

New England Region

SIMON PERKINS

Through mid-April in Boston, the spring season behaved more like winter. During this period, the snows that had made headlines since November continued to fall. Back-to-back storms April 7–8 and 9–10 put the total snowfall for the season at 107.6 inches, an all-time record that surpassed, by more than eight inches, the “old” record set only two years ago. Despite expectations to the contrary, however, few contributors reported noticeable effects of this weather on the local birdlife. Early insectivores, such as Tree Swallows and Eastern Phoebes, seemed to ride it out fairly well.

From mid-April on, the spring was rather dry and cool. In late April into early May, when it mattered most to many of the season’s migrants, no warm fronts penetrated northward into New England, and migration was delayed. In mid-May, when the birds did finally get the green light, Mother Nature threw a curve ball and caused them havoc. Just as a huge wave of migrants was arriving from the south, a backdoor cold front sneaked in from the northeast and grounded them, mostly on

the coast. The situation was reminiscent of the kind of spring fallouts that occur in coastal Texas. When it was over, birders young and old, including some who started in the 1930s, concurred: They had witnessed an extraordinary fallout the magnitude of which exceeded all previous groundings in living memory. Amazingly, another fallout occurred the following weekend. But the first of the two was the biggest; it was the avian event of the season.

This account provides a perfect example of the difference between a bird’s and a birder’s perception of a “good” migration. In most years, many migrants fly high over our heads, undetected. Good for the birds; bad for the birders. In other years, a weather system downs the birds. Good for the birders; bad for the birds. Was this a good year for migration? That depends on who you ask.

Other regional highlights included at least one more White-faced Ibis, a Black Rail, nesting Dickcissels, Boat-tailed Grackles, a probable Swainson’s Hawk, and a Say’s Phoebe.

Abbreviations: Appledore (*Appledore Island, ME*), Isles of Shoals (*10 mi s.e. of Portsmouth, NH*); H.B.S.P. (*Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison, CT*); M.A.R.C. (*Massachusetts Avian Records Committee*); MV (*Martha’s Vineyard I., MA*); Nantucket (*Nantucket I., MA*); PI (*Plum I., Essex Co., MA*).

Loons to Herons

A count of >1000 Red-throated Loons moving past Edgartown, MV, Apr. 14 (VL) was consistent with recent spring counts at Nantucket, a known staging area. A report of an “Arctic” Loon from Reid S.P., Georgetown, ME Mar. 16 (*vide* WT) came with neither a description nor an attributed observer.

A grebe fallout occurred in several towns in s.c. New Hampshire Apr. 24. Among a total of 167 Horneds and 135 Red-neckeds counted that day, 115 Horneds and 82 Red-neckeds were tallied in Hopkinton alone (TR). Videotape of a Am. White Pelican, present in Great Bay, NH May 1–3, furnished an irrefutable record (D. Fotiadis, *vide* SM, v.t.). Video cameras are the wave of the future; don’t leave home without

them! Virtually all Great Cormorants that wander inland, such as the individual at Grand I., VT Apr. 12 (D. Hoag), are immature, so an adult in Enfield, NH Apr. 15 (PH) was noteworthy.

Another or the same odd, Snowy-type egret that visited H.B.S.P. last spring was seen there May 20 & 27 (FG, GH *et al.*). To reiterate, the Madison bird(s), as well as another similar individual in Norwalk, CT, last year, appeared to be typical Snowys, except for the presence of 2 long, narrow Little Egret-like head plumes protruding from the birds’ bushy crests. The question remains: Were these birds hybrids, or did their head plumes merely represent the extreme within the range of variation in Snowy Egret? Have such long-plumed Snowys always been out there? This writer found no references to such a trait in literature.

Extralimital egrets in downeast Maine included a Great Egret in Lubec May 3–5, and single cattles in Machias Apr. 20 and Bucksport Apr. 25 (*vide* AB). Single Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were reported in Norwalk and Milford, CT; Hampton, NH; and Quincy, Wareham, and Northbridge, MA. The latter, present from May 16–June, raised suspicion that it might have been nesting locally. Following last year’s first state record, Connecticut logged its 2nd White-faced Ibis in as many years. This year’s was in Stonington May 2–5 (B. Schaeffer). A *Plegadis* in Lonsdale, RI Mar. 18 (R. Enser) appeared to the observer to show a broad, white border around the “face” but, because the bird was viewed only briefly in flight, leg color and other definitive characters were not noted, and the identification remained indeterminate.

