrush studied carefully in *Sheridan*, NE May 14 (RCR) was west of most occurrences. A Townsend's Solitaire was seen in *Phelps*, NE, Apr. 11 (RCR, DJR). The Varied Thrush that wintered in Omaha was last seen Mar. 19 (JWv).

A Curve-billed Thrasher May 31 in *Comanche*, OK (J&LM), represented only the 2nd record for that county. Northern Shrikes were still common the first 2 weeks of March in n.w. Nebraska (RCR). The latest for the Region was seen Apr. 4 in *Hamilton*, NE (BJR).

VIREOS, WARBLERS

An early-arriving Yellow-throated Vireo appeared in *Cherokee*, OK, Mar. 28 (JN). Also early was a Solitary Vireo Apr. 23 in *Sioux*, NE (RCR). A Solitary observed Mar. 16 in *McCurtain*, OK (BH) may have wintered. At least seven Philadelphia Vireos were reported from *Tulsa* May 1–15 (*vide* JL), and singles were seen on 3 days in Fontenelle Forest (*vide* BP).

Where do we begin with warblers? Few warblers arrived early, the most notable being a Black-and-White Warbler Mar. 10 in *McCurtain*, OK (BH). Yellow-rumped and Orange-crowned warblers were still common well into May.

Among the "hot" warblers, records of Golden-winged were too numerous to list, with 14 sightings of 15 birds from e. Nebraska (eight of those from Fontenelle Forest, *vide* BP), nine sightings of 16 birds from e. Kansas (*vide* LM), and two birds noted from Oklahoma. A Cape May Warbler was discovered in *Rogers*, OK, May 8 (RSt), and another was well observed May 14 in *Sedgwick*, KS (JNo *et al.*). Black-throated Blue Warblers were reported from *Rogers*, OK, Apr. 24 (RSt) and *Johnson*, KS, May 14 (SC, MW). A ♂ Black-throated Blue with brown-toned primaries (likely first year) sang in the Wichita Mts., May 30 (JAG, RM, VBe). One or more Connecticut Warblers were observed in Fontenelle Forest May 11, 24, & 29 (*vide* BP), and one was documented May 21 in *Tulsa* (GG).

Many species appeared at their perimeter breeding localities, though some individuals were likely migrants. In s.e. Nebraska, reports were received of Blue-winged, Cerulean, Yellow-throated, Worm-eating, Kentucky, and Hooded warblers and of Louisiana Waterthrushes (*vide* BP). Small clusters and singles of Blue-winged (*Delaware*, OK), Cerulean, Yellow-throated, Worm-eating, Swainson's (*McCurtain*, OK), and Hooded (west to *Tulsa*) warblers appeared along the e. tier of counties in Kansas and Oklahoma.

Four N. Parulas showed a minor upsurge west to *Cleveland*, OK (JAG, JSn), in terrain recently unoccupied. Up to three males were noted in *Sedgwick*, KS, May 11 & 12 (JNo *et al.*), and one in *Garden*, NE, May 30 was well out of range (RCR *et al.*). Five Prairie Warblers were counted in *Osage*, OK, May 8 (DRe), and a Prairie Warbler was noted May 15 in *Johnson*, KS (MC). Pine Warblers were

found in *Wyandotte*, KS, May 2 (LM) and west to *Sedgwick*, KS, May 22 (JNo).

Other e. warblers were reported west to *Sedgwick*, KS, including a Blue-winged May 14 (Jno *et al.*), several Blackburnians May 8–16 (*vide* PJ), Chestnut-sideds May 6–25 (*vide* PJ), a Worm-eating Apr. 27 (PJ), and a Hooded Warbler May 25 (DVn). Several (of each) Tennessee, Blackpoll, and Black-throated Green warblers, and Ovenbirds—as well as a single Canada Warbler—occurred west to the Wichita Mts. (JAG, RM, VBe). Reports of Magnolia and Palm warblers May 7 in *Sheridan*, NE (RCR), a Tennessee Warbler in *Dawes*, NE, May 19 (DJR), and a Blackpoll Warbler in *Sheridan*, NE, May 14 (D & BW) are among only a handful of records for these species in w. Nebraska. Many more of almost all these species and others were reported e. of these locations. The only western warbler noted east was a MacGillivray's May 24 in Fontenelle Forest (JGu).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A pair of Scarlet Tanagers in *Sedgwick*, KS, May 13 (Jno) were apparently migrants. A W. Tanager was seen Apr. 25 & 27 in *Oklahoma* (JGN, DiN). The Pyrrhuloxia noted in *Morton*, KS, this winter remained until at least Mar. 15 (*vide* DR).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were observed west to *Dawes*, NE, Apr. 28–30 (RCR, DJR) and in the Wichita Mts., May 3 (VBe, RM, JAG). Black-headed Grosbeaks were more common this season in the Wichita Mts., with others observed east to *Washington*, OK, Apr. 29 and May 3 (ED), *Geary*, KS, May 3, *Phelps*, NE, May 23 & 31, and *Buffalo*, NE, May 31, possibly breeders (RH, LR). Lazuli Buntings appeared in good numbers; almost everyone saw them this season east to *Washington*, OK, May 2 (MD), *Jefferson*, KS, May 15 & 21 (DLS), and Fontenelle Forest May 5 (CH, JAl). Green-tailed Towhees were observed in *Kimball* and *Banner*, NE, May 1 & 2, respectively (RS).

While almost unheard of in Oklahoma 10 years ago, the tall-grass prairie areas of n.e. Oklahoma likely contain a sizable population of Henslow's Sparrows, the first detected arrival being Apr. 7 in *Osage*, OK (DW). The population at the Konza Prairie, KS, appears high this year. Additional reports of the three birds each came for *Jefferson*, KS, May 17 (GP) and *Osage*, KS, May 29 (GK).

An early-arriving Chipping Sparrow was noted in *McClain*, OK, Mar. 9 (PB). The surge of LeConte's Sparrows this winter expressed itself with the species being common in the Wichita Mts. until Apr. 17 (JAG, RM). A Dark-eyed Junco May 8 in *Tulsa* (DI *et al.*) was tardy, as was a Chestnut-collared Longspur Apr. 17 in the Wichita Mts. (JAG, RM, VBe). About 10,000 Lapland Longspurs were reported from *Adams*, NE, Mar. 22 (BJR), a late date for such a healthy-sized flock.

Only small numbers of Yellow-headed Blackbirds are normally noted in eastern reaches of the Region. Unusual were 120+

Apr. 18 in *Muskogee*, OK (LPo), and 75 in *Linn*, KS, Apr. 29 (LM). Two Mar. 23 in *Tulsa* (JL, PS) were early. A ♀ Purple Finch was noted in *Lincoln*, NE, Mar. 5 (RCR). A Lesser Goldfinch in *Tulsa* May 3–31 eluded all but the camera and photographic eye of Bill Carrell.

Cited observers (area editors boldface): KANSAS: Joann Brier, Mark Corder, Steve Crawford, Bob Dester, Bob Gress, Maxey Irwin, **Pete Janzen**, Dan Kilby, Glen Koontz, Dan LaShelle (DLS), **Lloyd Moore**, John Northrup (JNo), Richard Parker, Galen Pittman, **David Rintoul**, Richard Rucker,

Carol Schwab, Scott Seltman, Don Vannoy (DVa), Mike Whitehead.—NEBRASKA: Jim Alt (JAL), Tanya Bray, Mark Brogie, Joe Gubanyi, Robin Harding, Craig Hensley, **Babs Padelford**, Loren Padelford, Larry Randolph, Neal Ratzlaff, Dorothy J. Rosche, **Richard C. Rosche**, B.J. Rose, Roger Sharpe (RSh), Ross Silcock, Rose van Sickle (RVS), Jerry Toll, Donna & Bruce Walgren, John Weaver (JWv).—OKLAHOMA: Jim Arterburn, Bill Beall, Vic Bell (VBe), Pat Bergey, Vicki Byre, Jeff Cox, Ella Delap, Melinda Droege, Jim Gallagher, Gerald Garvan, Joseph A. Grzybowski, Jim Harman, Berlin Heck, Pat Heck, Kate Held, Randy Hiatt,

Deloris Isted, Vera Jennings, Nora Jones, **Jo Loyd**, Kevin McCurdy, Janet & **Louis McGee**, Debra McKee, **Jeri McMahon**, Steve Metz, Terry Mitchell, Randy Moore, Diane Newell (DiN), **John G. Newell**, James Norman, Mitchell Oliphant, Sam Orr, Ed Petoskey, Leslie Poitevent, Dan Reinking (DRe), Tom Roberts, Pat Seibert, John Shackford, Steve Shore (SSh), J. Stansell (JSn), John Sterling (JSt), Richard Stuart (RSt), Jack D. Tyler, Jeff Webster (JWe), Don Wolfe, Jim Woodard, Don Woodfin (DWF).—**JOSEPH A. GRZYBOWSKI**, 715 Elmwood Dr., Norman, OK 73072.

TEXAS REGION

Greg W. Lasley and
Chuck Sexton

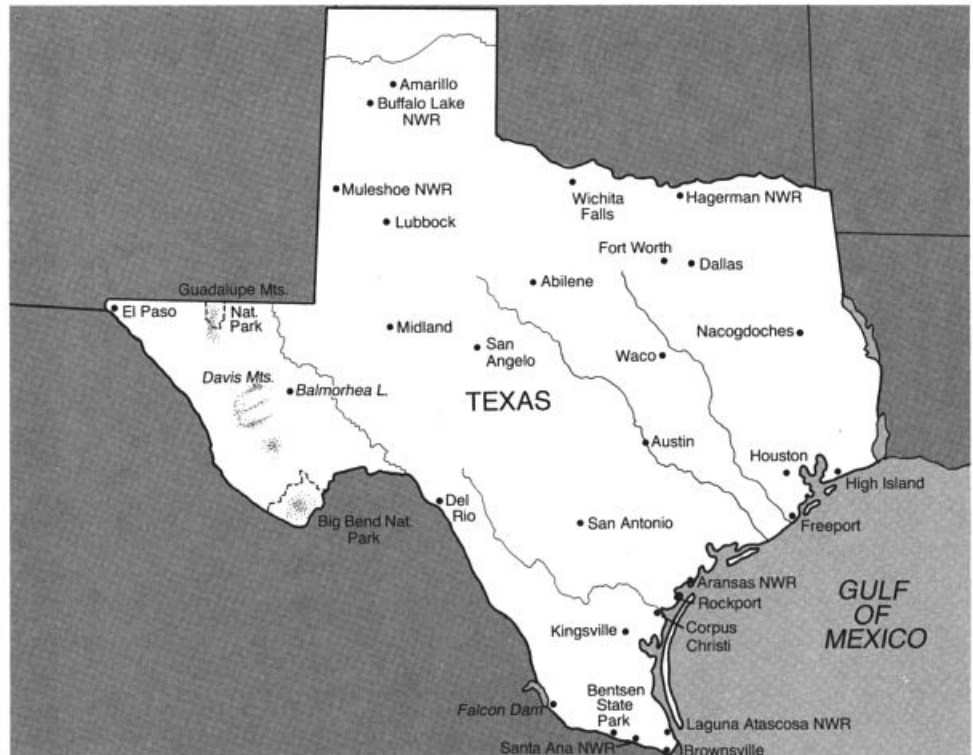
Most of central, southern, and eastern Texas was wet, contrasting with the parched Trans-Pecos, and with the Panhandle, which was "on the dry side." Yet we seemed to have lost any semblance of correlation between weather fronts and migratory fallouts. After a frost-free winter on the upper Texas coast, a spring cold front provided freezing temperatures March 13–14 and heralded a cool, wet spring. But despite a parade of rainy fronts on the upper Texas coast and elsewhere in central, coastal, and south Texas, the migration in those areas was generally considered dull. April 20 and 26 and May 10 produced decent fallouts that excited some local birders, but veteran migration watchers remained depressed over the steady decline in numbers of neotropical migrants. "Slow" was also the word for the migration in the Trans-Pecos and north-central Texas. Inexplicably, the Panhandle, of all places, was blessed with substantial numbers of many neotropical migrants and a "good season for rarities." Go figure. The Trans-Pecos did get a good influx of shorebirds.

In this first year after the formal Texas Breeding Bird Atlas efforts, exploration of under-birded areas continued to offer rewards. For example, Fisher and Gibbons uncovered many long-overdue first Fanin County records; only the most notable are included here. A Big Day Count on May 8 provided important data and reports of many uncommon species around the state. Notice the dose of unusual warblers in the western half of the state (Table 1). Unfortunately, there were still more reports of rare warblers in west Texas, which were accompanied by poor or nonexistent documentation. [In

truth, we are gratified by the increasing trend in the last several years toward better and more numerous documenting reports of rarities. We encourage all observers to continue to provide timely details of unusual sightings to state and national parks and refuges on the sighting cards provided at those locations. However, please remember that the space provided on such cards is rarely sufficient to do justice for significant rarities, such as those on the Texas Review List. Contact us or any of our subregional editors or any member of the Texas Bird Records Committee for a sample

however, as a kind and gentle man. We dedicate this column to his memory.

Abbreviations: Ft. Bliss (*Ft. Bliss sewage ponds, El Paso*); G.M.N.P. (*Guadalupe Mts. N.P.*); Laureles (*Laureles Division of the King Ranch*); L.R.G.V. (*Lower Rio Grande Valley*); Norias (*Norias Division of the King Ranch*); Santa Gertrudis (*Santa Gertrudis Division of the King Ranch*); T.B.R.C. (*Texas Bird Records Committee; Texas Ornithological Society*); U.T.C. (*Upper Texas Coast*). The following are shortened names for the respective coun-



of a more detailed documentation form.]

With great sadness we report the death of Ernie Mueller, May 31. Along with his surviving wife Kay, the Muellers have been well known among Texas birders as always being ready and willing to help visitors and beginners find Texas Hill Country specialties, such as Black-capped Vireo and Golden-cheeked Warbler. Ernie will be remembered more,

ty, state, or national parks, wildlife refuges, etc.: Anahuac, Aransas, Attwater, Bentsen, Big Bend, Buffalo L., Kickapoo, Laguna Atascosa, Palo Duro, Sabal Palm, Santa Aña, and Sea Rim.

LOONS TO IBISES

One to three Red-throated Loons at L. Texoma from the winter season lingered until Mar.

Table 1. Unusual warblers in North and West Texas, spring 1993

Species	Dates	Location	Observer
Golden-winged	May 8	L. Tanglewood	TC, TLJ, Pr
Tennessee (1-2)	Apr. 30–May 2	Buffalo L.	PT
N. Parula	Apr. 5	Palo Duro	MEEm, JJ
N. Parula	Apr. 18	Davis Mts.	KB
N. Parula	May 7	Oldham	RS
N. Parula	May 8, 14, 23	Buffalo L.	KS et al.
Chestnut-sided	May 7	Oldham	RS
Magnolia	May 8	Buffalo L.	KBI, DBI, RS
Black-thr. Blue	May 8	L. Tanglewood	TC, TLJ, JPr
Black-thr. Gray	May 8	Buffalo L.	KBI, DBI, RS, KS
Townsend's	Apr. 24	Buffalo L.	KS
Hermit	May 12	Lubbock	JC
Bay-breasted	May 23	Buffalo L.	KS
Blackburnian	May 26	Midland	RMS, JoMc
Yellow-throated	May 22	Fannin	RR
Palm	Apr. 28	Van Zandt	RK
Palm	May 8	Big Bend	JPa
Worm-eating	Apr. 15	Lubbock	GBn
Ovenbird	May 11	Big Bend	AK
Ovenbird	Apr. 29	Buffalo L.	KS
Ovenbird	May 23	Buffalo L.	KS
La. Waterthrush	May 12	Lubbock	JC
Hooded	Apr. 28	Buffalo L.	PT
Rufous-capped	May 8	Big Bend	KK

14 (HG), while single Pacific Loons were at the same location Mar. 27–Apr. 3 (†PS, m.ob.) and at L. Tawakoni May 23 (RK, GH). Least Grebes remained quite common in s. Texas during the season. Farther north, a Least Grebe stayed on an Austin pond through at least Apr. 10 (GI), providing a rare spring record there. An incredible 1000+ Horned Grebes were tallied Mar. 7 on L. Tawakoni (RK *et al.*). Up to three Western and one Clark's grebes frequented L. Balmorhea, *Reeves*, during the season, while another Clark's visited Ft. Bliss May 17 (DE, BN). A May 1 deepwater pelagic off Galveston produced an Audubon's Shearwater (†MA *et al.*), while a Masked Booby was seen at the South Padre I. jetties May 31 (BMc). Ten emaciated N. Gannets were found along Mustang I., Mar. 18–Apr. 5 (TA); all but one died of unknown causes. Several other "beached" N. Gannets were found along the U.T.C. during the season. A flock of six Am. White Pelicans over Davis Mts. S.P., Apr. 1 (KB), was a surprising sight for that area. An ad. Brown Pelican wandered inland to L. Tawakoni May 16 for a 2nd *Rains* record (JN). A Tricolored Heron at Crockett L., Apr. 30 (BGi, CDF), provided a first for *Fannin*. Unusual haunts for Am. Bitterns this season included one at Vattmann, *Kleberg*, Apr. 21 (PP) and one flying over desert scrub in *Webb*, May 15 (GDL). Cattle Egrets are normally late summer or fall wanderers to the n. Panhandle, so 12 seen in *Briscoe* May 15 (PA) were of note. Nesting Black-crowned Night-Herons at Dallas's White Rock L. (CP) were of interest. A White Ibis in *Wood* Apr. 30 (RK, GH) provided a rare record for that location. Glossy Ibis reports this season included one at Santa Aña Mar. 4 (*fide* TP), two at Anahuac Mar. 11 (†CM), one in another *Chambers* lo-

cation Apr. 8 (MK), at least one noted periodically on Galveston I., Apr. 2–May 13 (†T & PF, ph., CS, BSt), one in *Jefferson* Apr. 18 (†CH) and one in Ft. Worth May 8 & 10 (†CH *et al.*). The latter constituted the first spring record for n.-c. Texas.

WATERFOWL

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued in abundance in s. Texas; the heavy rains of recent months provided optimum conditions for them (PP). A flock of more than 50 Black-bellieds at San Angelo Apr. 8 (ph., DT) represented only the 2nd Concho Valley record, while two in *Harrison* May 31 (B & DM) and two in *Nacogdoches* May 2 (D & MW) provided rare e. Texas records. A White-faced Whistling-Duck of suspicious origin was seen with several Black-bellieds in Corpus Christi May 20 (JBe *et al.*); this species is common in waterfowl collections. A Tundra Swan in *Blanco* Mar. 25 (TG) was a little late. Muscovy Ducks and Wood Ducks continued to be reported in increasing numbers along the Rio Grande at Salineno and Santa Margarita Ranch (BZ, m.ob.). Two White-cheeked Pintails were reported without documentation at Corpus Christi in March (m.ob.). With last winter's report of escapees of this species on the U.T.C., observers need to be wary of any out-of-range waterfowl. A presumed Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal was at Village Cr. Drying Beds, Ft. Worth, May 21 (ph., JWS, m.ob.). Two Gadwalls lingered near Bayside May 27 (CC). A Eur. Wigeon at Ft. Bliss on the extraordinarily late date of May 8 provided a 6th *El Paso* record (†JPa). The only scoter report this season referred to a small flock of Blacks seen in *Aransas* from a Whooping Crane tour boat Mar. 8 (*fide* CC). An imm. Hooded Merganser left *Lee* May 29, appar-

ently having been raised with a brood of Wood Ducks (HB). A phenomenon among Hooded Mergansers, this is at least the 2nd attempt of dump-nesting reported in Texas (*fide* TG).

S.A.

Masked Ducks continued to rewrite the record books. Following last winter's invasion, the species continued to be found in almost unbelievable numbers at several locations. Unfortunately, many of these sites were on private property and not available to the general birding public. Four Masked Ducks were on a pond near Riviera, *Kleberg*, Mar. 11–14 (†CM, CCa, N & PP, m.ob.), two to three were on a large playa lake on the Laureles, *Kleberg*, Mar. 12–Apr. 30 (†ph., JG, MF *et al.*), one was on the Santa Gertrudis Apr. 3 (MG), and 5–20 were on the Norias Apr. 5–May 5 (†ph., BZ, JG, MF). Four to 10 Masked Ducks were seen in an isolated area of McFaddin N.W.R., *Jefferson*, throughout the period (†JKA *et al.*). The *San Patricio* site, where 37 Masked Ducks were reported last season, hosted up to seven birds through the remainder of the spring (†TB, N & PP, CC); by early May, at least one male was in full breeding plumage.

RAPTORS

Hook-billed Kites are being reported more often than in the past few years at well-known sites in the L.R.G.V. A total of 24 Swallow-tailed Kite reports were received from the L.R.G.V. (inland to Bentsen) and along the coastal plains Mar. 20–May 9 (m.ob.). More unexpected at an inland location was a single Swallow-tailed at *Gonzales* Apr. 15 (JW). Unusual Black-shouldered Kite reports included observations in *Kinney* Mar. 11, Apr. 13, and May 8 (ML), and another just s. of Ft. Davis Mar. 24–26 (*fide* KB) for a first *Jeff Davis* record. A very early Mississippi Kite returned to Pampa, *Gray*, Mar. 30 (BW *fide* JEL). Record numbers of eaglets (49) were fledged from a record number of Bald Eagle nests (69) in Texas (*fide* JE). The most interesting new locality was at L. Ray Roberts, *Cooke* (BP, *fide* WP). The latter nest was abandoned due to "an onslaught of birders and TV news crews" (*fide* JE). A Com. Black-Hawk seen near Bracketville, *Kinney*, May 19 (CN) was at a very unusual location. As usual, a few pairs of Gray Hawks were noted nesting at Santa Aña and Bentsen (m.ob.). A little more unusual were one or two birds seen irregularly at Big Bend's Rio Grande Village late March+. There were many reports of a Roadside Hawk at Bentsen Mar. 23+ (*fide* TP, †m.ob.). There were additional reports of single Roadsides at Salineno Mar. 20 (†NP, JMi) and at Santa Aña Apr. 1 (†WSC). Apparently none of these hawks was photographed, submittals of written descriptions were far fewer than the number of reports to rare bird alerts, and there was

some disagreement on the identification of the Bentsen bird. The T.B.R.C. will review all these records. A seasonal total of more than 71,000 Broad-winged Hawks at Bentsen far exceeded previous spring totals for that site (GD). The biggest day for Broad-winged at Bazemore (Corpus Christi) produced an estimated 60,000 Broad-winged Apr. 1 (*fide* JE). Broad-winged were lightly reported in the Falfurrias area (AO) and on the U.T.C. (*fide* GDL). Big Bend's Chisos Basin hosted an uncommon Broad-winged Hawk Apr. 15 (JD). At the same site in *Kenedy/Brooks*, where record concentrations of White-tailed Hawks have appeared at controlled burns, an unprecedented 123 were counted Mar. 10 (TU *fide* AO). Zone-tailed Hawks were located at a new location w. of Ozona in early May (BB, GMu). A late migrant imm. Golden Eagle was in *Hays* Apr. 12 (JGe). The Brownsville dump continued to provide for a banded Aplomado Falcon through the period (m.ob., *fide* TP). The most unusual Prairie Falcon report was one in *Travis*, Apr. 2 (DBo), where the species is very uncommon.

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

A Black Rail was flushed in *Matagorda* in early April (BBr), and vocalizing Black Rails were recorded from Mad I., W.M.A., *Matagorda*, May 14 & 28 (BO). There were numerous reports of King Rails from Santa Aña, a site where the species had only rarely been seen (*fide* JI, TP). Adult Virginia Rails with downy chicks confirmed new nesting records for the species in the Panhandle, L. Meredith, *Hutchinson*, Apr. 30 (MM, SP) and in *El Paso* May 8 (BJ). Meanwhile, 8–10 pairs



Virginia Rail near Fort Davis, Texas, May 17, 1993. Photograph/Kelly B. Bryan.

of calling Virginia Rails seemed to be in residence on a marsh along Limpia Cr. near Ft. Davis May 17 (ph., KB, JGe), providing a first documented *Jeff Davis* record. A Com. Moorhen in n.w. Ft. Worth May 1 provided a rare find for *Tarrant* (CH). All 136 Whooping Cranes at Aransas successfully departed for their Canadian breeding grounds by late April (TS). flocks of a few hundred Lesser Golden-Plovers were reported a number of times in late March and early April in the coastal bend and n. portions of s. Texas.

Snowy Plover, a rare migrant at El Paso, was reported there on 4 occasions, Apr. 24–May 24 (JPa, JS, BZ). A 2nd record of Snowy Plover at L. Tawakoni was reported Mar. 7, a very early date (RK, GH, JN). Recently, Mt. Plovers have nested in small numbers regularly in the Davis Mts., however, this year “was the worst year since they were first found [1978]” (PE), with only one bird sitting on one egg. Several birds passed through but apparently did not stay (PE, KB). At least one of last winter's N. Jacanas below Falcon Dam stayed until Apr. 15, the bird at Santa Aña stayed through early May, and the bird from *Calhoun* remained until Apr. 22 (m.ob.). Elsewhere this season, a pair of N. Jacanas was reported at Brownsville Mar. 19; one was still present Apr. 15 (*fide* JI, TP). Another jacana was near Palmetto S.P., Apr. 25 (†BBD), while yet another was in *Matagorda*, May 22 (LJ).

Some 370 Lesser Yellowlegs were counted at Laguna Atascosa Mar. 19 (TB). Thirty Willets at Ft. Bliss Apr. 24 (JPa) was an exceptionally high number. Many observers in s. and c. Texas described this as one of the best Upland Sandpiper migrations ever (AO, GL, m.ob.). A Whimbrel at Ft. Hancock Apr. 28 (JS) provided a first *Hudspeth* record; three others at Pampa May 10 were also a rare find (F&JEl). Marbled Godwits in the Trans-Pecos are normally seen in ones and twos, if at all, but incredible counts of 14 at Ft. Bliss Apr. 19 (BZ) and 30 at L. Balmorhea Apr. 30 (GW *fide* JS) made news in that area. Elsewhere, five Marbled Godwits at Amarillo May 8 were unexpected (GE, HH), while another was a rare discovery in *Dallas* Apr. 3 (JHa). Notable concentrations of peeps at Laguna Atascosa included 6300 W. Sandpipers Apr. 2, 5100 Least Sandpipers Mar. 18, 1300 Dunlins Mar. 19, and 1979 White-rumped Sandpipers May 17 (TB). Lone Semipalmated Sandpipers, rare in the Trans-Pecos, were at Ft. Bliss May 20 & 24 (BZ), while single White-rumped Sandpipers, even rarer in that area, were at Ft. Bliss May 15 (JPa) & 24 (BZ) and at L. Balmorhea May 14 (GW *fide* JS). A count of 250+ Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Falfurrias Apr. 17 was rather interesting (AO). Of the 14 accepted Ruffi/Reeve records in Texas, only 3 had been in the spring. Therefore, the photographed Reeve in a *Chambers* rice-field Apr. 18–20 (†PDH, BB, ph., DFr) was a nice find.

GULLS AND TERNS

A new spring record was provided by two ad. Laughing Gulls at L. Balmorhea May 8 (ph., JD). The wintering Franklin's Gull at Ft. Hancock was last seen Mar. 13 (BJ); the movement of Franklin's through the c. coast area was heavier than normal (*fide* PP). Dunn found and photographed a first-year California Gull at Ft. Hancock Apr. 16. A first-year Thayer's Gull was at L. Texoma Mar. 21–Apr. 3 (†JWe, LL, m.ob.). The Lesser Black-backed Gull that had camped at Mustang I. departed Apr. 11 (TA), while another adult was photographed near High I. in *Jefferson*, Apr. 16 (†GL, CJ, GDL) and a first-year bird was at the same location Apr. 18 (†ph., CH).

