

again this year May 26 (PM). Interesting was the report of yet another pair along the San Pedro R. at Cascabel May 11 (*vide* DKr) that were apparently present in 1995 as well. A ♂ Baltimore Oriole was present along Granite Cr. near Prescott May 19 (CT), providing only a 3rd local record.

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New Mexico

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Extreme drought characterized New Mexico this spring, but its impact on birds was obscure. Meanwhile, intensive searches for rarities, plus systematic banding at selected locales, continued to clarify the status of many migrants (especially warblers!) and added yet another species to the state list.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (*Bitter Lake N.W.R.*); Bosque N.W.R. (*Bosque del Apache NN.W.R.*); E.B.L. (*Elephant Butte L.*); L.V.N.W.R. (*Las Vegas N.W.R.*); R.G.V. (*Rio Grande Valley*).

Grebes to Ducks

A Pied-billed Grebe with three chicks at Jal L., May 15 (TH) furnished a likely first breeding record for *Lea*. A lingering Horned Grebe at Texico Apr. 20 (JO, DE, BN) had attained breeding plumage by May 25 (DE, BN, CR). A **Red-necked Grebe** "going into breeding plumage" was at Caballo Dam May 3 (L. Schulte *et al.*), where another (or the same?) was last seen Jan. 12. Unusual for *Grant* was an Am. White Pelican at Bill Evans L., May 11 (RF). Highly unusual for the Pecos Valley were single Neotropic Cormorants at Santa Rosa Apr. 26 (JO) and B.L.N.W.R., Apr. 21–May 8 (CR, GE, JO, JEP). Several Great Egrets wandered N of usual, including singles at Morgan L., Apr. 21–May 15 (JO, ph. TR), near Las Vegas May 27 (JEP, JO), Texico May 11 (JO), and Mangas Apr. 23 and May 15 (RF), plus two–three over Albuquerque's w. mesa Apr. 19 (WH); one was incubating at Bosque N.W.R., Apr. 27 (CR). An ad. Little Blue Heron at Bosque N.W.R., May 11 & 14 (DE, BN, JNP, JO) was the only report, as was an ad. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** there on the same dates (DE, BN, JNP, ph. JO).

White-faced Ibises inundated the state Mar. 29–May 24 (m.ob.); *maxima* included 61 at Clayton Apr. 30 (WC), 80 at Zuni May 11 (DC), 150 at Polvadera Apr. 22 (F. Stanley), and 240 at Bosque N.W.R., plus 334 near Percha Apr. 13 (JEP). Noteworthy among several peripheral Wood Ducks were two at Zuni Apr. 12 (DC) and one at Sunland Park Apr. 30 (CS). Providing a first for *San Juan* was a ♂ **Eurasian Wigeon** at Farmington Mar. 23 (ph. TR). Westerly Greater Scaup

included two at Flora Vista Mar. 9 (TR) and one at Ojo Amarillo Apr. 26 (ph. TR); high count was 12 Greater at L.V.N.W.R., Apr. 13 (CR). An imm. **Surf Scoter** on a tank near Bingham Apr. 12 (T. Mitchusson) provided a rare spring record. Two Barrow's Goldeneyes below Navajo Dam Mar. 31 (TR) were the last seen. A ♀ Com. Merganser with 10 small young near Virden May 29 (SOW) provided a first breeding record for *Hidalgo*. Late was a Red-breasted Merganser at Caballo L., May 11 (BN, DE, JNP).