Waterfowl

Single Tundra Swans included an overwintering bird in Naples, ME, that remained until Mar. 11 (*vide* AB), and a 2nd in Middlebury, VT Apr. 6 (*vide* JP). At least two Whooper Swans were still hanging around Essex, MA this spring. These were, presumably, from the group of \leq six whoopers that has been haunting the county for the past several years. Though we may never determine the provenance of such birds, it is noteworthy, nonetheless, that Whooper Swans have become nearly as common in Iceland as Canada Geese have in New England; they occur, as the geese do here, in virtually every park and grassy area throughout Iceland, often in flocks of several hundred (P. Alden, *per comm.*). Also problematical were two Barnacle Geese in Connecticut, one in early April in Stonington (*vide* GH) and the other at the Willimantic Res., Apr. 6–21 (T. Harring-



ton). A 3rd was in Grand Isle, VT Apr. 1–19 (D. Hoag). Assuming that New England Greater White-fronted Geese are innocent of escape until proven guilty, two single White-fronteds (or the same one twice) were noted in April and May in Tolland and Stonington, CT, respectively (*vide* GH). A large gaggle of 25,000 Snow Geese was staging in Alburg, VT, in April (*vide* JP), and a northbound skein of Brant was noted in Durham, NH, at dusk May 24 (PH *et al.*).

This year's respectable total of six Eur. Green-winged Teal included three in Massachusetts, two in Connecticut, and one in Maine; ten Eur. Wigeon included four in Massachusetts, another four in Vermont, and one each in Rhode Island and Maine. Following last year's spate, birders turned up only one Tufted Duck this spring, a female in Riverside, RI Mar. 1–5 (D. Finizia). The 12,000 Com. Eiders in Newport, RI, through mid-April (DE) totaled only slightly fewer than the record numbers that were there this past winter. This recent westward shift in the winter range of Com. Eider, from the nearest big flocks around Nantucket and MV, has gained considerable momentum in the past 2–3 years. Rarer than King Eider, away from the coast, was a ♀ Com. Eider in Shelburne, V, May 29 (TM). Likewise, a Harlequin Duck nearby in Charlotte, VT Mar. 21 (TM) was also noteworthy inland, as was another Harlequin in Stratham, NH May 11 (P. Lacourse). Barrow's Goldeneye has become a regular spring feature on L. Champlain, so one–two pairs at South Hero/Grand Isle, VT Mar. 28–Apr. 16 (D. Hoag), while still noteworthy, came as no real surprise. Modest numbers of Greater Scaup, Oldsquaws, and White-winged Scoters were constituents of the same fallout that brought the grebes to s.c. New Hampshire, and 3000 lingering White-wingeds at Nantucket, the remnants of the larger spring flocks that annually stage along the s. shore of the island, finally departed May 26 (SP).

Raptors to Rails

A count of 45 migrating Turkey Vultures tallied within 45 minutes in Scarborough, ME Apr. 12 (*vide* Mn.A.S.) would represent a high Regional total in any season and, coming from Maine, the report provides further indication that the species is now comfortably entrenched in n. New England. Likewise, Black Vulture numbers continue to increase in New England. They took a quantum leap this year; an unprecedented 25 Black Vultures were seen on or around a dead cow in Milford, CT, during the week of Mar. 4 (CW).