Another (or the same?) first-year Lesser Black-backed was at Bolivar Flats Apr. 24 (JD). A first-year Glaucous Gull, very rare inland in Texas, was at L. Texoma Mar. 21–Apr. 9 (ph., †JWe, LL, mo.b). Another imm. Glaucous Gull was on Matagorda I., Apr. 15–17 (ph., †KB, PH, BSc). Single imm. Black-legged Kittiwakes were noted at L. Texoma Apr. 13 & 22 (†JWe) and in coastal *Jefferson*, Apr. 24–25 (†ph., CH). Caspian Tern movement in n.-c. Texas was record-setting: 24 were at L. Tawakoni May 13 (RK *et al.*) and 15 were at Cooper L., *Delta*, May 22 (MWh). A Least Tern visited L. Balmorhea May 18 (RR); this species is a casual spring migrant in the Trans-Pecos, with most records falling in the last 2 weeks of May (BZ). A Least Tern in Lubbock May 30 (MN) was one of only a few sightings for that area. The May 1 deepwater pelagic off Galveston revealed 25 imm. Bridled Terns about 100 mi off the coast foraging on and around sargassum 'mats' (†PG, GDL, ph., CS).

DOVES TO NIGHTJARS

Continuing their northward expansion in the state, White-winged Doves showed up at 5 n.-c. Texas locations during the season (*fide* CH). The saga of the Inca Dove in northern parts of Texas continues. Up to 15 frequented an Amarillo yard almost daily during the period (MB). A pair of Incas was found at Palo Duro through May 24 (KS, MEm, JJ), while one or more Inca Doves were also observed in Vega, *Oldham*, throughout the season (RS). Inca Dove sightings continued to increase at Wichita Falls, L. Tawakoni, and *Johnson* (m.ob.). A Ruddy Ground-Dove was reported without documentation May 8 in the L.R.G.V. (*fide* BO). Probably a 2nd county record was provided by two White-tipped Doves heard in *Refugio* May 24 (ME, RW). More than 100 Green Parakeets were at a McAllen roost Apr. 6, while two Red-ored Parrots in a small group of Red-crowns attracted attention there Apr. 7 (BZ). A Monk Parakeet was present nearly all period in Lewisville, a new location for the species (LH). A well-described Northern Pygmy-Owl was in Big Bend's Boot Canyon Apr. 25 (J & WR, †T.B.R.C.). Although occasionally reported in mountainous w. Texas locations, the species is seldom well documented by observers. The only currently accepted state record was also in Boot Canyon in August 1982. Several ranches in *Brooks* were discovered to harbor previously unknown breeding populations of Ferruginous Pygmy-Owls, an important and exciting find (AO, RF). To date, at least 18 individuals have been located on at least 7 sites. A pair of Elf Owls nested in a totem pole at a private residence in the Davis Mts. during May, providing the first documented nesting record of the species from that area (LoJ, ph., GP *fide* KB). A Long-eared Owl at Davis Mts. S.P., Apr. 22 (†ph., KB) was at an unusual location. Though probably annual in occurrence in the Guadalupe Mts., a N. Saw-whet Owl seen and tape-recorded there May 31–June 2 (CH,

MP *et al.*) provided one of few well-documented Texas records. Rare on the U.T.C. in spring, single Lesser Nighthawks were spotted in *Galveston*, Apr. 22 (JDa) and May 2 (GDL). Surprising so far west, and seldom encountered there, was a Chuck-will's-widow at Buffalo L., May 8 (KS).

SWIFTS TO WOODPECKERS

A couple of early Chimney Swifts moved through Corpus Christi and Rockport Mar. 19–20 (GS, CC), while farther west a Chimney Swift hawked insects over an El Paso residential area May 25, providing a new county record (BZ, YZ). A first Austin-area Broad-billed Hummingbird was at a *Comal* feeder Apr. 23–25 (J. Evans *et al.*, *fide* SW) while another visited a Ft. Davis feeder May 21–23 (–ph., KB). A *Bastrop* feeder hosted a Buff-bellied Hummingbird for the 3rd year Apr. 17–May 30 (MH). Lockwood photographed a Broad-tailed Hummingbird at Kickapoo Caverns Apr. 7, for a rare Hill Country spring record. A Ringed Kingfisher was at a new location on the Blanco R., Apr. 12 (JMu), and at least one remained in *Kinney* until May 30 (E & SW). Another Ringed Kingfisher was reported near the mouth of the Nueces R. in Corpus Christi Dec. 12–Apr. 1 (GS). An out-of-range ♂ Red-bellied Woodpecker that wintered at Buffalo L. remained into spring and was joined by a female Apr. 30, but the birds were not seen thereafter (DBI, KS, PT).

FLYCATCHERS TO SWALLOWS

The 2nd U.S. Tufted Flycatcher surprised the Brighams at a roadside rest stop along Interstate 10 between Ft. Stockton and Balmorhea in *Pecos* Apr. 2. The bird, which often bathed under a leaking public drinking fountain, was later well photographed and videotaped (KB, TJ), but could not be located after Apr. 5. According to highway maintenance workers, the bird may have been present up to three weeks before being discovered by birders (*fide* KB). Several early Olive-sided Flycatchers arrived in n.c. Texas in mid-April. At least nine Hammond's Flycatchers at B.B.N.P., Apr. 15 (JD), were an unusually large number for a single day's observation. A Dusky Flycatcher, seemingly on territory, was in G.M.N.P., May 31 (CH). Lake Corpus Christi hosted a Black Phoebe Mar. 6 (GS, E & NA) and another was w. of Kingsville Mar. 16 for a 3rd county record (GB, PP *et al.*). Yet another Black Phoebe was found near Wimberley, *Hays* May 12 (WP). An observation of 12 or more ♂ Vermilion Flycatchers at a *Kenedy* site Mar. 13–14 is further evidence of the continued resurgence of the species in that area (N&PP *et al.*). A Great Kiskadee was grotesquely out of place Apr. 16 in *Midland* (D & JoMe, BRD, FW, DK). Tropical Kingbirds remained at the Brownsville and Cannon Road locations, *Cameron* (BMc *et al.*) with up to 6 calling birds at the latter site Mar. 8 (JA). A silent Tropical/Couch's Kingbird was at Sea Rim, *Jefferson*, Apr. 30 (JM). A scarce find was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at El Paso May 8 (JD). Although Scissor-tailed occur regular-

ly farther east in the Trans-Pecos region, El Paso records are few (*fide* BZ). A well-described Fork-tailed Flycatcher with a migrant flock of E. Kingbirds near Sabine, *Jefferson*, Apr. 25 (†JoP *et al.*) will provide the 8th Texas record if accepted by the T.B.R.C. A Rose-throated Becard was reported at Santa Aña Mar. 4–18 (m.ob., *fide* TP). Tremendous local variation in migration patterns was illustrated in reports of Bank Swallows. O'Neil in Falfurrias remarked that the species had an excellent migration while Clark in Rockport and Palmer in Kingsville described the species as extremely scarce. The robust expansion of the breeding range of Cave Swallows is a truly remarkable phenomenon (PP). Cave Swallows provided a new *Bastrop* nesting record May 13 (BFre, EK, JA *et al.*) when about 15 ad. and 4 nests were noted. Cave Swallows again returned to Sea Rim, where they were actively nesting by April.

JAYS TO PHAINOPEPLA

A Blue Jay was out of range in *Nueces*, mid-Nov. 1992–Apr. 7 (GS). A fully albino imm. Blue Jay was discovered in Ft. Worth May 5 (*fide* WP). A slightly out-of-range Am. Crow called repeatedly at Welder Mar. 17 (N & PP). Up to 15 Fish Crows were found well up the Red R. drainage in *Fannin*, May 1–2 (CDF, BGi) providing a first record for n.-c. Texas and probably the westernmost for Texas. A pair of Bushtits were found nesting w. of Georgetown, *Williamson* May 10 (WP); the species is quite rare on the eastern Edward's Plateau. A first documented Texas nesting record was established when a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches was photographed feeding young at a nest in G.M.N.P., May 31 (CH *et al.*). A pair of White-breasted Nuthatches exhibited nesting behavior in *Wheeler* Mar. 21 (GK *et al.*). This is noteworthy in light of the first confirmed nesting of the species in the Panhandle in nearby *Roberts* during April 1989 (*fide* KS). A Carolina Wren returned Mar. 19 to the site in Amarillo, *Potter*, where a pair had nested last year (KS); it was last heard singing May 17. Another unusual Carolina Wren record was of a singing bird at Davis Mts. S.P., Apr. 5 (KB). The Winter Wren normally lives up to its name in Texas and is seldom reported outside of that season. This year one turned up at Buffalo L., May 8 (KBl, DBI), and another in Lubbock May 10 (VW). A Golden-crowned Kinglet in Palo Duro Apr. 27 (KS) was extremely late. A pair of ad. E. Bluebirds with recently fledged young was found at Buffalo L., May 8 (KBl, DBI), a first nesting record for the refuge. Particularly gratifying was the outstanding thrush migration in the Panhandle, highlighted by a Veery at Buffalo L., May 8 (KS), plus impressive numbers of Hermits and Swainson's. Curiously, no Gray-checked Thrushes were reported in the Rockport area for the 4th successive spring (CC). In the L.R.G.V., no sightings of Clay-colored Robins were reported after February (*fide* PP). A new n. record for Long-billed Thrasher was established when one was mist-netted

and photographed at San Angelo Apr. 24 (DT, RD, DV). Five Sprague's Pipits were in Allen, *Collin*, Apr. 11 (BGi, BP) and two were in *Dallas*, Apr. 16 (RR). Five Phainopeplas made a very rare appearance in *Webb*, May 15 (GDL).

VIREOS, WARBLERS

A White-eyed Vireo in *Midland*, May 30 was the first since 1987 and only the 6th in 40 years (D & JoMe). The only Black-capped Vireo report for n. Texas was one at Dinosaur Valley S.P., May 30 (CE). A "plumbeous" Solitary Vireo was in the Rockport area Mar. 14 (CC). A nesting pair of Warbling Vireos had returned to *Midland*, by May 30 when they were discovered incubating (*fide* FW). At opposite ends of the state, singing Red-eyed Vireos were of interest at Buffalo L., May 23 (KS) and at Welder the next day (CC). The singing ♂ Yellow-green Vireo had returned for a 2nd year to Webberville Park, *Travis*, by May 3 (†BN, DE, ph., GL, m.ob.). Two other Yellow-greens were reported at Laguna Atascosa May 15 (LG). Packery Channel, *Nueces*, again played host to a Black-whiskered Vireo Apr. 30–May 1 (†ph., A & MC, m.ob.). In contrast to the eastern and coastal portions of the state, reports of rare and unusual warblers were numerous in n. and w. Texas (Table 1). A Golden-winged Warbler was a bit late at Rockport May 19 (CC). Tropical Parulas were reported in s. Texas at Bentsen, Santa Aña, Sarita, and Weslaco and on the Norias (*fide* PP). Cape May Warblers at the w. edge of their migration range included one in *Bastrop* Apr. 14 (extraordinarily early) (BFre) and one at Brownsville May 1 (BMc). A Black-throated Blue Warbler wintering at Sabal Palm remained through Mar. 21 (*fide* TP). Rare for n.e. Texas was a ♂ Black-throated Blue in *Rusk* May 12 (PHa). An almost completely albino Am. Redstart showed up in Port Aransas May 5 (TA). One of the most unusual warbler reports was that of ♂ Prothonotary in *Kendall* singing and carrying nesting material to a nest box May 1–9 (ph., E & SW); the species is an exceedingly rare nester in the Hill Country. A Mourning Warbler May 9 provided an overdue first *Johnson* record. A Painted Redstart was reported from Bentsen Mar. 3 (R & LG) and Mar. 4 (*fide* TP). The Rufous-capped Warbler record from Big Bend's Dugout Wells (Table 1) will be circulated through the T.B.R.C. A "Brewster's" Warbler in Corpus Christi Apr. 8 (E & NA) was more expected than 2 other hybrids reported: A Chestnut-sided (possibly aberrant) x Bay-breasted was carefully studied (m.ob.) May 1 at High I.; a Hermit x Townsend's surprised Dunn May 5 at Boot Spring, Big Bend.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

First county records were established for Summer Tanager in *Hartley* May 16 (KS) and for Scarlet in *Fannin*, May 1 (BGi, CDF). There were 5 coastal records of W. Tanager Apr. 6–May 9 and 2 reports in the e. Hill country, where the species is rare. Single wintering Pyrrhuloxias remained in Ft. Worth

through Apr. 18 (*fide* CH) and at Palo Duro through Apr. 23 (PT). Of more interest was a ♂ *Pyrrhuloxia* wintering in Amarillo, later joined by a female; the pair remained through the season (BV). The wintering Black-headed Grosbeak from *Nacogdoches* remained until Apr. 11 (D&MW). Four other reports of Black-headed came from c. and n.-c. Texas where the species is a rare migrant. Lazuli Buntings dotted the landscape of the latter regions more frequently than normal with at least 14 reports. Most unusual was a Lazuli



Male Broad-billed Hummingbird at Fort Davis, Texas, May 22, 1993. Photograph/Kelly B. Bryan.

visiting a feeder Apr. 19–20 in Lufkin, *Angeli-na* (D & MW), where the species is considered casual. Details were submitted of an apparent Varied Bunting in Amarillo, *Potter*, May 5 (RP); this would be the 2nd record for the High Plains and Panhandle if accepted. An outstanding find were two Black-chinned Sparrows in *Garza*, May 9 (BeB), a species considered accidental in the High Plains. A bluebird box constituted a very unusual nesting site for a pair of Lark Sparrows discovered in *Wichita*, May 19 (*fide* DMc). Topping last season's record in Ft. Worth were Black-throated Sparrows in both *Dallas* and *Collin*, May 10 (AV, HHo). Lark Buntings lingered in *Johnson* until May 21 (CE). A Baird's Sparrow, rare anywhere in Texas, drank at the edge of the Chisos Basin lagoons May 8 (†DW, DTh, m.ob.). An incredible 10 singing Henslow's Sparrows were located in *Rusk*, Apr. 9 (†G & J Lu); several of the birds were still present the next day but could not be found later. A late and unexpected White-throated Sparrow was in El Paso May 2 (JPa). The last reports of wintering or migrant Chestnut-collared Longspurs occurred in the 2nd week of April, the most unusual of which was a pair at a Rockport beach Apr. 7–9 (A&MC *et al.*). Away from the U.T.C., a smattering of Bobolinks provided some excitement: eight were at Austin's Hornsby Bend Apr. 17 (AB), single birds were in *Fannin*, May 1 (CDF, BGi) and *Johnson*, May 5–8 (CE). May 8 seemed to be a good day for Bobolinks, as three more were in *Wichita* (*fide* DMc), and another three provided "the icing

on the cake" (KS) near Amarillo, *Randall* (PA, DD). A final Bobolink brightened Rio Grande Village May 15–17 (CW). A late Rusty Blackbird in breeding plumage was found in *Walker*, May 10 (DP). Wauer identified a single Shiny Cowbird in *Goliad*, Mar. 5; there are currently only two accepted records and one other report in Texas. Audubon's Orioles were sighted in *Goliad* in March and May (ME, RW), a bit n.e. of the species expected range. Two very rare Scott's Orioles were reported in *Calhoun*, Apr. 17 (†PH). A first n.e. Texas breeding record for House Finch was secured when the Metzler's photographed fledglings with an ad. pair in *Gregg*, May 27. Lesser Goldfinches in *Goliad* during May were just beyond the species' normal range (RW). A Lesser Goldfinch May 8 in Plano, *Collin* (†RR, JHa) was probably the easternmost for n. Texas. Late Am. Goldfinches lingered at Ft. Davis until May 26 (PE). One of the other highlights in n. Texas this spring was a pair of Evening Grosbeaks Apr. 27 in *Van Zandt* (*fide* RK).

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IDAHO-WESTERN MONTANA REGION

Thomas H. Rogers

March was dry and warm in most parts of the Region. April, by contrast, was abnormally wet in most areas. Again, May turned out warm and generally dry. Spring was described as late in the Pocatello, ID, and Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, Lima, MT areas. Weather effects on the migration varied. Arrival dates in the Helena, Montana, area were about normal, though winter was described as lingering. Warblers in the Salmon, Idaho, area were late, but several other species there were early. Other reporters did not comment.

We deeply regret the passing of Winton Weydemeyer, long-time student of birds in northwestern Montana.

Abbreviations: Deer Flat (*Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, ID*); Metcalf (*Lee Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, MT*); Ninepipe (*Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, MT*); Red Rock L. (*Red Rock L. N.W.R., Lima, MT*). Lat. (*latilong*).

GREBES TO QUAILS

A Com. Loon on the Salmon R. n. of Salmon, ID, in April and a Red-necked Grebe there in May made unusual sightings (LH), and one to two of the latter species at Redfish L., Stanley, ID, in late May were rarities (HR). American Falls Res., s. Idaho, had 30 Clark's Grebes Mar. 31 (DT). A vagrant Horned Grebe was noted on Cascade Res., ID, May 20 (MC, FK). A Double-crested Cormorant appeared on the Salmon R. near North Fork, ID, in April (LH). The species was reported at Thompson L., Harrison, ID, May 7, no number given (JN) and at Denton Slough, Pend Oreille L., n. Idaho (PG). A Great Egret at St. Maries, ID, Apr. 28 (†DS, CM, JM) and one May 6 at Killarney L. n. of there were notable (DS). A Snowy Egret was sighted near Helena, MT, May 16 (DP, RP *et al.*). A vagrant White-faced Ibis appeared at L. Helena May 30 (BB, TB).

Tundra Swans were still dying from poisoning by mining waste in s.e. Kootenai Co., ID; ≥31 dead birds were recovered during the spring (Spokesman-Review, Spokane article Apr. 11). Termination of winter feeding of Trumpeter Swans in the Centennial Valley, Red Rock L., had encouraged most of these birds to leave, some showing up in n. Utah, s.e. Idaho, and Yellowstone N.P. Seventy-two returned and were nesting by early May (KN). Six Trumpeters showed up at the Dry L. s. of Nam-

pa, ID, Mar. 19 for a Lat. first (JG). Up to four Greater White-fronted Geese appeared in the Thompson L.—Anderson L. area near Harrison, ID, the first part of April (JN, SR). A surprising number of Ross' Geese were seen. American Falls Res. had 300 Mar. 25 (DT); 150 were at Springfield, ID, Mar. 26 (JG). Two showed up near Blasdell Wildlife Production Area s. of Kalispell, MT, Apr. 2 (DC); one was at Mann L., Lewiston Orchards, ID, Apr. 17 (†ph. DS, IS, KD, DH).

Eurasian Wigeons were reported in ≥10 separate reports from Kalispell, MT, s. to Ninepipe N.W.R., Lake, MT, with 1–2 in each report (DC, KH). One of this species appeared at Cougar Bay, Coeur d'Alene L., n. ID, Mar. 31 (SS). A Eurasian X American Wigeon at Benewah L., St. Maries Mar. 21 was carefully described (†DS, IS, PF). The Canvasback migration at L. Helena peaked at a good 300 Apr. 3 (GH). Greater Scaup numbered ≤300 s. of Kalispell (DC). An unusual sighting was a ♂ Harlequin Duck on the Bitterroot R., s. of Darby, MT, Apr. 18 (WR, *fide* CB). The Bald Eagle pair at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, ID, hatched 2 young that were growing steadily at period's end (JR). The resident pair at Red Rock L. had young in the nest by late April (KN).

A remarkable sighting was a well-documented Red-shouldered Hawk at Indian Valley, ID, Apr. 2 (†CV, †WH, †OM, LL, SP, LP, RS). Three Mt. Quails were spotted along Granite Cr., Hell's Canyon, R3W T23N, apparently supplying a first record for Idaho Lat. 7.

CRANES TO WOODPECKERS

A Whooping Crane from the Grays L. foster rearing project returned again to Red Rock L.

(KN). The Dry L. had eight Snowy Plovers May 8 (MC, T & PE, AF, JG, FK, DT). An Am. Avocet at Moose Cr. Ranger Station in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, ID, May 29 apparently made the first record for the Idaho portion of the Lat. (*fide* SS). A remarkable 22 Marbled Godwits appeared at Harrison, ID, Apr. 21 (DS). The species was reported at Pablo Res., Pablo, MT (no number given) Apr. 29 and Dunlin, at Pablo (also no number given) May 10 (KH, *fide* DC).

A Franklin's Gull at Lee Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, MT, May 5 was a vagrant (VV). The Coeur d'Alene area experienced an influx of some 1000 Ring-billed and 2000 California gulls Mar. 13; a Thayer's was there the same day. Two Com. Terns were sighted at McCucker Ponds, Bingham, ID, Apr. 29 (DT).

A Band-rumped Pigeon visited a feeder at Fernan L., Coeur d'Alene in April (†ph. DS, SS, KSt, JW, PW, GHa, WHa). A pair of Barn Owls was rearing 4 nestlings in a nest box near Moscow, ID (KD). A pair of Barred Owls appeared at Killarney L., Mar. 16 (ES). One was near Bonners Ferry Apr. 19 (SS) and another at Coeur d'Alene Apr. 20 (GHa). A Great Gray Owl nest near Missoula, MT, was eventually abandoned (RH). Boreal Owl surveys conducted in Bitterroot N.F., MT, in March and April located more than a dozen vocalizing in Lats. 26 and 48 (*fide* CB). Four Boreal Owls were heard at about 7000 ft on Sawtelle Peak, Fremont, ID, Apr. 6 (BH, DM, KS). Hummingbird numbers were reported down markedly at Troy, Libby, and the Flathead Valley, n.w. Montana (KB). Rufous Hummingbirds were noted as rare at Missoula and at Swan L., Flathead, MT (PW). The Ravalli Co., MT, May bird count found a Red-headed Woodpecker Feb. 28 (ES) and one near Riggins, ID, produced the Lat.'s first record (TH, DH, KD).

WRENS TO FINCHES

A Lat. first was a Rock Wren at Emida, ID, May 16 (PG), as was a Bewick's Wren along Granite Cr., Mar. 13–19 (DT). A N. Mockingbird near Carmen, ID, was apparently the 2nd for that Lat., the first dating back to 1961 (EF, *fide* HR). A Sage Thrasher was found on the Ravalli Co. May bird count (JJ). A singing Orange-crowned Warbler's appeared at Williams L. s. of Salmon, where the species is very rare, May 10 (HR). A positively identified Yellow-rumped "Myrtle" Warbler was at Boise Apr. 20 and May 6 (MC, FK).

A ♂ Summer Tanager in Idaho Falls May 18 provided Idaho's first record (ph. BH, *fide* CT). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was spotted in Rexburg, ID, May 13 (CT), and one at Missoula May 28 was a rarity (PW). A Lark Sparrow was a rare find at Fourth of July Cr. n. of



Salmon May 15 (HR). A Black-throated Sparrow found along the S. Fork of the Owyhee R., Owyhee, ID, was a Lat. first (DT). Noted at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, Arco, ID, was a pair of Lark Buntings, May 21 (BH). Five Grasshopper Sparrows were sighted on Little Camas Prairie, Camas, ID, May 25, for a Lat. first record (MC, FK). A White-throated Sparrow near Salmon Apr. 18 furnished the first record for that area (MS, *vide* HR). A Harris' Sparrow at Pollack, ID, had three ♀ Rusty Blackbirds Mar. 3, for a Lat. inaugural (DS, IS). Mountain View Res., Oneida, ID, hosted two Great-tailed Grackles May 28 (CT). Nine ♂ and four ♀ Purple Finches visited a Lewiston Orchards feeder for about 2

weeks in early May (CG). A Hoary Redpoll accompanied a flock of about 80 Com. Redpolls on Rathdrum Prairie n. of Post Falls, ID, Mar. 1 (WH, CV).

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MOUNTAIN WEST REGION

Hugh E. Kingery

One hundred observers saw Colorado's first Red-faced Warbler, and one saw Nevada's first Prairie Warbler—a reflection of the scattered population throughout the Mountain West, except around Colorado's Front Range cities. Wyoming had one and Nevada two second state records in a satisfying, if delayed, spring season. Cairo said it best: "Everything was weather related." Cheyenne had a cold April and May and few e. winds to blow in migrants. Heavy snowfall in the Wyoming and Colorado Rockies melted slowly. The bulk of our migrants arrived a week or two late, particularly the nesting species. At Las Vegas, the desert was "lovely," with cool temperatures and a prolonged flower display; resident birds had young out and fully feathered by May 31.

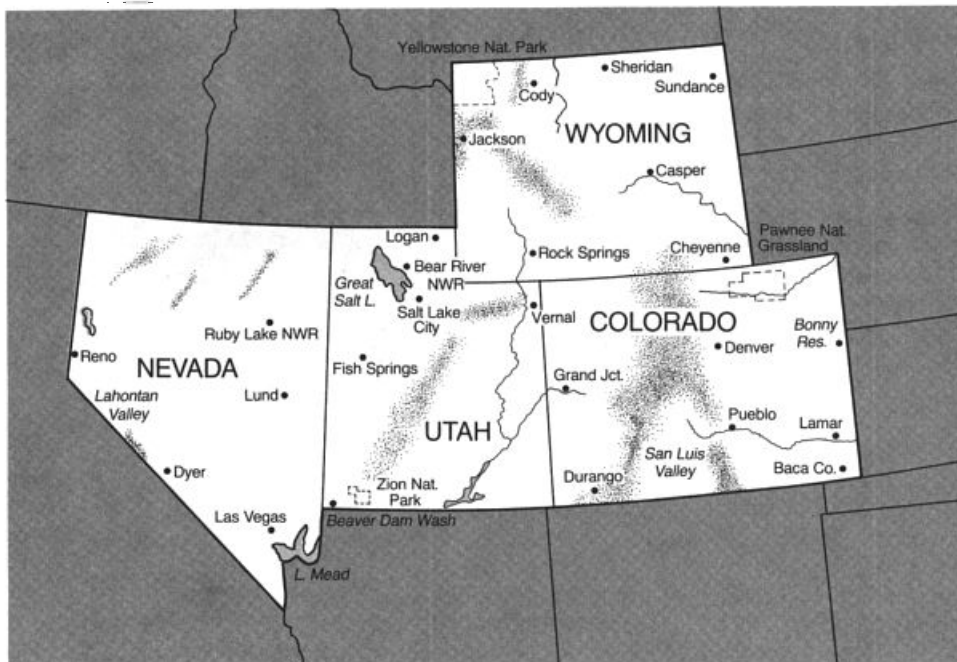
BIRDING ETHICS

Do tape recorders affect our birds? One Mountain West visitor described using a tape recorder to find several birds for his life list. In June, the Colorado Bird Report mentioned a Black Rail, back at the same marsh as the past 2 years. The only likely way—or at least the easiest way—to see that elusive bird involves the use of tape recorders. The report advises against harassing the birds with tapes; I hope all birders have the ethical standards and personal restraint to honor that request. Occasional tape playing probably doesn't affect widespread birds—the tape wielders don't all play for the same bird at the same place. But how does daily—or thrice weekly—affect that rail, if it is breeding? Until we know, I think we should refrain from use of tape recorders in such situations. Sometimes tape recorders have a place, as for breeding bird studies. But I don't think listers should use them to add species to their year or state or county or village lists. Let's think of the welfare of the birds, as well as the welfare of our lists.

Abbreviations: G.S.L. (*Great Salt Lake*); L.L.B.L. (*Longmont/Lyons/Berthoud/Loveland area, CO, using Foothills Audubon Club records*); S.S.G.L. (*South Shore, Great Salt L.*); R.E. (*Regional Editor*); first Lat (*first latilong record [a latilong is outlined by one degree each of latitude and longitude and measures about 50 by 70 mi]*); ph.* (*photograph on file with Regional Editor*); † (*written description on file with R.E.*); # ph. (*photographed but not submitted to R.E.*); ‡ (*written description on file with, and subject to approval of, state or local records committee*).

LOONS TO IBISES

A Red-throated Loon stayed at Chatfield S.P. near Denver Apr. 8–30; perhaps the same bird moved 10 mi to Chery Cr. Res., May 16 (D.E.O.). In Utah, Com. Loons "hit the deep water reservoirs as soon as the ice breaks"—Deer Cr. Res. near Provo had 22 Apr. 6 (ES, SG). They stayed into May at Reno, Flaming Gorge Res., UT/WY, and Walsenburg and Loveland, CO. Eared Grebes peaked at 750 at Goldeneye Res. W of Casper in Apr. The season brought only 141 W. Grebes to Denver; for years the city has not seen such numbers as the 3500 Apr. 19, 1986. The count at L.L.B.L. went up to 694 from 515 last year, but the L.L.B.L. count of Am. White Pelicans dropped to 992 from 1574 last year. A flock of 30 white pelicans flew over Canyonlands N.P., Mar. 5. At Riverside Res. near Masters, CO, pelicans had 2000+ nests by May 31 (RAR). They did not nest at Pathfinder Res. near Casper because high water turned the island into a peninsula (M.A.S.). Double-crested Cormorants nested at Cody, WY, for the first time (UK); Sheridan WY's colony had 78 nests (HD), and Casper had 200 nesting birds (J & VH). A Least Bittern spent the spring at Ash Meadows N.W.R., NV (m.ob.). The Region reported three Little Blue Herons: Apr. 24 near Alamosa, CO (ph.