Ospreys to Plovers

One–two Ospreys were at 22 sites statewide (v.o.), while 62 passed the Sandia Mts. lookout Mar. 21–May 2 (HWI). Mississippi Kites continued to increase in the R.G.V., with six at Los Lunas May 10 (WP), two near Belen May 30 (WH), and one at Sunland Park Apr. 30 (CS); out-of-range was one at Estancia May 26 (BN, DE). The five N. Goshawks counted at the Sandia lookout Mar. 19–May 4 represented a 67% decline from the 10-year average (HWI). An ad. Com. Black-Hawk, rare in the R.G.V., was at Percha Mar. 13 (BN, DE), while far east were single possible Black-Hawks at B.L.N.W.R., Mar. 12 (M. Manning) and near Hondo May 22 (SMB). Late was a Broad-winged Hawk at Boone's Draw May 25 (JEP, DE, BN, CR). A near-record 441 Golden Eagles were counted at the Sandia lookout Feb. 27–May 3 (HWI), while the 10 Merlins there Mar. 10–Apr. 30 was 72% above the 10-year average (HWI). A Chukar at Farmington Mar. 4 (TR) was almost certainly an escapee. Noteworthy was a Ring-necked Pheasant in the Mimbres Valley May 11 (RF). A **Purple Gallinule** wandered to Carlsbad May 13 (*vide* SW). A Com. Moorhen was n. to Isleta May 26 (BV). Ever resourceful, Am. Coots produced at least one young at the Moriarty turf farm in May (CR), possibly a first for *Torrance*. Two Black-bellied Plovers were at Morgan L., Apr. 26 (ph. TR); elsewhere, singles were at Bosque N.W.R., May 2 (PES) and B.L.N.W.R., Apr. 26–May 5 (v.o.). An Am. Golden-Plover was at Bosque N.W.R., Apr. 26–28 (CR *et al.*). Snowy Plovers returned to Holloman L., Mar. 8 (GE) and B.L.N.W.R., Mar. 15 (SN); Snowies away from usual areas were singles at Bosque N.W.R., Mar. 30–Apr. 6 (v.o.) and Tyrone May 11 (D&MZ, EL), two at Lordsburg playa Mar. 29 (CR, CS), and three at Brantley L., May 14 (CR). A pair of Mt. Plovers had one chick near Abbott May 30 (LS), but very few migrants were reported from turf farms at Moriarty and Los Lunas.

Sandpipers to Skimmer

Migrant Willets made a strong showing Apr. 15–May 19 (v.o.), including *maxima* of 26 at Morgan L., May 6 (TR), 24 at Bosque N.W.R., Apr. 26 (CR), six at Texico Apr. 27 (JO), 25 at B.L.N.W.R., Apr. 28 (JO), and 27 at Santa Teresa Apr. 24 (DE). Well-described were single *Whimbrels* at Tohatchi May 11 (ph. DC), n. of Las Vegas May 11 (WW), and at B.L.N.W.R., May 8 (JEP). Very rare, a probable *Hudsonian Godwit* was at Stubblefield L., May 28 (WW). Marbled Godwits were present Apr. 11–May 11 (v.o.), including 120 at Morgan L., Apr. 26 (ph. TR), two at Zuni Apr. 13 (DC), and 15 at Bosque N.W.R., May 2 (PES). One–six Sanderlings were at Morgan L. (ph. TR), Farmington L., Maxwell N.W.R. (ph. JO), Santa Rosa, Bosque N.W.R., and Brantley L., Apr. 26–May 27 (v.o.). Among the few Semipalmated Sandpipers Apr. 21–May 15 (v.o.) were two w. to Morgan L., May 14–15 (phs. TR, JO).

