

central southern region



STEVEN W. CARDIFF

Dominating high pressure to the west allowed only a few migrant-dropping storms to penetrate to the coast, where drought conditions set in as the season progressed. In the interior, it was wetter and cooler than average. Despite a relatively mild late winter and early spring that triggered early breeding activity for many species, migration seemed “on-time” or even somewhat delayed, with late records outnumbering early ones. The few substantial coastal “fallouts” reported were from Louisiana April 17–19, Florida April 22 and May 11, and coastwide April 28–29. The most concentrated coastal migration spectacle was at Dauphin Island April 28, where an estimated 50–100 passerines per minute (predominantly Red-eyed Vireos, Scarlet Tanagers, Eastern Kingbirds, and Indigo Buntings) were observed streaming east close to ground over a one hour period (GDJ).

Records of species of “Review List” quality are pending acceptance by the respective state bird records committees. States are indicated only the first time the county/parish is mentioned in the text, except to avoid confusion.

Editor's Note: *With new changes on taxonomic order, Field Notes will be reviewing how to restructure our reports. But some in the birding community got the jump on us; the following report reflects the changes adopted by the AOU.*

LOONS TO IBIS

Reports of unusual loons included a Red-throated at Millwood L., *Hempstead*, AR, Mar. 21 (CM); up to five Red-throateds at Guntersville, *Marshall*, AL, Mar. 25–Apr. 2 (GDJ, DGJ, SWM, PJ, D. Arnold); two Pacifics (Tennessee's 4th record) in *Henry* Mar. 7 (MG, KAC, C. Sloan); and an alternate-plumaged Pacific in *Escambia*, FL, Apr. 23 (EC). Two Eared Grebes in

Lauderdale, TN, Mar. 15 (JRW), and one at Dauphin I., *Mobile*, AL, Apr. 18 (GDJ), were far east. A foray into the Gulf of Mexico off *Baldwin*, AL, May 23 (GDJ et al.) produced four Wilson's Storm-Petrels, eight–nine **Band-rumped Storm-Petrels** (4th Alabama record), and three “storm-petrel sp.,” all 64–81 mi off Orange Beach. A moribund **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel** brought to Pensacola Wildlife Rescue Apr. 28 (A. Forster, *fide* RAD, LD) had been banded in the Azores in 1993 (*Archbold Biological Station)!

American White Pelicans made a good showing in n. Mississippi. Single Anhingas in *Lowndes* May 2 (J. Jackson), *Oktibbeha* May 13 (TLS), and *Tallahatchie* May 26 (FB) were considered unusual for n. Mississippi; a displaying male and a female carrying nest material in *Shelby* Apr. 5 (JRW), and a pair in *Dyer* May 24 (M. Welton, JRW, MG), sustained suspicions of breeding in w. Tennessee.

A Tricolored Heron at Millwood L., *Howard*, AR, was early Apr. 5 (CM); one in *Dyer* May 25 (JRW) was in an area where breeding occurred last year. A Little Blue Heron and 12 Cattle Egrets seen from an oil platform about 120 mi off *Vermilion*, LA, May 20 (DNP) were late trans-gulf migrants. Unusually far inland ibis included 80 early White Ibis at L. Millwood, *Howard*, Mar. 29 (CM); numerous White Ibis sightings in n. Mississippi Apr. 3–May 16; three White Ibis in *Shelby*, TN, May 3 (JRW); a Glossy Ibis in *Oktibbeha* May 2 (TLS, MS); one and four Glossys in *Lake*, TN, May 4 & 28, respectively (WGC); and a White-faced Ibis in *Caddo/Bossier*, LA, Apr. 3 (PD). A Glossy Ibis in *Okaloosa* Mar. 4–9 (EC, RAD) was unusual for n.w. Florida.

