

Child, M. Chomyshyn, S. Clark (SC), W. Claydon, B. Clements, G. Coady (GCo), W. Crins, W. Cutfield (WCu), E. Czerwinski, G. Davies, R. Dawson (RDa), J. Dewey, V. Dierschke, B. DiLabio, T. Dobbie, R. Dobos, J. Dowall (JDo), T. Dyson (TDy), K. Eckert, K. Edwards (KEd), R. Edwards, D. Elder, J. Ellis, N. Escott, G. Fairfield, D. Ferguson (DFe), I&M Ferguson, B&D Fidler, J. Flynn, D&R Frank (D&RFR), R. Frew, B. Fyfe (BFy), D. Gardiner (DGa), R. Geras, J. Goldsmith (JGh), J&C Goodwin (J&CGo), G. Gordon, J. Gordon (JGn), R. Gorman (RGo), D&J Grolman, C. Grooms, R. Gutsall (RGu), K. Hannah, R. Harris, J. Harwig, K. Hennige (KHe), B. Henshaw, D. Hilaire, M. Holder, J.M. Holdsworth, K. Hoopes (KHo), G. Huet, N. Hurdle, F. Huttman, M. Jacklin, J. Jalava, A. Jaramillo (AJa), M. Jennings (MJe), A. John, J. King, Kingston Field Naturalists, S. Kirsch, R. Knapton, U. Kolster, S. LaForest, W. Lamond (WLa), H. Lancaster, T. Land, J. Lemon (JLe), J. Lesser, G. Lewer, C. Lewis, A. Lindley, J. Luce (JLu), J. Macey (JMa), E. Machell (EMa), V. MacKenzie, C&C Maiolani, J. Manion (JMn), D. Martin (DMa), D. Mason, J. McCoy (JMc), C. McDonald (CMd), C. McLaughlan (CMn), C. McLaughlin (CMc), K. McLaughlin, D. McRae (DMc), A. McTavish, E. Meleg, A. Mess (AMe), J. Miles, B&K Millar (B&KMi), O. Monk, L. Morse, D. Newton, Niagara Peninsula HawkWatch, J. Nicholson, D. Okines, J. Olmsted, K. Overman, M. O'Connor, R. Peterson, S. Phippen, R. Pokraka (RPo), P. Pratt, B. Ratcliffe, P. Read, P. Richter (PRi), A. Rider, R. Ridgely (RRy), B&R Ridley (B&RRi), AM&R Ridout, D. Roland, K. Roy, R. Sachs (RSa), D. Sadler (DSa), D. Salisbury, J. Schemelfske, A. Scott, K. Sealy, R. Simms, A. Sinclair (ASi), E. Sinnott, L. Sirois (LSi), L. Sisco, A. Smith (ASm), I. Smith, P. Smith, R. Smith (RSm), T. Smith, Z. Smith, M. Smout (MSm), M. Snetsinger, R. Sokolowski (RSO), L. Spicer (LSp), T. Sprague (TSp), B. Spring, W. Stone, M. Street (MSt), R. Tafel (RTa), T. Talevi, L. Taman, D. Tannahill (DTa), J&J Thomson, R. Tozer, D. Turple, S. Turple, F. Urie, J. vandenBrooke, T. vanOosterns, D. Vinson, R. Waldhuber, B&G Wallace, M. Walton (MWa), R.D. Weir, J. Weise (JWe), L. Wensley, R. Wiacek (RWi), M. Wiercinski, S. Wilcox, D. Wilkes, J. Wojnowski, P.A. Woodliffe, F.&T. Woodrow, A. Wormington, B. Wyatt (BWY), R. Yukich, J. Zoch.

— Ron Ridout, Long Pt. Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, ON, Canada NOE 1M0.

Appalachian Region

GEORGE A. HALL

It was the most interesting spring in many a year. Many people called it "the best migration in ———." The missing words depended upon when the speaker started birding. Indeed, in many ways at some places it was a revival of "the good old days."

Winter continued past March 1 and indeed to mid-April, even in the south. March was much colder than normal. In *Elk*, Pennsylvania, there were three days with sub-zero lows. April had close-to-normal average temperatures, but there were wide fluctuations. Early May was colder than normal, and in late May summer temperatures arrived. At Pittsburgh March rainfall was slightly in excess, while the other two months were much wetter than usual. There were heavy snowfalls in March and April, and some snow in May in northern Ohio. But precipitation was highly variable, *i.e.* Pittsburgh registered 2.95 inches in May, but Morgantown, West Virginia, had 6.54. There were two periods of heavy flooding in West Virginia.