Additionally, two were in Kent, CT Apr. 23 (CW), and another two were in Sheffield, MA, the same day (D. Reid). Kites made another strong showing in the Region. A Swallow-tailed Kite on Block I., RI Apr. 22 (J. Stringer) may have been the same individual that was seen several times between May 1–14 at a golf course in Richmond, RI (*vide* DE). Similarly, duplication may have been involved with Swallow-taileds reported from Hyannis, *Barnstable*, MA May 11 (T. Lipsky) and Oak Bluffs, MV, May 21 (P. Swift). Mississippi Kites were seen at Lakeville, MA May 21 (M. Sylvia) and Cuttyhunk I., *Gosnold*, MA May 25 (B. Malcolm). A report of a *Swainson's Hawk* from PI May 13 (*vide* B.O.) was not accompanied by details. Two independent sightings of single, late Rough-legged Hawks at sites within view of one another—at Mt. Desert (P. Roberts) and Steuben, ME (*vide* AB) May 26—may have involved the same individual. A Red-tailed Hawk on Appledore May 26 furnished a first Isles record (DH). Among migrant raptors tallied at PI this spring, seasonal totals of 1164 Am. Kestrels and 85 Merlins were above average (T. Carrolan). Four nesting pairs of Peregrine Falcons are now established in Massachusetts, including a 2nd pair in downtown Boston that set up shop this spring a mile or so inland of the traditional site on the waterfront. This new pair is comprised of a “wild” individual and a bird that was hacked from Mt. Desert in Maine. Speaking of reintroduced species, among the burgeoning numbers of Wild Turkeys in the Region one report involved eight birds that wandered out of the dunes on PI Apr. 22 (A. Clayton). How did they get out to the island if they didn't walk over the bridge?

A *Black Rail* was heard and seen in Stratford, CT May 26–28 (D. Finch, DA), in the same locale where the species has been noted sporadically for the past 10–12 years (*vide* FM). Three King Rails were noted in Connecticut and three were found in Massachusetts, and an encouraging total of ten Com. Moorhens throughout the Region included two each in New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts, and four in Connecticut. Single Sandhill Cranes were seen in Portsmouth, NH Mar. 26 (C. Martin *et al.*), and Mt. Tabor, VT Apr. 16 (N. Brown).

Shorebirds to Alcids

An above-average total of six Am. Golden-Plovers included one in Westerly, RI (C. Raithel), one each in Madison and Stonington, CT (*vide* GH), and three in Newburyport, MA (*vide* B.O.). Two Am. Oys-

tercatchers at Scarborough, ME Apr. 15 returned for a 2nd year of nesting following their pioneering effort last year. Over 100 Solitary Sandpipers were reported in New Hampshire alone within a day or two of the mid-May fallout (*vide* PH). A species that often goes unrecorded in New England in spring, a Stilt Sandpiper in Newburyport Apr. 24 (RAF) was unique this year. Noteworthy for the Connecticut R. Valley were a Ruddy Turnstone in Longmeadow May 22 (R. Stone) and a White-rumped Sandpiper in W. Springfield May 11 (J. Zepko). This year's Ruffs included one in Milford, CT, that arrived early Mar. 25 and stayed through Apr. 14 (GH, † v.o., ph.), and one–two others in Newburyport, MA Apr. 17–22 (J. Soucy, D. Jewell, † v.o.). A very high count of ten Wilson's Phalaropes May 14 (B. Drew, † v.o.) came from PI, where they are known to nest; one of the two Wilson's reported from Maine this spring, a well-described female, was far afield in Machiasport May 1 (P. Donahue).

The appearance of four Laughing Gulls flying N through the Berkshires in Williamstown, MA May 11 may have related somehow to the fallout that occurred farther east that day, but otherwise defies explanation. Little Gulls reports included two in Connecticut, two in Massachusetts, and one in New Hampshire, and among the roughly 15 Black-headed Gulls in Massachusetts, a rare inland record involved an overwintering bird in Springfield, present through Mar. 23 (*vide* SK). Single Mew Gulls were in Newburyport/Newbury, MA Mar. 12–27 (R. Heil, RAF, †, v.o.), and S. Boston, MA Mar. 5–9 (RD), and roughly 19 Lesser Black-backed were reported Regionwide. Forty-two Iceland Gulls were still present at Nantucket Mar. 30 (SP), and five Icelanders in Milford, C, Apr. 14 (J. Himmelman) represented a fairly high count for that state. A Caspian Tern in Shelburne, VT May 11 (J. Nicholson) was the only Caspian, among a Regional total of 11, that was not seen in Massachusetts.