WATERFOWL

Twelve Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in *Vermilion* Mar. 7 (R. Greig), nine in *S. Cameron* Mar. 29 (DPM), one there Apr. 26 (CL, HJ), and four in *St. Charles* May 2 (PY) were away from the known breeding area at Lacassine N.W.R. Four Fulvous Whistling-Ducks in *Lake* May 14 (WGC, N. Moore) represented the 2nd record for w. Tennessee

and the first for spring. Other Regionally or locally rare waterfowl reported: up to 19 "Lesser" Canada Geese in *Oktibbeha* Feb. 6–Mar. 13 (TLS); a male **Burasian Wigeon** in *Lake* Apr. 6 (WGC); two far-inland Mottled Ducks in *Chicot*, AR, May 2, and one May 31 (D&C Simons); two male Cinnamon Teal in *Caddo* Mar. 2 (PD), and one in *Lake* Mar. 18 and Apr. 2 (WGC); a male Oldsquaw in *Walton*, FL, Mar. 14 (M. Rose), six in *Escambia* Mar. 18 (P&B Tetlow, RAD), a female in *Prairie*, AR, Mar. 14, a male there Mar. 28 (both K&LN), a wintering male in *Jefferson*, LA, to Mar. 15 (M. Seymour, *vide* PY), and two females in *Marshall* Mar. 25 (GDJ, DGJ); an inland Surf Scoter in *Lauderdale*, AL, May 2 (TMH, JG); a Black Scoter in *Pulaski*, AR, Mar. 14–21 (K&LN et al.), one at Dauphin I. Mar. 27–29 (GDJ, DGJ et al.), and three in *Cameron* Apr. 30 (C. Witt, J. Weckstein).

Highlights of late-lingering waterfowl included the latest ever Greater White-fronted Goose for *Winston*, MS, Apr. 12 (TLS); 11 Snow Geese in *Shelby* May 15 (GP); two Gadwall, a pair of Am. Wigeon, and an Am. Black Duck in *Dyer/Lake* (WGC); a Gadwall, a male Am. Wigeon, six male N. Shovelers, a N. Pintail, a pair of Green-winged Teal, and a Ring-necked Duck in *Tallahatchie/Quitman* (WMD, FB), all May 28; five Green-winged Teal in *Tallahatchie/Quitman* May 30 (JRW); two Ring-necked Ducks in *Livingston*, LA, May 27 (JPK, GS); seven Greater Scaup at Kirby Pocket, TN, Apr. 21 (WGC); and an area record-late Red-breasted Merganser in *Webster*, MS, May 3 (TLS, MS).

A N. Shoveler with eight young in *Shelby* May 17 (MTOS) provided Tennessee's first confirmed breeding record. Two suspicious eggs in a Wood Duck nest in *Escambia* Feb. 13, removed and incubated under a setting chicken, hatched into Hooded Mergansers. In the same area Mar. 24, a Wood Duck box housed a female Hooded Merganser on 12 eggs. These represent the first breeding records for n.w. Florida (C. Davis, *vide* RAD). Five Ruddy Ducks (including 2 pairs) in *Lonoke*, AR, May 23 (LY), and 3 pairs (including courting male) in *Shelby*, TN, May 30 (JRW), suggested breeding.

HAWKS TO CRANES

An Osprey in *Lake* Mar. 1 (WGC) was very early. A Swallow-tailed Kite in *Noxubee* Apr. 26 (PWe) was an area first, and the 3rd for n. Mississippi. A pair of White-tailed Kites noticed May 9 were accompanied by a juvenile near Holly Beach, *Cameron*, May 24 (JPK, KF, DR), providing one of few con-

firmed Louisiana breeding records; another pair was a few miles away during April (KF, SWC, DLD). A Mississippi Kite in *Colbert* May 15 (TMH, JG) was the 2nd for n.w. Alabama. The species was more plentiful than usual in the 7-county Oktibbeha area, with 7 sightings including an early record Apr. 26 in *Noxubee* (PWe) and a first for *Webster* May 30 (three birds; TLS, MS). Successful reintroduction efforts in w. Tennessee since 1988 may have accounted for 100 concentrated at President's I., *Shelby*; in mid-May (MG, JRW, *vide* MGW).