As the season started, the so-called northern finches, which had been a feature of the winter, were still present in numbers. The cold, wet weather caused most of the early migration to be late. When the landbird migration finally got started in early May, the migrants were met by a series of cold fronts, with low temperatures and wet weather. As a result, many areas experienced heavy fallouts of grounded migrants. The late season had retarded leaf growth, so the birds were conspicuous. The most impressive of these groundings came May 10–12, which was not only a weekend, but was the weekend selected for the North American Migration Count. Despite the less-than-satisfactory weather, many observers were afield. Some got the

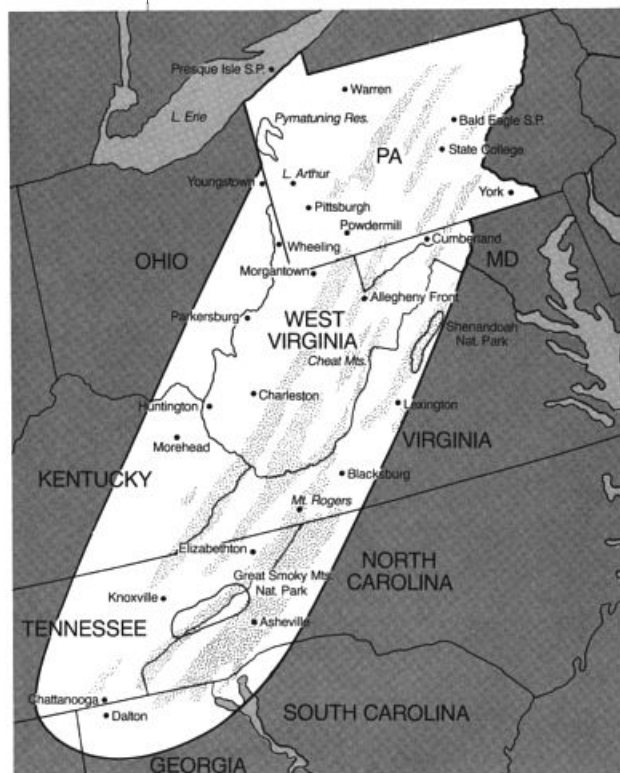
impression of lots of birds, but at other places no great concentrations of migrants built up, and people there felt the migration was only so-so. In the third week of May, summer weather appeared and the movement of birds subsided.

During the cold and wet early May some species must have lacked food, since many unlikely birds—such as Indigo Buntings and Rose-Breasted Grosbeaks—were coming to feeders. In one case a Black-throated Blue Warbler was seen at a hummingbird feeder.

At Powdermill Nature Reserve, 18 of 48 species were banded in numbers more than one Standard Deviation (S.D.) above normal, and only two (Wood Thrush and House Finch) were one S.D. below average (RM, RCL).

In summary, it was generally a great season. There were more genuine rarities, including two Regional firsts, than usual. Good numbers of "northern finches" remained well into April. There were some interesting individual events: large numbers of Scarlet Tanagers feeding in fields and on the roadside, ten species of warbler in one tree, a feeder with Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Indigo Buntings feeding at the same time, not to mention real "goodies," like a White-winged Dove and Painted Bunting.

Abbreviations: B.E.S.P. (*Bald Eagle S.P., Centre Co., PA*); C.M. (*Conneaut Marsh, Crawford Co., PA*); G.B.W.M.A. (*Green*



Bottom W.M.A., Cabell Co., WV; M.C.F.H. (*Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan Co., KY*); N.A.M.C. (*North American Migration Count*), P.I.S.P. (*Presque Isle S.P., Erie Co., PA*); P.N.R. (*Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland Co., PA*); R.C.B.L. (*Robert C. Byrd Locks, Ohio R., Mason Co., WV*); Y.C.S.P. (*Yellow Creek S.P., Indiana Co., PA*).

Loons to Herons

Seven reports of Red-throated Loons were more than usual: Irvine, PA Apr. 4–5 (TG); St Mary's L., PA Apr. 18 (LC); B.E.S.P., Apr. 16 (EZ); Y.C.S.P., PA Apr. 6–11 (MH); Quemahoning Res., PA Apr. 14 (M&EW); Beaver Run Res., PA Apr. 14 (KB); Lyndhurst, VA Apr. 2–17 (YL; 4th local and first spring record). The maximum count of Com. Loons was 50 at Mosquito L., OH Mar. 28 (D&JH), and 32 were listed at St. Marys L., PA May 11 on the N.A.M.C. (LC). More loons than usual remained until late May.

Horned Grebes were also more common, with a maximum count of 60 on Crawford, PA, lakes Apr. 13 (RFL), and 20 on Donegal L. with the Apr. 5 waterfowl fallout (RCL). A total of 38 Red-necked Grebes was reported from 12 locations in w. Pennsylvania, Rocky Gap S.P., MD (MT), and s. Holston L., TN (WC *et al.*) Observers at S. Holston L. had 4 species of grebe at one time Mar. 24: Red-necked, a lone Eared Grebe remaining from winter, and the more usual Horned and Pied-billed (WC *et al.*).

