Metropark, Willoughby May 15 (JSm, †RHa, †JP et al.). Most encouraging were the reports of two singing Swainson's Warblers along state highway 444 in *Calloway*, KY May 19–28 (MM et al.) and another at Red R. Gorge, *Powell*, KY May 28 (JBe, PB). Summer Tanagers continued their northward expansion with a half dozen reports n. of their normal range. A definite bright spot in the Iowa migration was the appearance of a & W. Tanager near Swan L., Apr. 25–26 (†DDa, †TK, †JF).

Grosbeaks to Finches

The northward push of Blue Grosbeaks continued this spring with several sightings well beyond their normal range; one pushed northward to the Morton Arboretum, on Chicago's w. side, May 13 (†CA). A & Blackheaded Grosbeak at Big Creek S.P., IA May 15 (†E&†EA) was noteworthy. Clay-colored Sparrows were widely reported in Iowa; records farther east included four in Illinois, two in Indiana, and one in Ohio. One-two pairs of Lark Sparrows were found in pastures 5 mi w. of Harrodsburg, KY (FL, WK). Henslow's Sparrows were reported from all the n. states; the peak count was ten in Van Buren, IA May 5–8 (JF). LeConte's Sparrows were detected only in Illinois and Iowa, where seven and three were recorded respectively. Noteworthy among the three Sharp-tailed Sparrows seen in Illinois was a very early arrival at Decatur May 7 (MD, †RPa). The only other Sharp-tailed was seen in *Polk*, IA May 20 (SD, GB). Also quite early was a Lincoln's Sparrow discovered at Potato Creek S.P., IN Mar. 21 (†JCd). The largest Smith's Longspur counts e. of the Mississippi R. involved >80 at Rantoul and Penfield, IL Mar. 27 (RCh) and 50 in *Parke*, IN Apr. 15 (ABr). The only significant Snow Bunting accumulation consisted of 300 at Ottawa N.W.R., OH Mar. 6 (RHa).

Yellow-headed Blackbirds returned to their traditional nesting area at L. Cal., where 15 pairs were observed May 30 (JL). A remarkably late ♀ Rusty Blackbird was found in Jax. P., May 26 (†PC). The Great-tailed Grackle range has significantly expanded in Iowa, where 19 reports were made in the w. third of the state (fide JF). A well described \$\pi\$ "Bullocks" N. Oriole was found in Macon, IL May 7 (†RPa, MD). Crossbills were scarce, with only 2 Red Crossbill reports and 3 White-winged Crossbill reports from the Region. Following last winter's invasion, Com. Redpolls lingered in many states until early April. The largest accumulations consisted of 200 in Steuben, IN Mar. 17 (Haw) and 55 at Conneaut, OH Mar. 23 (ES). Birds showing marks consistent with the Hoary Redpoll were documented in Steuben, IN Mar. 6 (†Haw), Michigan City, IN Mar. 12 (†LH), and *Lake*, OH Mar. 16–17 (†JP, ph.). The latest among several May Evening Grosbeak sightings occurred at Headlands Beach S.P., OH May 14 (LR).

Uncorroborated Reports

The following were seen by multiple observers and may be valid, but documenting materials were not received: single Olivaceous Cormorants in Missouri at Bilby Ranch Lake W.M.A., Apr. 28–May 24 and at Big L., May 5–7; Cinnamon Teal in *Jefferson*, IL Apr. 9 and in *La Salle*, IL May 7; Black Rail in *Saline*, IL May 4; Little Gull at Table Rock L., MO Mar. 5.; and Hoary Redpoll *La Salle*, IL Mar. 9.

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Central Southern Region

DAVID P. MUTH, PETER H. YAUKEY, AND STEVEN W. CARDIFF

The spring passed without exceptional weather and without notable coastal fall-outs, despite some weather systems with "seemingly perfect timing." Many observers waited in vain all winter for the miserable weather in the north to send vagrants to our Region However, as might be predicted in the utterly unpredictable world of vagrancy, the northern birds waited for spring. Records included both crossbills and extraordinary coastal occurences of King Eider, Purple Sandpiper, and Common Redpoll. The beaches of Louisiana were crawling with gulls, many of them northern vagrants. There was only moderate vagrancy from the west, highlighted by Lesser Nighthawk in Alabama, Say's Phoebe in Tennessee, and Lazuli Bunting in Arkansas. The most astonishing vagrant of all, however, was a Black-tailed Godwit, adding more luster to rice-field birding.