A Bald Eagle nest found in *Dyer* (WGC) Mar. 15 represented a county first. Five Cooper's Hawk nests and "numerous" other adults located in lower *Plaquemines* late February–May 18 (AP) were a surprise. Only w. Tennessee's 2nd record, a Swainson's Hawk was at Reelfoot L. Apr. 25 (MG); one in *Jefferson Davis*, LA, May 26 (PEC) was in an area where breeding is suspected; and 21 in *Little River* May 3 (CM) was a high number for Arkansas. A pair of Crested Caracaras in *Calcasieu*, LA, Apr. 24–25 (AS, CL et al.) were suspected of nesting. A Peregrine Falcon about 120 mi off *Vermilion* May 20 (DNP) presumably was a very late trans-gulf migrant.

Rarely detected in the Region, a Ruffed Grouse was heard drumming in *Jackson*, AL, Mar. 22 (GDJ, PJ). A Black Rail was observed at Dauphin I. Apr. 17–18 (C. Snow, MWR et al.). A Yellow Rail was glimpsed in *Cameron* Apr. 17 (SWC). Two King Rails in *Lauderdale* May 6 (SWM, DJS, JTG) were unusual for extreme n.w. Alabama. Two Virginia Rails in *Lake* Apr. 1 (WGC) were early. An adult with a chick in w. Fayette May 11 onward (P. Gaboury) confirmed breeding in w. Tennessee; one–two birds in *Tallahatchie* May 22–28 (FB) were very late and suggested breeding. Two Soras in *Natchitoches*, LA, May 18 (CL, HJ), and one in *Cameron* May 31 (PW), were exceptionally late so far south. Up to three Purple Gallinules in *Tallahatchie* May 3–14 (JRW, FB, WMD, G&SK) were locally noteworthy, as was a Com. Moorhen there Apr. 17–May 31 (FB et al.). Reports of Sandhill Cranes included four in *Lafayette*, MS, Mar. 9–23 (G&SK, WMD); eight lingering in *Rapides*, LA, to Mar. 22 (R. Breedlove), and a very late bird in *Lowndes* Apr. 18 (JPa, D. Watson).

SHOREBIRDS

A Piping Plover in *Caddo/Bossier* Apr. 18 (PD) was a first for n.w. Louisiana in spring; another was inland in *Lafayette*, MS, Apr. 19 (WMD) Single Pipings in *Cameron*

May 9 & 16 (JPK) were relatively late. An Am. Oystercatcher in *Baldwin* Apr. 19 (GDJ, DGJ et al.) was a rare local visitor Alabama's 7th inland record of Black-necked Stilt also provided the first confirmed breeding record: a pair copulating May 16 and a nest with 2 eggs May 21 in *Colbert* (DJS et al.). The 14 in *Livingston* May 27 (JPK, GS) suggested breeding in the Baton Rouge area. Inland Am. Avocets included six in *Hempstead* Apr. 26 (CM), nine in *Panola*, MS, May 21 (WMD); and one in *Caddo/Bossier* May 27 (PD). Reports of inland Willets were fewer than last year Eastward-straying Upland Sandpipers included an early five in *Shelby*, TN, Apr. 1, one there Apr. 19 (JRW), 13 in *Baldwin* Apr. 27 (GDJ, DGJ), and two in *Oktibbeha* May 9 (TLS, MS). Very rare in Arkansas, and late, a Whimbrel was in *Clark* May 26 & 28 (G. Golden, D&DH, CM et al.). Scarce in s.e. Louisiana, a Long-billed Curlew in *Lafourche* Mar. 1 (BMM, RDP, PW, GG) may have wintered locally; another was found there Apr. 18 (BMM, CS).