JJR), May 18 at Pueblo (A.V.A.S.), and May 31 at Indian Spgs., NV (†MC, JW). A Tricolored Heron hid in dense vegetation at Pueblo Apr. 25–May 10 (AW, †DS). A visitor photographed a **Reddish Egret** Apr. 22 and watched it for an hour—(†TK ph.). The first n. Colorado nesting Green-backed Herons began nest building May 18 and hatched 5 young in a sapling boxelder. “The herons and a homeless person shared the site—probably for the same reason: seclusion” (DL). Grand Jct. reported 1000 White-faced Ibis in early May, and L.L.B.L. reported 166 over the spring (49 last year). At Ogden, UT, 100 were nesting.

WATERFOWL

The U.D.W.R. March census tallied 222,878 waterfowl—203,355 ducks, topped with 55,629 pintails, 48,248 Green-winged Teals, and 36,033 shovellers. It also included 2831 Tundra Swans and 13,356 coots. Nevada recorded its 2nd and 3rd **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks**: two Apr. 17 at Overton, which stood quietly in shallow water in full view, except for their feet (†EW), and one at Las Vegas May 17–31 (†MC, †JCr ph.). The five wintering Trumpeter Swans moved from the w. side to the e. side of Grand Jct. in early March; then five appeared 60 mi E at Sweetwater L. near Gypsum, Mar. 19–25—probably the same group (†JM, ph.). Bear R. N.W.R. had 1000 Snow Geese Mar. 14 (SHe), and Torrington, WY, had 5400 Mar. 20 (J & GL). Wood Duck nest box trails near Ogden with 15 boxes hosted five starlings, three Wood Ducks (one with 20 eggs), plus one hen killed by a raccoon (NH). Colorado had two Eur. Wigeons—one in Delta Mar. 29 (RL) and one at Monte Vista Apr. 4–13 (†AC *et al.*). Casper had two Greater Scaup Apr. 25–27 (J & VH, J & GL) and Kremmling had 4 males Apr. 17 (NB). The Region’s nine Oldsquaws included three at Farmington Bay, UT, Apr. 29 (one to May 19—PP, CK), one at Ogden, two at Sheridan May 15 (†RR *et al.*), and others at Pueblo, Denver (it wintered) and Boulder. A Surf Scoter lingered at Denver Apr. 18–May 8, with two Apr. 24. White-winged Scoters were at Grand Jct., Mar. 27, Quail Cr. Res. in s. Utah Apr. 9–May 6, and Boulder May 1–5.

HAWKS

The Denver Hawkwatch counted 5443 raptors in 432 observer hours (12.6/hour), up from its 1992 high count of 3396. Top species were 1542 Red-taileds, 1229 Am. Kestrels, and 1058 Turkey Vultures. Cooper’s Hawks topped Sharp-shinneds 570 to 261. The total included 26 Peregrine Falcons, 27 Broad-tailed Hawks, and 66 Ospreys (MS, DN). A hacked Osprey returned May 17 to Ft. Collins, signaling success for that city’s “Operation Osprey” (A & JC). A Black-shouldered Kite spent a month at Ash Meadows N.W.R., NV, Apr. 17–May 28 (†B & DS). Northern Harriers apparently continue to decline. Utah’s peak count was 12, Cheyenne’s 13, and Colorado’s seven; 107 flew by the Den-

ver hawkwatch. A well-described soaring, broad-winged buteo that looked like a **Common Black-Hawk** showed itself for 5 minutes along Ft. Collins’ Poudre R., Apr. 29 (†A & JC). Colorado has no accepted records. Ft. Collins also reported a Red-shouldered Hawk May 7–27 (†J & AM, †DL). Broad-winged reports included two in s. Nevada, 12 in Wyoming, and seven in Colorado.

SHOREBIRDS

Surveys in recent years have revised the status of migratory shorebirds of the G.S.L. The following table tallies some of the high counts:

**Table 1. Shorebird surveys:
Great Salt Lake peak counts**

Species	N	Date	Location
Black-bellied Plover	3000	May 2	S.S.G.L.
	3250	May 6	Farm. Bay
Black-necked Stilt	30,000	Layton	Up
Am. Avocet	20,000	Layton	Up
Lesser Yellowlegs	2000	Apr. 28	S.S.G.L. Down
Solitary Sandpiper	1500	Apr. 28	S.S.G.L.
Willet	500	Apr. 30	S.S.G.L.
Marbled Godwit	5000	Apr. 28	S.S.G.L.
	2000	Apr. 30	G.S.L.
Sanderling	5586	May 20	Antelope I. Causeway
Least Sandpiper*	1300	May 5	Layton
W. Sandpiper*	3000	Apr. 27	Layton
Long-billed Dowitcher	10,943	May 6	Layton
Red-necked Phalarope	27,000	May 21	G.S.L.

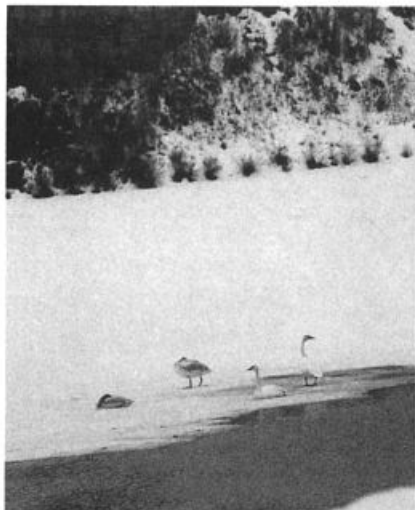
*Not common.
Information from PP, CK, ES, AS.

Lesser Golden-Plovers visited Layton—1–3 May 3–18 (PP, CK) and Grand Jct., May 24 (CD, RL). Poor weather caused poor nesting success with Snowy Plovers on the G.S.L. The 115 Semipalmated Plovers May 5 at Layton seemed high (PP, CK). Piping Plovers stopped at Cheraw, CO, Apr. 30 (†MJ) and Julesburg, CO, May 15 (#NE). Apr. 24, 40 Willets stood on Gore Pass near Kremmling, CO, in 3 feet of snow (NB). L.L.B.L. recorded 34 Willets, cf. seven last year, but Rawhide Power Plant N of Ft. Collins had a peak of 63 Willets May 2 (RAR). The Region’s 55 Whimbrels included 13 May 10 and 14 May 18 at Layton, 11 at Rawhide, plus one to four at Fallon, NV, Sheridan, Casper, Grand Jct., Denver, and *Weld*. Around G.S.L., Long-billed Curlews are declining; as ground nesters they face predation by red foxes (increasing fast) and skunks (PP, ES). Curlews appeared again near Saguache, CO, 4–12 of them on overgrazed private lands, which perhaps mimic the habitat where once they nested in concert with the passage of big herds of bison which heavily grazed the short grass prairie (JJR). Colorado Atlasers found a pair near Truckton, a new/old nesting site (R & WK). Utah’s 5th **Hudsonian Godwit** stopped with Marbled Godwits at N. Salt Lake May 11 (†PP); one in breeding plumage stopped at Cheraw,

CO, May 23 (†MJ). Ruddy Turnstones visited G.S.L. (three May 11), Casper May 19, and Rawhide and Lamar, CO, both May 23. Red Knots at G.S.L. totaled 370, with a peak of 112 May 6. Away from G.S.L., high counts of Sanderlings came from Cheyenne (85 May 24, JC) and Ordway, CO (53 May 17, MJ). Four spring Pectoral Sandpipers visited Pueblo (two), Cheraw, and *Weld* May 8–14. Layton marsh had six Dunlins May 3, and singles stopped at Casper and Las Vegas May 13 and 17. High Stilt Sandpiper counts came from s.e. WY May 16 (437 at 3 sites, BS) and Cheraw, CO (98 May 13, KS). Janos identified an incredible 40 Short-billed Dowitchers (*hendersoni* race) at Pueblo May 9, two still there May 12.

GULLS TO HUMMINGBIRDS

Franklin’s Gulls spilled over from 235 at L.L.B.L. and 125 Apr. 10 at Cheraw to 18 at Las Vegas May 8–10. Bonaparte’s Gulls peaked at G.S.L. at 240 Apr. 4, 15 at Las Vegas, 10 at Minersville, UT, 20 at Delta, CO, and 42 all season at L.L.B.L.. A Mew Gull stopped at Denver Mar. 13 (†LM). A Lesser Black-backed Gull stayed at Boulder Mar. 1–Apr 11 (#m.ob.). Utah reported two Glaucous Gulls and the Denver/Boulder area had four in March. A Great Black-backed Gull remained at Pueblo Mar. 14–May 8 (†MJ, †DS), and another visited Chatfield near Denver May 10 (†CW, JK). Caspian Terns peaked at 179 at Ogden Apr. 4 (PP, CK). Nevada reported 12 at L. Mead, Overton, and Reno, UT, had one May 6; Colorado reported 13, including two at Browns Park N.W.R. (first Lat—C.F.O.) and six at Loveland May 8 (†AM). A night tour of the Wet Mts. w. of Pueblo produced 14 Flammulated Owls May 8 (BP, VT). The San Luis Valley’s 2nd w. Screech-Owl perished on the road to Great Sand Dunes N.M., Mar. 31—in the same place as the first (TM). Burrowing Owls seemed numerous in e. Colorado (BK, JnIT, HEK—54 seen May 12–13). The only Utah Short-eared Owl, Mar. 8 at S.S.G.L., picked a site slated for “enhance-



Trumpeter Swans at Sweetwater Lake, Colorado, on March 19, 1993. Photograph/R. D. Tafel.



Eastern Kingbird at Lovelock, Nevada, on May 18, 1993. Fourth record for northern Nevada. Photograph/Jack Walters.

ment" by ripping out native rabbit brush and greasewood (ES). A Costa's Hummingbird set up a territory in Limerick Canyon in n. Nevada near Lovelock May 18–21; he challenged other hummingbirds and passing cars (†JW, †DT).

FLYCATCHERS TO WAXWINGS

Least Flycatchers staged a big showing in mid-May, with 80 at Bonny Res. (JRe) and 25 at Cheyenne (JC); at the same time a pair nested for a 3rd year in the Littleton Atlas block. A detailed, thoughtful, convincing description of an *Empidonax* at Las Vegas Apr. 24 sounded like a Least (†RRu), but an *Empidonax* so far out of range is best left as a probable ID. A similarly well-described, one-minute, ID of a Gray Flycatcher at Ft. Collins May 4 (DE) is not so far from its normal range but has similar drawbacks. Eastern Phoebes appeared for Spring Counts at Lyons, Denver, and Durango, CO, May 5, 16, & 22. (†GC) A pair of Black Phoebes nested at Uravan, Colorado's 3rd site and the only w. Colorado record (JRG, CD). Wyoming's 2nd Vermilion Flycatcher came to Fontanelle May 22 (†RS, ph. JS). The Ash-throated Flycatcher at Logan May 22 provided a first Lat. record (RJ). Four Brown-crested Flycatchers in s. Nevada included one at Ash Meadows N.W.R., mist netted and banded June 3—a female with a receding brood patch (B & DS); Nevada breeding is not yet confirmed. The 4th E. Kingbird for n. Nevada sallied out from a fence post for insects at Lovelock May 18 (†JW ph.). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers wandered near (Pueblo) and far (Fontanelle, WY) (RS) from their normal range, May 11 & 19. Horned Lark estimates peaked at 3000 Mar. 17 at Casper; two Colorado B.B.S. routes saw them at all 50 stops, with totals of 245, 229, and 290 on 3 routes. Two Purple Martins at Rocky Ford, CO, May 12–13 were a first Lat. (†KS). Logan's Blue Jay stayed to Apr. 23, and another wintered at Muddy Gap, WY, in sagebrush area without any riparian growth (JWd). Some years ago, hybrid Blue/Steller's Jays appeared in Boulder and Granby, CO. The first hybrid reported in 10 years trailed a flock of Steller's that "shunned or openly picked on" it (†LB, AD). Both Denver and

L.L.B.L. reported chickadees up: D.F.O. trips counted 164 Black-capped (range 76–200) and 51 Mt. (3–19) Chickadees, and L.L.B.L. tallied 223 (cf. 107 in 1992) and 95 (cf. 76). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers seemed numerous at Ft. Collins; the five at Lamar May 12–13 were first Lat. records (HEK). Eastern Bluebirds nested in a box near Lyons, CO, but abandoned it, leaving infertile eggs (F.A.C.); another pair fledged one to two young at Rocky Mt. Arsenal, CO. L.L.B.L. tallied 1423 Mt. Bluebirds (294 last year), but Denver had average numbers. A flock at Buffalo, WY, Mar. 28 "swirled across the land like leaves in an autumn storm" (RR). Five documented Gray-cheeked Thrushes were at Cheyenne (†BS), Lamar (†MJ), Lafayette, Pawnee Nat'l Grassland, and Parker, CO (TD, *D.M.N.H.). Big numbers of Swainson's Thrushes included 500 at Cheyenne May 15 and 100's at Walsh, CO, May 16. A surprising 25 Gray Catbirds gathered at Fontanelle May 19 (RS), and four Brown Thrashers hung out at Fish Spgs. N.W.R., UT, to May 31 (JBa). Bohemian Waxwings made spring forays S to Central City, Loveland, and Evergreen, CO (the last seven Apr. 24).

VIREOS, WARBLERS

A White-eyed Vireo, Colorado's 12th, was at Prewitt Res., May 8 (†CW, JK, WH). Three Bell's Vireos passed through s. Nevada in May. Coloradans found four Yellow-throated Vireos. Red-eyed Vireos stopped at Lovelock, NV—two May 13 (†JW), Torrey, UT, May 31 (†AS), and in w. Colorado at Hayden May 29 (DS). Each year a different cast of uncommon warblers are more common than usual in e. Colorado and Wyoming. The resurgence this year involved Black-throated Grays—14 including four at Casper May 8, Townsend's—a surprising spring total of nine plus 10 in Las Vegas, seven Palms including one at Cowdrey, CO (first Lat—NB), and an impressive 68 Blackpolls, including 13 at Sheridan, WY, May 15 and 10 at Lamar May 12. Among the rare warblers, Boulder had two Blue-winged in May. Wyoming's 5th Golden-winged Warbler stopped at Fontanelle May 28 (†RD). Colorado had five Golden-winged May 8–21. Nevada reported two N. Parulas—one found dead at Reno Apr. 19 (†BSc) and a female at Tonopah May 15 (†JB). A short, adequate, report describes Nevada's first Prairie Warbler, seen at Lida May 16 (†JB). At Barr L. near Denver, Colorado's 3rd Connecticut Warbler flew into a banding net (C.B.O.). Wyoming's 4th Canada Warbler visited Cheyenne May 21 (†RD, †JC). Colorado's first Red-faced Warbler sang and fed incessantly at Wheat Ridge for one day only, May 3, but to the delight of about 100 observers lured by an active telephone network (†DSc *et al.*).

TANAGERS TO GROSBEAKS

Cheyenne had one and e. Colorado had four Scarlet Tanagers. A news release confirmed breeding of N. Cardinals around Wray, CO, when 7 people responded to a request asking

for observations. The Pyrrhuloxia at Desert N.W.R., May 15, gave Nevada its 2nd record (†RRu). Enough Lazuli Buntings stayed long enough at Ogden to collect 155, bands, but left in mid-May when the siege of stormy weather broke (MK). After a fruitless trip to see Dickcissels on the Colorado plains, NB found one at his feeder in n.w. Colorado mountains at Kremmling May 15–16. Cassin's Sparrows came to a new Wyoming site at Van Tassel May 16 (†RS). Lark Buntings did not repeat the invasion of last year, although a few showed up w. of the Continental Divide: Tonopah, NV; Minersville, Myton, and Beaver, UT, and Jackson, WY. They nested at Cody, WY (AA *et al.*); 24 were seen May 22 (DB). In early May, flocks of 50–500 rolled over the Colorado prairie—4000 May 12–14 from Lamar to Cheyenne Wells (HEK). A Golden-crowned Sparrow stayed at Long-



Male Hooded Oriole at Fernley, Nevada, on May 11, 1993. Photograph/Carol Trousdale.

mont Apr. 22–May 4 (†JHa, †JKu, †MG) and one stopped at Denver May 1–8 (†RW). Snow Buntings lingered in March—24 at Buffalo and singles at Casper and Hayden, CO. Two e. Colorado BBS routes tallied W. Meadowlarks 50 stops, one-third had them 49 (CEB). At Greeley, CO, Apr. 25, 3000 mostly ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbirds literally covered the ground in a pasture (AM). Com. Grackles continue their expansion—Nevada reported them although the descriptions could be more convincing; the state has less than 20 records. Utah's 2nd Hooded Oriole was observed May 14, and documented by photos (†JM, BM #ph.) which "clearly show an ad. male"—(ES). Hoodeds also visited Reno Apr. 30 (†EK) and Fernley, NV, May 11 (†DT). White-winged Crossbills dropped into Cheyenne Mar. 1–Apr. 9 (JC); Com. Redpolls retreated through Jackson, Cody, and Sheridan (75 seen Mar. 19). Both Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks reappeared in numbers this spring in the plains and valley cities.

EXOTICS

For the 6th year, the Red-backed Buzzard returned to Gunnison, CO, in March, along with the returning Swainson's (DR). Her persistence gives support to those who argue for a wild bird. *Omitted:* This report omits rarities submitted without description—in

Nevada, Com. Black-Hawk, Kentucky and Hooded warbler, and two Dickcissels; in Utah, two Eur. Wigeons; in Wyoming, Gray-cheeked Thrush and two Black-throated Green Warblers; and in Colorado a Gyrfalcon. In addition, I left out a documented Wyoming report of an Eskimo Curlew because the observer saw it from 175 yards and lacks experience with shorebirds.

Corrigenda: A belated report of a Hepatic Tanager (belated because I missed it) May 22, 1992, at Lahontan Valley, NV, provided n.e. Nevada with a very rare report. The observers watched the bird for an hour at close range (†DT, †JW). The Marbled Murrelet at Yellowstone swam under the canoe Aug. 30 (AB 47:125).

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SOUTHWEST REGION Arizona

Gary H. Rosenberg
and David Stejskal

Abbreviations: A.B.C. (*Arizona Bird Committee*); B.A.N.W.R. (*Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge*); L.C.R.V. (*Lower Colorado River Valley*); G.F.P. (*Gila Farms Pond*); M.F.L. (*Many Farms Lake*); P.R.D. (*Painted Rock Dam*); S.P.R. (*San Pedro River*); S.T.P. (*Sewage Treatment Plant*); V.O.C. (*Village of Oak Creek*).

GREBES TO MERGANSERS

For the 2nd consecutive spring, no fewer than 30 individual Eared Grebes were present at Willcox throughout the season, and by the end of May at least one pair was seen constructing a nest; in 1992, this species nested for the first time in s. Arizona at this locality. The only reports of migrant W. Grebes this spring came from Willcox May 3 (GHR) and from Snyder Hill S.T.P., May 4 (MS). Unusual in s.e. Arizona were two Clark's Grebes at Willcox May 23+ through the end of the period (P. Svingen, DJS *et al.*) Six Clark's Grebes were on Mormon L., Apr. 27+ (E. Zadlo); this locality represents a potential new nesting site within the state.

A Brown Pelican at P.R.D., May 8 (CBA, D. Todd) probably represents one of the 3 birds found there during January. Out of place, and early for postbreeding wanderers, were three reported from along the Salt R. in Tempe May 12 (*vide* SGa). Least Bittern is rarely reported in Arizona as a migrant; therefore, one at Arivaca May 26 (LW) was of interest. Single Great Egrets were reported May 9 at M.F.L. (CL), and May 12 at Mormon L. (CVC, VG); there are still very few n Arizona records for this species.

At least 100 Wood Ducks, possibly the largest concentration of this species ever

recorded in the state, were on the Verde R. near Tuzigoot Mar. 6 (R. Dummer). Surprising, but not unprecedented for the state in late May, was the report of two Brants (race *nigricans*) at Willcox May 29 (C. Lee). The Ross' Goose that wintered at Willcox with a Snow Goose was last seen Apr. 17 (m.ob.). "Mexican"-type Mallards were found farther w. in s. Arizona than usual this spring, with a male Apr. 3 along the Santa Cruz R. n.w. of Tucson (DJS, CDB); a pair seen throughout the period in Tucson, with young found there June 2 (J. Aldrich), and several seen throughout the period at B.A.N.W.R. (*vide* T. Ulen). The ♂ Eur. Wigeon found during the winter at Nogales S.T.P. was last reported in mid-April (m.ob.). A pair of Redheads with 9 young at Rio Verde n.e. of Phoenix May 30 (A. Van Auken) represents one of the few lowland nesting records of this species in the state. The ♂ Tufted Duck that wintered in Mesa, providing Arizona with its first record, was last reported Mar. 31 (*vide* SGa). A ♀ Hooded Merganser at Kayenta Mar. 8–Apr. 5 (CL) provided n. Arizona with one of its few records. The Red-breasted Merganser that wintered at the Gilbert S.T.P. was last seen Mar. 7 (MS). Five additional Red-breasteds were at Kayenta Apr. 2, and another was on Black Mesa Apr. 23 (CL); this species is a very sparse migrant in n. Arizona.

RAPTORS TO TERNS

Black-shouldered Kites were widely reported again this spring throughout s. Arizona, with at least 3 nests of this species found on the B.A.N.W.R. alone during May (*vide* T. Ulen). Out of place was an ad. Bald Eagle in n.-c. Tucson Apr. 15 (J. Aldrich). Single Com. Black-Hawks were seen along Arivaca Cr., Apr. 11–May 5 (LW), and in Rucker Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., May 7–13 (DJa); most recent s. Arizona spring records are of only one or two days duration during the normal migratory period in March and April, and both of these records probably represented individuals investigating potential nesting areas. Two extralimital Gray Hawk records were re-



ceived during the period, one was in Oak Cr Canyon (not far from Page Springs, where this species has occurred recently) Apr. 16 (†VG, AG), while another was at an odd locality in Tempe Apr. 24 (D. Hews, B. Terkanian). Individual Broad-winged Hawks, a sparse migrant, were reported from Ramsey Canyon Apr. 16–29 (T. Wood, JWh), from Kino Springs Apr. 17 (DJo), and from Mt. Lemmon, also Apr. 17 (P. McQuarry); this is the 3rd consecutive spring with multiple sightings of this species. A Zone-tailed Hawk at the s. Rim of the Grand Canyon Apr. 21 (J. Evans) represents only the 2nd record as far north as the Grand Canyon region.

A Wild Turkey seen along the upper S.P.R., s. of Hwy 90, Apr. 29 (M. Fredlake) was in the same general vicinity in which several turkeys were seen in 1991; as there have been no recent introductions of this species along the S.P.R., it is likely that these records represent a natural incursion into the Region. A Virginia Rail with 2 chicks at Arivaca May 1 (LW) establishes a new nesting locality for this species in s. Arizona. Only one Black-bellied Plover was reported in the state during the spring season; one was at Cow Springs L., May 1 (CL). Black-necked Stilts are seldom reported from n. Arizona, so one at Kachina Village S.T.P., Apr. 24 (F. Brandt), three on Black Mesa May 7 (CL), and three at Kayenta May 7 (CL) were all noteworthy. The largest concentrations of Willets in the state this spring were 12 at Snyder Hill S.T.P., Apr. 30 (MS), and 40 at Sierra Vista S.T.P., May 12 (GHR). A Whimbrel was found at the Sierra Vista S.T.P. on the early date of Apr. 3 (T. Godfrey), whereas shorebird surveys at B.A.N.W.R. turned up scattered individuals throughout April, with a maximum count of six Apr. 23 (LW, *vide* T. Ulen). This species is a sparse migrant away from the L.C.R.V., where a majority of the state's records have occurred. Excellent details were provided for Arizona's 4th sighting of **White-rumped Sandpiper** at B.A.N.W.R. on the early date of May 13 (†LW); most of the previous records of this species in the Southwest have occurred from extreme late May to mid-June. Single Baird's Sandpipers were reported from Willcox May 16 (BZZ KZ) and from B.A.N.W.R., May 29 (†LW); this species continues to be a scarce spring migrant anywhere in the state. Equally scarce in spring, a single Stilt Sandpiper was reported from Willcox May 13 (N. Cook).

For the 3rd spring in the past 4 years, large numbers of Franklin's Gulls were reported from the e. half of the state, with a total of 168 individuals seen. High counts included 60 at Seven Springs Apr. 3 (RBr), 66 at Kayenta Apr. 20 (CL), and 12 at Willcox May 13–16 (N. Cook, GHR *et al.*). Single Bonaparte's Gulls were seen at Kayenta Apr. 23 & 26 (CL), and another was present at Willcox May 2–4 (SGo, S. Levy *et al.*). Individual Heermann's Gulls appeared at Nogales S.T.P., Apr. 11 (GWI PH), and at Snyder Hill S.T.P., May 7 (MS); this species is an irregular visitor in the state, with most of the records occurring almost randomly between September and May.

An ad Caspian Tern was along the Verde R., s. of Ft. McDowell, May 2 (ph. R. Jones), and another was at Cow Springs L., May 8 (R. Jenkinson, *vide* CL), providing one of the few records for n. Arizona. Away from the L.C.R.V. and P.R.D., this species is almost always a surprise. Virtually unknown in Arizona during spring, a single Com. Tern was reported from M.F.L., May 5 (CL). Seemingly scarce during spring, a sub-ad. Forster's Tern was reported from Willcox May 23 (PS, D. Lambeth *et al.*). **Least Terns** made an incredible showing this spring, with single individuals at Arivaca Apr. 11 (MS), at Snyder Hill S.T.P., May 15 (CDB), and at Willcox May 23 (JC, DJS *et al.*). Since the spring of 1990, no fewer than 10 Least Terns have been found in Arizona, nearly doubling the total number of records of this species in the state.

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

An Inca Dove near Portal Apr. 1–4 (DJa) provided one of the few local records for this species. The Ruddy Ground-Doves that wintered in and around Patagonia lingered into early April (DJo). An additional two were located at Picacho Res., May 9 (RBr), and a single male was at Rio Verde, n. of Ft. McDowell, May 12–27 (BD, LH, A. Van Auken). Not completely surprising were three individuals present throughout the spring at the Has-sayampa R. Preserve near Wickenburg, with a fledgling present May 19 (V. Little, †J. Hentz); although not sufficiently documented, this record provides the first evidence of nesting of this species for the United States. Early was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Empire Cienega May 17 (JWh). Although N. Saw-whet Owl is a sparse (irregular?) nesting species in boreal forest throughout the state, of interest were two during the spring; one was present to Apr. 6 in pinyon-juniper at Navajo, N.M., (CL), and another was heard on Black Mesa Apr. 15; its remains were found Apr. 30 (CL). Exceptional was an individual present at the Desert Botanical Gardens in Phoenix Mar. 4–5 (ph. R. Jones *et al.*); there are now several lowland s. Arizona records for this species.

Three Broad-billed Hummingbirds were present at Portal Mar. 28+ (DJa); this species is a scarce visitor to the Portal area. No fewer than *nine* White-eared Hummingbirds were found in s.e. Arizona during the spring. Four different individuals were present intermittently at Ramsey Canyon, one in Sawmill Canyon Apr. 12–13 (Smitty), one female in Portal May 13–22 (DJa, SSp, BZ *et al.*), one male in Portal May 17 (RM), one at Carr Canyon May 14 (P. Svingen), and another in Madera Canyon May 17–18 (P. Svingen *et al.*). There are virtually no verified state records of Blue-throated Hummingbirds away from known breeding areas in the mountains of s.e. Arizona; thus two reported from Cristopher Cr., n.e. of Payson, beginning the last week of Mar. were of great interest (W. Crimmens). Of local interest was a ♂ Lucifer Hummingbird on Ft. Huachuca Apr. 8 (JWh); there are few records of this species for the Huachuca

Mts. Providing what might be a first local nesting record for the species, a ♀ Anna's Hummingbird was found on a nest in Portal Mar. 3, and 2 young fledged from the nest Apr. 12 (DJa). The ♂ Rufous Hummingbird that wintered in Scottsdale was last seen Mar 30 (V. Weiner).