Two Am. White Pelicans were at Pymatuning L., PA May 7–25 (m.ob.). The pelican which had been present near Kingsport, TN, for over a year injured its wing, was captured, and the wing was amputated (RK). Double-crested Cormorants continue to be seen throughout the Region. Offshore at P.I.S.P. in late April as many as 1000 were seen in a single flock (JM).

At P.I.S.P., 66 Am. Bitterns were tallied during the season. Twenty-five were seen taking off for the long northward flight across L. Erie Apr. 25 (JM). Other records for Am. Bitterns came from C.M., Mar. 30 (JB, IF) and May 4 (RFL); Centre, PA May 11 (JPe); P.N.R., Apr. 24 (RCL, RM); Y.C.S.P., PA Apr. 20 and May 13 (GL); and G.B.W.M.A., May 14 (WA). Least Bitterns were at C.M., May 4, Conneaut L., PA May 24 (RFL), Butler, PA May 11 (GW), and G.B.W.M.A., May 4 (WA) through at least May 31 (HS, MG). Only a short time ago the Great Blue Heron was unknown as a nesting bird in the Region. This year nesting reports came from many places, with a new site of >50

nests at Cherokee L. and several other Tennessee locations (RK), a colony of 20 nests in Whitfield, GA (HD), and 5 heronries w. Pennsylvania with 92 nests (PH). The Great Egret was numerous, with ≥ 50 birds reported from 13 locations. Single Snowy Egrets were at Y.C.S.P., PA May 16 (GL), M.C.F.H. (2nd local record) May 16 (MG) & 17 (FB), and Sullivan, TN Apr. 27 (RLe). Little Blue Herons were seen on the N.A.M.C., May 11 in Butler, PA (GW) and Newville, PA Apr. 26–28 (DHe). A Tricolored Heron was at New Castle, PA May 11 (BD). A remarkable 29 Cattle Egrets were reported from 10 locations, ranging from P.I.S.P. (JM) to Sullivan, TN (WC, LM). Black-crowned Night-Herons nested near Elkton, VA (MGS) and the Yellow-crowned Night-Herons returned to the nesting site near Elizabethton, TN (GWA). A Glossy Ibis was at Y.C.S.P., PA May 9–17 (GL).

Waterfowl

The waterfowl migration received mixed reports. At P.I.S.P. the ice did not recede until late March and the waterfowl flight was poor (JM); in e. Tennessee the flight was considered to be only fair. But some places in between, particularly the Pennsylvania lakes, had outstanding flights as the lakes opened early. The numbers began to accumulate in February, and by late March and early April most species were in unusual numbers. There were 2 notable fallouts. In Augusta, VA, 709 ducks were on several ponds, and Mar. 20 there were 793 (AL). On Apr. 5, some 5000–6000 ducks of 21 species were found on L. Somerset, PA (AM) and 4500 were on Donegal L., PA (RM, RCL); other lakes in s.w. Pennsylvania also had large numbers.

Small flocks of Tundra Swans were reported from the usual sites in w. Pennsylvania and e. Ohio Mar. 17–18, with the largest count of 100 Mar. 18 at Warren, PA (WH). Three lakes in Augusta, VA had 119 swans Mar. 17 (AL). Sightings of Mute Swans continue to increase. Reports came from Starbrick, Warren, PA Mar. 21–28 (BH), near Cumberland, MD Apr. 13 (MT), Wood, WV Apr. 11 (JE), and 2 locations in Mason, WV Feb. 22–Mar. 29 (WA *et al.*). Very noteworthy for the Region were 5 reports of Greater White-Fronted Geese: Centre, PA Mar. 27 & 30 (DBo), Huntsdale, PA Mar. 30 (DHe), near Ligonier, PA Mar. 11—and what was probably the same bird at 2 other nearby locations as late as Apr. 2 (RCL, RM), Codorus S.P., PA Apr. 3 (CG), and M.C.F.H., Apr. 14 (FB). Small numbers of Snow Geese were found at Mosquito L.,

OH Mar. 12 (J&DH), Pymatuning L., PA to Apr. 11 (DS), Edenville PA Mar. 18–23 (CG), Y.C.S.P., Mar. 16 (MH), and rather late dates at Wood, WV Apr. 11 (JBl) and Swoope, VA May 7 (YL). Canada Goose numbers at Pymatuning L. peaked at about 6000 Mar. 10 (RFL).