Seven White-rumped Sandpipers strayed W to L.V.N.W.R., May 22 (CR); other White-rumped included three at Clayton L., May 26 (JEP, JO) and two at Ute Cr., *Harding*, May 25 (JEP, ph. JO). Five Dunlins were at Bottomless Lakes Mar. 27 (SMB); three at nearby B.L.N.W.R., Apr. 10 (WH) were attaining breeding plunge. A first for New Mexico was a *Curlew Sandpiper* at B.L.N.W.R., May 4 (DE, BN) & 5 (JEP, ph. JO). Far west was a *Stilt Sandpiper* at Lordsburg May 5 (CR). Red-necked Phalaropes are scarce in spring, so noteworthy were six at Morgan L., May 15 (phs. TR, JO), one at Farmington Apr. 25 (TR), singles May 11 at Bosque N.W.R. and Palomas (DE, BN, JNP), and 17 at B.L.N.W.R., May 19 (JO). A first-winter probable *Laughing Gull* was at Caballo L., Mar. 16 (BN, DE). An imm. *Heermann's Gull* at E.B.L., Mar. 30 (JEP, ph. JO) provided New Mexico's 4th record and the first since 1985; also there that day was a first-winter probable *Thayer's Gull* (JEP, ph. JO). A *Mew Gull* with Ring-billed at E.B.L., Apr. 6 (JEP, CR, ph. JO) may have been the same individual reported in January. The *Black-legged Kittiwake* present at Caballo Dam since late November was last seen Mar. 6 (GE). The only *Caspian Tern* was at Caballo L., Apr. 13 (BN, DE, JEP, ph. JO). An ad. Com. Tern was with *Forster's* at Morgan L., Apr. 26 (ph. TR). Transient Least Terns appeared at B.L.N.W.R. unusually early, with one Apr. 13 (*fide* SN), two Apr. 19 (CR), and three Apr. 22 (W. Radke), but were not seen again there until May 6 (JEP). A Least Tern at Morgan L., May 15 (JO, ph. TR)

provided a *San Juan* first. An ad. *Black Skimmer* at Morgan L., May 14 (ph. TR) furnished the state's 2nd definite and 3rd overall record.

Doves to Woodpeckers

White-winged Doves continued their northward advance, including one at Española May 26 (MM), two at Santa Fe all period (F. Quesenberry), and singles at Moriarty May 17 & 24 (JO, JEP), Ramon May 19 (JO), and Tinnie May 5 (JO); 57 were in the Roswell area May 11 (SMB *et al.*). One–four Inca Doves were n. and e. to n. *Roosevelt*, Melrose, Boone's Draw, Portales, and Tatum Apr. 20–May 26 (v.o.). The only Com. Ground-Dove was at Mangas Apr. 25–26 (RF). A probable *White-tipped Dove* was at Las Cruces May 18 (B. Jacobson), but the origin of this heretofore unreported (an unexpected) species was a mystery; law enforcement and other reports suggest that illegal traffic in cagebirds is increasing in the Las Cruces-El Paso-Juarez area. Several *Streptopelia* doves continued to be seen in Roswell (*fide* SMB), but their origin continued uncertain.

Noteworthy for the plains was a Flammulated Owl roosting n. of Roswell May 4 (JEP). Whiskered Screech-Owls occupied 11 territories in 5 Peloncillo Mts. canyons during the period (SOW), but none was detected in the Animas Mts., May 1 (SOW). Notable was a Long-eared Owl in the Little Burro Mts., May 9 (DZ). Two–six Chimney Swifts were at Clayton May 25–26 (JEP, JO), Clovis May 11 & 26 (JEP, JO), and Roswell May 4–11 (v.o.). Far n. was a ♂ Broad-billed Hummingbird at Albuquerque Apr. 24–May 9 (S. Dart); the only other Broad-billed away from Guadalupe Canyon were two in the n. Peloncillo Mts., May 16 (SOW). Only four–six Lucifers were in P.O. Canyon April–May (RS); a single s. of there May 16 (SOW) provided the only additional report. The only *Anna's* was a singing male last seen in P.O. Canyon Apr. 26 (RS). A ♂



Far from its usual coastal haunts was this *Black Skimmer* at Morgan Lake, northwestern New Mexico, May 14, 1996. Photograph/Tim Reeves.

Costa's Hummingbird on the e. slope of the San Andres Mts., Apr. 23 (ph. MW) may be the most easterly yet for New Mexico; another male was near Las Cruces Apr. 17–19 (T. Lawton, GE, BN, DE). Extremely rare in spring, an ad. ♂ *Calliope* was at P.O. Canyon May 19 (RS), as was an ad. ♂ *Rufous* Apr. 16–17 (RS); other *Rufous* males were singles at Bosque N.W.R., May 2 (M. Arthur) and Las Cruces Apr. 18 (*fide* CS).