In the following report, all Louisiana records are treated separately. Once again, no reports were received from coastal Mississippi.

Abbreviations: A.O.U. (American Ornithologists' Union); F.H. (Fish Hatchery); L.B.R.C (Lousiana Ornithological Soc. Bird Records Committee); L.S.U.M.N.S. (La. State Univ Museum of Natural Science); p.a. (pending acceptance); W.R. (Waterfowl Ref.).

Loons to Nighthawks

An alternate-plummaged Com. Loon calling in Panola, MS May 13 was fairly late (GK, VT). Four-hundred Horned Grebes Apr. 1, two-thirds in alternate plumage, had disappeared from Center Hill L., TN by Apr. 10 (SJS, BHS). Rare inland spring Eared Grebes were in Colbert, AL Apr. 8 (WJR, GNP) and Adams, MS Apr. 30 (TLS, MHu). An Am. White Pelican that provided the first wintering record for Sumner, TN remained until May 11 (TJW). An ad Masked Booby provided a very rare observation from shore when it flew past Dauphin I., AL Apr. 18 (JH, p.a.). American Bitterns apparently nested in Shelby, TN (fide JRW), nowadays there are few Regional nesting reports. Two pair of Least Bitterns, very local nesters inland, also nested in the vicinity (JRW). There were 5 rare spring inland reports of Tricolored Heron Apr. 13–May 14 in Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama. Surprising were inland *Plegadis* at Centerton F.H., AR May 4 (RD, PR), and a probable Glossy in *Coffee*, TN Apr.20–26 (ELR, DD *et al.*) (details submitted were inadequate to rule out White-faced).

The only Tundra Swan reported lingered in Oktibbeha, MS until Apr. 15, by which time it had begun to show yellow in the loral area (MC, TLS, m.ob.) A lone Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was unexpectedly n. in Bradley, AR May 14 (VF, JGi). A rare in Mississippi Ross' Goose at Noxubee N.W.R. was last seen Mar. 4 (TLS). A very rare & Cinnamon Teal was seen in Sevier, AR Apr. 5 (DA). A late report was received of a Black Scoter Feb. 8, providing the first record for L. Chicot, AR (DRS, JRW). The only inland report of a scoter was a late Surf in Lauderdale, TN May 15 (JRW). Another rare duck was a Com. Merganser in Shelby, AL Mar. 28 (A&AM). A Golden Eagle in Eagle, AR Mar. 16 was the only report (KN). A "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk was very far east in Perry, AL Mar. 6 (GDJ, DGJ). Only a single Swainson's Hawk was reported, Apr. 6 in *Polk*, AR (DA,FB). Ruffed Grouse were found on the periphery of their range in 3 locations in Putnam, TN (SJS, BHS, RWS). The northward migration of Sandhill Cranes from the southeast just touches this Region in e. Tennessee; this year flocks were noted in Putnam Feb. 18-19, Mar. 5 (RWS), and Mar. 6 (SJS, BHS).

Inland Black-bellied Plovers included single birds in *Lafayette*, MS May 4 & 27(GK); two in Colbert, AL May 27 (SWM); and one in Shelby May 28, and two in Dyerand one in Lake, TN May 30 (JRW). Rare inland Blacknecked Stilts included one Apr. 30 in Desoto, MS (GK, SK, JRW) and two in Jefferson, AR May 28 (K&LN). The breeding colony in Shelby, TN grew to 20 pairs after Apr. 2, and 2 pairs in Lake May 30 constituted a 2nd county nesting record (JRW). Rare inland Ruddy Turnstones were singles in Rutherford May 4 (TJW) and Shelby, TN May 10 (JRW), and in Clark May 21 (DH, WG) and Lonoke, AR May 28 (K&LN). Baird's Sandpipers were well reported inland. A Ruff reported from Benton, AR Apr. 22 provided one of very few state records (MMl, RD); a Reeve at Ensley Bottoms in Shelby, TN May 2 (IRW) was the seventh of the species recorded there; the regularity of sightings there and in Louisiana's ricefields in recent years indicates that either its staus has changed or that it was overlooked in the past. Four Red Phalaropes 25-30 mi s. of Gulf Shores, AL Apr. 1 (JH, JFH, JB) were presumably birds that had wintered in the Gulf of Mexico.