Northwest Florida's 5th Hudsonian Godwit was in *Okaloosa* Apr. 22 (RAD et al.), Mississippi's 5th record was of two in *Tallahatchie* May 10 (FB, G&SK), and one was in *Colbert*, AL, May 10–12 (GDJ, DGJ, m.ob.). Seldom seen away from the coast in spring, two Marbled Godwits were in *Calcasieu* Apr. 24 (CL, HJ), and one was in *Shelby* May 26 (D. Young). Inland Ruddy Turnstones included a new Tennessee high of 28 in *Dyer/Lake* May 18 (WGC), four in *Caddo/Bossier* May 22, one there May 27 (PD), one in *Howard* May 24 (CM), and a new Arkansas high of 26 in *Benton* May 25 (DC, MM, JP, T. Brooks). Sanderlings in *Caddo/Bossier* Apr. 18 and May 9 (PD) represented spring firsts for n.w. Louisiana.

Baird's Sandpipers, generally scarcer in spring, were widespread in small numbers Single Stilt Sandpipers in *Colbert* May 3 (GDJ) and in *Oktibbeha* May 14 (TLS) were locally rare for spring. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper in *Okaloosa* Apr. 9 (RAD) provided only the 3rd n.w. Florida April record Two female **Ruffs** were found, both relatively late: *Shelby*, TN, May 10–16 (JRW) and *Mobile* May 17–19 (B. C. Garmon, m.ob.; 4th Alabama). An Am. Woodcock in *Caddo* May 19 (PD) furnished a first local May record, and suggested breeding. A locally rare Wilson's Phalarope was in *Okaloosa* Apr. 22 (RAD). A Red-necked Phalarope was in *Mobile* May 22 (G. E. Hill, GDJ, PJ) and four 81 mi off *Baldwin* May 23 (GDJ et al.); another was located in *Benton*, AR, May 21–22 (MM, JP, S. Gibson)

JAEGERS TO TERNS

Pomarine Jaegers were identified from shore off *Cameron* Apr. 19 (DLD, SWC) and on the beach there May 9 (DPM, ph. PW, PY); one was off Dauphin I. Mar. 28 and another 81 mi off *Baldwin* May 23 (both GDJ et al.). Laughing Gulls continue to appear well-inland in small numbers, with 8 records scattered across n.w. Louisiana, n. Mississippi, and w. Tennessee Mar. 18–May 27. One or two Franklin's Gulls in *Panola* Apr. 2–May 16 (WMD, G&SK), one in *Colbert* May 6 (SWM, DJS, JG), and one in *Lake* May 7 (WGC) were farther east than normal. A first-winter **Iceland Gull** in *Benton* Mar. 7 (MG et al.) would provide a first for w. Tennessee and one of few records for the Region. Becoming almost expected in coastal Louisiana, Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at *Jefferson/St. Charles* Mar. 7 (PY) and in *Cameron* May 6 (GB, v.t. PC) and May 24 (ph. JPK, DR, KF); more surprising were different individuals Mar. 8 (SWM et al.) & 25 (GDJ, DGJ, D. Reynolds) inland in *Marshall*. A Glaucous Gull in *Baldwin* Apr. 18–26 (B. Blakeslee, B. James, RAD, GDJ) and a Great Black-backed Gull in *Lafourche* Mar. 28 (ph. BMM, PW, CS, CK) provided the only reports.

Three Com. Terns in *Quitman* May 16 (G&SK) and four there May 26 (FB) were noteworthy inland; up to 2300 were estimated on *Cameron* beaches May 9 (JPK, DR, KF et al.). Five Forster's Terns in *Benton* Mar. 7 (KAC, MG, CAS) were the earliest ever for Tennessee. A Sooty Tern was an onshore treat in *Cameron* May 6 (DP, GB, PC), and a Black Tern there Mar. 17 (GJP) was early.