Gadwall and N. Pintails were in high numbers, and 125 Am. Wigeon were at Pine L., OH Mar. 17 (D&JH). An Eur Wigeon was at P.I.S.P., Mar. 30–Apr. 11 (JM, EK) and one was at Conneaut L., PA Mar. 30 (IF, JB). Canvasbacks, with a high count of 200 at Donegal L., PA Apr. 5 (RCL), and Redheads, high count of 163 at C.M., PA Mar. 23 (RFL), were much above normal for the Region. The high count for Ring-necked Ducks was 1235 at C.M., Apr. 7 (RFL). Many ponds and lakes had flocks of ≥ 100 Lesser Scaup, the high count being 2500 at Donegal L., PA Apr. 5 (RCL). Other high counts were Bufflehead, 350 at Donegal L., Apr. 5 (RCL) and 150 at Somerset L., Apr. 4 (M&EW); Red-breasted Merganser, 383 at Pymatuning L., Apr. 7 (RFL), 335 at Mosquito L., OH Mar. 29 (J&DH), 316 at Somerset L., Apr. 8 (RCL), and 250 at L. Arthur, PA (*vide* PH); and Ruddy Duck, 1800 at Y.C.S.P., Apr. 14 (E&MW), 646 at L. Arthur, PA (*vide* PH), and 600 at Donegal L., Apr. 5 (RCL).

“Sea duck” species are rare inland, but Greater Scaup were found in small numbers in Gallia, OH Mar. 23 and May 4–18 (WA *et al.*); Wood, WV Apr. 19 (KC, first county record), and Augusta, VA Apr. 11 (AL). The Oldsquaw flight was possibly the heaviest on record, with small flocks reported throughout the n. part of the Region, and a high count of >200 at Donegal L., Apr. 5 (RCL). Black Scoters were reported from Edenville, PA Apr. 5 (CG) and P.I.S.P., Apr. 26 (RSt); Surf Scoters were at St. Mary's Res., PA Apr. 14 (LC), Tamarack L., PA Apr. 29 (IF), and Rocky Gap S.P., MD Apr. 5 (MT); and White-winged Scoters were at E. Branch L., PA Apr. 14 (LC), P.I.S.P., Apr. 11 and May 2 (JM), Woodstock L., Apr. 29 (IF), Edenville, PA Apr. 5 (CG), Donegal L., PA and 2 other nearby lakes Apr. 5 (RM, RCL), Quemahoning Res., Apr. 14 (M&EW), and Rocky Gap S.P., MD Apr. 5 (MT).

Hooded Mergansers nested in a bird box at Akeley, PA (BH), and a female with brood May 13 at Imperial, PA provided the first *Allegheny* nesting record (TF).

Raptors to Cranes

Ospreys were widely reported in migration. They nested at L. Arthur, PA for the first time 3 years after an introduction

program started. Nesting was also reported from Somerset L., PA (AM) and Neal I. in the Ohio R. near Parkersburg, WV (JE). The reports of nesting Bald Eagles were encouraging. In Ohio they nested at Meander L. (NB), Mosquito L. (nest failed), and Venango L. (two chicks; CB). In Pennsylvania, nine chicks were at Pymatuning L. and C.M. (RFL), two chicks at *Butler* (*fide* PH), and nesting occurred at the Kinzua Dam in Warren (DW). The 5 nests in West Virginia were active, but a new, 6th attempt was abandoned (CSt). Northern Harriers were apparently nesting on recovered surface mines near Steubenville, OH (MA), and a female on a mine at Markleton, PA May 28 suggested nesting (AM).

Reports of N. Goshawks came from the Allegheny N.E., PA Apr. 28 (D&BW), St. Mary's, PA May 12 (LC), Pymatuning L., PA Mar. 2 (RFL), Plumville, PA Mar. 17 (SBa), and Natrona Heights, PA Mar. 29 (PH). Rough-legged Hawks were in above-normal numbers in March in most n Pennsylvania locations. One in *Unicoi*, TN Mar. 28 (FA) furnished a noteworthy record. Rough-leggeds at Stoney R. Dam, WV Apr. 18 (AW) and Steubenville, OH on the surface mines May 18 (MA) were on the late side. Golden Eagles were reported from C.M., Mar. 3 & 9 (RFL), Tussey Mt., PA Mar. 30 (BS), Fairbrook, PA May 5 (JPe), and Cheat Mt., WV Mar. 16 (WA).

Eight Merlins were seen at P.I.S.P., Mar. 14–May 13 (*fide* JM), and other records were at Mosquito L., OH Apr. 3 (D&JH), and Pittsburgh and Imperial, PA Apr. 24 (MV). Single Peregrines were sighted at P.I.S.P., May 10 (DS) & 15 (MH). A pair nested for the 6th consecutive year in downtown Pittsburgh, hatching three chicks; another pair was seen repeatedly in late April and May in a different section of Pittsburgh (*fide* PH).