The pair of Eared Trogons that have taken up residence in upper Ramsey Canyon were again seen sporadically throughout the period (m.ob.). Away from known nesting areas for the species, a ♂ Elegant Trogon was at Babocomari Ranch near Elgin May 3 (C. Melchor). A pair of Green Kingfishers successfully nested along the upper S.P.R., where the adults with 2 young were found May 13. An additional pair was seen at a nest hole downstream from the Hwy 90 bridge in late May (JWh). Very late for s. Arizona was a reported Red-naped Sapsucker along the Has-sayampa R. near Wickenburg May 23 (J. Bartley).

FLYCATCHERS TO VIREOS

A very early arrival (or possibly a bird that wintered locally) was a Gray Flycatcher at Beaver Cr., Verde Valley, Mar. 6 (VG). Three singing and territorial Cordilleran Flycatchers in the Hualapai Mts., May 30–31 (K. Garrett, K. Molina) provided a potential new breeding area for the state. A Buff-breasted Flycatcher in Cave Cr. Canyon Apr. 12–16 (DJa), one at Josephine Saddle, Santa Rita Mts., May 6 (LD), and one in Pinery Canyon May 22 (P. Svingen *et al.*) were all away from known nesting areas in the state. A ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher at Cabeza Prieta N.W.R., Mar. 31 (GM), was w. of its normal breeding range in s.w. Arizona. Another nesting locality for Tropical Kingbirds was located at Marana in May (GHR, CDB); one wonders just how many Tropical Kingbirds nest along the entire Santa Cruz R. drainage.

A pair of Tree Swallows was seen copulating at Kachina Village S.T.P., May 15 (AG, F. Brandt); there have only been a few previous breeding records of this species in the state. One of the more bizarre records for the period, especially in light of the excellent pinyon cone crop in n. Arizona, was a group of six Pinyon Jays at Elkhorn Ranch, Baboquivari Mts., Apr. 16 (J. Evans); this species normally wanders into s. Arizona only during flight years when the cone crop to the north is poor. A pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches apparently nested near Maple Camp, S. Fork of Cave Cr. Canyon, April to mid-May (J. Paton, BZ *et al.*); this is an unusually low elevation for this species to nest. A Brown Creeper in the Hualapai Mts., May 30–31 (K. Garrett, K. Molina) provided only the 3rd breeding season record for that range. A late Marsh Wren was at Bog Hole, San Rafael Valley, May 14 (Gr1). Single Brown Thrashers were seen near Greaterville Mar. 26 (W. Cady), at Portal Apr. 26–May 2 (DJa), and at Tucson May 30 (RBr); this brings the total of Brown Thrashers found in the state since last fall to 10. One of the Rufous-backed Robins found near Nogales this past winter remained until Mar. 11

(LD) A Yellow-throated Vireo returned to the same stretch of the upper S.P.R. for the 2nd year May 28+ (JWh).

WOOD WARBLERS

A well-described singing Blue-winged Warbler was along Sonoita Cr. near Patagonia May 7 (†C. Melchor), bringing the total number of records of this rare vagrant in Arizona to seven. A Tennessee Warbler at Empire Cienega May 6 (†JWh) was the only one reported this spring. On the heels of last year's invasion of N. Parulas into the state (including the state's first nesting record), four more singing males and another female were found in Arizona this spring: A male was along the Verde R., e. of Phoenix, Apr. 4 (CBa, B. Nieman); a female was at Petrified Forest N.P. Visitor Center May 9 (M. Flippo); one male was along Arivaca Cr., May 15 (LW); one male was along Cave Cr. near Portal May 21 (DJS, JC *et al.*); and one male was at Portal May 23 (RM). Last fall and winter's Crescent-chested Warbler along Sonoita Cr. in Patagonia was last reported Mar. 23 (DJo). A Yellow-throated Warbler along the upper S.P.R., n. of Hwy 90, Apr. 28 (†JWh) represented only the 18th record for the state. Equally as rare was a Blackburnian Warbler along the upper S.P.R., n. of Fairbank, May 11 (†JWh); there are only 2 previous spring records and about 16 overall from Arizona. A Palm Warbler along Arivaca Cr., Apr. 11 (H. Winkler) provided only the 9th spring record for the state. A Prothonotary Warbler was found at Hereford, upper S.P.R., May 21 (L. Teneffoss). A singing ♂ Ovenbird was in S. Fork, Cave Cr. Canyon, May 14 (BZ *et al.*). Relatively few N. Waterthrushes were reported during the spring season one was at Patagonia May 1, and two were present along the upper S.P.R., May 12–14 (GHR, JWh *et al.*). The Louisiana Waterthrush that was seen sporadically throughout the winter at Madera Canyon was last seen Mar. 13 (LD). A singing ♂ Kentucky Warbler frequented an area below Maple Camp in S. Fork of Cave Cr. Canyon May 13–27 (DJa, ph. BZ, m.ob.); this species has proved a casual to rare late spring visitor to canyons in the s.e. portion of the state. Another "southeastern" warbler that tends to show up in late spring is the Hooded Warbler; this year one male was at St. David May 14 (DK), and a female was reported from along the upper S.P.R. near Escapule Wash May 16 (DTr). There are very few lowland migrant records of Painted Redstart from s.e. Arizona; one along Arivaca Cr., Mar. 28 (LW, *vide* T. Ulen), was therefore of interest. Intriguing was a well-described Slate-throated Redstart from near Maple Camp in S. Fork of Cave Cr. Canyon Mar. 29 (†C. Eckert, P. Sinclair). This record is under review by the A.B.C. and, if accepted, would represent only the 3rd record for Arizona. A very early Yellow-breasted Chat was reported from along the Verde R., e. of Phoenix, Apr. 4 (CBa, B. Nieman).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A ♂ Summer Tanager reported from Red Tank Draw, near V.O.C., Mar. 16 (L. Miller),

must have been a bird that wintered locally, as this date is nearly a month earlier than the normal spring arrival date for the state. For the 2nd consecutive year, a pair of Flame-colored Tanagers was found in Ramsey Canyon; the female was first sighted Apr. 10 (S. Williamson) and the male (this year in bright ad. plumage) at the same site Apr. 17 (SGo). The pair was seen performing courtship behavior, including nest building, by the end of the period. Another female-plumaged bird was reported from upper Madera Canyon at the end of April but was not seen subsequently (LD). Five Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported this spring Apr. 28–May 21 from around the state (v.o.). Single Varied Buntings were found away from known breeding areas in the state: one male along the upper S.P.R. near the Hwy 90 bridge May 10–12 (JWh, GHR *et al.*), another male at Empire Cienega May 11–12 (m.ob.), and a female at Portal May 11–12 (DJa *et al.*).

After higher-than-normal winter rains, Cassin's Sparrows were found n. and w. of their normal breeding range in the state; six singing males were detected e. of Lukeville Mar. 18 (D. Fischer), and one was near Page Springs Apr. 19–26 (B. Turner *et al.*). The only report during the spring for Clay-colored Sparrow came from Kayenta May 13 (CL). The Harris' Sparrow that wintered at Portal was last seen Apr. 20 (SSp). A pair of Dark-eyed ("Red-backed") Juncos, *J. h. dorsalis*, was found in the Hualapai Mts., May 30–31 (K. Garrett, K. Molina); previous summer records of Juncos from these mountains have not been assigned to subspecies. This form is unknown from California, which is visible from the top of the Hualapais. The flock of 50–100 McCown's Longspurs that wintered in the San Rafael Valley was last detected Mar. 21 (DJo, GW).

Another ♂ Com. Grackle was present in Kayenta Apr. 2–May 1 (CL); there are now about a dozen or so sightings of this species from the Kayenta area. A ♂ Pine Grosbeak was on Black Mesa Apr. 15 (CL), adding to the growing number of records from there. Three ♂ Purple Finches were reported from Seven Springs, n. of Scottsdale, Apr. 3 (RBr).

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New Mexico

Sartor O. Williams III

Dry and windy conditions faced New Mexico birds and birders this spring, but persistent field work paid off, yielding several rarities, plus two first state records.

Abbreviations: Bitter L. (*Bitter L. N.W.R.*), E.B.L. (*Elephant Butte L.*); Zuni (*Zuni Indian Reservation*). Guadalupe, Cottonwood, Skeleton, and Post Office canyons refer only to those portions in Hidalgo Co., New Mexico. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO FALCONS

The previously reported loon excitement at Navajo L. continued into early March, with the **Red-throated Loon** last seen Mar. 6 (DC, TR) and the **Yellow-billed Loon** last on Mar 7 (BV). A Com. Loon was late at Jackson L., *San Juan*, May 7 (TR). Highs for Horned Grebes were three each at Ute L., Mar. 19 (CR) and E.B.L., Mar. 13 (JP); last and a local first was one at Riner L., *Mora*, Mar. 24 (CR) Peripheral Am. White Pelicans included eight near Clayton May 15 (WC) and one at Redrock Mar. 18 (DM). Two Great Egrets were westerly at Zuni Apr. 17 (DC) and four were at Mangas May 18 (RF). Among the rarer herons were single Little Blues at Bosque Ref in April (LG, JP, BV) and at Holloman L., Apr. 3 (GE); a Tricolored near Otis May 30 (SW), and a Green-backed at Laguna Grande Apr. 20 (SW), the latter a local first. White-faced Ibises appeared at wetlands statewide Mar. 13–May 28, including n. to Morgan L. (TR), e. to Tucumcari L. (JH, RD), and s. to Lordsburg (EL) and Malaga (B. Tolles, *vide* SW); notable concentrations included 200 at Zuni May 5 (DC) and 60 each at Bosque Ref, Apr. 21 (RT, PB) and Percha May 13 (CS). Six Wood Ducks on the Pecos R. at Santa Rosa Mar. 17 (CR) were noteworthy; late in the south were 2 pairs at Percha May 29 (BZ) and one pair at Mesilla May 28 (RM). The latest Greater Scaup were three at Riner L., Mar. 24 (CR). Two Barrow's Goldeneyes were with Commons on Navajo L., Mar. 6 (TR); six Barrow's were on the San Juan R. below Navajo Dam Mar. 7 (BV).

Turkey Vultures returned early to the Pecos Valley, with five at Carlsbad Mar. 1 (M. Bemis, *vide* SW) and one at Roswell Mar. 3 (SB) A record 100 Ospreys were counted at the Sandia Mts. lookout this spring (EM *et al.*), where the previous high was 70. Both Heron L. and El Vado L. hosted single nesting Os-

prey pairs, both incubating eggs May 7 (DS).

On the heels of the unprecedented winter influx of Black-shouldered Kites, singles were seen e. of Roswell Apr. 9 (SW), in the Uvas Valley, *Luna*, Mar. 21 (ph. DM) and w. of Columbus May 24 (SOW), and a pair was near Williamsburg Apr. 27–28 (GF). A Mississippi Kite was early at Bitter L., Apr. 3 (PRS); another was northerly at McDuffie Park, Albuquerque, May 8–9 (BO). Further evidence of Com. Black-Hawks expanding eastward into the Rio Grande drainage was provided by singles at Percha Apr. 17 (JP, LG) and at Seco Cr., *Sierra*, May 28 (SOW *et al.*) the latter a new locality. Harris' Hawks in peripheral areas included three in *Sierra* May 4 (JH, RD) and three in *Otero* (where originally noted in January) May 6 (DS).

Migrant Broad-winged Hawks included singles at Boone's Draw May 14 (JP) and at Percha Apr. 24 (JP); a record seven (one more than the previous high) was tallied at the Sandia Mts. lookout during the period (EM *et al.*). An active Zone-tailed Hawk nest at Seco Cr., May 27 (SOW *et al.*), may be the first for *Sierra*. A record 47 Peregrine Falcons passed



Black Skimmer at Elephant Butte Lake, New Mexico, May 1, 1993. First verified state record. Photograph/Larry Gorbet.

over the Sandia Mts. lookout (EM *et al.*), nearly doubling the previous high.

QUAILS TO SKIMMERS

Montezuma Quail in areas where seldom reported included two at the Ladder Ranch, *Sierra*, May 28 (SOW *et al.*), four near White Oaks Mar. 26 (GS), and five near Mayhill Mar. 29 (GS). Numbers of N. Bobwhites and Scaled and Gambel's quails remained high in all areas where reported. Two Lesser Golden-Plovers were reported, one at Bosque Ref., May 8–9 (JP, CB, CR, ph. LG) and a possible one at Holloman L., Apr. 3 (GE); single Black-bellieds were at Bosque Ref., Apr. 21–22 (PES) and at E.B.L., Apr. 24 (JP, LG). Good news for Snowy Plovers, with good numbers at Bitter L. (v.o.), up to 19 at Holloman L. (CS), and 17 at Laguna Grande (SW) during the period; at the periphery of the Region were one to two at Morgan L., May 7 (TR), one at Maxwell N.W.R., May 28 (CR), 11 at Bosque Ref., May 8 (RT), and singles at E.B.L., May 1 (LG, CD), and at Lordsburg Playa May 20 (LG, TH). Single Semipalmated Plovers were at Morgan L., Apr. 25 and May 7 (TR), where they are rarely reported; highs elsewhere included 12–17 at Bosque Ref., Apr. 24–May 9 (v.o.) and seven at Holloman L., Apr. 25 (CS). Willets were notably

conspicuous in the w. two-thirds of the state Apr. 23–May 8, including 30 at Morgan L., Apr. 30 (TR) 20 at Zuni May 5 (DC), 11 at Las Vegas N.W.R., May 1 (CR), and 50 at E.B.L., Apr. 24 (JP, LG); late was one at Holloman L., May 28 (BZ). Whimbrels³ were at 2 locales: one at Morgan L., Apr. 11 & 27 (TR), and one at Bosque Ref., May 5 (PES, RT), with two there May 8–9 (JP, LG, CR). Westerly were two Long-billed Curlews at Zuni May 5 (DC). Marbled Godwits peaked with 76 at Morgan L., Apr. 26 (TR), and 80 at E.B.L., Apr. 24 (JP, LG); one a L. Avalon Apr. 16 (TJH, *fide* SW) was the only s.e. report. Two Red Knots, rare spring migrants, were at E.B.L., May 5 (CB). Notable were single White-rumped Sandpipers at Fr. Summer May 22 (JP, CR) and at Bitter L., May 15 (CR *et al.*); nine Dunlins at Bosque Ref., Mar. 20 (JP, A. Kraynik), plus a late one at Holloman L., May 7 (CS); and eight westerly Stilt Sandpipers at Bosque Ref., May 9 (CR), plus two there May 29 (JP, LG).

Franklin's Gulls were widespread and numerous April to mid-May, including with 112 at Corrales May 1 (CR) and 175 at Bosque Ref., Apr. 16 (GE); westerly were 22 at Morgan L., Apr. 11 (TR), and 28 at Zuni Apr. 17 (DC), while two were late at Holloman L., May 28 (BZ). Westerly Bonaparte's Gulls included two at Morgan L., Apr. 22 & 27 (TR), and five at Zuni Apr. 17 (DC); late Ring-billeds were 15 at Eagle Nest L., May 20, with at least 5 there May 28 (JH *et al.*). Noteworthy among the several California Gull reports were 20 at Jemez Canyon Dam Apr. 12 (J. Baird) and late reports of two at Morgan L., May 22 (TR), two at Eagle Nest L., May 27 (JH, EE), and three at Stubblefield L., May 28 (JH, EE). Two Caspian Terns at L. Avalon May 8 (TJH, *fide* SW) furnished the only report. A possible Com. Tern was at Springer L., May 28 (CR). An ad. Black Skimmer at E.B.L., May 1 (CD, ph. LG) provided New Mexico's first verified record; the single previous report was of an immature at L. McMullan Aug. 1964.

DOVES TO TROGONS

White-winged Doves seemed firmly established in Albuquerque, with two to eight at 4 locales and with nesting activity observed (BO, AS, TB); new locales elsewhere were provided by several on the Ladder Ranch May 28 (SOW) and one in the Cooke's Range May 4 (JH, RD). Northerly Inca Doves included singles at Glenwood Mar. 15 (BM) and Albuquerque May 15–16 (BO). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was early at Mangas Apr. 21 & 25 (RF). A migrant Flammulated Owl was at San Simon Cienega Apr. 23–24 (JH). Whiskered Screech-Owls maintained their recently discovered presence in the Peloncillo Mts., where surveys conducted May 8–11 located six territorial females in 3 canyons: one in Cottonwood, two in Skeleton, and three in Clanton (SOW). A Long-eared Owl pair again nested at Zuni (DC), while a local photo of an adult made the Clovis newspaper Apr. 16.

One to three Chimney Swifts at Roswell Apr. 12–May 1 (SB) were the only ones reported. Early for the north were five White-throated Swifts at Bandelier N.M., Mar. 11 (CR), and three at Mills Canyon, *Harding*, Mar. 15 (CR); easterly were six near Newkirk May 18 (JH, RD). It was an excellent season for s.w. hummers, including New Mexico's first Berylline Hummingbird, a ♀ present in Guadalupe Canyon May 24–25 (AC, ph. NMC). A ♂ Magnificent that wintered in Silver City was last seen there Mar. 13 (*fide* RF), but two Magnificents were visiting a feeder elsewhere in the city May 8 (*fide* RF); a ♀ in the Peloncillo Mts., Apr. 12–13 (DC) furnished the only additional report. Lucifer Hummingbirds, regular in the Peloncillo Mts., returned to P.O. Canyon Mar. 23, where up to eight were present during the period (RS); two were in Skeleton Canyon May 21 (LG, TH), where they have been seen regularly since 1991. At least one apparently territorial ♂ Anna's was in Skeleton Canyon Mar. 19 (GE), Mar. 31 (CB), Apr. 10 (JP), and May 21 (LG, TH) and a female was in Guadeloupe Canyon Apr. 9 (JP, AC, NMC). Costa's Hummingbirds staged an impressive showing in the Peloncillo Mts., with up to seven (and with breeding suspected) in Guadalupe Canyon Mar. 30 (CB, ph. JB) and Apr. 9 (JP, AC, NMC) through May (LG, TH) plus another in P.O. Canyon May 24 & 30 (RS); although known to nest in New Mexico, Costa's is irregular in the state and was last seen in these 2 canyons in 1981. For the 3rd consecutive year, Elegant Trogons were in the Peloncillo Mts., with a male Apr. 13 (DC), a female Apr. 20 (SOW), and two females in territorial conflict May 10–11 (SOW).

WOODPECKERS TO SWALLOWS

Red-headed Woodpeckers in rarely reported locales included one at Montoya May 18 (JH, RD), two near Logan May 19 (JH, RD), one in n. *Roosevelt*, plus four at Boone's Draw May 22 (JP, CR), and one at Carlsbad May 19 (*fide* SW). Noteworthy were one to two Gila Woodpeckers at San Simon Cienega Apr. 10 (JP) and Apr. 22–24 (JH). A ♀ Red-bellied Woodpecker was at Boone's Draw May 14 (JP); verified in the state only in 1990, this was the first May report. A ♀ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was westerly at Glenwood Mar. 25 (JH, EE). A "Yellow-breasted Sapsucker with a brilliant red head and breast" at Water Canyon, *Socorro*, Mar. 6 (J. Karo) may have been *ruber* (a species unverified in New Mexico) or an intermediate *ruber x nuchalis*.

A probable Least Flycatcher, a scarce New Mexico migrant, was at Boone's Draw May 14 (JP). Easterly was a Western-type Flycatcher at a n. *Roosevelt* migrant trap May 22 (JP, CR). Somewhat early was an E. Phoebe at Las Vegas Mar. 25 (CR); another at Mills Canyon near Roy May 31 (HS) suggested potential summering there. A Brown-crested Flycatcher was at San Simon Cienega Apr. 23–24 (JH), where it is rarely reported. Westerly were one to three E. Kingbirds at Kirtland May 22 (TR). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers beyond the

normal range were singles north to Endee, *Quay*, May 19 (JH, RD) and west to Stanley May 23 (SOW) and White Sands N.M., May 31 (JM). A high count for Purple Martins was >30 along the Sacramento R., *Otero*, Apr. 27 & 29 (CB); noteworthy was a pair near Leyba, s. *San Miguel*, May 16 (JH, EE), plus a male in the Animas Mts. (where breeding is unconfirmed) May 10 (SOW). A colony of >200 Bank Swallows at Calabacillas Arroyo, *Bernalillo*, Apr. 9 (HS) was successfully avoiding dirt-bike activities but may be jeopardized by future road construction. Cave Swallows were first discovered in *Dona Ana* last August; this spring they returned to La Union, where about a dozen were found nesting under a canal bridge May 24 & 28 (BZ).

CORVIDS TO SHRIKES

The status of Steller's Jay in the San Andres Mts. is poorly understood; this year the



Male Costa's Hummingbird in upper Guadalupe Canyon, New Mexico, March 30, 1993.
Photograph/James Black.

species was found on surveys there in April, but not in May (MW). A high of 24 Blue Jays was at Ft. Sumner Mar. 6 (CR). Pinyon Jays beyond the usual range limits included easterly reports of 25, including several fledglings, near Cuervo May 18 (JH, RD) and others at Montoya and near San Jon May 18–19 (JH, RD) plus a southerly report of six at Mesilla May 25 (RM). Black-billed Magpies appeared to be successfully expanding southward along the Rio Grande and Pecos drainages, as evidenced by at least 2 active nests at Bernalillo, *Sandoval*, Apr. 4 (ph. BW) and 1–2 adults at Dilia, *Guadalupe*, Mar. 6 & 17 (CR). An Am. Crow was seen Apr. 3 at Carlsbad (SW), where there are few local records. Common Ravens, defying commonly held perceptions of habitat and nesting preferences, were found east to Tucumcari, San Jon, and Logan May 17–19 (JH, RD) and nesting in desert scrub near San Simon Cienega Apr. 23 (JH); near Stanley were 4 active nests of Commons along with 12 nests of Chihuahuans (BW), most of them on power line towers.

Southerly Black-capped Chickadees included two at Belen May 31 (LG, CD). More evidence of northeasterly Cactus Wrens was provided by two singing birds, plus 2 nest structures, near Tucumcari Mar. 19 (CR); noteworthy was a pair near a nest w. of Socorro Apr. 30 (CB). Eastern Bluebirds were present in the Cliff area throughout the period (v.o.), where there may be 3–4 nesting pairs (RF); other late-spring Easterns were one at

Cuervo May 18 (JH, RD) and two singing males at Las Cruces May 18 (RM). Easterly were eight Mt. Bluebirds at Ute L., Mar. 19 (CR). A Gray Catbird at Percha May 29 (BZ) was late. A Brown Thrasher in n. *Roosevelt* May 22 (JP, CR) was a local first; another was well documented as it made the rounds in a Las Cruces neighborhood Mar. 24–Apr. 17 (v.o.). Late was an Am. Pipit at Bosque Ref., May 29 (JP, LG); a possible Sprague's was seen briefly at Bosque Ref., Apr. 8 (RT, C. Teuber). Cedar Waxwings were widespread in small numbers March–May (v.o.); notable were about 300 in Roswell through April (SB) and 42 at Silver City Apr. 6 (EL). Phainopeplas at the fringes of the usual range included two near Bill Evans L., Apr. 30 (EL), where eight were seen May 30 (RF); singles in the Cooke's Range May 26 (SOW) and Sevilleta N.W.R., Mar. 11 (RT, PB); plus others at 4 locales at San Andres N.W.R. in May (MW). Single N. Shrikes were near Navajo Dam Mar. 7 (BV) and at Zuni Mar. 7–8 (ph. DC).

VIREOS TO TANAGERS

Bell's Vireos are scarce in the Rio Grande Valley, so singles at Williamsburg Apr. 28 (GF) and May 4 (JH, RD), Percha Apr. 30 and May 8 (RM), and Rincon Apr. 30 (RM) were noteworthy; Bell's elsewhere included 4+ at San Simon Cienega Apr. 21–24 (JH) and a high of 15 at Rattlesnake Springs May 8 (SW, LB). A significant population of Gray Vireos was documented in the western foothills of the Manzano Mts. on Kirtland A.F.B., *Bernalillo*, with 22 territorial males in May and nest building observed May 20 (CB); evidence of another heretofore undetected population of Grays was provided by five singing in the Cooke's Range May 5 (JH). Very rare in New Mexico, a Yellow-throated Vireo was at Boone's Draw May 22 (JP, CR). Hutton's Vireos at the fringes of the range were two singing in the Burro Mts., Mar. 17 (DM), one to two in the San Francisco Mts., May 4–5 (SOW), and one in Las Cruces Mar. 17 (CS). The only Red-eyed Vireo was at Rattlesnake Springs May 8 (SW, LB). Far n.e. of the usual range, a possible Lucy's Warbler was at Las Vegas N.W.R., May 2 (C. Brozek), a day after a blizzard swept the area.

Townsend's Warblers, normally scarce in spring, included one to two at 4 locales in the Rio Grande corridor Apr. 24–May 8 (v.o.). Among the rarer warblers were a Yellow-throated Warbler at White Sands N.M., Apr. 28 (JM), a ♂ Chestnut-sided at Corrales May 1 (CR), single ♂ Magnolias at Rattlesnake Springs May 13 (JP) and at Boone's Draw May 14 (JP *et al.*), single Palms at Santa Fe May 8 (BF) and Boone's Draw May 14 (JP), and a ♀ Bay-breasted plus a Worm-eating at Rattlesnake Springs May 13 (JP), where there was also a ♂ Prothonotary May 28 (SW, TJH). Single Black-and-whites were at Corrales Apr. 25 (CR) and Rattlesnake Springs May 16 (CR). The only Ovenbird was at Percha May 16 (BV); one to four N. Waterthrushes were at 5 locales in the Rio Grande corridor and at Rattlesnake Springs during May 1–16 (v.o.). A



Cave Swallow in Dona Ana County, New Mexico, May 24, 1993. The species was first recorded in this area just last year. Photograph/Barry R. Zimmer.

♂ Hooded Warbler was along the Rio Chama May 25 (DM *et al.*); a Wilson's was early at Mesilla Apr. 3 (RM). Red-faced Warblers near the n. edge of their range were breeding in Copper Canyon, Magdalena Mts., in May (HS); more than eight Red-faceds along the Sacramento R., Apr. 27–29 (CB) established a new *Otero* locale. Peripheral Painted Redstarts included two in Sawmill Canyon, Magdalena Mts., May 11 (HS) and one at Dripping Springs, Organ Mts., Mar. 20 (*vide CS*). Small numbers of Olive Warblers were in the San Francisco Mts., May 5 (SOW), Mogollon Mts., May 30 (DM), Pinos Altos Mts. (where nesting) in mid-May (RF), and the Black Range May 8 (CS) & 29 (BZ). A Hepatic Tanager at Mills Canyon May 31 (HS) was near the species' northeastern limit; other noteworthy Hepatics were singles at San Andres N.W.R. in April (MW) and at Rattlesnake Springs May 8 (SW). Northerly Summer Tanagers were one at Corrales Apr. 25 (CR) and three there May 1 (CR) plus three at Bernalillo May 2 (JH *et al.*) and two at Ft. Sumner May 22 (CR, JP).