The only Royal Tern reported was a bird in Orleans, MA May 25 (S. Highley). Except at PI, where the species has been seen each spring since it was found breeding there in 1991, Forster's Tern is still unusual in New England in spring; so singles in Arlington, MA (M. Pelikan) and Lakeville, MA May 1 (M. Sylvia) were noteworthy. Twelve Black Terns in New Hampshire represented a good seasonal total for the Granite State (*vide* A.S.N.H.). A Dovekie in York, ME, was oddly out-of-season Apr. 30 (*vide* Mn.A.S.), as was a well-described Com. Murre at Stellwagen

Bank May 28 (M. Lockwood). The only notable numbers of Razorbills were noted off the s. shores of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard, where 320 were counted at Nantucket Mar. 29 (SP) and 300 were tallied in one hour off Edgartown, MV, Apr. 14 (VL). Away from Maine waters, single Atlantic Puffins were found in Orleans, MA Apr. 13 (K. Von den Deale), and Gay Head, MV, Apr. 24 (AK).

Owls to Shrikes

The Northern Hawk Owl that wintered in Bar Harbor, ME, was last reported Mar. 9 (*vide* AB), and various wintering *Strix* also lingered into the spring. The Barred Owl incursion noted this past winter was still apparent into March, with numerous reports coming from Maine, New Hampshire (>30), and e. Massachusetts (>30), where many birds were observed hunting during daylight hours. One intrepid bird, in making the 10-mi flight out to Appledore, established a first Isles record. The Great Gray Owl that spent most of the winter in Rowley, MA, was last reported Apr. 7 (B.O.); lingering Great Grays in Maine included birds in Rockland until Mar. 22 and Brunswick until Apr. 10, (*vide* JD), and a bird discovered in Rochester, NH Feb. 28 was last seen Mar. 1 (S. Drew *et al.*).

At least 5 flights of Com. Nighthawks in e. Massachusetts, each comprised of 20–30 birds, furnished the bulk of a high spring total, and Chuck-wills-widows also made a strong showing in the Region in May. One was noted in Greenwich, CT (B. O'Toole), another was pushing the envelope at Petit Manan I., Washington, ME (*vide* AB), and three were found in Massachusetts away from the presumed breeding sites at MV, where several have been present for at least 3 years. Red-headed Woodpeckers in the Region included three–four in Massachusetts, three in New Hampshire, two in Vermont, and one each in Connecticut and Rhode Island. A minimum of 18 Red-bellied Woodpeckers reported in New Hampshire alone, and a single on Monhegan I., ME (*vide* Mn.A.S.), seemed to bear witness to the fact that this species is capable of tolerating all a New England winter can muster. A Red-bellied banded on Appledore I., May 22, whether or not it wintered there, nonetheless represented the first record for the Isles of Shoals (DH). A Black-backed Woodpecker in Manchester, MA May 5 (G. Loring, ph.), was the only one reported this season s. of the species' breeding grounds.

A bird reported as an ad. ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher was present on Block I., RI

May 18–19 (S. Carr *et al.*, *vide* DE). The observers were experienced banders, but, as of this writing, further details were lacking. A Say's Phoebe made an all-too-brief visit to PI May 22 (C. Ralph, L. Nachtrab, †, v.o.). This record was the first in spring for the Commonwealth, and one of very few in spring for New England.

A massive migration of Blue Jays was witnessed May 20–21 at PI, when 3323 were tallied in 7 hours (SP). Some of this same movement was detected in Provincetown, MA, where >120 were noted May 21 (BN). An unusually heavy flight was reported May 13–24 in Maine as well (PDV). Carolina Wrens were generally reported in lower-than-average numbers, probably an indication that they took a hit this past winter, and single Sedge Wrens were in Northhampton, MA May 18–29 (*vide* SK) and Winhall, VT May 28 (W. Norse). A sketchy description accompanied this year's only report of a Varied

Thrush, a bird in Rye, NH, Apr. 30 (J. Romano, *vide* A.S.N.H.). Flocks of 25–100 Bohemian Waxwings, lingerers from this past winter's incursion, were noted into March in w. Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine, and a flock of 70 was still present in Sabattus, ME Apr. 27 (J. Hassett). Given the magnitude of the record flight of N. Shrikes this past fall and winter, it is not surprising that a few were found later into the spring than usual. The latest was noted in Dorchester, MA Apr. 27 (RD), 3 days earlier than the latest date on record for the state. The season's only Loggerhead Shrike was reported from Milford, CT, Mar. 17 (T. Kilroy).