The only reported Franklin's Gull was early at L. Chicot, AR Mar. 7 (DRS). An imm. Great Black-backed Gull was at Dauphin I., AL Mar. 20 & 25 (CK, JH); it or another was noted Apr. 16 (RM). A Black-legged Kittiwake joined the Franklin's Gull at L. Chicot, AR Mar. 7 (DRS) for an unusual inland spring record. Eurasian Collared-Doves were reported along the Gulf Coast, where more or less expected, but a breeding pair in Shelby, TN May 23 (AP, JRW) raised questions: Are they spreading rapidly on their own or are appearances far from peninsular Florida the result of release or escape? An Inca Dove was unusual in Pope, AR Apr. 24-May 5 (C&NK). Alabama's fourth Lesser Nighthawk at Ft. Morgan Apr. 10-14 (RRS, MBS, ph., m.ob., p.a.) was captured, banded, and released.

Flycatchers to Finches

Tennessee Olive-sided Flycatchers were in Putnam Apr. 28 (JPh), Lake May 7 (JRW et al.), and Stewart May 7 (TW, DMc). "Traill's" Flycatchers identified to species by voice included six Alders in Washington, AR (PR, MPo, JDe) and a Willow in Desoto, MS (G&SK, JRW, m.ob.), all May 14. The third Say's Phoebe for Tennessee was in Lake May 7 (JRW, S&GK, p.a.). A ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher gave a little Southwestern flavor to Montgomery, AR Apr. 4 (LA). A Scissortailed Flycatcher was in Willamson, TN Apr. 17 (fide TW). The 20 Barn and two N. Rough-winged swallows in Lowndes, MS Mar. 7 were all early (KK). Cliff Swallows were found nesting in Lauderdale and Dyer,

TN in May (JRW). Tardy Red-breasted Nuthatches were in Lafayette, MS May 2 (GK) and Washington, AR May 5 (PR, DAG et al.). A Bewick's Wren in Washington, AR Apr. 17 (PR, AD), seen entering a nest box, remained through at least May 4. A straggling Swainson's Thrush was still in Oktibbeha, MS May 18 (TLS). Good counts were made for this oft-despaired-of species May 10 & 11, with 75 between Pope and Newton, AR on both dates (PR, AD). An early Solitary Vireo was in Warren, TN Mar. 20 (SJS, MAS).

Alabaman Black-whiskered Vireos were at Dauphin I., Apr. 16 (SM) and May 4 (JH), and at Ft. Morgan Apr. 27 (AC, fide RAD). A high count of >100 Tennessee Warblers was made between Pope and Newton, AR May 10 (PR, AD). Late Magnolia Warblers were still in Washington, MS May 21 (EA, banded) and at Noxubee N.W.R., May 29 (MG et al.). Cape May Warblers made it w. to Arkansas at Millwood L., May 4 (CMi) and Pope May 16 (PR). A rare (unprecedented?) Black-throated Green Warbler nest was discovered in Pope, AR May 18 (PR); at least one young successfully fledged. An early Blackburnian Warbler was at Noxubee N.W.R., Apr. 1 (TLS). Three Connecticut Warblers were found, all in Tennessee: two in Davidson May 16-18 (TW, m.ob.) & May 16 (MLM, fide TJW), and the other in Rutherford May 20 (TW).