GROSBEAKS TO FINCHES

Pyrrhuloxias beyond the usual s. lowland range included two at Glenwood in mid-March (BM), three near San Lorenzo Mar. 12 (EL), and one there Apr. 21 (SOW), one near Mountainair Apr. 17 (TB, *vide PRS*), and two at Ft. Sumner Mar. 6 (CR). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks made a good showing from the Rio Grande Valley eastward, with at least 10 males scattered at 6 sites May 8–29 (v.o.); ♀ Rose-breasted were at Percha (RM) and Rattlesnake Springs (JP, CR) May 16. Indigo Buntings were widespread in May (v.o.), earliest were one to two at Santa Fe Apr. 24 (LH), Corrales Apr. 25 (CR), and Roswell Apr. 23 (SB), while westerly was one at Zuni May 11 (ph. DC). At least five Varied Buntings were in Guadalupe Canyon May 23 (LG, TH), and one was singing in Walnut Canyon, *Eddy*, May 31 (SW); vagrants were single males near Williamsburg Apr. 28 (GF) and near Orogrande May 10 (J. Kozma). Six Dickcissels singing at Ft. Sumner May 25 (JP, CR) was a high number for that dependable locale. A high of 12 Abert's Towhees was at San Simon Cienega Apr. 21–24 (JH *et al.*). Noteworthy were two singing Cassin's Sparrows at Kirtland A.F.B., May 19 & 26 (CB). Rufous-crowned Sparrows at their e. limit were singles near Montoya May 18 (JH, RD) and near Tucumcari Mar. 19 (CR). Field Sparrows again

were at Waldrop Park, *Chaves*, with three Mar. 25 (CR) and one Apr. 3 (JP, CB, LG). Single Lark Buntings strayed west to Zuni Apr. 10 (DC), Santa Clara May 9 (CR), and Santa Fe Apr. 24 (LH). Small numbers of Savannah Sparrows were singing at Eagle Nest May 28 (JH, EE) and at Maxwell N.W.R., May 20 (JH, RD) and May 28 (CR); non-singing Savannahs were at Capulin May 20 (JH, RD). Grasshopper Sparrows were relatively numerous in the n.e. and included 12 at Maxwell N.W.R., May 28 (CR), 15 near Clayton May 20 (JH, RD), and 25 near Broadview, *Curry*, May 19 (JH, RD); one at Miami May 27 (JH, EE) provided a new locale. A reddish brown Fox Sparrow was at Zuni Apr. 17 (DC); late was a White-throated singing at P.O. Canyon May 4-8 (RS). Northerly E. Meadowlarks were at Kirtland A.F.B. late April-May (CB), where described as common and outnumbering Westerns. Westerly was a Com. Grackle at Zuni Apr. 18 (ph. DC) while to the south "numbers remained high" at Carlsbad (SW); the species continued to thrive over that part of the state from Santa Fe and Socorro eastward. Orchard Orioles beyond their Rattlesnake Springs stronghold were single males at Boone's Draw May 14 (JP) and at Mesquite May 19 (RM). Hooded Orioles away from their usual haunts included one at Zuni May 20-21 (ph. DC), one to two in the Cooke's Range May 4-5 (JH, RD) & 26 (SOW), and a pair on Animas Cr., *Sierra*, May 28 (SOW). One to two Scott's were found north to Santa Clara May 9 (CR) and east to Montoya May 18 (JH, RD). Reports of Cassin's Finches were few, with small numbers in the Zuni (DC), Sangre de Cristo (CR), and Sandia (DM, CR) mountains and at Santa Fe (LH). Red Crossbills were conspicuous in the far west, including in the Zuni area (DC), San Francisco and Tularosa ranges (SOW), near Mule Cr. (JH, EE), and the Pinos Altos Mts. (RF, EL); to the east, up to 10 were near Leyba May 16 (JH, EE). Late was an Am. Goldfinch singing in Cimarron Canyon May 28 (CR). Evening Grosbeaks were restricted to the Jemez, Sangre de Cristo, and Sandia ranges and adjacent riparian areas (v.o.), with an outlying report from Zuni Apr. 2 (DC).

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ALASKA REGION

T. G. Tobish, Jr.

Essentially the entire Region was under a similar weather pattern, and migration Region-wide was early, fast, and relatively uneventful. March and April found average temperatures and precipitation across the state, and the earliest migrants included standard species and numbers. By early May, summer-like temperatures bathed the Region; the Aleutian Low drifted well south of the norm and played little role in the funneling of storm cycles. Subsequent weather conditions tracked low-pressure cells south and mostly clear of the western Aleutians. Few storms reached the North Gulf Coast. Juneau had its warmest May in history, and most North Gulf Coast communities racked near-record highs for April and May. Observers in the southern half of the State assessed shorebird migration as fast, with no noteworthy, or even normal, concentrations at traditional sites.

Passerine migration was early for most species, and nesting had begun weeks ahead of normal for many species. For later-arriving insectivores, all except Alder Flycatcher were accounted for in breeding season numbers by the end of May (e.g., Blackpoll and Yellow warblers). This provided a striking contrast with spring 1992, when the later-arriving species were mostly absent until mid-June. The Aleutian-Bering Sea outposts had relatively poor seasons with a minimal Asiatic component and unfavorable winds.

LOONS TO RAPTORS

The traditional Sumner Strait W. Grebe spring count peaked at a very low 280, contrasting sharply with last year's record high (PJW). A lingering winter-dispersed Great Blue Heron was very late at Seldovia through most of May (SH). Most herons that manage to winter w. of breeding areas, to Kodiak and Kachemak Bay, depart by April. The season's only Bean Goose was reported from Attu, where a single appeared ready to spend the summer at Alexai Pt., May 21-June 6 (ATT-TOUR). Aleutian Canada Geese descended upon Attu throughout May, with a maximum of 59 May 27 (ATT-TOUR). These birds represent the now expanding, and strongly recovering, population from this form's last Aleutian stronghold of Buldir I. As part of the subspecies' recovery program, captured birds from Buldir were placed on nearby Agattu, Alaid, and Nizki Is., and progeny of those releases no doubt have begun to inspect Attu. The Region's 3rd substantiated **Spotbill Duck** frequented subtidal areas of Attu's Krasni Pt., May 18-19 (ATT-TOUR), providing the first true spring migrant record. Northern Shovelers appeared in unprecedented numbers at Kodiak, where 500+ were tallied May 11 (RAM). Kodiak's previous daily spring peak was 300. The pair of N. Shovelers at Barrow May 25 (RS) appear to represent the earliest

local spring record. Two pairs of Cinnamon Teal were located in what has become the traditional spring locale on the lower Stikine R., one each at Sergief I., May 8-9 (PJW, MEI) and at Barnes L., May 29-30 (PJW). In an unprecedented show of abundance, up to 250+ Eur. Wigeons were counted during aerial surveys at Izembek Lagoon Mar. 8 & 24 (CFZ, CPD). This number eclipses the Region's previous high count from any season by a factor of 10. The Izembek area may be a pre-migration staging site for w. Alaska wintering Eur. Wigeons. An above-average flight of Lesser Scaup appeared to be developing across the n. Gulf Coast, where the species is distinctly rare in spring. Local peaks were noted at Kodiak, with a record-high island count of 24 May 13 (RAM), and at Cordova, with 7 sighted May 28 (RAF). Good incoming numbers were also noted for the Anchorage area, where drought displaced birds often summer. The pair of Lessers that arrived at Prudhoe Bay May 18 were record early by 9 days (EEB). A pair of King Eiders at the e. edge of traditional winter areas at Pt. Whitedshed near Cordova May 25 (RS) furnished one of very few May Prince William Sound records. Quite surprising was



Eyebrowed Thrush on Attu Island, Alaska, on May 27, 1993. Photograph/B. J. Rose.

an ad. drake Spectacled Eider found at Attu May 17-June 6 (ATT-TOUR, MMT, ph.). Although this declining species is purported to winter in the "western Bering Sea," there are no prior confirmed Aleutian district records. Barrow's Goldeneyes again, as last spring, appeared w. of the normal range, at Cold Bay, where 2 pairs were found Mar. 17 (MC), and at Attu I., where a young male was present May 20-27 (ATT-TOUR). There are now 3 W. Aleutian records, all from spring at Attu. The season's only Smew report came surprisingly from the mainland, where a drake was noted at various freshwater lakes Mar. 6-14 (CFZ, MZ, CPD, NS, RS). There is one previous local record from December 1984 and very few other mainland records. Extralimital out-of-season Hooded Mergansers included pairs at Homer Apr. 24 (WD), for a local first, and at the Eagle R. delta n. of Anchorage May 15 (*vide* RLS). After several years of early spring appearances, no Ruddy Ducks could be found in the e. Interior. The infamous Taku R. Steller's Sea-Eagle was relocated earlier than usual May 11 (SCH).

RAILS TO OWLS

Good arrival information was obtained for

Soras around the Stikine R. mouth. Earliest was a single near Petersburg May 21, and three were counted around a Ketili Cr. beaver pond May 30 (both PJW). Shorebird migration was one of the poorest of the past decade, no doubt related to fine flying weather. Rufous-necked Stint went unreported for the Region! Among the very few highlights were a peak of seven Mongolian Plovers at Attu May 20 (ATTOR); a very low daily high of only 18 Wood Sandpipers at Attu May 17 (ATTOR); a late Bristle-thighed Curlew at Attu June 2-4 (ATTOR), the Aleutians' first June report; a Bar-tailed Godwit at Palmer May 15 (MB), a first for the Matanuska Valley; a Temminck's Stint at Gambell May 31 (WINGS), where the species is nearly annual; and just two Long-toed Stints from Attu all season.

The 2nd Franklin's Gull for Upper Cook Inlet and Anchorage was an adult that appeared briefly at Westchester Lagoon May 17 (DMT, SDS). The Region now has 4 spring reports for Franklin's Gull concentrated between Anchorage and n.e. Kodiak I. Recent data from the extreme Southeast indicate the annual occurrence of California Gull. Small numbers, mostly adults, were noted from Ketchikan, with five at Clover Pass Mar. 29 (SCH), to Petersburg, with one Apr. 24 (PJW). A group of 42 adults on the outer coast at Craig May 2 (MAA) was unprecedented and a record for spring. Whether these are through-migrants or wandering non-breeders remains to be determined. A first-summer bird judged by plumage (especially on the dorsum and the mottled pattern at the bases of the outer several pairs of primaries) to be a Slaty-backed Gull made a brief appearance at Anchorage Apr. 30 (†TGT). There is one previous spring record for Upper Cook Inlet. The Juneau area's Lesser Black-backed Gull was observed again, after several sporadic reports from the previous fall, at the mouth of the Mendenhall R., May 13 (MWS). Most interesting, given the paucity of inshore spring migration records, was a pure flock of 100+ Arctic Terns at Sitka Apr. 21-23 (MLW), well away from traditional spring staging areas.

Following unusually high late-winter concentrations of Com. Murres inshore at several N. Gulf Coast sites (q.v.), the full picture evolved into the spring, when key feeding and concentration areas were identified. Unprecedented late-March peak tallies of 10,000 birds each were made in the lower reaches of Cook Inlet, at Tutka Bay Mar. 25 (GVB), and in Resurrection Bay (WS). Nearly 90% of these birds still in basic plumage were thought to be immatures seeking food after a winter food crash in traditional pelagic feeding areas. A gray-phase Com. Cuckoo, with a clean white vent, was well observed at Attu June 4-5 (ATTOR, MMT ph.), for the season's only re-



port. Conditions were apparently optimal for small owls on Mitkof I. this spring. Walsh's surveys produced three W. Screech-Owls, 11+ N. Pygmy Owls, and a local record eight N. Saw-whets early March-late May (PJW). Additional Pygmy Owl observations include four birds on Kupreanof I. and a single on Sergief I., May 9 (PJW). The area surrounding the Stikine R. mouth is still the only section of the Region in which N. Pygmy Owls are recorded in spring with any regularity. In what must be prime habitat, at least three Great Gray Owls were seen daily in the Wasilla area February-late April (*vide* DC, MB). The combination of open mixed mature boreal forest and agricultural fields in the Wasilla-Palmer area produces several annual sightings of this local resident.

HUMMINGBIRDS TO PARULIDS

Given the date and location, the ♀ Anna's Hummingbird spied at a Haines feeder May 12 (MEI, †SCH) was possibly a lingering winter individual, rather than a migrant. This represents the Region's northernmost spring report. Eurasian Skylarks made a nice showing, with three at Attu I., May 17-21 (ATTOR), and a single at Gambell June 2-3 (AK) for at least the 3rd St. Lawrence I. spring record. Notable swallow records include a group of up to six Tree Swallows at Gambell May 25-30 (AK, WINGS), certainly one of St. Lawrence I.'s highest counts, an early N. Rough-winged Swallow at Farm I. on the lower Stikine R., May 8 (PJW, MEI), and a Cliff Swallow at Kodiak I., May 23 (RAM), providing the latter's 9th spring report. The pair of Chestnut-backed Chickadees that appeared in the Girdwood Valley several winters ago finally bred. A nest was located near their favorite feeder May 10 (DM, *vide* RLS). This form may be expanding N up the Kenai Peninsula, but this represents the Region's northernmost breeding record. After several years of few records in the Aleutians, two Eyebrowed Thrushes were found at Attu I., May

27 (ATTOR). Given the range of this *Turdus* as outlined in numerous NE Asia references, it remains puzzling why it ever shows up in the w. Aleutians. With the help of daily mealworm feedings, Anchorage's Northern Mockingbird successfully overwintered, last noted near downtown, Apr. 19 (m.ob.).

Especially within the context of a dismal passerine migration, 14+ Yellow Wagtails at Attu I., May 27, was an exceptional one-day count (ATTOR), where at least one pair sang from, and defended, a territory. A classy ♂ Gray Wagtail hung around the seaciffs around Attu's Gilbert Ridge May 29-June 5 (ATTOR). Once considered the rarest wagtail in the w. Aleutians, this form is as common as, or perhaps more common than, Black-backed, at least according to Attu records. Also declining on the basis of recent spring data from the w. Aleutians is Olive-backed Pipit. This year singles were briefly noted at Attu May 21 & 24 (ATTOR).

Anchorage-area spring Eur. Starling reports continue to increase, with at least four noted near downtown Apr. 6-11 (TGT). A singing territorial Solitary Vireo was located in the scrub thickets at the Mendenhall Glacier moraine May 24 (RJG). Alaska's 2 previous records of three birds from Hyder were, as this bird appeared, of the w. form *cassini*. This bird held territory well into June and attracted a 2nd singing bird June 6 (RJG, MWS *et al.*). Although probably annual somewhere in Southeast near the larger river mouths, migrant Tennessee Warblers remain very scarce on the actual coast, so one at Juneau May 31 is of note (MWS). Other noteworthy parulid reports included a reasonably well-described Magnolia Warbler at Petersburg April 23 (WHP), one of the Region's earliest, and single Yellow-rumped and Townsend's warblers at an offshore whaling camp on the pack ice 2 mi n. of Barrow May 19 & 24, respectively (RS). Townsend's represents the North Slope's (and Barrow's) 2nd record and the first in spring.



Male Eurasian Siskin on Attu Island, Alaska, on May 22, 1993. First confirmed record for the United States. Photograph/B. J. Rose.

Previously unrecorded from Southcoastal, a singing W. Tanager made a brief appearance in *Upper Cook Inlet* at Hope on Turnagain Arm May 28 (†WT). This form breeds uncommonly on Southeast's mainland river systems, north to the Haines area. Western Tanagers were early to arrive, reaching "regular" summer numbers along the Stikine R. by May 30, clearly weeks ahead of average years (P JW). Three territorial Song Sparrows at Mud L., north of Palmer May 9 (MB)

stretched the species' known range of breeding occurrence in Upper Cook Inlet by roughly 70 km. The closest record to this freshwater marsh was from the Palmer Hayflats, also in early spring. Interestingly, these Mud L. birds were in atypical habitat, since the Cook Inlet population normally nests in intertidal sedge flats. Rustic Bunting, another species considered on the decline from the spring component in the W. Aleutians, reappeared, with two at Attu May 24–28 and June 3 (ATTOUR). Attesting to the poor passerine migration in the Aleutians, Attu's spring peak Brambling count peaked at a weak six birds May 23 (ATTOUR). Red Crossbill numbers swelled mostly on the mainland in Southeast by late May, but the species was rare at best elsewhere. White-winged Crossbills remained all but absent from Southcoastal, but scattered groups continued in the c. and e. Interior, where early breeding records were obtained in Fairbanks (*fide* DDG). Fifteen years after the Region's only other record, a single-observer sighting also at Attu, *Eurasian Siskin* (*Carduelis spinus*) was documented for the Region, when a bright male was found along Attu's Gilbert

Ridge bluffs May 21–22 (ATTOUR, *MMT ph., BJR ph.). A 2nd bird was heard and seen briefly May 23 in a nearby willow thicket (NSP). A wild Hawfinch hung around the old runways at Attu May 19–24 (ATTOUR), for the season's only report.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA/ YUKON REGION

Chris Siddle and Jack Bowling

An early, warm spring allowed Yukon birders to find an unusual number of rare species. Members of the Yukon Bird Club continue to gather data for the territory's first comprehensive avifaunal account. The northern third of British Columbia was dominated by a high-pressure ridge that maintained dry conditions. The southern two-thirds of British Columbia were wetter than usual, due to a westerly storm track. Severe drought continued in north-eastern British Columbia, causing shorebirds to concentrate in the Dawson Cr. area. A Garganey, a Dickcissel, and a flurry of out-of-range House Wrens added spice to the period.

Abbreviations: B.C.F.O. (*British Columbia Field Ornithologists*); P.G. (*Prince George*); P.G.N.C. (*Prince George Nature Club*); Van. (*Vancouver*); Van. I. (*Vancouver I.*); Vic. (*Victoria*); Y.B.C. (*Yukon Bird Club*).

LOONS TO SANDPIPERS

Three loon species on Kawkawa L. near Hope May 28 were very unusual: a Common, a Pacific, and, most startling, a Yellow-billed in breeding plumage (WCW). Red-

necked Grebes numbered 560 at at Ross L. near New Hazelton May 11, representing probably the highest single count for this species in BC (RS, *fide* MF). As usual, W. Grebes concentrated on Okanagan L. at Kelowna, with 1500 counted May 15 (CC *et al.*) and at Spanish Banks, Van., with 4500 seen May 4 (MP). The Vic. high count of 650 Westerns Mar. 6 (RS) was below average. A Kelowna resident reported small groups of Westerns flying and calling overhead, with white underparts glowing in the city lights at

10 p.m. to midnight. May 12 (JL). In the Yukon, where the Western is rare, three were observed on Marsh L., May 29 (G & LK). The only Clark's Grebe reported with details was at Salmon Arm Bay May 19 (DK, †FK). A 2nd Clark's was heard nearby at the same time. A census of BC's only Am. White Pelican colony, at Stum L., revealed 414 pairs, excluding nonbreeders (RWC, ASt), a dramatic increase from the 150 nests counted in 1988.

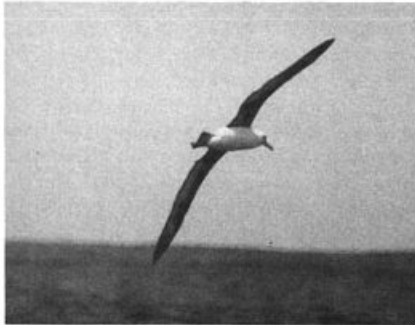
The B.C.F.O. May 2 pelagic trip from Ucluelet to Barclay Canyon found 300 Black-footed Albatrosses, one Laysan Albatross, 20 N. Fulmars, 1000 Sooty Shearwaters, one Short-tailed Shearwater, 15 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels, and one Leach's Storm-Petrel. An urban Great Blue Heron colony in Vernon continued to tolerate noise and unusual human proximity, producing an average of 3 young per nest in 10 nests (of 22 total) (CS). Single Great Egrets were found at Robert L., Kelowna, May 18 (HW), and Riske Cr., May 13 (AB), continuing this species' gradual increase in BC.

Approximately 10,000 Greater White-fronted Geese flew n.w. in flocks of 200–300 Apr. 30–May 2 (BCFO). Brants peaked at 6780 Apr. 12 at Little Qualicum R. Estuary, the highest total since 1988 (ND, *fide* J & GA). A ♂ Garganey at Campbell R., Apr. 11–May 4 (RC, †S & EW, m.ob.), delighted many twitchers. Three Tufted Ducks lingered around Van. in late March–early April.

Broad-winged Hawks were seen 4 times in P.G., May 15–30, with



the possibility of a pair living somewhere near the downtown "bowl" (JB). A total of three single Broad-winged were seen this spring around Dawson Cr. As is often the case with Peace birds, two were dark morphs (MPh, SK, LL). Two Sharp-shinned mated at a South Burnaby nest Apr. 13 (FRF). Very few nests have ever been found in BC. A remarkable number of Gyrfalcons (six) were reported from Greater Van., Mar. 6–21, with other individuals sighted at Sumas Mar. 19 (RJ) and Port Alberni Mar. 13 & 14 (DGC, CSt, MSt).



Laysan Albatross near Barclay Canyon, off Ucluelet, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, on May 2, 1993. Photograph/David F. Fraser.

A Whimbrel at Revelstoke Apr. 19 (DP, OG) was very unusual, since the few interior records have generally been in May. The first Yukon Bar-tailed Godwit was photographed at McClintock Bay May 29 (†CE, †PS). A Marbled Godwit, casual in the Peace area, was at McQueen Slough, Dawson Cr., May 18. In company were nine Whimbrels, also very rare in the area (MPh, SK, LL). A flock of 900 Surf-birds on Baeria Rocks, Barkley Sound, Mar. 27, provided one of the highest single counts for this species in the province (RJC). Among 300 Surf-birds at Sechelt Apr. 25 was a single Red Knot, a first for the Sunshine Coast (TG). A Red Knot at McQueen's Slough, Dawson Cr., May 21, provided a first record for the Peace (MPh, SK, LL). Least Sandpipers seemed to peak in numbers around Van., May 2, when 450 were at Iona (RT). A White-rumped Sandpiper, accidental in the Yukon, was at Lewes Marsh May 29 (CE, PS).

JAEGERS TO WOODPECKERS

The two oddest birds found during a May 31 roundup at Okanagan Mt. Prov. P. were Parasitic Jaegers, very rare transients in the Okanagan (LR, GR, WCW *et al.*). Observers in Dawson Cr. expect Franklin's Gulls to breed any day now. This species, which has never been found nesting in BC, continues to arrive in large numbers every spring in the South Peace. Courtship flights, copulation, and nest material presentation were observed at McQueen Slough mid-May (MPh, SK, LL). The 3rd Yukon record of a Little Gull was obtained at Lewes Marsh May 8 (CE, PS). As researchers continue to inventory southern Yukon gulls, an ad. California Gull was found at the Whitehorse dump May 29 (G & LK) and a first-summer Glaucous-winged appeared there Apr. 23 and a 3rd-summer individual appeared Apr. 26 (CE, PS).

Flammulated Owls were reported for the first time outside the Kamloops–Okanagan area, with three at Deer L., near Williams L., (RWC) and one at the Columbia L. Ecological Reserve May 31 (LH). A survey covering 72nd and 64th Streets, Delta, turned up 10 Snowy Owls Mar. 14 (HNM, JAM). The latest Snowy in the Van. area lingered until Apr. 16 at 64th St., Delta (LM). A Burrowing Owl, accidental on Van. I., was at Courtenay Airport Mar. 27–30 (WGH, BMS). One of the two Great Gray Owls that appeared near Vernon in Jan. was seen Mar. 22 & 28 (CC *et al.*), and another was near Chute L. (central Okanagan) May 19 (JBU, RY). These sightings, plus a few others from recent years, suggest that Great Grays may be breeding in small numbers at mid-elevations in the Okanagan. Only two Boreal Owls were reported for BC. One was at Rabbit L., Okanagan, May 23, the site of last year's nesting (RJC). The 2nd Boreal was heard Mar. 13 and 18 at George Mtn., about 35 km s.e. of P.G. (PGNC). In the Yukon, Boreal Owls seemed to be doing well. Four called near Klauane L., Apr. 8 (CE, TH, PS), and three were at the Star Ranch Rd. n. of Marsh L., Apr. 11 (HG, CO). Up to two were heard in the latter area until May 15 (HG, YBC).

Fifteen hundred Vaux's Swifts over Spanish Banks, Van., May 4 (MP), were an unusually large concentration for this species. The highest single count on Van I. was 300–400 at Cowichan Bay May 5 (HVP). At least five Red-naped Sapsuckers appeared around Van., where the species is a vagrant. The earliest was at Mt. Seymour P.P., Mar. 26 (ALG), while the oddest locale for an individual was downtown Van., where one was photographed May 26 (GF). Very odd but convincing was a single-observer sighting of a White-headed Woodpecker at Blurton Cr., s. of Sicamous Mar. 14 (†DW). The habitat—farms and fields surrounded by wet Columbia forest—are a far cry from the arid Douglas Fir–Ponderosa Pine slopes usually associated with this species.

FLYCATCHERS TO WARBLERS

The status of Hammond's and Dusky Flycatchers in s. Yukon is being sussed out, thanks to experience differentiating these sibling species. Up to five Hammond's were singing in a dense deciduous stand near the Polar Sea fish farm near Whitehorse during May (m.ob.) and the CWS banded 11 ad. during this period. Five Dusky Flycatchers were near treeline on Mt. McIntyre, s.w. Yukon, May 27 (CE, HG, PS). A vagrant Say's Phoebe, very rare on Van I., was at Rathrevor Park, Parksville, Apr. 3 (SM).

The usually sedentary House Wren was reported out of range at 4 locations. A singing male was at Kitsilano, Van., Apr. 29 (MP); another 25 km s. of Van. May 5 (JB); the Sunshine Coast's first and 2nd (a pair) at Sechelt May 19 (ED, TG, AS); its 3rd several kilometers away from this location May 23 and Nakusp's first May 16 (GD, MPa). This may

be the start of a range expansion. A Marsh Wren near Nakusp Apr. 11 provided the area's 2nd record (GD).

Up to seven Golden-crowned Kinglets were sighted in s. Yukon during May. This species is rare away from the coast at these latitudes. The Sunshine Coast, where one or two is a more usual spring number, was host to widespread small flocks of Townsend's Solitaires through April (TG). A few N. Mockingbirds were noted, with the last report of the overwintering bird in e. Van., Mar. 2 (JD), one at Parksville Apr. 8 (RT) and another near Oliver May 15 (CC). The last report of the Dusky Thrush in Langley was Apr. 9 (HNM, JAM). The bird, a male, sang occasionally as the days warmed.

A Tennessee Warbler was in Vic., where it is accidental, May 10 (†RS). Another was near Whitehorse May 29 (CE, PS). Two Nashville Warblers, rare on Van. I., were at Vic., May 16 (†DA, KT). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was at Revelstoke May 22 (BD, WD). This species, casual to BC, turns up more often at Revelstoke than at any other location. A wave of wheezy-voiced warblers whizzed through Van.'s Queen Elizabeth Park Apr. 28, with 75 each of Black-throated Grays and Townsend's (RT). The numbers fell to about 20 Black-throated Grays and 10 Townsend's May 5 (CAI) and then to 10 and 5, respectively, May 8 (RT).

No fewer than six Lazuli Buntings were reported from s.e. Van I. in May, with a maximum of four at Mt. Douglas May 22 (BRG). Lazulis are normally casual on Van. I. The first Dickcissel for Van I., a male, wandered to a Ucluelet feeder May 23–24 (BS, DGC, ph.). Clay-colored Sparrows push westward into the Bulkley Valley of w.-c. BC with singing birds at New Hazelton the latter half of May (MF, RSt) and at Then's Marsh in Smithers May 27 (RP). This follows from the population increase noted farther e. in the P.G. area during the past few years. Other individual Clay-colored were at White L., Penticton, May 15 (CC), Nakusp May 16 (GD, MPa), Golden May 24 (EZ) and near Creston May 29 (LL). Vesper Sparrows, probably of the now rare coastal subspecies, seem to be hanging on, with 1 at S. Pender I., Apr. 24 (EC, RWC), two frequenting the Nanaimo Airport Apr. 29 (RWC) and one at Port Alberni May 20–21 (DGC). At least 12 Le Conte's



Male Dickcissel at a feeder in Ucluelet, British Columbia, May 23, 1993. First record for Vancouver Island. Photograph/Donald G. Cecile.

Sparrows were found around Dawson Cr in May (SK, LL, MPh), good numbers for that area. A Lincoln's Sparrow was seen and heard to imitate the song of MacGillivray's Warbler, and the call notes of Swainson's Thrush, and W Tanager in the Kispiox valley (MF, KM, CW). An enormous fallout of 10,000–30,000 Golden-crowned Sparrows on the w. side of Van. I. occurred Apr. 29–May 2 (BCFO), thanks to steady rain and low stratus ceilings. Trees were dripping with the goldtops, which outnumbered every other bird in the Tofino–Long Beach area.

Northbound Lapland Longspurs were noted in meager numbers throughout the reporting area, missing some locations entirely. The largest flock of 1000 was noted, as usual, in the Peace, at Dawson Cr., Apr. 15 (SK, LL, MPh). A pair of Smith's Longspurs on Mt. McIntyre, s. Yukon, May 29 is rare in those parts (CE, PS). An ad. ♀ Yellow-headed Blackbird frequented Ucluelet May 16–24, providing a first local record (†DGC, BS). There were four reports for Yellow-headed from s.e. Van. I. during the same period.