Spring Fallout

"Amazing," "astonishing," "extraordinary," "stunning," "unbelievable," "simply incredible." These were a few of the superlatives used by the few fortunate birders who, on the weekend of May

TABLE #1 High Totals of Migrants Along Coastal New England May 11–12

	Ph	Ap*	PI	GL	Sc	WN	MtA	Bo
Least Flycatcher	20		10	10	14	8		8
<i>Empidonax</i> species			32					
Blue Jay					320			
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	20	28	75	30+	15	10	7	7
Veery	25		10				7	
Swainson's Thrush							30	
Hermit Thrush		10		4				
Wood Thrush	30							
Gray Catbird			60+		100+			62
American Pipit				10				
Solitary Vireo	30	85	21	28	9	31	10	
Nashville Warbler	6	7	7			15	20	
Northern Parula	40	11	40	40+	62	26	20	53
Chestnut-sided Warbler					14		10	9
Magnolia Warbler	50		65	23	118	28	20	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	30		12	32	38		20	12
Yellow-rumped Warbler	300+		200+	225	100+	350	100	200
Black-throated Green Warbler	80			18	42	42	50	33
Blackburnian Warbler	4			5	6		35	9
Black-and-white Warbler	150	20	65	35	81	35	25	54
American Redstart				18	26		15	
Ovenbird	110+		30		28		11	24
Northern Waterthrush	60+		14	8	7			
Common Yellowthroat	100	32	80	25	100			
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			11	23	8			
Savannah Sparrow	40		35	12				
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	7	22	13	3	4		
White-throated Sparrow	40	61	500	70+			50	
White-crowned Sparrow	15	3	150+	28		4	6	
Orchard Oriole	15+						3	
Baltimore Oriole			27	40		22		38
Pine Siskin		2						
Evening Grosbeak				2	1			

* Appledore numbers represent only those birds that hit the nets; many more were present on the island during those 2 days.

11–12, witnessed what may have been the biggest local migrant fallout in living memory. The setup was perfect: For the previous 2 weeks, during a period when the greatest volume of spring migrants is usually due to arrive, the weather had not been conducive to migration. Then, during the 2 days prior to Saturday, May 11, the winds swung S, and the dam broke. But the 2nd, more critical piece of the equation had yet to arrive. As countless thousands of migrants arrived from the south, a classic backdoor cold front arrived from the northeast. When the two waves collided, the results were spectacular. The wind in coastal Massachusetts went abruptly from SW to NE, fog descended, the temperature plummeted roughly 20° F in a little more than an hour. The door slammed shut. When the birds hit the wall, they dropped where they were. Most of the action was on the coast as many of the birds apparently became disoriented in the fog, found themselves out over the water, and then struggled to regain the shoreline, a phenomenon more typical during Autumn migration. Peter Vickery, in s.w. coastal Maine, described seeing “hundreds” of migrants flying in off the ocean. A naturalist on a whale watch vessel in Cape Cod Bay counted 13 species of birds onboard at once. At the banding station at Appledore, Holmes and his banding crew handled 276 birds in a mere 27 net hours. This suggested that the birds became disoriented and found themselves out over the water. A few of the constituent species—including Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Hermit Thrush, which typically occur in their maximum numbers in c. New England earlier in the season—occurred in peak numbers during this event. Others species—such as Magnolia Warbler (Scituate, MA), Black-and-white Warbler and Ovenbird (Phippsburg, ME)—occurred in numbers not seen in the Region for decades, and Lincoln’s and White-crowned sparrows were found in numbers unprecedented in spring.

The geographical extent of the fallout within New England appeared to cover nearly the entire coastline, including several points along the Connecticut and Rhode Island shores. But, judging by the submitted reports, the greatest numbers of birds apparently landed roughly between Phippsburg, ME, and Marshfield, MA. Table #1 provides samples of some of the highest totals at various points along that stretch May 11–12.