Lewis' Woodpeckers s. in the R.G.V. included singles at Los Lunas May 30 (WH), Bosque N.W.R., Apr. 30–May 8 (DH), and Las Cruces Mar. 10 (*fide* CS), the latter likely a winter holdover. Out of habitat was an Acorn Woodpecker at White Sands N.M., May 16 (JM). One–two Gila Woodpeckers on Deer Cr., May 28 (SOW) were perhaps the first e. of the Continental Divide. Sapsuckers reported as Yellow-bellied included singles at Clayton Apr. 25 (WC), Santa Fe Mar. 1 & 2 (SB), White Rock Mar. 10 (JO), and B.L.N.W.R., Mar. 19 (GE); far w. was a male in the Animas Mts., May 4 (CR). A *Williamson's Sapsucker* at Santa Fe Mar. 1 (SB) may have overwintered. A *Three-toed Woodpecker* was at Sandia Crest May 12 (WP).

Flycatchers to Shrikes

A highly-probable *Eastern Wood-Pewee* was singing at Boone's Draw May 25 (BN, DE, CR); there is but one definite state record. A Least Flycatcher was at Albuquerque May 3 (JO); the species is rare in spring so far west. Three territorial Gray Flycatchers were singing in the Little Burro Mts., May 9–11 (D&MZ). Notably early were two W. Kingbirds well-seen near Springer Mar. 19 (K. Copeland-Williams). Westerly were two Scissor-tailed near Ft. Sumner May 4 (BN, DE). Unexpected so far east was a *Purple Martin* in e. *Union* May 26 (JEP, JO). Probably owing to extensive development, Albuquerque's Calabacillas Arroyo Bank Swallow colony was found abandoned in May (WH). Two *Black-billed Magpies* in s. Albuquerque May 11 (*fide* WH) were at their s. frontier. A vocal Am. Crow at Redrock May 30 (SOW) suggested continued colonization of the lower Gila Valley. Easterly Com. Ravens included a nest at Santa Rosa May 23 (CR) and two fledglings at Boone's Draw May 26 (CR). Single submontane Mt. Chickadees persisted until May 3 in *San Juan* (TR) and Apr. 17 at Bosque N.W.R. (PES). Red-breasted Nuthatches remained in evidence on the e. plains, with three at Boone's Draw and singles at Moriarty, Ramon, and near Roswell May 3–19 (JEP, JO). Northerly Cactus Wrens included two in *Guadalupe* Mar. 3 (JO) and two singing near the Los

Pinos Mts., Sevillera N.W.R., May 30 (WH); three remained at Albuquerque until Mar. 26, but were not seen thereafter (HS). A **Carolina Wren** was a surprise at Bosque N.W.R., May 9 (ph. DH). A pair of Black-tailed Gnatcatchers near Redrock Mar. 28 and a male there May 11 (D&MZ) were noteworthy; a Black-tailed was in Guadalupe Canyon Mar. 30 (CR, CS, BN), where rarely reported. Among the discoveries near the Oklahoma line along Corrupa Cr., May 26 were two E. Bluebirds (JEP, JO) and a singing **Wood Thrush** (JEP, ph. JO). Late for the south was a Swainson's Thrush in the Animas Mts., May 31 (AC, CS); migrant Swainson's were conspicuous statewide after May 10 (v.o.), and may have been responsible for some undetailed "Veeries." One-two Brown Thrashers were at Clayton, Ft. Sumner, n. *Roosevelt*, Boone's Draw, Roswell, and Rattlesnake Springs Apr. 16–May 18 (v.o.); possibly nesting were 2 pairs on Corrupa Cr., May 26 (JEP, JO). Rarely detected in spring, a Sprague's Pipit was at B.L.N.W.R., Apr. 9 (WH) and four were in Animas Valley grasslands Mar. 31 (CR *et al.*). Perhaps dispersing from the dry southwest, Phainopeplas were unusually numerous in the east, including 30 at Hondo May 22 (SMB) and 34 at Rattlesnake Springs May 14 (CR); others where rarely reported were singles at La Joya May 30 (WH), Three Rivers Mar. 16 (AP), and Bottomless Lakes Apr. 24 (GE). An undetailed N. Shrike near Aztec Mar. 31 (TR) represented the state's latest ever by 9 days; an imm. Northern near Stinking L., Mar. 8 (JEP, JO) was the only additional report.