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OREGON/WASHINGTON REGION

Bill Tweit and Jeff Gilligan

Our portion of the Pacific Ocean continued warmer than average. Was it a second consecutive El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) or an extension of the 1992 event? In either case, the birds appear to be responding similarly to last spring, with Cassin's Auklets almost absent and Brown Pelicans pushing north early.

Onshore, the weather was remarkably different from that of 1992. Replacing the unusual drought of 12 months ago, precipitation was well above average throughout the Region. April rainfall was twice the average everywhere, matched during March and May in w. Washington. The most dramatic changes were evident in arid s.e. Oregon. At the end of May 1993, Malheur Lake covered 60,000 acres, compared with only 400 acres in October 1992. Moon Reservoir in Harney was dry March 15 and held 8000 acre feet of water 2 days later.

On the west side, the cold, wet weather of April appeared to delay migrants and to ground those that had already arrived. The first half of May was much drier and warmer, and passerines seemed to move north with little disruption. Above-average numbers of interior passerines appeared on the west side, but eastern vagrants were meager.

Joe Evanich, a very active Portland-area birder, AB subregional editor, and author of *The Birder's Guide to Oregon*, passed away this June. He should have been with us longer.

Abbreviations: Fields (*Fields, Harney, OR*); Finley (*Finley N.W.R., Benton, OR*); Malheur (*Malheur N.W.R., Harney, OR*); O.S. (*Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor, WA*); Sauvie (*Sauvie I., Columbia, OR*); S.J.C.R. (*s. jetty of the Columbia R., Clatsop, OR*).

LOONS TO FALCONS

Four loon species were found together Mar. 14 behind Priest Rapids Dam on the Columbia R., Yakima, WA (AS), possibly an interior first: single Pacific, Red-throated, and Yellow-billed loons swam with several Commons. The Com. Loon count at Wickiup Res., Deschutes, OR, Apr. 15 (CM) was 438, an enormous inventory for the interior. No Yellow-billed Loons were reported on the coast.

The only spring pelagic trip was May 15 off Westport (TW), as earlier trips were weathered out. Three N. Fulmars, 11 Pink-footed and 400 Sooty shearwaters, and eight Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were very low numbers, although one Flesh-footed Shearwater provided some consolation. A Mottled Petrel dead on the beach at Bayocean, Tillamook, OR, Apr. 14 (HN) sufficed as the first confirmed spring record since 1985.

Three reports of Am. White Pelicans from

w. Washington were unexpected, with one in Clallam Bay, Clallam, Apr. 20 (D. Bryne), one subadult at L. Terrell, Whatcom, May 5–31 (S. Healey), and five over Bainbridge I., King, May 28 (J. Eddy). The key indicator of ENSO conditions in spring seems to be the early appearance of Brown Pelicans. Exceptionally early singles in Oregon were at Yaquina Head, Lincoln, Apr. 10 (*vide* RB), Gold Beach Harbor, Curry, Apr. 13 (AB), and Tillamook and S.J.C.R., Apr. 14 (HN); their numbers increased in late April and May. In Washington, 13 were at Klipsan Beach, Pacific, May 16 (D. Marshall), and 100+ were at O.S., May 29 (S. Richardson). Snowy Egrets at Naselle, Pacific, Apr. 25–May 3 (†AR) and at Lummi Flats, Whatcom, May 7–8 (†G. Myers, ph.) represented about the 9th and 10th w. Washington records. A Cattle Egret w. of Corvallis, Benton, OR, May 4–5 (*vide* HH) supplied a highly unusual spring record on the west side. White-faced Ibis are vagrants in Washington; one was at Toppenish N.W.R., Yakima, May 8–10 (*vide* AS), and nine were at Othello, Adams, May 13 (†AS). Malheur's 3000 nesting ibis pairs at Malheur (GI) was a vast improvement over the drought-related breeding failure of 1992.

A tantalizing single-person sight report of a Bean Goose with migrant Greater White-fronted Geese at Hoquaim, Grays Harbor, WA, Apr. 26 (†BW) was a first for the Region. A ♂ Tufted Duck at Snohomish, Snohomish, WA, May 2 (†SM) constituted the only report. A ♂ Smew found near McKenna, Pierce, Mar. 14–20 (D. & V. Morris, †BT) was possibly a northbound migrant, although concern has been raised that the bird was an escapee. It would represent Washington's 2nd record.

Black-shouldered Kite reports were encouraging, for the 2nd consecutive spring. In Oregon, their numbers were above average in both Douglas and Curry, with suspected nesting in both counties (*vide* R. Maertz, CD), they were also well reported from coastal areas in Coos, Tillamook, and Clatsop (*vide* HN). In Washington, single kites were seen near Cathlamet, Wahkiakum, Mar. 28–Apr. 30 (BT, AR) and at Nisqually N.W.R., Thurston, Apr. 7 (J. Patterson). More significant were a courting pair observed near Curtis, Lewis, Mar. 7 (B. Hughes, M. Chan) and a nesting pair close to Francis, Pacific, Mar. 26 (L. Carpenter). An active Red-shouldered Hawk nest found near Harbor, OR, Apr. 15 ensured the first confirmed breeding record for Curry (*vide* CD). Both the Swainson's Hawk at Seattle May 25 (RT) and the Ferruginous Hawk at Cape Flattery, Clallam, Apr. 14 (J. Martin) were rare in w. Washington. A Rough-legged near Washtucna, Adams, WA, May 8 (BT) was very late. Two Gyrfalcons were well described from w. Oregon in March: one north of the Winchuck R., Curry, Mar. 26 (†CD) and one at Sauvie until Mar. 13 (HN, m.ob.)

CHARADRIFORMS

Shorebird migration through e. Washington was very lackluster (AS, BW), while on the

coast it was best characterized as unremarkable. Only two Pacific Golden-Plovers were found, a low total indeed for this uncommon spring migrant. One was found at Bayocean Spit, *Tillamook*, OR, May 8 (HH) and one south of Newport, *Lincoln*, OR, May 9 (SR). A pair of Snowy Plovers appeared at O.S., Mar. 18 (Phil Persons), a very early arrival for the n. edge of their range. Solitary Sandpiper numbers were disappointing, with the only reports of one at Seattle May 16–18 (DP, RT) and four in the Willamette Valley (*vide* JG). Peak Whimbrel counts in the Puget Trough were 400 near Mt. Vernon, *Skagit*, May 2 (Herb Sargo) and 176 at Sedro Wooley, *Skagit*, May 9 (SM). On the coast, 1000 Whimbrels were found in Oregon from *Lincoln* south to the border May 9 (SR). Red Knot counts peaked at 1500+ at both Hoquaim, *Grays Harbor*, WA, Apr. 28 (GGe) and Bay Center, *Pacific*, WA, May 14 (RR); these are average highs for most years but above those for the past 3 spring seasons. Western Sandpipers totaled 200,000 at Bowerman Basin, *Grays Harbor*, WA, Apr. 24 (CCh). High counts of Short-billed Dowitchers were 5000 at Ocosta, *Grays Harbor*, WA, Apr. 24 (CCh), 6000 at Bay Center, *Pacific*, WA, Apr. 25 (AR), and 5000 at Leadbetter Pt., *Pacific*, WA, Apr. 29 (HN). Only 12 Red-necked Phalaropes, and no Red Phalaropes, were found off Westport, WA, May 15 (TW) and few were reported on-shore or inland.



the Chetco R., May 6, supplying one of Curry's few records (H. Richburg); observers continue to document new breeding areas in s.w. Oregon. White-throated Swifts returned to *Jackson*, OR, May 8, at Lower Table Rock (S. Janes), their only known breeding location on the west side. A ♂ Costa's Hummingbird in Bend May 10–16 (CM, m.ob.) constituted the only report of this annual post-breeding dispersant to Oregon. A ♂ Calliope Hummingbird in Seattle Apr. 18 (DP) comprised the only west side record of this interior species, as compared with last spring's 9 reports. A Lewis' Woodpecker was found at Nisqually N.W.R., *Thurston*, WA, May 9 (L. Carpenter); the species has become quite rare on the west side north of s. Oregon.

Willow Flycatcher arrival dates were 10 days early for the 2nd consecutive spring: *Jackson*, May 8 (SR), *King*, May 13 (RT), *Benton*, May 15 (HH), *Thurston*, May 15 (BT), *Lake*, May 16 (SSu). Least

Flycatchers, scarce migrants, were found at Malheur May 31 (AC) and at McDonald Park, *King*, WA, May 23 (GR). A considerable Dusky Flycatcher migration was noted through n.w. Oregon: one at W. Linn, *Clackamas*, Apr. 27 (D. van den Broek), 10 in Portland Apr. 28 (DM), and two in Portland May 3 (JG). In w. Washington, a Dusky appeared at Olympic Hot Springs, *Clallam*, May 18 (B. Norton) and a Gray Flycatcher at Seattle May 9 (KA). Both Dusky and Gray Flycatchers are casual on the west side, north of s. Oregon. A Black Phoebe at Summer L., OR, Mar. 8 (R. Madigan, *vide* SSu) was a *Lake* first and the 6th for e. Oregon. A possible nesting pair of Ash-throated Flycatchers was found south of Brookings, *Curry*, Apr. 25+ (CD) and another near Port Orford, *Curry*, May 27 (D. Munson); the species is rare on the Oregon coast. Western Kingbirds were more common in migration in the Willamette Valley (HH, HN) and in w. Washington (24 reports, m.ob.) than in recent spring seasons.

Several Purple Martin reports came from areas not recently occupied. A female sighted near Paisley, *Lake*, OR, May 19 (SSu) flew in the face of all accounts, the last of which was recorded back in the late 1970s. A ♂ Purple Martin in Corvallis Apr. 18 (HH) and one at Finley May 29 (M. Lippesmeyer) provided *Benton*'s first reports in 3 years. Two were at Mt. Erie, *Skagit*, WA, May 6 (P. DeBruyn). Evidence of Steller's Jay movements came from Seattle May 2 (N. Zimmerman), at Washucna, *Adams*, WA, May 8 (BT) and at Point No Point, *Kitsap*, WA, May 27. The latter birds were accompanied by one Blue Jay (VN). Away from their range in *Klamath*, Scrub Jays are recent arrivals in the Oregon interior. Spring records included birds in the John Day area, *Grant*, March–May 7 (*vide* T.

S.A.

Two censuses of Marbled Murrelets uncovered good numbers. On the Oregon coast, 100+ were counted at 3 *Lincoln* locations May 2 (KM). In Puget Sound, SM censused Marbled Murrelets off Mukilteo, *Snohomish*, from late March to early May and apparently found a major pre-breeding concentration. Sixty were noted Mar. 29 and the counts increased rapidly to a peak of 662, Apr. 11. For the remainder of April, counts were 300–400, tapering off to <100 in May.

Only three Cassin's Auklets were located off Westport May 15 (TW); on the basis of last summer's evidence, we assume that planktivores have been hardest hit by the ENSO. A Horned Puffin off Westport May 15 (†BL) represented the first live record off Westport in more than a decade.

An ad. Franklin's Gull was at the Walla Walla R. delta May 3 (AS); this species is becoming a more frequent spring and summer visitor to e. Washington. Single Heermann's Gulls at O.S., Apr. 5 (PtSu) and at the Rogue

OWLS TO WRENS

The last Snowy Owl of the winter was noted Mar. 29 in *Douglas*, WA (SJ). Unfortunately, Spotted Owl nesting activity was apparently negligible in the Siskiyou N.R., *Curry*, and in the Coos Bay area (S. Salmons). The Spotted Owl pair observed along the Rogue R., *Curry*, in April disappeared when a Barred Owl appeared May 1 (CD). Another Barred Owl arrived at Finley May 15 on (BB, m.ob.). The species is still rare in the low elevations of the Willamette Valley. As Long-eared Owl breeding records on the west side are scarce, this season's finds were significant: a nesting pair near Rockport, *Skagit*, WA (†G. Bletsch), another nesting pair n.w. of Ferndale, *Whatcom*, WA (F. Sears), and calling males near Hopewell, *Yamhill*, OR, May 8 (DL) and at Hagg L., *Washington*, OR, May 15 (GGi).

Two Com. Poorwills were discovered on

Winters), at Silver L., *Lake* until Mar 20 (SSu) and at fields May 30 (RH,GGi). A Canyon Wren at Oneonta Gorge, *Multnomah*, Mar. 13 (DB, JJ) is probably indicative of their continuing westward expansion in the Columbia R. gorge.

THRUSHES TO FINCHES

Male Blue-gray Gnatcatchers near Picture Rock Pass May 18 and on Winter Ridge May 28 (S & PrSu) were at previously unreported breeding areas in *Lake*; their breeding range is patchy in e. Oregon. Numbers of migrant Townsend's Solitaires were well above average in both w. Washington Apr. 12–26 (EH, SM, D&SS) and the Portland area Apr. 21–29 (DL, DM). Washington had only one report of a N. Mockingbird, noted at Tatoosh I., *Clallam*, May 22 (R. Paine, *fide* RT); Oregon had six (m.ob.). A Sage Thrasher at Willapa N.W.R., *Pacific*, WA, Apr. 11 (MP, †AR) was a vagrant from the interior. The ♂ **Black-backed Wagtail** at Point No Point, *Kitsap*, May 5–7 (VN, m.ob.) furnished Washington's 3rd record, all reported in May. A Loggerhead Shrike at Finley May 21 (D. & M.L. Copeland) was a rare spring visitor to the Willamette Valley.

Regular warbler migrants were quite conspicuous during the latter half of April. Masses of Orange-crowned Warblers were found along the outer coast in late April (BT). Nashville Warbler counts were markedly above average Apr. 17–May 4 in both w. Washington (EH, AR) and the Portland area (HH, HN), where they are casual. Their numbers were also higher than typical for the interior areas, where they are regular (SJ, *fide* MK, BW). Yellow-rumpeds were plentiful, including an unusually high proportion of Myrtles, throughout w. Washington, in late April (BT).

Records of casual and vagrant warblers included a ♂ Magnolia along Indian Ford Cr., OR, May 31 (GGi, RH) for a 2nd *Deschutes* record, a Palm in Seattle Apr. 19 (†D. MacDougall-Tracey), a ♀ Black-and-white in fields May 30 (HH) and a male in W. Richland, *Benton*, WA, May 26 (†BW), and two Ovenbirds at Malheur May 29 (RH, HH, AC). The best of a sparse lot was a ♂ **Prothonotary Warbler** at Malheur May 30–June 3 (RH, m.ob.), for the 4th Oregon record.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are annual visitors to the Region. This spring's sightings included males in Brookings, *Curry*, OR, May 15 (†CD), in Bend, *Deschutes*, May 22 (TC), and in Poulsbo, *Kitsap*, WA, May 30 (J. Carson). Noteworthy numbers of Lazuli Buntings were discovered May 10–15 in w. Washington, in areas not generally frequented (EH). Brewer's Sparrows are rarely found west of the Cascades; one in Portland Apr. 16–20 (PM, LW) and another in Bellingham, WA, May 23 (TW) furnished a first *Whatcom* record. Similarly, the Black-throated Sparrows found near Monroe, *Snobomish*, WA, Apr. 26–27 (J. Minikan) and at Finley May 15 (†HH) were also casual visitors. A singing ♂ Lark Bunting in W. Salem, *Polk*, May 15–16

(†R & M Raney) provided one of few spring w. Oregon records. And a White-throated Sparrow heard vocalizing at Snoqualmie Pass, *King*, WA, May 23 (B. Sundstrom) certainly chose an unusual spot at a remarkable time.

Not surprisingly, blackbird ranges continue to increase in our Region. Three Tricolored Blackbirds returned to the Portland colony by Apr. 14 (DB, HN) and six at Painted Hills, *Wheeler*, Apr. 8 (CM); a new colony was discovered at Clarno Marsh, *Wheeler* (J. Anderson, m.ob.). Yellow-headed Blackbirds turned up at a new colony in w. Washington, where they are rare breeders; 10 pairs were located s.w. of Lynden, *Whatcom* (F. Sears). Great-tailed Grackles, apparently increasing in frequency in Oregon, were found at several *Harney* locations: two at fields May 15 (*fide* GI), one at Hines May 20 (RV), and one at Malheur May 28 (GI). Common Grackles, also increasing in Oregon, were at Malheur May 15 (Larry Hammond) and in Coos Bay May 31 (B. Fawver), for a first *Coos* record.

A **Brambling** encountered at Newhalem, *Skagit*, Apr. 9–12 (G. Yeager, ph.) was Washington's 8th in the past 3 years. Red Crossbills remained scarce throughout Washington (SJ, CCh, BT, G & WH, D & SS) all spring. Evening Grosbeaks staged a sizable movement through the e. Cascades during the 3rd week of May (JT); some were still in the lowland interior oases (BT) and along Puget Sound (VN) at the end of May.

Initialed observers (subregional editors in bold-face):

Kevin Aanerud, David Bailey, Alan Barron, **Range Bayer** (*Lincoln*, OR), **Barb Bellin** (Salem area), **Thais Bock** (Tacoma area), Chris Chappell, Alan Contreras, **Tom Crabtree** (e. Oregon), Colin Dillingham, Jim Duemmel, George Gerds, Greg Gilson, Hendrik Herlyn, Glen & Wanda Hoge, Rich Hoyer, Eugene Hunn, Gary Ivey, Jim Johnson, Stuart Johnston, Merlene Koliner, Bruce LaBar, Donna Lusthoff, David Marshall, Kathy Merrifield, Craig Miller, Steve Mlodinow, **Marjorie Moore** (Rogue valley), Pat Muller, **Harry Nehls** (w. Oregon), Vic Nelson, Mike Patterson, Dennis Paulson, Bob & Georgia Ramsey, Lew Rems, Alan Richards, Russel Rogers, **Tom Rogers** (e. Washington), Skip Russell, Howard Sands, **Dory & Stan Smith** (Olympic Peninsula), Andy Stepnewski, Patrick Sullivan (PtSu), Steve & Priscilla Summers (S&PrSu), Jerry Tangren, Rob Thorn, **Carol Vande Voorde** (Clarkston area), Rick Vetter, Terry Wahl, Linda Weiland, Bob Woodley.—**BILL TWEIT**, P.O. Box 1271, Olympia, WA 98507; and **JEFF GILLIGAN**, 26 N.E. 32nd Ave., Portland, OR 97232.

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

David G. Yee, Stephen F. Bailey, and Bruce E. Deuel

As if on cue, birds that had disappeared in areas during the drought, such as Bald Eagle, Black-capped Chickadee, and Black-throated Sparrow, reappeared as heavy rains continued well into spring. And speaking of Bald Eagles, they are again nesting in *Monterey*. Marbled Murrelets may also have nested in *Monterey*.

Most observers felt that the landbird migration started very early, especially among swallows. Many counties recorded early arrival dates for a number of passerines. After somewhat of a lull in April, another late push came during the second week of May, particularly along the central coast. Sparrows and buntings were heavily involved in the movement.

It was a very poor season for rarities, almost antithetical to last year's picture. Even that vagrant capital, Southeast Farallon I., had little to report this spring.

One of the big highlights was the opening of the Big Sur Ornithology Laboratory at the Big Sur River mouth, *Monterey*. Patterned after Point Reyes Bird Observatory and Coyote Creek Riparian Banding Station, it is operated by the Ventana Wilderness Sanctuary. We look forward to its contribution to knowledge of the Region's avifauna.

Abbreviations: B.S.O.L. (*Big Sur Ornithology Lab., Monterey*); C.C.R.S. (*Coyote Cr. Riparian Banding Station, Santa Clara*); C.V. (*Central Valley*); Cyn. (*Canyon*); F.I. (*Southeast Farallon I., S.F.*); M.B.O.S.P. (*Monte Bello Open Space Preserve, San Mateo*); P.R.B.O. (*Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory*); S.F. (*San Francisco*); ph. (*photo on file with Regional Editors*). All records from F.I. and Palomar should be credited to P.R.B.O. Place names in *italics* are counties.

GREBES TO FRIGATEBIRDS

The grounding of five Eared Grebes in *Mono* in late March–early April was a rarely observed event. Considering that millions of grebes make long overland migrations at night, one might expect weather and other hazards to force them down more often. Twelve pairs of Eared Grebes were nesting at the Mountain View salt ponds, *Santa Clara*, May 11 (PJM). This species breeds around S.F. Bay only sporadically.

A Laysan Albatross found exhausted in a field near Tracy, *San Joaquin*, Apr. 30 was rehabilitated and released coastally May 2 (A Ramirez). The field was 20 mi from the San Joaquin ship channel; it is becoming increasingly difficult to attribute all S.F. Bay and inland records of this species to ship transport. Three of five Laysan Albatrosses at sea were

seen on trips far offshore. Both trips to 70+ mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes were rewarded with Murphy's Petrels, with five Apr. 25 (SFB, BHi) and nine May 10 (THK, BHi). The only Cook's Petrel was seen Apr. 25 (SFB, BHi). A Flesh-footed Shearwater offshore Monterey Mar. 27 (DLSH) was seasonally rare. A *Buller's Shearwater* 17 mi offshore Humboldt Bay May 1 (†BED, DFx, MHM) provided the first spring record for the Region. The last report of many Black-vented Shearwaters was of 73 passing Pt. Pinos, *Monterey*, in one hour Mar. 29 (SFB). One there Apr. 29 (DR) was the last individual.

Small numbers of Brown Pelicans lingered through spring, and 920 at Bolinas Lagoon May 24 (KH) was a large number for that date and latitude. Brandt's Cormorants nested for the first time on Año Nuevo I., *San Mateo*, with 37 nests built (GJS). An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird at F.I., May 20, was probably the same bird seen next day at Pescadero Beach, *San Mateo* (R. Mayer, M. Mayer).

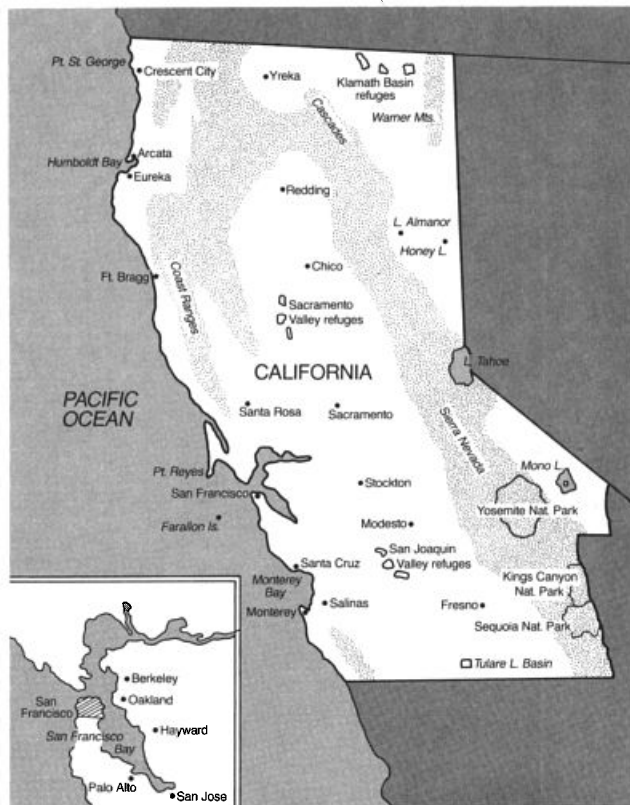
HERONS TO DUCKS

A Great Blue Heron nest found at Stowe L., Apr. 11 (DSg) may be the first recorded in S.F.; this species is expanding its nesting range along the c. coast. Up to two ad. Little Blue Herons were seen after Apr. 21 near Alviso (SCR *et al.*), still the only regular location in the Region. Straggling Cattle Egrets included two at Crowley L., *Mono*, May 9 (DWh) and four at Manchester, *Mendocino*, May 30 (JRW). The coastal White-faced Ibis flight was very light, with 15 at Ten Mile R., *Mendocino*, May 17 (DT), the only report involving more than single birds.

Presumably having been lost in the masses of wintering Tundra Swans, the *Whooper Swan* returned to Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, Mar. 20 (RE). As frequently occurs, a few Arctic-nesting geese lingered through May, most notably an imm. Snow Goose at MacKerricker S.P., *Mendocino* (DT) and a "cackling" Canada Goose at L. Mendocino, May 1 (RJK *et al.*).

A pair of Wood Ducks, thought to be casual in the Great Basin, were in the Pit R. Valley s. of Alturas, *Modoc*, Apr. 30 (DS). Sightings have been increasing recently. The only Eur. Green-winged Teals reported were singles at Gray Lodge W.M.A., *Butte*, Mar. 4 (TDM, BWb) and near Davis Mar. 14 (GEw), both inland, where they are casual. About 38 Blue-winged Teals were reported from all parts of the Region, below the recent average. The latest Eur. Wigeon, a male near Goose L., *Modoc*, Apr. 30 (DS), was also in the most unusual locale.

Redheads are sometimes parasitic nesters, as 3 chicks in a Mallard brood in Sunnyvale,



Santa Clara, May 2 (SCR) attested. A ♂ Tufted Duck at L. Talawa Apr. 1726 (ADB *et al.*) was only the 5th in *Del Norte*. Single Greater Scaup at Quincy Mar. 12 (†LJ, KL), Chester Mar. 20 (W), and Sierra V., Mar. 21 (†LJ) represented first *Plumas* spring records. Almost as rare were a male and female at Crowley L., Apr. 20 (ES).

Humboldt's wintering ♀ King Eider was last reported Mar. 25 (*vide* JM), while another female appeared at Año Nuevo State Reserve, *San Mateo*, Mar. 28–Apr. 4 (G. Sobraski *et al.*, ph. †RSTh). Ten Oldsquaws were found from Pt. Reyes to Monterey, including a female inside S.F. Bay at Doolittle Pond, *Alameda*, Apr. 1–May 8 (LRF *et al.*). A ♂ Black Scoter was at the Big Sur R. mouth Mar. 19 (†JDv), where they are very scarce. Barrow's Goldeneyes were gone by late March, except for a pair 5 mi e. of Truckee, *Nevada* May 1–2 (†M. Meyers). They didn't stay to nest, however. Twelve Red-breasted Mergansers, a very high number, were found inland.

RAPTORS

Three Osprey nests at Camanche Res., *Amador* and *Calaveras*, and another at the Mokelumne R. e. of Clements, all found May 29 (J. Atkinson), were surprisingly low in the foothills; the latter was the first nest for *San Joaquin*. Bald Eagles lingered in widespread areas, apparently reflecting both increased numbers and the increased water supply after the drought, as at Modoc N.W.R., where an adult stayed until May 20 (RLR). The reintroduction of Bald Eagles to *Monterey* by the Ventana Wilderness Sanctuary is working. A pair of eagles hatched in 1988 raised 2 nestlings

near L. San Antonio, though the nest may be just across the line in *San Luis Obispo* (JDv, CHo). This is the first Bald Eagle nest in central-coastal California since 1934. Migrating Swainson's Hawks straggled to coastal counties at the lower Pajaro R., *Santa Cruz*, Apr. 25 (CKF), the Ukiah sewage ponds, *Mendocino*, May 1 (RJK *et al.*), and Chews Ridge, *Monterey*, May 22 (JMa, A. Verdi). A "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk on the *Butte-Sutter* line was nicely drawn Mar. 4 (†TDM, BWb). *Thirteen* Ferruginous Hawks, including ≥3 adults, were in Surprise Valley, *Modoc*, May 1 (DS). An abundance of Belding's Ground Squirrels appeared to concentrate these hawks, and some may linger to nest. The Ferruginous Hawk was first confirmed nesting in California in 1988 (AB 44:1182).

RAILS TO PHALAROPES

Calling Black Rails at Palo Alto Baylands Apr. 26–27 (MMR, WGB, SCR) furnished the first spring record for *Santa Clara*. North of their regular range along

the coast were single Com. Moorhens at Ft. Bragg, *Mendocino*, Apr. 19 (DT) and Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt* May 23–26 (TWL, J. Roberti). A Black-bellied Plover at the Redding sewer ponds May 3 (BED) provided one of very few records for *Shasta*, a county with little shorebird habitat. A Lesser Golden-Plover at Alviso Apr. 22–May 1 (SCR *et al.*) was described as *dominica*, a rare find in spring.