The place name codes refer to the following locales: Sc (N. Scituate/Marshfield, MA); Bo (Franklin Park, Boston, MA); Mt A (Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge,

MA); GL (E. Gloucester, MA); PI (Plum Island, MA, and including Newburyport); Ap (Appledore*); Ph (Phippsburg, ME); WN (West Newbury, along the Merrimack R., w. of PI). Observers at these locales included the following: Ph: PDV; Ap: DH; PI: RAF, M. Lynch, P&F Vale; GL: C. Leahy, J. Nove; Sc: WP; WN: R. Heil; Mt A: R. Styrmeister, M. Rines, v.o.; Bo: T. Aversa.

The following weekend, May 18–19, brought another large but apparently more localized fallout, one that could not be clearly correlated with a discrete weather system. This latter flight did not appear to carry the species variety, nor did it penetrate as far inland, but where it did happen—particularly at Block I., RI, Provincetown, MA, and MV—it was nearly as impressive in terms of sheer numbers. For example, banders M. and S. Carr, working at the Lapham station on Block I., handled 244 birds May 19, their biggest spring catch ever. The afore-mentioned probable Vermilion Flycatcher was, no doubt, associated with this event.

Table #2 provides samples of some of the higher totals, May 18–19, at the following locales: BL (Block Island, RI); PT (Provincetown, MA); and MV (Martha’s Vineyard, MA). Observers at these locales included the following: BL: M&S Carr; PT: BN; MV: G. Daniels, VL, A. Keith.

TABLE #2 High Totals May 18–19

	MV	BL*	PT
Veery			6
Swainson’s Thrush	>50	10	15
Solitary Vireo			>10
Warbling Vireo	15		
Philadelphia Vireo	1	3	3
Nashville Warbler			12
Northern Parula			20
Chestnut-sided Warbler			10
Magnolia Warbler	>160	72	35
Black-throated Green Warbler			15
Blackburnian Warbler		20	15
Bay-breasted Warbler		6	12
Blackpoll Warbler			15
Northern Waterthrush		15	
Wilson’s Warbler		13	
Canada Warbler		19	10
Lincoln’s Sparrow		8	1
Purple Finch			15

* As with Appledore, above, the numbers given for Block Island represent only those birds that hit the nets. Many more were present on the island.

Warblers to Finches

Kentucky Warbler and Blue Grosbeak, 2 regular spring overshooters, occasionally make it to Maine or beyond. A Kentucky was discovered downeast in Cutler, ME Apr. 20 (E. Kindahl), and ≥four grosbeaks appeared along the coast from Bar Harbor to E. Machias, ME, all about the same time, Apr. 16–18. One was still present in Bar Harbor May 5 (*vide* AB). Other Blue Grosbeaks were noted in Shaftsbury (ph.), and Danby, VT May 4 & 16, respectively (*vide* JP), and Hudson and Londonderry, NH Apr. 20–21 and May 11, respectively (*vide* A.S.N.H.). A pair of Dickcissels made modern history this spring when they nested in Windsor, CT (P. DesJardins). This marked the first time the species had nested in New England since their disappearance as a breeder in the latter half of the 19th century. Since that decline, they have been very uncommon or rare spring visitors in the Region, so five in Westwood, MA May 21 (E. Neilsen) was intriguing to say the least. A Dickcissel was also seen on Appledore May 17–19 (DH).

Clay-colored Sparrow and Lark Sparrow, 2 other scarce spring visitors to the Region, made cameo appearances. Single Clay-colored were in Brandon, VT May 19 (R. Pilcher) and PI May 24 (W. Taitrow), and a Lark Sparrow was reported from New Canaan, CT May 20 (J. de la Torre). If accepted by the M.A.R.C., a report of a LeConte’s Sparrow in Newton, MA May 19 (L. Nachtrab) would represent the first spring record in the state in nearly 25 years. Fox Sparrows were very well reported virtually throughout the Region, and one of two “western-type” Dark-eyed Juncos in Massachusetts was identified as a “Pink-sided” in Hanson, MA Apr. 10 (WP).

Yellow-headed Blackbirds visited feeding stations in E. Kingston, NH Mar. 27 (S. Drew) and Byfield, MA May 30 (T. Beaupre). A report of three possible Brewer’s Blackbirds in S. Hero, VT May 2 (D. Hoag) awaits the review of the state records committee. One ♂ and two ♀ Boat-tailed Grackles returned to the Lordship marshes in Stratford, CT Apr. 21 (C. Barnard), where they attempted to breed last year. They may have been unsuccessful again, since they were not seen after late May (*vide* GH, FM).