Northern Bobwhites have almost disappeared from the n. part of the Region. This year the Elizabethton, TN, Spring Count listed only three, the lowest number in the 50 years of that count (RK). In West Virginia, Wild Turkeys are thriving.

Both Virginia Rails and Soras were reported in higher numbers and from more places than usual, while Com. Moorhens were reported from 5 sites in w. Pennsylvania. A Purple Gallinule was in *Breathitt*, KY Apr. 12–May 9 (ph., m.ob., *fide* FB).

Sandhill Cranes normally migrate through n.w. Georgia, so the 276 counted for *Whitfield* and *Murray*, GA (HD) were expected. The records from *Butler*, PA, two Mar. 25 (GW), and one at *Lawrence*, PA Mar. 29 (SB, LW) may be of the birds

that nested in that area last year, but the reports of one at P.I.S.P., Apr. 21 (BW) and a flock of 25–30 over Sandstone Falls, *Raleigh/Summers*, WV, in early April (A&GMc) were noteworthy.

Shorebirds to Terns

The shorebird flight was average. Heavy precipitation eliminated much suitable habitat. There were a few unusual records and a few large concentrations. Black-bellied Plovers were more common than usual, with reports from 7 locations. American Golden-Plovers were at Newville, PA Apr. 13–17 (DHe). Eighteen Am. Avocets were at P.I.S.P., Apr. 30 (GC) and one was at Y.C.S.P., May 3 (MH *et al.*). Willets were reported from P.I.S.P., May 5 (JM) and *Indiana*, PA May 8–11 (GL). Upland Sandpipers were at P.I.S.P., May 9 (JM) and in *Butler* (GW) and *Lawrence*, PA (BD). Three pairs returned to the nesting site in *Lawrence* (BD), and the species apparently nested in *Westmoreland*, PA (RCL, RM). Of the rarer species, P.I.S.P. had eight Whimbrel and two Hudsonian Godwits May 21 (DS), and one Red Knot May 27 (JM). Other unusual records were two Ruddy Turnstones at L. Somerset, PA May 12 (AM) and a Sanderling at Y.C.S.P., Apr. 30 (MH). White-rumped Sandpipers, W. Sandpipers, and Short-billed Dowitchers were more common than usual. Two Long-billed Dowitchers carefully identified by plumage and voice at R.C.B.L., May 5 (WA) constituted the first positive identification in West Virginia. Single Wilson's Phalaropes were seen at Volant, PA Apr. 23 (NR) and P.I.S.P., May 4 (JM, EK).

A Laughing Gull was at P.I.S.P., Apr. 27 (JM). The Franklin's Gull at Huntington, WV, provided the 2nd state record, both from the same park (WA, HS, MG). Bonaparte's Gulls were widely reported, but the only large number was 100 at Quemahoning Res., PA Apr. 14 (E&M). The high count for Ring-billed Gulls was 840 at Pymatuning L., PA (RFL). Ring-billeds attempted to nest at P.I.S.P., but all nests were predated (JM). Herring Gulls again nested on the navigational structures at Pittsburgh (*fide* PH). As usual, P.I.S.P. contributed several of the rarer gulls: one Thayer's Mar. 27 & 28 (JM); seven Iceland Mar. 1–Apr. 25 (JM, EK); five Lesser Black-backed Mar. 2–Apr. 6 (JM, GC); and seven Glaucous Mar. 1–27 (JM). A Great Black-backed Gull was at B.E.S.P., Mar. 1 (DBo) & 9 (BS).

It was a great season for terns, with the 4 expected species widely reported. In the 5-county Pittsburgh area, record seasonal totals of 22 Caspians, >120 Commons,



Peter Ginn Birding Safaris

Peter Ginn, a well-known author, photographer, ornithologist and editor of THE COMPLETE BOOK OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN BIRDS, is leading customized birding safaris to Zimbabwe, Africa.

Whether you are a "lister" or just enjoy watching birds in their natural habitat, we will make it a trip of a lifetime.

800 569-4009

Ask for Randy

and >130 Forster's were reported (PH) Caspian Terns were found at Somerset L., PA (AM, RCL), Donegal L., PA (RCL), Morgantown, WV (SS), R.C.B.L. (WA), *Augusta*, VA (YL), *Botetourt*, VA (MS), *s* Holston L., TN (WC), and *Murray*, GA (*fide* HD). A Com. Tern was seen courting and displaying before a female at P.I.S.P., but there was no evidence of nesting (JM) Common Terns were reported from Edinboro L., PA (RFL), Bluestone L., WV (JP), and M.C.F.H. (FB). As usual, Forster's Terns were more widely reported and more numerous than Commons, with reports from 12 locations from P.I.S.P. in the north to Austin Springs, TN in the south. Black Terns were unusually common, with reports from 21 locations.