Black-necked Stilts venturing n. of S.F. Bay included one at Ukiah, *Mendocino*, May 1 (RJK *et al.*) and 2 pairs nesting at L. Berryessa, *Napa* May 18 (G. Gambel). Unusually large numbers of Lesser Yellowlegs were found in the n.e., with nine s. of Alturas Apr. 30 (DS), 10 on the Madeline Plains, *Lassen* May 4 (DS), and 16 in Sierra Valley Apr. 5 (LJ). Solitary Sandpipers were reported in slightly above-average numbers, with four coastally Apr. 23–May 5, five in the interior Coast Range Apr. 29–May 8, and five in the C.V., Apr. 18–May 2. Six Willets at Big Cr., 1500', *Fresno* Apr. 11 (RAK) were at a most unusual location on the w. slope of the Sierras. A *Hudsonian Godwit* at Lower Klamath N.W.R., May 31 (†B. Williams) supplied only the 2nd Regional spring record. In the "rare inland" category were a Ruddy Turnstone at Black L., *Mono*, Apr. 22 (†ES); one Red Knot at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Apr. 25 (RE) and four at Middle Alkali L., *Modoc*, May 4 (DS); and 11 Sanderlings in Sierra Valley Apr. 25 (†LJ) and one at Delevan N.W.R., *Colusa*, Apr. 27 (DS, M. Wolder). Semipalmated Sandpipers had a very light showing, with just one on Pt. Reyes May 1 (SBT, LT) and one at Mt. View Forebay, *Santa Clara*, May 16 (JMCK). Baird's Sandpipers may be regular on the w. edge of

the Great Basin, four at Goose L., Apr 29 (DS) mark the 4th consecutive spring sightings there. However, one in Sierra V., Apr. 25 (†LJ) was a first in spring for *Plumas*. A wintering Ruff remained near Lemoore, *Kings*, until May 4 (JSe, A. Gordus); one was at Consumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento*, Mar. 31–Apr. 2 (JMHu, MP, †TDM, GEw); one appeared in Alviso Apr. 21–May 8 (SCR *et al.*); and one was at Sutter N.W.R., Apr. 26 (DS, M. Wolder), a first for *Sutter*.

LARIDS, ALCIDS

A Long-tailed Jaeger and a S. Polar Skua far s.w. of Pt. Reyes May 10 (THK) were both rare in spring. The first basic Laughing Gull lingered at L. Mendocino until Mar. 3 (*fide* JM), almost certainly the same bird seen at the Palo Alto Duck Pond, *Santa Clara*, Apr. 17 (G. Walter). All represented first county records. Three Franklin's Gulls in *Marin*, May 5–28 (J. Kelly *et al.*), as well as two in *Kings* May 20 (SBT) were all adults. The imm. Com. Black-headed Gull that remained at Arcata until Mar. 9 (RJA) moved to the Mad R. Estuary Mar. 14–Apr. 6 (RLeV, JH). An ad. Mew Gull at the Lyalton sewage ponds Mar. 13–14 (†M. Myers, †LJ), Sierra's first, was very rare in our mountain district.

The high counts for migrant Black Terns were 18 at Hayward (RJR) and 11 at Grant L., *Santa Clara* (MJM), both May 9 around S.F. Bay, and 185 at the Woodland sewage ponds in the C.V., May 13 (MP). A rare Black Skimmer rested at the Pajaro R. mouth, *Santa Cruz* and *Monterey*, May 21 (ELb). The same day two skimmers stopped at Bolinas Lagoon, for *Marin*'s first, departing next day flying N (CLF, ph. PP, m.ob.).

Two ad. Pigeon Guillemots at E. Marin I., Apr. 16 were at a new site well inside S.F. Bay (RS). An alternate-plumaged Marbled Murrelet at the Big Sur R. mouth *Monterey*, Mar. 16 (†JDv, CHo, L. Henkal, B. Christman) was the first documented for the Big Sur coast but suggested possible breeding in the nearby Redwood–Douglas-fir canyons (DR). The only Ancient Murrelet seen later than March was far s.w. of Pt. Reyes May 10 (BHi). alcids continue to colonize or prospect Año Nuevo I., *San Mateo* (all GJS). Three pairs of Cassin's Auklets were present, but no nesting was yet confirmed. Ninety-seven Rhinoceros Auklet nests was far more than in previous years. A Tufted Puffin was likely prospecting there.

PIGEONS TO WOODPECKERS

Observers for the *Santa Clara Breeding Alert Atlas* found nesting Band-tailed Pigeons at Alum Rock Park Mar. 21 (MMR) and Henry Coe S.P., May 8 (SCR), confirming breeding in this portion of the Diablo Range. Long-eared Owl continues to be one of our least understood owls, especially regarding its breeding requirements. There are few nesting records for the edge of the Sacramento Valley, so a nest containing young at the Spenceville Wildlife Area, *Yuba*, May 26–28 (†BW, TDM) was of interest.

Three Lesser Nighthawks at Paynes Cr.

Wildlife Area, *Tehama* May 16 (G Horn, J Coon) flirted with the n. limit of the species' range. Thirty-eight Black Swifts over Croy Ridge, *Santa Clara–Santa Cruz*, May 12 (DLSu) and 70 over M.B.O.S.P., May 22 (SCR) represented substantial movements along the Santa Cruz Mts. Recently, such large concentrations have been primarily along the immediate coast. Few are recorded in the Sacramento Valley, so 6 birds over the Spenceville Wildlife Area May 28 (†TDM) were a welcome sight. A very rare Chimney Swift over Pt. Reyes May 17 (RS) provided our earliest spring record ever.

The Anna's Hummingbird at Tom's Place May 14–25 (CDHa) was *Mono*'s 3rd for spring. Not only were the 2 previous spring records at CHHa's feeders, but nearly all extralimital records and early arrival dates of *Mono*'s hummingbirds come from here (ES), exemplifying the significance of feeders. Up to 10 Costa's Hummingbirds in Gloria Valley, *San Benito*, May 14 (DLSh) was a noteworthy concentration. The wintering male at Fair Oaks, *Sacramento*, has seemingly taken up residency, as it was present at the end of the period (GEw). Costa's x Anna's hybrids are reported with fair regularity; one was at Pt. Reyes Station May 25 (RS).

Single Red-naped Sapsuckers at Berkeley, *Alameda*, Mar. 6–11 (JsC, m.ob.) and Carmichael, *Sacramento*, Mar. 27–28 (†WEH, GEw) were rare spring migrants in the w. portion of the Region. The Red-breasted X Red-naped sapsucker hybrid at McCumber L., *Shasta*, May 15 (R. & N. Moden) was one of few reported in recent years.

FLYCATCHERS TO THRASHERS

For the 3rd consecutive spring the Region had a strong Hammond's Flycatcher movement, with about 42 observed Mar. 29–May 16, again mostly in the Diablo Range. Singles in *Monterey* May 9 (L. Bevier) and at Pt. Reyes May 12 were a rare find along the c. coast, as was one Dusky Flycatcher at the Big Sur R. mouth May 8 (B.S.O.L.); only six migrant Dusks were noted in the Region. Three singing territorial males were again found on Mt. St. Helena, *Sonoma*, May 16 (BDP; AB 46:447). Gray Flycatchers had a higher-than-average total with 10 birds, including one May 12 at Pt. Reyes (RS), where they are very rare.

The last dates for our wintering E. Phoebes in Davis and Livermore were Mar. 14 (GEw) & 22 (JsC), respectively. Such wintering individuals have recently been annual events, but birds at Dechambeau Ponds, *Mono*, May 8 (†J. & D. Parker, J. Finkbeiner) and Manteca, *San Joaquin*, May 22 (†DGY) were casual spring vagrants. The wintering Ash-throated Flycatcher in Davis was last seen Mar. 13 (WEH). In addition to the nesting pair at the Tracy Golf Course, *San Joaquin*, Apr. 18 (WRH), Cassin's Kingbirds were at San Ardo, *Monterey* as early as Mar. 5 (DLSh), along Mines Rd., *Alameda*, Mar. 20 (†JMR *et al.*), and in Panoche Valley, *San Benito*, Apr. 4 (DSg, DL). This species continues to be one of the least detected nesters in our Region.

Pre-June E Kingbirds are rare, so four found coastally May 22–30, with a record-early bird at Pt. Reyes May 10 (RS), was noteworthy.

The arrival of two ♂ Purple Martins at the colony in Old Sacramento Mar. 6 (GEw) matched the early date for the Region. Large numbers of martins collected over Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt*, Apr. 1–May 20, including a Regional high count of 120 (BBA). Six Bank Swallows at Año Nuevo S.P., *San Mateo*, Mar. 6 (GJS) were record early. Yellow-billed Magpies rarely venture out into the San Joaquin Delta, so one at Bethel I., *Contra Costa*, May 28 (Gfi) came as no surprise.

The return of two Black-capped Chickadees to Greenhorn Park, *Siskiyou*, Mar. 14 (RE) after several years' absence may have been induced by the break of the drought. A Townsend's Solitaire on Mt. Diablo May 4 (KGH) and a Varied Thrush at Los Gatos, *Santa Clara*, May 30 (A. Campbell) were late lingerers. The wintering Sage Thrasher at Bay Farm I., *Alameda*, was last observed Mar. 14 (JM). One of the few highlights from F.I. this spring was a Brown Thrasher May 17.

VIREOS, WOOD WARBLERS

Monterey's first spring "plumbeous" Solitary Vireo was in *Monterey* May 9 (L. Bevier) The Yellow-throated Vireo at Pt. Reyes May 17–23 (RS, †JM, m.ob.) was a very rare spring vagrant, whereas Red-eyes at B.S.O.L. and at Pt. Reyes, both May 23 (RS), were rare for May despite last year's phenomenal showing.

Three Tennessee Warblers along the c coast May 15–23, including one slightly inland at Mt. View Shoreline Park, *Santa Clara*, May 25 (SCR), constituted a decent showing. Last season's amazing invasion of s.e. U.S. nesters dotting the state was an anomaly for all species except N. Parula. While totals come up shy compared with last year's, 16 N Parulas Apr. 16–May 31, primarily along the c coast, was far and away the 2nd highest total. Considering the presence of large numbers, early arrival dates, ≥5 territorial males, and successful breeding for the past 2 years, we may be on the verge of a major range expansion in the West.

One Chestnut-sided Warbler at Mt. Tamalpais, *Marin*, May 29 (D. Weintraub) and three Magnolia Warblers along the c.coast May 16–25 were average spring numbers. Close scrutiny of Townsend's–Hermit warbler flocks produced three Hermit x Townsend's warbler hybrids, one each at Mt. Diablo Apr. 24 (D. Sandee) and May 11 (JMR) and Fremont Park, *Monterey*, May 2 (†ph. DSi). Very rare warblers for spring were one Blackburnian at Pt. Reyes May 16 (T Easterla), a Yellow-throated at Gazos Cr Road, *San Mateo*, May 19 (†RSTh), and a Bay-breasted at F.I., May 23. A Palm Warbler in Glen Park, S.F., Apr. 8 (JsC) may have wintered locally, while two others discovered coastally Apr. 24 and May 1 were typical migrants. Four Blackpoll Warblers were evenly split between Pt. Reyes and *San Mateo*, May 21–31.

Three Black-and-White Warblers May

15–23, for Am Redstarts Apr 19–23, and two Ovenbirds May 23–24, all along the c. coast, were average totals. A N. Waterthrush at C.C.R.S., May 2–5, and Hooded Warblers at Tilden Regional Park, *Contra Costa*, May 3–4 and at C.C.R.S., May 23–24 (J. Buffa, R. Colwell) were slightly inland. Another Hooded was coastal at B.S.O.L., May 30–31.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Summer Tanagers at Bolinas, *Marin*, May 9 (PP) and at B.S.O.L., May 22 were above-average finds for spring. A nest-building ♀ W. Tanager at Fremont Peak May 22 (CT) was the first confirmed nesting for the Gabilan Range (DR). An impressive 13 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found May 4–31, including three in the interior. The Blue Grosbeak at Benton Valley Apr. 22 (†ES) was the 2nd for Mono away from Oasis. An Indigo Bunting in Novato, *Marin*, Apr. 5 (H. Karr) may have wintered locally. A male at Mare I., Apr. 21 (†DAsh) was *Solano*'s first, but one at Gazos Cr. Road May 25 (BS) at an expected locale. A Green-tailed Towhee at Arcade Cr., *Sacramento* Apr. 30 (WEH) was a C.V. vagrant. Late winter records of Am. Tree Sparrows in the n. country are rare but expected; singles were at Ferndale, *Humboldt* Jan. 23–Mar. 13 (S. Rovell, D. Sandee, m.ob.) and Crescent City, *Del Norte*, Mar. 7–9 (ADB). Unexpected was one in Walnut Cr., Mar. 29–Apr. 7 (†Gfi), *Contra Costa*'s 2nd. Always rare away from F.I. in spring, a Clay-colored Sparrow was in Petaluma, *Sonoma*, Apr. 16–18 (ChW, AWi). A Brewer's Sparrow at Spenceville Wildlife Area, *Yuba* May 23 (BW) carried the label of vagrant, but five to six singing on territory at McArthur Swamp May 30 (BY, CY) strongly suggested nesting and established the 2nd record for *Shasta*. Reports of two Black-chinned Sparrows on Rayhouse Road, *Yolo*, May 13 (MP) were among few county records.

After a 6-year absence, six Black-throated Sparrows were again found in the Kilgore Hills, *Siskiyou*, May 28 (RE). Extralimitals were at Spenceville Wildlife Area Mar. 22 (†BW) and at F.I., May 11–17. Grasshopper Sparrows continue to be well reported (see *AB* 43:534); however, their occurrence in and around the edge of the C.V. remains mysterious. Two birds in Merced, *Merced*, Mar. 2 (D. Gray) and singles at Pixley N.W.R., *Tulare*, Apr. 2 (J. Engler) and W. Butte Road, *Sutter*, May 29–June 1 (BWb, J. Conry, TDM) have few precedents. A Harris' Sparrow in Redding May 8 (BY) was late. Lapland Longspur departure dates of Mar. 14 at MacKerricher S.P., *Mendocino* (DT) and Mar. 21 at Pt. Reyes (AD) were typical. Quite atypical were two breeding-plumaged Chestnut-collared Longspurs in Foster City, *San Mateo*, Apr. 18 (†J. Hanson). There are few, if any, spring migrant records away from F.I.

Undoubtedly a result of the break in the drought, large breeding colonies of Tricolored Blackbirds were again reported from the San Joaquin Valley: 50,000 n. of Pixley N.W.R. during March–April and 20,000 in

w *Kings* (both J. Engler) Thirty birds prospecting for nesting sites near Alturas, *Modoc*, Apr. 30 (DS) were noteworthy in our Great Basin district. Great-tailed Grackles continue to invade the Region, as two in Benton Valley, *Mono*, Apr. 22 (ph., ES), ≤4 at Ft. Bidwell, *Modoc*, May 17 (RL), and ≤6 at Honey L. Wildlife Area, *Lassen* May 30 (†BMS) were Regional firsts in the Great Basin; however, they have been annual in e. Oregon. An actual nesting colony of 8–10 birds was found in Fresno as of May (D. Winton *et al.*). The Pine Siskin invasion through the lowlands remained prevalent into May, with single remnants in *San Joaquin* noted May 28 in Ripon (S. Viss) and Lodi L., May 29 (DGY).

Corrigendum: In *AB* 46:477, the Red Knots at Mono L. should be credited to Mike McClaskey, not Mac McCormick. In *AB* 46:476, the number of Tufted Puffins on Castle Rock in 1992 was published (due to a reporting error) as two to four, instead of the correct 40.

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Guy McCaskie

The heavy rains of winter came to an abrupt end in March, but near double the normal precipitation left the entire Region wetter and far lusher than normal. Some of our summer visitors appeared a little earlier than expected, in the flurry of migrant activity of March and early April, but this encouraging onset soon dissipated, particularly along the coast. Several of the low-pressure areas that regularly develop in the Gulf of Alaska at this time of year moved south to Southern California in May. Two of these lows brought rain, leaving the coast clear of the normal overcast that appears to collect migrants; observers at such concentrating localities as Point Loma in San Diego found remarkably few birds where one would expect to find many. The May 9 weather front did ground a large number of western migrants in coastal San Luis Obispo County, but landbird migration elsewhere along the coast was considered "unspectacular," "quite slow," and "well below average" by various active observers.

Inland, heavy movements of landbirds were encountered passing north through Butterbredt Springs in the extreme southern foothills of the Sierra Nevada in late April and early May. Thousands were seen transiting this small oasis early April 17 and May 8 (MTH), and an estimated 12,000 passed through on the morning of April 29 (REW). By mid-May the push appeared to be over, and observers searching for vagrants at desert oases in late May found virtually no migrants, in contrast to sightings of previous years. Could it be that the abundance of lush vegetation throughout the interior permitted migrants to stop anywhere, thereby negating the concentrating effects of oases? Or is there, in fact, a major decline in migrant landbirds?

Abbreviations: C.L. (*China L. Naval Air Weapons Station. extreme n.e. Kern Co.*), E.A.F.B. (*Eduards Air Force Base, s.e. Kern Co.*); F.C.R. (*Furnace Cr. Ranch, Death Valley Nat'l. Monument, Inyo*); H.D.L. (*Harper Dry L., n.w. of Barstow, San Bernardino Co.*), N.E.S.S. (*n. end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.*); S.B.C.M. (*San Bernardino Co. Museum*); S.B.M.N.H. (*Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History*); S.E.S.S. (*south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.*); S.F.K.R.P. (*South Fork Kern R. 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/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 HERONS

A Red-throated Loon at S.E.S.S., Apr. 24 (PAG) was only the 3rd to be found at the Salton Sea, and another near Chino, *San Bernardino*, Apr. 30 (JEP) was in an unexpected locality. A Pacific Loon, rare inland, on L. Perris, *Riverside*, Mar. 13 (MAP) was believed to have been present for several days. Seventeen Com. Loons on L. Skinner, *Riverside*, Apr. 8–May 11 (RMcK) was a large number for an inland locality. An alternate-plumage Horned Grebe near Cantil, *Kern*, May 8–15 (MTH) was late for a spring migrant and at a desert locality. The Red-necked Grebe in Santa Barbara during the winter remained through May 11 (PEL) to establish one of the latest dates for this species in S. California.

A Laysan Albatross at N.E.S.S., May 2 (RMcK) was the 9th to be seen in s.e. California/s.w. Arizona, with all but a dead bird near Yuma July 8, 1988 (Kenneth V. Rosenberger *al* Birds of the Lower Colorado R. Valley, 1991) found May 2 & 21, all believed to have been "trapped" in the Gulf of California while seeking an overland route back to the Pacific Ocean. A Laysan Albatross near Pt. Sal, *Santa Barbara*, Mar. 21 (JMC, *S B.M.N.H.) was one of a very few to be found dead on a California beach. A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, most unusual in S. California waters, was seen from the Playa del Rey jetty, *Los Angeles*, May 10 (KL). An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird in Goleta, *Santa Barbara*, May 22 (E & LY) was much earlier than expected, as this species is normally found in S. California late June–early September.

An imm. Little Blue Heron at Pt. Mugu, *Ventura*, Mar. 17–early May (BSi) was the only one found along the coast north of *San Diego*, and an adult photographed near Big Pine May 8–9 (T & JH) was the 3rd to be found in *Inyo*. An ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron on San Elijo Lagoon, *San Diego*, May 14 (FH) is assumed to be the individual frequenting this general area of the coast since fall 1981. A Wood Stork in the Prado Basin near Norco, *Riverside*, May 3 (JEP) was unseasonable and far from any area of expected occurrence.

WATERFOWL TO RAPTORS

Three marked first-year Trumpeter Swans on Klondike L. near Big Pine Apr. 5 (BH_a) were undoubtedly the same trio working this general vicinity in December and January. A Brant in El Monte, *Los Angeles*, Apr. 11 (PS) and another near Lancaster, *Los Angeles*, May 2–8 (KLG) were the only two reported inland away from the Salton Sea. The ♂ Tufted Duck found on Lopez L., *San Luis Obispo*, Jan. 3 was still present Mar. 14 when accompanied by another male and a female (KAR), and the male that spent the winter near Santa Maria, *Santa Barbara*, was last seen Mar. 7 (JMC). The Oldsquaw observed inland at S.E.S.S. during the winter was still present Mar. 23 (BK).

A Turkey Vulture on San Nicolas I., Apr.

23–30 (GeM) was the first to be found on any of the Channel Is., apart from San Clemente I.. A Black-shouldered Kite in the Lanfair Valley of e. *San Bernardino*, May 15–29 (MAP) was far out of range. A Swainson's Hawk in Irvine, *Orange*, Apr. 22 (BED) and another near Moorpark, *Ventura*, Apr. 23 (RAE) were close to the coast, where they are now considered extremely rare. A Zone-tailed Hawk near the coast in Malibu Cr. S.P., *Los Angeles*, Apr. 25 (KFC) would appear to represent the first documented record for *Los Angeles*; another at F.C.R., Apr. 11 (DW) was the 3rd to be found in *Inyo*, and an immature at Ft. Piute in extreme e. *San Bernardino*, May 16 (REW) is the 3rd to be reported from that locality.

SHOREBIRDS TO ALCIDIS

A Pacific Golden-Plover near Del Mar, *San Diego*, Apr. 4 (EG), up to 12 near Santa Maria Apr. 30–May 8 (PEL), and six on San Nicolas I., Apr. 22–May 11 (GeM) had all probably wintered locally. A hybrid American x Black Oystercatcher with up to four Black Oystercatchers on Pt. Loma in San Diego Mar. 3–26 (EA) is believed to be the same bird present here last spring (*AB* 46:480, 1992). A Black-necked Stilt on San Nicolas I., May 17 (GeM) was only the 2nd discovered on the Channel Is. More than the expected number of Solitary Sandpipers passed through the Region, with nine reported Apr. 14–May 7. A Wandering Tattler at C.L., June 4 (MTH) is one of less than a half-dozen to be found inland away from the Salton Sea. An Upland Sandpiper near Independence, *Inyo*, June 13 (AK) was the 6th to be found in California in spring, the previous five sightings occurred May 15–28. Three Whimbrels were found in the high desert portion of the Region, where they are rare—one in Barstow, *San Bernardino*, May 2 (MAP), another on Owens L., *Inyo*, May 5 (T & JH) and a late individual at F.C.R., May 30 (CH). A Ruddy Turnstone at E.A.F.B., May 8 (DVB) was the only one noted inland away from the Salton Sea. A Black Turnstone, very rare to casual inland, was at S.E.S.S., May 1 (GH), and two more were at N.E.S.S., May 4 (GMcC). Casual for inland, a Surfbird was on the Salton Sea at Salton City Apr. 24 (CMcG, MAP, PAG), as was another, May 7 (GMcC). Two Sanderlings at E.A.F.B., May 22 (MTH), another there May 29 (MTH), and a 4th near Lancaster May 8 (KLG) were the only ones found inland away from the Salton Sea. Single Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen an area at N.E.S.S., May 1 (MAP) & 4 (GMcC) where small numbers are found each spring; however, one Semi at H.D.L., May 7 (REW) and another at F.C.R., May 29 (MAP) established first and 2nd spring records, respectively, for *San Bernardino* and *Inyo*. A Baird's Sandpiper, rare in spring, was at C.L., May 1 (JCW). A Pectoral Sandpiper, also rare for the season, turned up near Santa Maria Apr. 30–May 3 (JMC). The spring movement of Stilt Sandpipers through the Salton Sea peaked at 215 Apr. 27 (PEL). A Reeve photographed at Pt.

Mugu May 10–16 (LS) was believed to be the same bird present near Port Hueneme during the winter, and a migrant was in Playa del Rey Apr. 14 (DK). Two Red-necked Phalaropes in the San Pedro Channel off Long Beach, *Los Angeles*, Mar. 21 (NBB) had probably wintered locally.

A S. Polar Skua near Anacapa I., May 22 (SEF) and another in the San Pedro Channel June 5 (KLG) were observed at the peak of the spring records off S. California. A Laughing Gull at S.E.S.S., May 23 (KLG) was earlier than usual. This species is a regular post-breeding visitor to the Salton Sea; an adult in La Jolla, *San Diego*, June 1 (DP) was unexpected along the coast. At least 20 Franklin's Gulls Apr. 17–June 2 was about normal. Two Mew Gulls near Lancaster Apr. 25–May 8 (KLG) were far inland, as was a first-year Glaucous-winged in Salton City May 1 (KFC). Twelve Sabine's Gulls sighted 40–60 naut. mi WSW of Pt. Conception Apr. 17 (MH) were somewhat early.

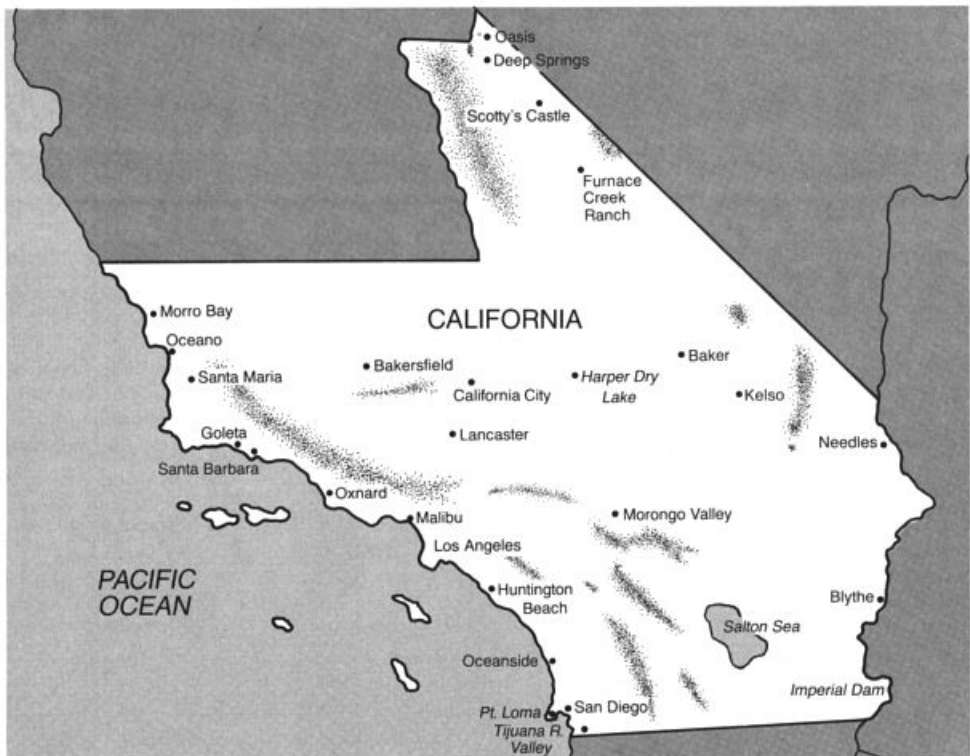
A stunning ad. Arctic Tern photographed 40 naut. mi WSW of Pt. Conception Apr. 17 (MH) was a month earlier than the previous early-spring bird recorded for California. A first-year Arctic Tern, casual on the Salton Sea in late spring, was at Salton City June 2 (GMcC). A Least Tern, accidental inland away from the Salton Sea, was photographed at F.C.R., May 31 (JM). A Least Tern in Bolsa Chica, *Orange*, Mar. 29 (JSB) was the earliest spring migrant ever to be found in California. Ten Black Terns in Saticoy, *Ventura*, May 7 (VK) and six on Oso Flaco L., *San Luis Obispo*, May 8 (TME) were larger than currently expected numbers along the coast. These observations coincided with a heavy movement through the interior on the latter date—850 in the Antelope Valley of e. *Los Angeles* (KLG) and 90 at E.A.F.B. (MTH). An Ancient Murrelet, rare in S. California waters, captivated Prisoner's Harbor on Santa Cruz I., May 6 (WBT).