Interestingly, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported to be using feeders in n.w. Arkansas much more than usual (DAJ). A P Black-headed Grosbeak was reportedly



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photographed in Columbia, AR April 24-25 (RC, SL). Arkansas had its second Lazuli Bunting, a male that sang in Johnson from May 9-June 11 (G&JL). This bird had just a hint of orange on the chest and sides, leading G. Luneau to speculate that it either was an imm. male, or had a trace of Indigo genes. The singing Bachman's Sparrow found in Lauderdale, AL May 27 (SM), and Lark Sparrows that returned to 2 of last year's sites there May 29 (GNP,SM), were representatives of rare Tennessee Valley breeding species. A singing Rufous-crowned Sparrow was again reported from Pinnacle Mt., AR Apr. 2, where breeding has yet to be confirmed (WMS, RDo). The Clay-colored Sparrow at Ft. Morgan, AL Apr. 28, was the third to occur along that state's Gulf Coast in spring (RAD, GDJ, DGJ et al.). A colony of >six Henslow's Sparrows in Cheatham, TN persisted May 8+; there is as yet no nesting record for that state (MB, m.ob.). A LeConte's Sparrow was at Dauphin I., April 16 (DW et al.).

Western Meadowlarks were reported from their regular haunts at Ensley Bottoms, TN (JRW, JF, m.ob.), and Tunica, MS (JRW, m.ob.). A ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird showed its splendor at Sardis L., MS Apr. 7–9 (VT et al.). One-two Shiny Cowbirds were at Ft. Morgan, AL Apr. 26-28 (GDJ, DGJ, m.ob.) and two were at Dauphin I., Apr. 29 (GDJ, DGJ). A N. "Baltimore" Oriole wintering in Starkville, MS remained until Apr. 9 (MC, TLS). Red Crossbills were reported from Arkansas: one in Ashley Mar. 3 (LP, DZ) and four in Yell Apr. 11 (LA). More notable was a & White-winged Crossbill that frequented a feeder in Montgomery, TN Mar. 7-28 (fide TJW, m.ob.). A female-type Common Redpoll that reached the Gulf Coast (!) at Dauphin I., Apr. 27–May 3 was the first to accomplish this feat, and the latest for Alabama (MM, GF, MH, m.ob., p.a.). Evening Grosbeaks were reported from Oktibbeha, MS in Mar. (JBy,MC) and Lauderdale, AL Apr. 21 (P&DK).

Louisiana

Loon to Hawks

Unusually scarce the preceding winter (and missed entirely on Christmas Counts), an Eared Grebe on Claiborne L., *Claiborne* Mar. 5 (AWK, MCH, GCx) was the only one reported. There were few reports of N. Gannets; three were off *Cameron* Apr. 2 (JPK), and five there Apr. 17 (DLD, SWC) were rather late. Brown Pelicans continue

to occur with increasing frequency at Cameron, where the species is now hard to miss; highest counts were 14 Apr. 2 (JPK) and 17 May 15 (DLD, SWC). Unexpected were 4 pairs of Neotropic Cormorants attending nests in a large colony of Cattle Egrets and other herons in extreme w. Lafayette May 12 (DLD, SWC). Although the species has recently been observed as far inland as Pointe Coupee, there are no previous breeding records from outside Cameron. The entire colony had been abandoned by Jun. 18. Summer and fall post-breeding dispersal of Roseate Spoonbills inland or eastward of their normal haunts on the s.w. coast is well known, but such occurrences in spring are more surprising: two in Jefferson Davis Apr. 25 (JH), a flock of 13 there May 14 (DLD, SWC), two in Acadia May 12 (JH), and nine along Fourchon Rd., Lafourche May 15 (RDP, NN, GG). Presumably, some of these were breeding adults learning to commute inland to productive rice field and crawfish pond foraging grounds, and the Fourchon birds (now regular year-round) are probably associated with recent breeding along the central coast.

An exceptional 6112 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks Mar. 19 were mainly concentrated in the vicinity of the Vincent Refuge, Vermilion (SWC, m.ob.). Forty near Echo, Rapides Apr. 9 (DLD) were much farther inland, where seldom reported. Three pairs of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at Lacassine Pool, Lacassine N.W.R., Cameron Apr. 23 (DLD, SWC, m.ob.), and 10 in a flooded field near Holmwood, Calcasieu Apr. 26 (AWK, RTC, MCH), were in an area of the state where small numbers are known to breed. Shocking was the discovery of Louisiana's first King Eider, a sub-ad. male at the w. end of Grand Terre I., Jefferson Apr. 9 (BR, DPM, ph. CS, m.ob). Tame and in very worn plumage, observed and extensively photographed by hordes of birders, the bird languished until it was last seen May 18, still in poor condition and hiding in brush along the shoreline. Rarely recorded, especially in spring (and not reported at all the preceding winter), an imm.