Vireos to Warblers

A White-eyed Vireo at Boone's Draw May 4 (JEP, JO) and a **Philadelphia Vireo** at Rattlesnake Springs May 19 (BN) provided the only reports. A Bell's Vireo at San Andres N.W.R., Apr. 30 (WH, MW) provided a local first. Westerly was a Yellow-throated Vireo at Bosque N.W.R., May 7 (ph. DH); one was at Boone's Draw Apr. 20–21 (DE, BN, CR, JEP, ph. JO) and again May 18 (JO), where Yellow-throateds have occurred annually since 1993. Two Red-eyed Vireos on *Union's* Corrupa Cr., May 26 (JEP, JO) "seemed territorial;" elsewhere, single Red-eyed were at Bosque N.W.R., May 28 (ph. DH), White Sands N.M., May 26–31 (JM), and Rattlesnake Springs May 6 (JEP).

It was a memorable season for warblers, with 40 species reported, of which only 2 (omitted below) lacked supporting details. Highlights included single **Blue-winged Warblers** at Bosque N.W.R., May 22 (ph.



A banding operation at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, New Mexico, turned up a number of stray eastern birds during spring 1996, including a Blue-winged Warbler May 22 (above) and a Prairie Warbler on May 28 (below). Photograph/David L. Hawksworth.



DH), near Roswell May 14 (CR), and at Rattlesnake Springs May 9 (JEP); a "Lawrence's" Warbler banded at Albuquerque May 15 (WY); single **Chestnut-sided Warblers** May 31 at Bosque N.W.R. (ph. DH) and White Sands N.M. (JM); single **Magnolia Warblers** banded at Bosque N.W.R., May 24 (ph. DH) & 29 (DH) and seen in n. *Roosevelt* May 18 (JO); a Black-throated Green at B.L.N.W.R., May 5 (JEP); a Blackpoll at Santa Fe Apr. 29 and May 1 (CR); and a **Prothonotary Warbler** at Ft. Sumner May 8 (WW). Approaching overkill were reports of single Black-throated Blues at Santa Rosa May 23 (CR), Bosque N.W.R., May 14 (ph. JO), Rattlesnake Springs May 9–10 (JEP, SW), and far w. to the Animas Mts., May 31 (AC, CS); single **Worm-eating Warblers** at 4 sites—near Clovis May 7 (JEP, WW), the Little Burro Mts., May 8 (EL, G. Koontz), Percha May 10 (DE), and Rattlesnake Springs May 5 (JEP, BN, DE); single **Kentucky Warblers** in n. *Roosevelt* May 8–11 (WW, JEP, ph. JO), Albuquerque May 20 (WY), and at Quarai ruins, *Torrance*, May 12 (HS); and one-two Hoodeds Apr. 27–May 26 at an unprecedented 9 locales (v.o.)—Albuquerque, Moriarty, Ramon (ph. JO), n. *Roosevelt*, Boone's Draw (ph. JO), near Roswell, Bosque N.W.R. (ph. DH), San Andres N.W.R. (ph. MW), and Rattlesnake Springs.