Bullock’s Orioles are attracting interest again since the AOU restored their status as a full species. A thoroughly scrutinized female appeared at Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, MA May 15 (MR), and an apparent male, described sketchily but convincingly, was in Pembroke, NH May 5 (W. Goodwill). Following a decent

showing of redpolls this past winter, several Hoarys lingered into the spring season. These included three in Savoy, MA Mar. 10–12 (D. Shampang, ph.), one in Fairfield, VT Mar. 4 (J. Zurit), one in Orono, ME Mar. 1–13 (J. Markowsky), and one impeccably described in E. Rochester, NH Apr. 11 (DJA).

Exotica

A Eur. Goldfinch visited a feeder in Concord, NH Apr. 17 (*vide* A.S.N.H.), and ≥ six Ruddy Shelducks were found at-large in Connecticut this May.

Corrigendum

The report of 20 Carolina Wrens at Light-house Point S.P. in New Haven, CT, last fall referred to White-breasted Nuthatches, not wrens.

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Hudson-Delaware Region

WILLIAM J. BOYLE, JR., ROBERT O. PAXTON, AND DAVID A. CUTLER

Spring 1996 was characterized by cooler, wetter weather than normal, resulting in a one–two week delay in development of foliage in most areas. Bird migration seemed to be delayed as well, but a few fortuitous collisions of cold fronts with southerly flow in late May brought spectacular flights to some locations. Although some thought that the numbers of birds was not as high as the “good old days” of 30–40 years ago, most experienced birders agreed that the migration was the heaviest in many years at those places lucky enough to share in the experience.

In addition to the heavy flights of annual migrants, there was a modest number of rarities, a couple without precedent. These included Pacific Loon, Anhinga, vagrant and nesting Trumpeter Swan, Tufted Duck, (apparent) Eurasian Hobby, Wilson's Plover, White-winged Dove, Great Gray Owls, a possible Common Swift, continuing Varied Thrush, and Harris' Sparrow.

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*); Conejohela Flats (*mud flats and adjacent parts of Susquehanna R., Washington Twp., Lancaster, PA*); Green Lane (*Green Lane Res., Montgomery, PA*); Hamlin Beach (*Hamlin Beach S.P. and adjacent lakeshore, Monroe Co., NY*); Jamaica Bay (*Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens, NYC*); LI (*Long Island, NY*); Port Mahon (*marshes and bayside along road e. of*

Little Cr., Kent, DE); Sandy Hook (*Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway National Recreation Area, Monmouth, NJ*); N.Y.S.A.R.C. (*New York State Avian Rarities Committee*); P.O.R.C. (*Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee*).

Loons to Storks

Although Pacific Loon is an uncommon, but now annual, visitor to the Region, virtually all records are of birds in basic plumage. For the 2nd consecutive year, however, a bird in full breeding plumage was discovered, this time at Green Lane Apr. 29, an exceptional rarity for the state (JHo, *et al.*). Red-necked Grebes made an excellent showing throughout, especially in w. New York. Symonds' regular monitoring of Hamlin Beach, *Monroe*, produced an early count of 364 birds Mar. 19, and a staggering 2754 Apr. 4 (WS). Green Lane held four Mar. 3 (KC), and several were part of a large flight of waterbirds in *Luzerne* and *Wyoming*, PA Apr. 14 (v.o.). This season's two Eared Grebes were at John Heinz National Environmental Center (Tinicum) near Philadelphia Mar. 26 (NP), and at Irondequoit Bay, Rochester, NY Apr. 26 (RGS).

Several Am. White Pelicans appeared at diverse corners of the Region, led by three at Braddock Bay Apr. 26 (m.ob.), a single at Cape Vincent, *Jefferson, NY* in May (no date given), and another a Brig., May 12 (LL, J. Bickal). With the increasing appearance of Anhinga just to our south, including the flock of 30 in Maryland, it is not surprising that several sightings were reported this spring, some with adequate