○ Oldsquaw was on Rutherford Beach in Cameron Apr. 9-16 (CS, PW, m.ob.). The only scoters reported were a flock of up to 19 Surfs at Rutherford Beach Apr. 16-17 (DLD, SWC). Whitetailed Kites, now expected in the s.w. during fall and winter but still considered rare in spring, were reported Apr. 2 (JPK) and Apr. 17 & 27 (SWC, DLD). A Mississippi Kite in Iberville Mar. 30 (JVR et al.) was very early. Notable concentrations of spring migrants included 90 seen during a 20 minute period at Krotz Springs, St. Landry Apr. 19 (JPK, GS), and >80 seen along the Atchafalaya R. s of there May 22 (DPM, BMM, CS, GSm) A N. Harrier at Vincent Refuge May 12 (MCH, AWK, RTC) was late. Up to 50 Broad-winged Hawks moving across the Longleaf Pine Ridge Apr. 10 (DLD, SWC, MS) was interesting inland, suggesting that this locality should be checked more often as a potential migration corridor. Reports of Swainson's Hawks, scarce migrants, included two adults near Lacassine (PW, CS, CK), one adult in Calcasieu (DLD), another nearby Apr. 24 (MW et al.), possibly the same bird near there May 1 (JH), and an immature in Cameron the same day (AWK, JPO).

Plovers to Terns

Completely unexpected were two downy Snowy Plover chicks attended by an ad male at Holly Beach May 15 (SWC, ph., DLD), furnishing Louisiana's first breeding record. Good spring counts of the Endangered Piping Plover included 23 near Cameron Apr. 2 (JPK), and 25 at Fourchon Beach Apr. 9 (RDP); four at Rutherford Beach Apr. 28 (DLD, SWC) were the latest reported. An Am. Oystercatcher, rarely spotted in s.w. Louisiana, was seen flying E off Holly Beach Apr. 26 (AWK, MCH, RTC). Two-three, including one on a nest, at Vermilion Bay, Iberia May 25 (DP, ph., JW), is the westernmost reported breeding record for the state Without doubt, the bird of the season, upstaging even the King Eider, was an alternate-plumaged Black-tailed Godwit present in a flooded field across Hwy 35 from the Vincent Ref., May 11-15 (JH, ph., m.ob.), providing a first state and Gulf Coast record. A Purple Sandpiper at the w end of Grand Isle Apr. 3-29 (CL, ph., m.ob.) was only about the 6th for Louisiana and the first for s.e. Louisiana Observers searching for a & Ruff present in Vermilion Mar. 19-22 (DLD, SWC, vid. GB, DP, CB, m.ob.), found two additional males in the area, one close by Mar 20 (vid. GB) and one a few miles n.e. in Lafayette Mar. 28 (ph. DP, CB, vid. PC).

No identifiable jaegers were reported, but 7 jaeger sp. were off Rutherford Beach Apr. 17 (DLD, SWC). Franklin's Gulls were unusually scarce, with only two singles reported from Cameron Apr. 23 & 26 (DLD, JH). Louisiana's third Little Gull was at Holly Beach Apr. 26–May 2 (ph JH, vid. GB, JG, MR *et al.*). There was a large movement of Bonaparte's Gulls E along Cameron beaches Apr. 9 (PW, CS, CK), when *2100* were counted, including