DOVES TO VIREOS

A White-winged Dove at Little Lake, *Inyo*, May 3 (RHN) was somewhat n.w. of the species' normal range. A Com. Ground-Dove on Vandenberg A.F.B., May 10 (FS) was north of the species' known range. At least two Ruddy Ground-Doves remained at F.C.R. winter–June 4 (GMcC), and at least one was seen along the Colorado R. near Blythe, *Riverside*, May 25–31 (SC, RJ). A Groove-billed Ani, a first for *Santa Barbara*, was photographed in Goleta Apr. 13–June 8 (KL). The bird was believed to be present earlier and, if so, probably arrived with the influx of last fall/early winter. A N. Saw-whet Owl was met at a most unusual locality, Butterbredt Springs near Cantil May 3 (REW). In one hour, 13 Black Swifts traveling N over Butterbredt Springs May 21 (SBT) were the first to be seen at this heavily birded "oasis" and among a very few recorded in the deserts of this Region. A Chimney Swift near Cantil June 5 (MTH) was the 2nd for *Kern*.

An exceptional find was two migrant E

Phoebes—one at well-watched Hollywood Res., Los Angeles, Mar. 14–15 (JF) and the other in the equally well-birded Sepulveda Basin in Encino, Los Angeles, Mar. 21 (JF). A ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher near Weldon, Kern, May 126 (SL) was n.w. of the species' known range. The Thick-billed Kingbird that spent the winter in Seal Beach, Orange, was last seen Mar. 20 (NBB). Three E. Kingbirds were found—one (photographed) inland in the Kelso Valley of n.e. Kern, May 22 (BHi), another at F.C.R., May 29–30 (GLT), and a 3rd along the coast near Shell Beach, San Luis Obispo, June 4 (DS). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Solana Beach, San Diego, Mar. 27–28 (BM) was believed to be the same bird reported in this area Dec. 4, having spent the winter undetected; another near Norco, Riverside, Mar. 11–30 (HEC) may also have been present all winter, but single birds at Panamint Springs, Inyo, May 30 (SBT) and another at Owens L., June 8 (T & JH) were spring vagrants. Single Purple Martins near Lancaster Mar. 25 (DRW) and in Huntington Beach, Orange, Mar. 26 (BED) were early migrants; another at F.C.R., May 27 (REW) was in an area in which few have been found in recent years. A Brown Thrasher



Fourteen Tennessee Warblers scattered throughout the Region May 5–June 5 was about normal. We had more than the expected number of N. Parulas, with 22 at various localities throughout the Region Apr. 19–June 9. Four Magnolia Warblers were reported, with single birds on San Nicolas I., May 23 (GeM), Pt. Loma in San Diego May 26 (MBS), in Huntington Beach June 3–4 (JEP), and inland near Cantil June 4 (MTH). A ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler at Butterbrecht Springs May 15 (DVB) was one of just a few to be found in California in spring. Two Yellow-throated Warblers, casual stragglers to California, were found, with one near Hansen Dam near Sunland, Los Angeles, May 14 (DA) and the other photographed in Torrance, Los Angeles, June 6 (KL). A Palm Warbler in San Luis Obispo Mar. 18 (GPS), another in Goleta Apr. 16 (KB), and a 3rd inland in Banning, Riverside, Mar. 15 (RMcK) had all probably overwintered locally. A singing Bay-breasted Warbler in Harbor Regional Park near San Pedro, Los Angeles, June 8 (JI) was one of only a few to be found in California in recent years. A ♂ Blackpoll Warbler, always an unusual find in spring, was at Butterbrecht Springs May 17 (REW). Black-and-white Warblers appeared to be a little more numerous than usual, with 22 reported Apr. 3–June 6. By contrast, Am. Redstarts were a little scarcer than normal, with only 18 reported May 11–June 6. Two Prothonotaries were found: a male on the coast near Laguna Beach, Orange, May 6 (RAE) and a female inland at Iron Mt. Pump Station in e. San Bernardino, May 31 (RJ). Ovenbird numbers were slightly lower than normal, with one in Yucca Valley, San Bernardino, May 19 (GH) and three more in e. Kern, May 17–June 1 (REW, SBT). Far fewer than usual were re-



Female Ruff in alternate plumage at Point Mugu, California, May 16, 1993. Photograph/Don Desjardin.

ports of three N. Waterthrushes in the e. part of the Region May 8–June 1 (BHi, GH, SBT) and one on the coast in Irvine May 14 (DRW); one near Norco Mar. 22 (JEP) had probably wintered in the area. Two Kentucky Warblers were found in Kern, with a male at Butterbrecht Springs June 4–5 (MTH) and another at S.F.K.R.P., June 10 (SL). Hooded Warblers came in with a respectable nine, but a dim comparison with last year's influx. Single males were noted inland at Mesquite Springs in Death Valley N.M., May 9 (REW), in No Name Canyon near Pearsonville, Inyo, May 16–17 (DVB), and at Galileo Hill, Kern, May 20–22 (MTH) & 29 (MTH), as well as along the coast near Leucadia, San Diego, Apr. 16 (DRW), in Huntington Beach May 15 (BED), at Costa Mesa May 17 (RAH), at Chino Hills S.P., San Bernardino, May 22 (BHo), and in Goleta June 9 (PEL). One Hooded at Hansen Dam Apr. 28 (DA) was more likely the same bird present here in January than a migrant.

Reports of Summer Tanagers well outside areas of expected occurrence included single

er, casual in spring, was near Laguna Beach, Orange, May 7–8 (BED), and another was near Needles, San Bernardino, June 10 (FJA). Unprecedented numbers of White-eyed Vireos, normally considered a casual vagrant anywhere in the West, appeared for the 2nd consecutive year, with single singing males on the coast in Huntington Beach, Orange, May 8 (PS) & 31–June 1 (JSB), another in Goleta June 6 (PEL), and a 4th inland near Inyokern, Kern, May 23 (H & PB). A Yellow-throated Vireo, another casual straggler to California, was in Huntington Beach May 23 (JEP), and a 2nd was in Goleta June 1 (PEL). A Red-eyed Vireo, a more regular straggler to California than the previous 2 species, was heard singing in Coronado, San Diego, June 14 (EC).

WOOD WARBLERS TO FINCHES

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Far inland was this Least Tern at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley National Monument, California, on May 31, 1993. Photograph/John Mariani.

males at F.C.R., May 27 (REW) and near Big Pine May 30 (T & JH) in the n.e. portion of the Region, as well as another on n. Vandenberg A.F.B., *Santa Barbara*, May 15 (BHi). Nine Rose-breasted Grosbeaks May 14–June 8 was far fewer than expected, as were only 11 Indigo Buntings during the same period.

Up to four singing Cassin's Sparrows were discovered in the Lanfair Valley of e. *San Bernardino* May 8–30 (REW *et al.*, *S.B.C.M.), where 15 were present in 1978 after a similar wet winter (AB 32:1057, 1978). A Rufous-crowned Sparrow at 2300 m on Clark Mt. in e. *San Bernardino*, May 15 (REW) was probably of the race *scottii* previously known only from the New York and Providence Mts. to the south. Four Lark Buntings near Blythe Mar. 20 (RMCK) were at the w. extreme of this species' winter range, but another near Shandon Apr. 3 (JSR) is one of less than a half-dozen to be found in *San Luis Obispo*. A wintering Swamp Sparrow in Irvine remained through Mar. 13 (BED); another near Norco Apr. 5 (JEP) was believed to have wintered in that area, but one in the Sepulveda Basin in Encino Mar. 28 (RB) and another in Harbor Regional Park near Long Beach Mar. 20 (KL) were both believed to be spring transients. A wintering Harris' Sparrow was at F.C.R. through Mar. 31 (T & JH), two more were in Independence through Apr. 28 (AK), and another was in Orange through Apr. 18 (JSB), but one on Pt. Loma in San Diego Apr. 3–11 (TC) was probably a migrant. Two Chestnut-collared Longspurs photographed in the Saline Valley, *Inyo*, Apr. 10 (T & JH) were unusually late.

The only Bobolinks reported were a female



Chestnut-collared Longspur in the Saline Valley, Inyo County, California, on April 10, 1993. Photograph/Jo Ann Heindel.

May 29 (CH) and a male May 30–31 (GMCC), both at F.C.R. A Com. Grackle, a casual straggler to California, was at Cottonwood Springs in Joshua Tree N.M., *Riverside*, Apr. 17 (DEQ). Bronzed Cowbirds were again found north of their known normal range, with a male near Tecopa, *Inyo*, June 1 (JM), a female at F.C.R., May 21–30 (GMCC), and a male photographed at nearby Scotty's Castle May 18 (T & JH). The ♂ Orchard Oriole present in Goleta during winter remained through Mar. 23 (ZL). Four Northern (Baltimore) Orioles were reported, with a male inland at Scotty's Castle May 14 (T & JH), single males on the coast in Huntington Beach May 11 (JSB) and on Pt. Loma in San Diego May 19 (DWA), and a female off the coast on San Nicolas I., May 23 (GeM).

Red Crossbills were widely distributed throughout the desert mountains of *Inyo* and *San Bernardino* during May (REW, T & JH, JM).

Observers (county coordinators in boldface):

Douglas W. Aguillard, Eva Aiken, Dustin Alcalá, Fred J. Alsop, Ron Beck, David V. Blue, Jeffery S. Boyd, Karen Bridgers, N. Bruce Broadbooks, Hank & Priscilla Brodtkin (H & PB), Kurt F. Campbell, **Eugene A. Cardiff** (*San Bernardino*), Jaime M. Chavez, Henry E. Childs, Sue Clark, Therese Clawson, **Elizabeth Copper** (*San Diego*), Brian E. Daniels, **Tom M. Edell** (*San Luis Obispo*), Richard A. Erickson, Shawneen E. Finnegan, Jon Fisher, **Kimball L. Garrett** (*Los Angeles*), Peter A. Ginsberg, Edward Greaves, Freeman Hall, Robert A. Hamilton, Bob Harvey (BHa), Gjon Hazard, **Matt T. Heindel** (*Kern*), Mitch Heindel, **Tom & Jo Heindel** (T & JH) (*Inyo*), Brad Hines (BHi), Bob Holcomb (BHo), Charles Hood, John Ivanov, Richard Jeffers, Dan Kahane, Virgil Ketner, Andrew Kirk, B. Kuntz, Zev Labinger, Kevin Larson, Steve Laymon, **Paul E. Lehman** (*Santa Barbara* and *Ventura*), John Mariani, Gerry McChesney (GeM), Chet McGaugh, **Robert McKernan** (*Riverside*), Barbara Moore, Richard H. Neuman, Michael A. Patten, James E. Pike, David Povey, David E. Quady, Kurt A. Rademaker, William R. Radke, James S. Royer, Florence Sanchez, Larry Sansone, Brad Sillasen, Gregory P. Smith, David Sterner, Mary Beth Stow, Philip Swan, Scott B. Terrill, Gerald L. Tolman, W. Breck Tyler, Richard E. Webster, **Douglas R. Willick** (*Orange*), John C. Wilson, David Wimpfheimer, Elaine & Lisle Young (E & LY). An additional 60+ observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports this season.—GUY McCASKIE, *San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, P.O. Box 1390, San Diego, CA 92112.*

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

Robert L. Pyle

Spring and summer are the driest months of the year, on average, and rainfall amounts this spring continued well below even these low monthly averages. Dry months are expected to continue at least through the summer, apparently resulting from some large-scale features generally associated with El Niño conditions. Seven healthy chicks were added this spring to the world population of the *Endangered* Alala, and critically needed studies of nesting of other *Endangered* Hawaiian forest-birds are progressing well.

Abbreviations: B.P.B.M. (prefix for catalog numbers of specimens in B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu); F.F.S. (*French Frigate Shoals*); H. (*Hawai'i I.*); K. (*Kaua'i I.*); M. (*Mau'i I.*); O. (*Oahu I.*).

ALBATROSSES TO DUCKS

At Kaena Pt., O., four Laysan Albatross chicks hatched in the state Natural Area Reserve this season, but three perished because

of too much interest from visiting people and dogs. The fourth is expected to fledge successfully (DS). In recent years a few adults have frequented a small plateau at 1200-ft elevation on the mountainside back of Kaena Pt. This year 2 nests were started there; one was abandoned, but the other chick hatched and was doing well at season's end (DS). This may well be a new altitude record for successful nesting by Laysan Albatross.

Single Buller Shearwaters were sighted a few miles off the coast of n. Kona, H., Mar. 14 and May 2 (TS). Among a few white-rumped storm-petrels observed at sea between Kaua'i and Laysan I., Mar. 5, 6, & 8 (JM) and off n. Kona, H., May 2 (TS), one or two each date were confidently identified as Leaches, and the remainder were thought to be Leaches as well.

Late Mar. 11, 325 Cattle Egrets were counted coming to roost along the lower Kalihiwai R. on Kaua'i's n. shore. Birds were still arriving after counting stopped (CD). The White-faced Ibis wintering around Hanalei, K., was reported again during the 3rd week of March (DK, TS).

A ♂ Cinnamon Teal, probably the same that had wintered at James Campbell N.W.R., O., was reported at adjacent Amorient Aquafarm May 28 (PD), a very late date for migratory ducks here. One each Green-winged Teal, Am.

Wigeon, and Bufflehead, all in ♀ plumage, were reported this spring at Laysan I. (JM, EF), where any migratory duck is a straggler.

PHEASANTS TO GULLS

A fine ♂ Green Pheasant (now considered a race of Ring-necked Pheasant) was observed well Mar. 8 at Pu'u La'au cabin on the w. slope of Mauna Kea, H. (TS), an unusual locality for this gamebird. Most bizarre report of the season was of a Kalij Pheasant, normally a forest dweller, found dead and floating at sea 5 mi off Honokohau harbor, H., May 2 (TS)—a bit out of range even for this species, which has expanded far and wide on Hawai'i I. in recent decades.

During a survey of the Kihei Lagoon/Reef Runway area on O'ahu Apr. 20, a pre-migration gathering of 1321 (Pacific) Golden-Plovers was counted (PB), including 840 at one station. Eighty-five percent were in breeding plumage. A week later, 886 Ruddy Turnstones were counted, most in breeding plumage, on the opposite side of O'ahu at Kualoa Park Apr. 29 (PB). These large pre-migration gatherings are known to occur, but specific counts at specific spots are seldom recorded. Numerically small by comparison, but reflective of the species' social habits, a group of three Wandering Tattlers was ob-

served spiraling high into the sky and then heading N, probably bound for the Arctic (PB, Makena, M., mid-April).

A 2nd-year Herring Gull landed on a vessel at sea 45 km s.e. of Tern I., F.F.S., Mar. 14 (ph JM). A fine-plumaged ad. **Slaty-backed Gull**, observed alive at Sand I., Midway Atoll, Feb. 28–Mar. 7 and picked up dead Mar. 8 became Hawaii's first specimen (B.P.B.M.) of this rarely reported accidental visitor. A winter-plumaged Black-legged Kittiwake, well-described, was seen Mar. 13 (only) at Tern I., F.F.S. (M. Webber, *vide* EF).

'ALALA TO GRACKLES

Japanese Bush-Warblers were found to be "common" this spring on Mana Ridge in extreme w. Kaua'i (TT). One was heard in Wainiha Valley on the n. shore (TP), indicating wide dispersal over this island, which they have colonized only during the past decade. Reports of one to three O'ahu 'Elepaios this spring on 4 different trails (EVW,VS) were encouraging indeed. Red-billed Leiothrix also continue to come back on O'ahu. Sixteen were recorded on Aiea Trail Mar. 15 (PD) and five on Nu'uuanu Pali Drive near the lookout Apr. 22 (LT). Yellow-faced Grassquits are being reported more frequently farther north in the Ko'olau Mts., O. During March and May, three to five were located on Kipapa, Poamoho, and Ko'olau Cr. trails (EVW). One ♂ Great-tailed Grackle continues (since 1986) to be found regularly at Sand Island Park, O. (PB); an employee reported two males coming regularly some months ago, but not recently (*vide* PB). At Walker Bay on Waipi'o Pen., 2 sightings, spaced a few minutes apart, of a different-looking female-plumaged Great-tailed Grackle (in

different lightings), were thought most likely to be the same individual (BE, MR). One female has been reported at Waipi'o irregularly since 1980. The origin of these individuals is unknown.

HAWAIIAN HONEYCREEPERS

Two sightings of Maui Parrotbill (*Endangered*) were reported near the s.e. edge of Haleakala N.P., M., Mar. 18 (Manawainui) and Apr. 14 (Kaupo Trail) (*vide* VG). Near the opposite corner of the Park, in Waikamoi Preserve, a pair of Parrotbills was observed building a nest in late March and incubating in April (EVG). The nest failed, perhaps the result of infertile eggs, but it was collected (CE) and is the first-ever preserved nest built by this species (B.P.B.M.—178889). In Hanawi, 10 km. e. of Waikamoi, biologists found a 2nd nest Apr. 7, from which one young fledged successfully May 5 (JLo). A 3rd Parrotbill nest was observed under construction in Waikamoi May 1, in the same tree that supported the first, perhaps a 2nd attempt by the same pair (EVG). Except for 2 reported during the 1980s as probable Parrotbill structures, these are the first known nests of this species, and the first to be described and studied.

Research continued this spring on several nests of 'Akohekohe (*Endangered*) in Waikamoi, where last year the first known examples were discovered and studied. This year a windstorm Mar. 1 dislodged a 2-week-old 'Akohekohe chick from one of the nests. After several unsuccessful attempts to return the chick to its parents, the chick was placed at the Captive Propagation Facility at Olinda. It has since developed into a healthy vigorous young bird (CE), the first young of an *Endangered* Hawaiian Honeycreeper to be raised in captivity.

S.A.

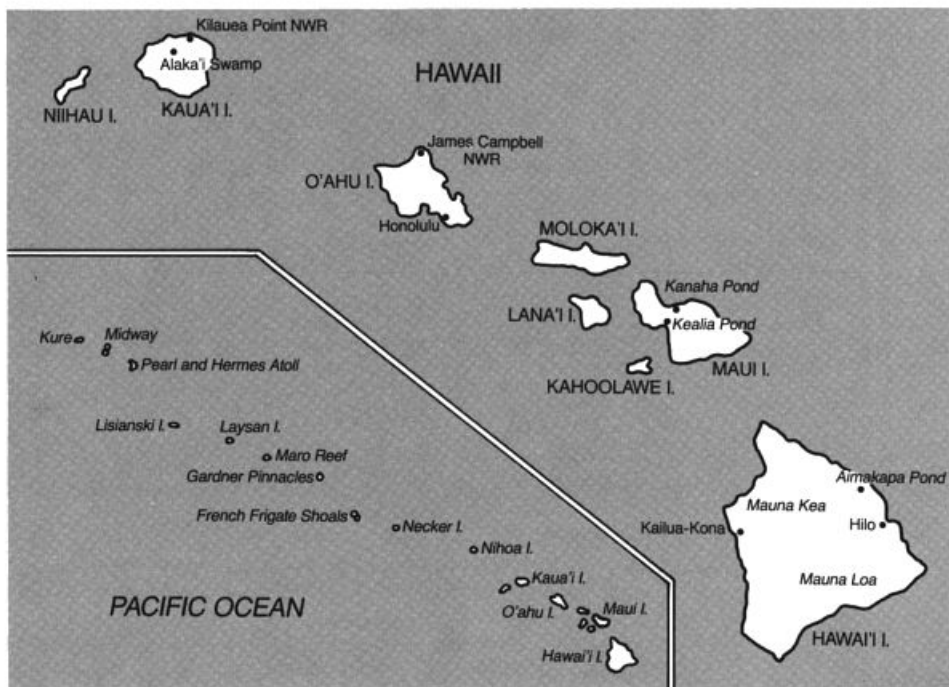
Very good news for the 'Alala (Hawaiian Crow, *Endangered*) this nesting season. In accord with an agreement with landowners reached after contentious litigation, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service biologists removed 8 eggs from first clutches of three wild 'Alala nests in the McCandless Ranch area of Hawai'i I. One egg was infertile and one was malformed, but the other six hatchlings were raised successfully in a specially built incubation and rearing facility nearby. Five are now in a hacking facility in preparation for release. The 6th will be placed in the state's Endangered Species Captive Propagation Facility at Olinda, M., as a first step toward broadening the genetic base of that badly inbred captive flock. In the wild flock, 2nd clutches were laid in one or two nests, but all were lost, apparently through predation. This fate probably befell nearly all nestings attempted in the wild before this year.

In the captive flock at Olinda, one chick was hatched successfully out of 5 eggs in 2 clutches laid by one female. One of the other eggs was infertile, and the remaining 3 embryos died during incubation or hatching, from various causes attributed to excessive inbreeding within this group (FD).

Production of this many healthy young in a single season is unprecedented. *Corvus hawaiiensis* now totals 17 known individuals in the wild (a recent report of a very late egg found may presage an 18th) and 13 in the Olinda captive flock.

Long-term studies on nesting of *Endangered* 'Akepa, 'Akiapola'au, and Hawai'i Creeper, as well as non-*Endangered* honeycreepers, continued at Hakalau N.W.R., H. Nesting success overall has been way under par compared with last year's showing. The probable cause is the unusually poor blooming of ohia-lehua, attributed to the season's dry conditions (JLe).

Contributors: Phil Bruner, Ann Carter, Colin Dillingham, Peter Donaldson, Fern Duvall, Chris Eckart, Bruce Eilerts, Elizabeth Flint (USF&WS), Ed Greaves, Vicki Grieve, Dave Kuhn, Jaan Lepson, Julie Lockwood, Jeff Marks, Donna O'Daniel, Jerry Oldenettel, Thane Pratt, Michael Reed, Nanette Seto, Vaughn Sherwood, Dave Smith, Tom Snetsinger, Lance Tanino, Tom Telfer, Eric VanderWerf, Ellen VanGelder, Kathleen Viernes, Kenneth Wheeler.—ROBERT L. PYLE, 741 N. Kalaheo Ave., Kailua, HI 96734.



WEST INDIES REGION

Robert L. Norton

Important observations have been reported from Barbados, covering the spring as well as last fall and winter. Regular reporting from Barbados (MF, EM) could provide some of the most exciting migration information since the days of market shooting, when MBH canvassed the shooting swamps. The routine occurrence of "vagrant" marsh and shore birds reported from Barbados should place its wetland habitats at the top of the international conservation roster.

St. John, U.S.V.I., was visited (J & KS) March 2-9. The wanderlust Smiths twice ferried from Ft. Lauderdale, Fl, to Freeport, Grand Bahama, March 7 and May 3, providing a 4-hour "pelagic count" of birds over the Gulf Stream en route. They also visited Jamaica March 23-31. Another pelagic trip was undertaken April 9 out of Barbados (MF, EM). A tour of Abaco, Grand Bahama, New Providence, and Great Inagua, the Bahamas, late March-early April provided some surprises as reported by AWW. All Jamaica's endemic species were observed in 8 days, and nearly all the n. Bahamas' native species and subspecies, with the exception of the extirpated W. Indian Woodpecker, were noted during 2 spotcheck visits (PW & SS). The Region's endemics, however, remain at critically threatened fauna. There was no word on the status of Barbados' Yellow Warbler.

Rainfall measured by the National Park Service at Cruz Bay, St. John, U.S.V.I. (POR100+ years) this season was barely below average, with -59% in March, +22% in April, and +16% in May.

Weather conditions developing along the seaboard of N. America the weekend of Mar. 13-14 created some birding excitement in Bermuda a few days later. The big storm provided a flurry of early spring dates for several shorebirds, only the 2nd record of **Little Gull**, and two Swallow-tailed Kites.

Abbreviations: Barb. (*Barbados*); Mart. (*Martinique*); St. J. (*St. John*); St. V. (*St. Vincent*); U.S.V.I. (*U.S. Virgin Is.*).

SHEARWATERS TO TERNS

Twenty Audubon Shearwaters were observed during the Gulf Stream crossing Mar. 7, but only two were seen May 2 in the same area (all PWS *et al.*). Single Audubon's and Leach's storm-petrels were seen on the Apr. 9 pelagic trip out of Barb. (MF, EM). A Red-billed Tropicbird was watched flying around cliffs at St. Lucy, Barb., Apr. 24, for one of the few land-based sightings there, suggesting nest-site prospecting. A Mar. 3 sighting (J & KS) of a Double-crested Cormorant at Great Cruz Bay, St. J., represents only the 3rd record for the island, but the species has recently been found to be increasing in the U.S.V.I. The small W. Indian race of the Double-crested Cormorant was found at Paradise I., New Providence, Bahamas, and in large numbers (500+) at Great Inagua Apr. 4 (AWW). Single dark-morph Reddish Egrets were at Morant Bay, Jamaica, Mar. 29, and at McLean's Town, Grand Bahama, May 4 (PWS *et al.*), providing unusual localities for this form. The Little Egret, recorded during the past winter as the 2nd for Barb., was joined by another at Graeme Hall Swamp Apr. 27 (MF, EM). This could be the start of something big (Murphy, *Col. Waterbirds*, 1993).

A ♀ Ruddy Duck was seen Apr. 24 at Greenland, St. Andrew, Barb., providing one of the few records of the century (MF, EM) from the Lesser Antilles. A juv. ♂ Peregrine Falcon that apparently wintered at Barb. was last seen Apr. 6 (MF, EM). Two Swallow-tailed Kites were seen Mar. 31 (AWW) on Abaco. In a flock of Am. Golden-Plovers, a single **Pacific Golden-Plover** (*fulva*) was photographed (PB, FB, MF, EM) at Golden Grove Swamp, Barb., Apr. 24, as evidence of the first W. Indian record. A Wood Sandpiper provided the 2nd record for Barb. and W. Indies, where it has wintered since Nov. 28, 1992. It remained at an artificial (shooting) swamp until Apr. 19 (MF, EM). Two Red Knots were seen Mar. 27 at Treasure Beach, Jamaica (PW & SS, AS, RS), providing perhaps the first record for that locale, as well as a spring record of Pectoral Sandpiper (ADow, 1990). A bit more commonplace or routine for Barb. were Ruffs and Reeves as late as Apr. 18 (MF, EM). A **Wilson's Phalarope** at

L. Rosa, Great Inagua, Apr. 4, was a first Bahamas (Buden, 1987).

Eight Pomarine Jaegers were sighted after the midpoint of the Gulf Stream crossing Mar. 7 (PWS *et al.*), and one was seen an hour out of Freeport, Grand Bahama, May 5 (PWS *et al.*). Three Parasitics (including one dark morph) were seen Apr. 9 (MF, EM) on a pelagic trip out of Barb., for one of the few reports of this species in the Region. More than 20 Roseate and 30 Least terns were seen (PWS *et al.*) May 3 at Freeport Harbor, Grand Bahama, an area of historical nesting for both species, but a few weeks too early for confirmation. A Bridled Tern was seen Mar. 7 (PWS *et al.*) en route Freeport, Grand Bahama.

PIGEONS TO BLACKBIRDS

A White-crowned Pigeon was reported at St. V. in March (AB, *fide* MF), providing perhaps the first record for the island. Three Key West Quail-Doves were seen (PWS *et al.*) May 5 in coastal coppice of the Lucayan N.P., Grand Bahama. Eared Doves were confirmed as breeding residents at Ruby, St. Philip, Barb., Feb. 27 (MF, EM, DA, AK), when a juvenile was found among 6 birds. During the spring period, it was determined that the St. Philip Parish population consists of about 50 birds (DA). The n. limit of Eared Dove occurrence in the Lesser Antilles to date is Mart., with 2 records. But at Vieux Ft., the s. tip of St. L., there appears to be a very local population among which seasonal nesting may occur. They gather in large flocks in fall (Ffrench, 1973), possibly migrating southward for the winter. This species' range has been spreading northward via Trinidad and Tobago since the mid-1950s. Three Chuck-will's-widows were heard calling at Lucaya, Grand Bahama, May 4 (PWS *et al.*), where they may nest. A **Whip-poor-will** was heard calling and singing in the predawn hours at Marshall's Pen., Jamaica, Mar. 27 (PW & SS), for an island record (Bond 1988; Downer & Sutton, 1990) and the only W. Indian record outside Cuba (AOU 1993).

A pair of resident Brown-headed Nuthatches was located at Lucaya, Grand Bahama, May 5, in an area searched unsuccessfully in early March (PWS *et al.*). Two Fork-tailed Flycatchers Apr. 29-30 at Graeme Hall Swamp further attested to the Trinidad-Tobago to Barb. migration-trap pathway. A carefully studied **Virginia's Warbler** was reported at Observation Hill, Dover Sound, Grand Bahama, Mar. 8 (PW & SS, PR, RC). Details are expected elsewhere. A ♂ Hooded Warbler, first seen in February 1993 (AK) and securing the first Barb. record, remained at Graeme Hall Swamp until Mar. 9 (MF, EM).

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