In a class by themselves: a **Prairie Warbler** at Bosque N.W.R., May 28 (ph. DH),

representing only the state's 3rd definite record but following the first by less than a year; a **Louisiana Waterthrush** in *Curry* Apr. 27 (ph. JO) & 28 (JEP, BP), for New Mexico's 3rd definite and 9th overall record; and a **Canada Warbler** at Bosque N.W.R., May 22 (ph. DH), the state's 3rd definite and 6th overall record. Overshadowed were one–two N. Parulas Apr. 14–May 24 at Moriarty (JEP, ph. JO), n. *Roosevelt* (WW), Portales (ph. JO), Mesa (ph. JO), Roswell (*vide* SMB), Percha (DE, BN), Las Cruces (*vide* CS), and Santa Teresa (DE); one–two Black-and-whites at 7 sites e. to the R.G.V., May 4–30 (v.o.); and Ovenbirds at 12 sites May 4–29 (v.o.), including four banded at Bosque N.W.R. (DH). Unusual was a Red-faced Warbler in mesquite at Lordsburg May 5 (CR). Out-of-range were single Painted Redstarts n. to Bandelier May 27–30 (C. Jarvis, PRS) and e. to Mesilla Mar. 30 (BT) and Las Cruces Apr. 10 (*vide* CS).

Tanagers to Finches

Easterly was a Hepatic Tanager at B.L.N.W.R., May 24 (BN, CR); three Hepatics in the San Andres Mts., Apr. 30–May 1 (WH, MW) may represent a local first. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks had another banner year, with one–five at 20 locales after May 4 (m.ob.), including singles w. to Mt. Taylor May 25 (HS), Silver City May 14–16 (EL), and P.O. Canyon May 14–18 (RS). Late were an Am. Tree Sparrow in *San Juan* Mar. 8 (TR) and a Sage Sparrow at Albuquerque Apr. 5 (WH). Far west were single Field Sparrows at Bosque N.W.R., May 14 (JO) and the Animas Valley Apr. 16 (AC, N. Moore-Craig); one was singing at Rattlesnake Springs Apr. 27–28 (JEP, JO). At least two **Baird's Sparrows** were well seen in the Animas Valley Mar. 31 (CR, DE, BN, CS), as were two in Otero Mesa grasslands Mar. 22 (J. Nove). Late were one–three Lincoln's Sparrows at Albuquerque May 22 (MR), Moriarty May 23 (JO), n.



At Ropes Spring in San Andres National Wildlife Refuge, New Mexico, this male Hooded Warbler was captured for banding May 1, 1996. Photograph/M. Weisenberger.

Roosevelt May 26 (CR), and the Animas Mts., May 31 (AC, CS). A Golden-crowned Sparrow was at Alameda Mar. 3 (CR, PRS, CS); another banded at Ropes Spring May 1 (WH, ph. MW) provided a San Andres Mts. first. Single Harris' included an immature at Mesilla Apr. 1 (BT) and an adult at White Sands N.M., May 2 (JM). A Yellow-eyed Junco that strayed to P.O. Canyon May 5 (RS) furnished one of the few non-winter records for the Peloncillo Mts. North was an E. Meadowlark at Navajo, *McKinley*, May 11 (DC). Two Rusty Blackbirds were still at Santa Rosa Mar. 3 (ph. JO). Noteworthy for s.w. New Mexico were six Com. Grackles at Deming Mar. 9 (RF). Bronzed Cowbirds appeared in *Grant, Hidalgo, Luna, Doña Ana, Otero, and Eddy* in May (v.o.); n. were two at Carriazo May 24 (CR). Moderate numbers of Cassin's Finches were in the Black Range and San Mateo Mts. mid-March into April (v.o.), and 12 were in the Pinos Altos Mts., Mar. 9 (D&MZ), but the species was relatively scarce elsewhere, including its usual n. highlands haunts. Red Crossbills likewise were most in evidence in the s. mountains, particularly in *Catron, Grant, Sierra, and Lincoln* (v.o.). Evening Grosbeaks were widespread in the w. two-thirds of the state, including 100 at Silver City Apr. 28 (EL), 30-40 in the Pinos Altos Mts., Apr. 25 (RF), and 184 at Santa Fe May 11 (CR *et al.*).