Doves to Swallows

Possibly the "Co-Bird of the Season" was a White-winged Dove (ph., †) in Fairview Twp., PA (DB, JM). If a genuine wild bird, it would represent the first record for the Region. Western Pennsylvania and n West Virginia had a infestation of tent caterpillars (as well as Gypsy moths), and both cuckoo species responded with high numbers. The Black-billed Cuckoo was much more evident than usual, particularly at lower elevations.

The only report of Barn Owls was of 3 nesting sites in *Washington*, TN (DHu). At



Far from its usual haunts was this White-winged Dove in Erie County, Pennsylvania, May 8, 1996. Photograph/Jerry McWilliams.

least 18 Long-eared Owls were seen at P.I.S.P., Mar. 9–May 12 (DD), and one was in *Lawrence*, PA Mar. 19–Apr. 6 (BD). Six Short-eared Owls remained on the recovered surface mines at Steubenville, OH until at least Apr. 7 (MA). Six were seen in *Erie*, PA Mar. 1–Apr. 27 (*vide* JM), and other reports came from *Imperial*, PA (CT, SV), *Washington*, OH Mar. 10 (LWR), and *Fishersville*, VA (MN). Ten N. Saw-whet Owls were tallied at P.I.S.P. between Apr. 13–May 12 (DD), and singles were at the Allegheny N.E., May 11 (DWO), the Scotia Barrens, PA Mar. 13 (TO), and Greensburg, PA Apr. 17 (LCA).

There were few reports of Com. Nighthawks. Is this species slipping quietly into oblivion without notice? There were a few more Whip-poor-will reports than in recent years, with an encouraging one–four daily from Apr. 30–May 25 (JM). But populations are still low. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds arrived a little late, and the 103 banded at P.N.R., May 5–31 was 2 S.D. above the average. Most reporters who mentioned them considered Belted Kingfishers to be in low numbers. On the bright side were the reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers from *Warren*, PA (2 pairs all season; JS, JN), *Conneaut L.*, PA Apr. 13 & 21 (RFL), *Chalk Hill*, PA most of May (AC), *Morgantown*, WV (SS), *Dalton*, GA (*vide* HD), and 4 sites in *Washington*, TN (RK).

The normally rare Olive-sided Flycatcher was reported from more than the usual locations, but E. Wood-Pewees seemed to be in low numbers. Acadian Flycatchers were common at most places within its range, and more Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported than usual in spring. At P.N.R., Least, "Trail's," and Yellow-bellied flycatchers were banded in above-average

numbers (RCL, RM). In n. West Virginia, Great Crested Flycatchers were found in low numbers (GAH).

The cold and wet early spring was hard on early swallows, and in *Butler*, PA, the bad weather May 11 produced a fallout: 10,000 Tree, 1500 N. Rough-wingeds, 1000 Bank, 500 Cliff, and 10,000 Barn swallows (GW). Tree Swallow populations in the newly acquired breeding range in e. Tennessee continue to increase (RK).

Corvids to Shrikes

The Com. Raven is doing well in highlands, while expanding its range. Nestings at low elevations were discovered at *Rector*, PA (TV), and at 3 locations in *Carter* and *Unicoi*, TN (RK). After the heavy fall flight of Black-capped Chickadees, P.N.R. experienced a good northbound movement, with 77 banded (RM, RCL). Similarly, the ample fall flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches was reflected in small numbers reported throughout the Region, mostly at feeders. Many were still present at low elevations in mid- to late May.

Late winter and early spring snowfalls just about finished the Carolina Wren population in the north. At *Morgantown*, House Wrens were also at low populations (GAH). Sedge Wrens were found at *Mosquito W.A.*, OH June 30 (D&JH), *Accident*, MD May 31 (CS), *G.B.W.M.A.* through May (MG, WA), and *Unicoi*, TN Apr. 23 (FA). Marsh Wrens were at *C.M.*, May 13 (EK), *Y.C.S.P.*, Apr. 27 and May 13 (MH), *Butler*, PA May 11 (GW), *R.C.B.L.*, May 3, *Ashton*, WV May 4–14 (WA), and *Austin Springs*, TN Apr. 21 and May 3 & 11 (RK).

There were a few reports of dead E. Bluebirds in nest boxes after the harsh weather, but in e. Tennessee bluebird populations were at a 50-year high (RK). There was almost unanimous agreement that Swainson Thrushes had the best migration in years. They arrived somewhat early, before May 1, and were present in numbers until late May. There was much singing. Veeries and Hermit Thrushes were also in good numbers. On the other hand, Wood Thrush bandings at P.N.R. were one S.D. below average (RM, RCL), and numbers were on the low side at most places. There were 3 records of N. Mockingbirds in *Erie*, PA from Apr. 9–May 10 (JM), and they returned to the nesting area near *Niles*, OH (CB), both locations n. of the usual range.