about 1700 along Rutherford Beach during a 2-hour period! A 2nd-year California Gull at Rutherford Beach May 14 (SWC, *DLD) was the first true spring record for Louisiana. Lesser Black-backed Gull was the spring's phenomenon. With only a handful of previous spring records relative to fall and winter, Lesser Black-backeds invaded the beaches of Cameron, where >20 ındividuals were observed Apr. 6-May 29 (m.ob.). Another was at Grand Isle Apr. 20 (JH et al.). An ad. Thayer's Gull at Rutherford Beach Apr. 28 (DLD, SWC) represents one of few recent records of this "species." The identifications of several other imm. "pale-winged gulls" in Cameron—including several possible "Thayer's" (m.ob.), one report of a possible "Iceland" Apr. 24 (ph. GS, JPK et al.), and a possible Herring X Glaucous hybrid (SWC, *, ph. JH, DLD)-may never be fully resolved. The disposition of these records will eventually depend on L.B.R.C. evaluation, and the A.O.U. Check-list Committee's evaluations of the systematics and taxonomy of Thayer's, Iceland, and Kumlien's gulls. Four different Glaucous Gulls were found: First-winter birds were at Grand Isle Apr. 17 (BMM, PW, RDP, m.ob.), at Rutherford Beach Apr. 23-28 (JPK, DR, m.ob.), and at Holly Beach Apr. 23–27 (vid. PC, SWC, *, DLD); one at Rutherford Beach May 15 (SWC, sp, DLD) was late and in 2nd-year plumage. A Great Black-backed Gull at Grand Isle Mar. 27 (RDP, NN) was the only one reported, surprising considering the numbers of other "rare" gulls this spring. Rounding-out the gull fest were an unprecedented three (at least) Black-legged Kittiwakes at Cameron: A first-year bird at Holly Beach Apr. 6 (vid. PC) may have been the same bird that was seen off and on Apr. 26-May 3 (JH, HP, vid. GB, ph. DP, JW); a 2nd-year bird was also at Holly Beach Apr. 26-27 (SB, PS, SWC, DLD, JH); and (presumably) a different first-year bird was at Rutherford Beach Apr. 23 (MW, RS et al.). A Least Tern at Cameron Apr. 7 (DLD) seemed marginally early, but an estimated 1000 at Fourthon Beach Apr. 9 (RDP, DPM) was an astounding number for such an early date.

Doves to Finches

Eurasian Collared-Doves continued to infiltrate, with up to four at Grand Isle Apr. 17–23 (PW, RDP), a first at Cameron from about Apr. 13–24 (MT, JF, m.ob.), another nearby Apr. 24 (RS, MW et al.), and Baton Rouge's first May 30 (JPK). White-winged Doves, formerly scarce in spring, have taken over the town of Cameron, where 33 were counted Apr.

7 and at least 12 were present Apr. 24, including a recently fledged juvenile (SWC, DLD, GS). More unusual was one in New Iberia May 14 (MJM). Inca Doves maintained their presence in Cameron, where small localized colonies persist. An ad. & Red-naped Sapsucker was extensively videotaped at Lafayette Feb. 22–Mar 5 (PC); this record will require further evaluation to eliminate the possibility of a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker with a red nape.

A rare spring Olive-sided Flycatcher was at Peveto Beach Woods May 14 (PC, GB). A calling Alder Flycatcher videotaped at Peveto Beach Woods May 14 (PC, GB, p.a.) represents one of few welldocumented spring records. A rare, record-early Gray Kingbird was at Grand Isle Apr. 20 (ph. JH et al.). Another (presumably) was there May 18 (ph. SWC, DLD, JVR). A Warbling Vireo was heard singing in cottonwoods along the Atchafalaya R., May 22 (DPM, BMM, CS, GSm), suggesting the likelihood of breeding. A ♀ Black-throated Blue Warbler in Cameron Apr. 25 (JH) was the only report. Seldom reported in Louisiana, a & "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler, mostly in alternate plumage, was at Grand Isle Apr. 7 (PW, BMM). The single description received of a ? Black-headed Grosbeak seen by numerous observers at Peveto Beach Woods Apr. 23 did not rule out plumages of some spring ♀ Rose-breasteds. Almost expected in small numbers in spring, a & Yellow-headed Blackbird delighted many at Rutherford Beach Apr. 23-24 (m.ob.). Fifteen Brewer's Blackbirds near Cameron Apr. 17 (SWC, DLD) were rather late, especially for the immediate coast. A & Great tailed Grackle ventured N to Rapides May 28 (RJB). A ♂ Shiny Cowbird videotaped near Johnsons Bayou Mar. 13 and Apr. 2 (PC) was only about the 7th or 8th state record. Small numbers of Purple Finches and Pine Siskins remained at Slidell feeders until the relatively late dates of Apr. 12 (RFC, BB) & 10 (BB), respectively.

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