Corrigendum

The 14 Black-bellied Plovers reported at B.L.N.W.R., Apr. 22, 1995 (*AFN* 49:288) actually were Killdeer (*vide* CR).

Initialed observers: Sy Baldwin, Pat Basham, Sherry M. Bixler, David Cleary, Wes Cook, Alan Craig, Douglas Emkalns, Gordon Ewing, Ralph Fisher, Bernard Foy, HawkWatch International, David Hawksworth, Toby Hibbits, William Howe, Eugene Lewis, Martin MacRoberts, John Mangimeli, Sonia Najera, Bruce Neville, Benjamine Parmeter, John E. Parmeter, James N. Paton, Anita Powell, William Principe, Tim Reeves, Mary Root, Christopher Rustay, Lawry Sager, Catherine Sandell, Robert Scholes, Hart Schwarz, Patricia R. Snider, Paul E. Steel, Bruce Thompson, Brad Vaughn, Mara Weisenberger, Steve West, William West, S.O. Williams, Wang Yong, Dale and Marian Zimmerman.

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Alaska Region

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After above-average temperatures covered the Region from March into May, an anticipated early and heavy spring passage did not materialize. Although there were pockets of record-early arrivals, especially waterbirds, the migration was protracted and most groups were late with scant numbers. A sampling of new record-early arrivals for local sites included new early dates for nine species in the Upper Tanana Valley, six species at Prudhoe Bay, and three species for Upper Cook Inlet. Otherwise, typical spring concentration points produced rather poorly, perhaps due in part to poor habitat conditions. Because of the winter's late-to-develop and below-average snowpack, with the associated record-deep frosts, early season water habitats were missing or, as in the case of intertidal zones along the North Gulf, still iced-in into May. The Cook Inlet waterfowl and shorebird migrations were late and minimal, while better-than-average numbers of waterbirds were noted in non-traditional Southeast Alaska sites. The season was also clearly limited and punctuated by the record-late and cool season noted across the Continent's northern tier.

With the apparent absence of an El Niño cycle, the Aleutian Low was firmly established by mid-April, when a long series of standard easterly moving anti-cyclones washed across the North Pacific-Bering Seas

interface into the North Gulf Coast. The subsequent Aleutian-Bering Sea Asiatic migration was exceptional, if early, as noted from excellent observer coverage from St. Lawrence Island to Attu Island. Given this and last year's strong Asiatic component, coupled with an essentially absent El Niño system, it is clear that conditions generated by a strong El Niño cycle produce poor numbers and low species diversity of Asiatics in the Aleutian/Bering Sea zone. Following the weakest winter southward advance of Bering Sea pack ice ever, this mass quickly retreated into the Chukchi Sea, which allowed for an early and concentration-poor eider, loon, and jaeger passage, as noted from St. Lawrence Island and Nome.

More than ever before, data from the standard migrant outposts was supplemented by several summer-season like field camps and visits to more remote sites. Excellent early arrival and synchronous data, and previously unrecognized concentration areas, were delineated from these areas, which included Cinder River near Bristol Bay, Annette Island and Berners Bay in southern and northern Southeast, respectively, and at Cape Romanzof in Southwest Alaska. These data are illustrative of the numerous site and information gaps that are as yet to be pioneered within the Region.

Abbreviations: North Gulf (*North Gulf of Alaska*); PWS (*Prince William Sound*); SE (*Southeast Alaska*); SC (*Southcoastal Alaska*); SW (*Southwest Alaska*); UCI (*Upper Cook Inlet*).

Loons to Waterfowl

Because of the early northward retreat of Bering Sea pack ice, the loon and eider migration past Gambell's Northwest Cape was early and uneventful. For the first