American Pipits were reported from *Mt. Davis*, PA Mar. 28 (AM) and from *Slickville*, PA Apr. 11 (DL). Cedar Waxwings were not common, but two large influxes were noted: 200 in *Alleghany*,

MD Mar 6 (MT) and *Morgantown*, WV Apr. 8–20 (LS). There were several holdovers from the winter invasion of N. Shrikes: P.I.S.P., Mar. 1–23 (EK, JM), *Pymatuning L.*, PA Mar. 16 (RFL), *Indiana*, PA Mar. 8 (JMi), and *L. Arthur*, PA Mar. 9 & 24 (DD, MV). Loggerhead Shrikes were found at 3 sites near *Swoope*, VA, where nesting has occurred in recent years (YL); two were found near *Waynesboro*, PA May 22 (CG), and one banded in *Wayne*, WV was the first local record since 1984 (HS).

Warblers

In e. Tennessee, warblers were late and in low numbers (RK). At P.I.S.P., cold winds off L. Erie kept numbers down, although a few miles s. large numbers were grounded (JM). In between these 2 points, depending on where you were, it was a good or even great flight. The inclement weather often kept the birds out of the tree tops and made them easier to see. There were several major fallouts with spectacular groundings. One was in *Augusta*, VA May 17, where one observer reported 10 species in one blue spruce tree (YL); another was at *Youngstown*, OH May 17, when 17 species were listed in one park (NB). The Orange-crowned Warbler, usually rare in spring migration, was reported more than usual. Records of Yellow-throated Warbler from the far n. localities of *Erie* May 13–16 (C&ES), *Irvine*, PA Apr. 17+ (DW), and *Meadville*, PA May 20 (IF) were to be expected given the rapid northward range expansion of this species. Three records, May 15–18, of Kentucky Warbler at P.I.S.P. (JM) also furnished examples of a s. species overflying its range. "Brewster's" Warblers were reported from *Roan Mt.*, TN (FA), *Shenandoah*, VA May 5 (DDa), *Murraysville*, PA Apr. 27 (MSh), and one was banded at P.N.R., May 30 (RCL, RM). A "Lawrence's" Warbler was also banded at P.N.R., May 19 (RM, RCL).

Tanagers to Finches

A Summer Tanager in *Center Twp.*, *Indiana*, PA May 11 (LCn) was slightly out-of-range. A major fallout of Scarlet Tanagers caused by bad weather May 11–12 occurred in *Butler*, PA (PH) and *Westmoreland*, PA (RCL, RM). Hundreds of grounded tanagers were seen in fields and along highways. A Western Tanager was seen well May 13 at *Indian Head*, *Fayette*, PA (W&MM).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were numerous. During the bad weather in late April and early May many places reported large numbers of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and

Indigo Buntings at bird feeders. The Black-headed Grosbeak that had been in *Allegheny*, PA since last fall was present until May 4 (RS). There were more reports of Blue Grosbeaks at Dalton, GA, than usual (HD), but there were also a number of noteworthy reports from the north: 2 reports from *Augusta*, VA Apr. 30 and May 5 (YL), three in *Centre*, PA May 4 & 11 (HH, M&LR), three in *Allegheny*, PA May 10, 11 & 14 (MV *et al.*), Indiana, PA May 11 (CK); and, from the highlands of West Virginia, Buckhannon May 1, Elkins Apr. 12 (at a feeder), *Pendleton* May 18 (KL), and at Bartow (elevation 2900 ft) May 9 (RW). The "Co-Bird of the Season" was a 2nd-year ♂ **Painted Bunting** banded at P.N.R., May 5, furnishing the first s.w. Pennsylvania record (RCL, RM). Dickcissels were unusually numerous: ten in *Westmoreland*, PA May 17 (m.ob.); Imperial, PA May 15 (TF, PH), Volant, PA May 18 (BW), Newburg, PA May 25+ (BA), G.B.W.M.A., May 26–29 (MG, HS), seven in Petersburg, WV May 30 (AW), *Augusta*, VA May 11 (CC, RSn), and ≤12 in *Washington*, TN May 7–31 (RK).

Sparrows brought mixed reports. Chipping and Field sparrows were unusually scarce in n. West Virginia (GAH), and Henslow's Sparrows were low on the recovered mines in e. Ohio (MA). There were 3 reports of **Clay-colored Sparrow**, at *Allegheny*, PA Apr. 6–mid-May (EK, RS), one–two at P.I.S.P., May 15 (ph., m.ob.), and one banded at P.N.R., May 15 (RM, RCL). But at P.N.R., bandings of Fox, Swamp, and White-throated sparrows were much above average (RCL, RM).

There were 3 reports of four White-crowned Sparrows of the subspecies *gambeli* in *Erie* May 10–18 (JM). The reports of 20 singing ♂ Grasshopper Sparrows at R.C.B.L. (HS) furnished good news, as did 23 singing ♂ Henslow's Sparrows at 5 locations in *Garrett*, MD (CS). *Seven* Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Austin Springs, TN May 11 was a new high count for the state (RK, TM). An "Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco was banded at P.N.R., Mar. 3 (RM, RCL), and one was seen in *Indiana*, PA Mar. 3 (MH).

Northern finches remained well into April, with the delay of spring-like weather. Common Redpolls were present in small flocks as far south as *Wood*, WV (JE) and as late as May 8 in *Greene*, PA (RB). Evening Grosbeaks were in small groups at scattered locations as far south as *Murray*, GA (HD) and as late as May 12 at P.N.R. (RCL, RM).

Pine Siskins were seen as far south as Morgantown, WV (SS). Most of these left by the end of April, although some remained into May. Siskins may have nested near P.N.R. (RCL, RM). There was a major influx of Purple Finches to feeders in e. Tennessee during March–April (RK), and elsewhere they were more numerous than in recent seasons.

Two Pine Grosbeaks were at a feeder near Ligonier, PA Apr. 17 (HSc). A lone ♀ White-winged Crossbill was in *Crawford*, PA Apr. 25–May 10 (LCh). Red Crossbills were reported from Edinboro, PA Mar. 5 & 15 (DS), Shenandoah Mt., VA Apr. 21 (LT), and *Washington*, TN Apr. 20 (FA).

Contributors: Fred Alsop, Michael Arabia, Wendell Argabrite, Bob Augustine, Carole Babyak, James Barker (JB), Scott Bastian (SBa), Ralph Bell, John Blomberg (JBl), Dorothy Bordner (DBo), Donna Bostaph (DB), Nancy Brundage, Fred Busroe, Ken Byerly, Suzanne Butcher (SB), Ken Byerly, Crista Cain, Kathy Cain, Lee Carnahan (LCn), Louise Carroll (LCa), Louise Chambers (LCh), Linda Christenson (LC), John Churchill, Alan Clark, Wallace Coffey, Greg Cook, Dave Darney (DD), David Davis (DDa), Barb Dean, Harriett DiGioia, Jeanette Esker, Isaac Field, Ted Floyd, Thomas Fox, Dot Freeman, Carl Garner, Mike Griffith, Ted Grisez, Harry Henderson, John Heninger, Don Henise (DHe), Paul Hess, Margaret Higbee, William Highhouse, Bill Hill, David Hochadel (DH), Judy Hochadel, Dan Huffine (DHu), Carol Kerr, Rick Knight, Ed Kwater, Gloria Lamer, Allen Larner, YuLee Larner, Dennis Lauffer, Robert C. Leberman (RCL), Ronald F. Leberman (RFL), Kathy Leo, Richard Lewis (RLe), Anthony Marich (AM), Larry McDaniel, Tom McNeil, Ann McRae (AMc), Grady McRae (GMc), Jerry McWilliams (JM), Jim Michny (JMi), Mary Miller, Willis Miller, Robert Mulvihill, Tim O'Connell, John Peplinski (JPe), Jim Phillips (JP), Larry Ramsay, Mary Ramsay, Nancy Rodgers, Helen Schmidt (HSc), John Schultz (JS), Regis Schultz (RSc), Larry Schwab, Mary Shirland (MSh), Connie Skipper (CS), Harry Slack, Michael G. Smith (MGS), Mike Smith (MS), Bob Snyder, Donald Snyder, Ruth Snyder (RSn), Sally Stebbins, Craig Stihler (CSt), Randy Stringer (RSt), Elaine Stutevant (ESv), Claude Sturtevant (CSv), Chuck Tague, Leonard Teuber, John Tilley, Mary Twigg, Mark VanderVen, Suzanne Varley, Tim Vechter, Linda Wagner (LW), Bob Walczak (BWa), Gary Wallace (GWa), Evaleen Watko, Mike Watko, Brenda Watts (BW), Don Watts (DW), Andy Weaks, Robert Whitmore, Gene Wilhelm (GW), Dave Wolfe (DWo), Lucine Wright (LWr), Eugene Zielinski.

—George A. Hall, P.O. Box 6045, West Virginia University, Morgantown WV 26506–6045.



Clay-colored Sparrow at Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania, May 15, 1996. Photography/Jerry McWilliams