DOVES TO HUMMINGBIRDS

Eurasian Collared-Doves were reported from several new sites in Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Alabama, highlighted by Arkansas's first successful nesting in *Prairie* from Apr. 19 on (H&MP, K&LN). A **White-winged Dove** in *Shelby* Apr. 25 (GP) would furnish a long overdue first for Tennessee. One in *Rapides* May 9 (J. Johnson) was well inland, one in *Okaloosa* Apr. 22 (RAD) was well east, and one about 120 mi off *Vermilion* May 20 (DNP) was late or marooned. Some of a wintering flock of up to 31 in residential *Orleans*, LA, remained into early April (PY), with a separate sighting Apr. 5 (DPM); up to three at Grand Isle, *Jefferson*, Apr. 18–May 25 (BMM, RSB et al.) were late and suggested breeding. Inca Doves continued to expand in s.w. and w.c. Arkansas, with reports from *Columbia*, *Little River*, and *Scott* (S.S. Lacy, C. Dodson,



Well to the west of usual limits was this Gray Kingbird at Grand Isle, Louisiana, March 28, 1998. Photograph/George Bayne

K&LN, DA, CM). In Louisiana, first parish nests were located in *St. Landry* May 13 and *Lafayette* May 26–27 (ph. B. Fontenot). A Com. Ground-Dove in *Carroll*, MS, Mar. 15 (PB), two in *St. Charles* Apr. 10 (PY), and one in *Cameron* Apr. 17 (SWC, DLD) were locally rare winter-spring visitors.

Two to three Groove-billed Anis wintering e. in *Escambia* remained to Apr. 21 (v.t. D&A Norfolk, *vide* RAD); one was late in *Cameron* Apr. 26 (BMM, CS). A Short-eared Owl in *Marshall* Mar. 15 (GDJ, DGJ) was a rare visitor; one in *Grenada* Mar. 21 (FB) was the locally latest ever. Single Chuck-will's-widows in *Plaquemines* Mar. 3 & 5 (AP) had likely wintered. A wintering Whip-poor-will and a Buff-bellied Hummingbird in *Iberville*, LA, remained to Mar. 7 and Mar. 4, respectively (DLD, SWC). A wintering **Calliope Hummingbird** in *Nashville* remained to Apr. 1 (*vide* FCF). An ad. male Rufous Hummingbird in *Winston* Mar. 16–19 (F. Weaver) represented the 5th area record. A female Ruby-throated Hummingbird in *Cameron* May 30 (PW) was late for the immediate coast.

FLYCATCHERS

Reports of Olive-sided Flycatchers, a scarce migrant, included relatively early records in *Caddo* May 4 (PD); *Cameron* May 6 (one) & 10 (two; PEC); *Clark*, AR, May 9 (D&DH, W. Green); and three in *Shelby*, TN, May 9 (MTOS). One in *Cleburne*, AL, May 16 (TLS, MS), and two in *Lauderdale*, TN, May 24 (JRW, m.ob.) were well east. Seldom reported in Arkansas in spring, a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was in *Washington* May 17 (MM); one in *Jefferson* May 25 (GDJ) was rare and tied the record-late date for

Alabama. A female Vermilion Flycatcher in *Howard* Mar. 29 (CM, D. Harrington, K&LN) was only the 2nd for Millwood L. After a Brown-crested Flycatcher was banded and photographed in lower *Plaquemines* in late February, at least one to two unbanded birds were sighted to Mar. 23 (AP). A mini-invasion of **Couch's/Tropical Kingbirds** occurred late in the period, with records from *Cameron* May 3 (PEC, *LSUMNS) and May 24 (ph. JPK, DR, KF), and from *Mobile* May 22 (4th Alabama; SWM). Mentionable W. Kingbird records were two late birds in *Caddo* May 20 (CL), a nesting pair in *Pulaski* May 30 (2nd Arkansas nest record; K&LN, LY, B. Sheperd), one well northeast in *Tipton*, TN, May 23 (P. Hertzell, JRW), and four in lower *Plaquemines* Apr. 10–May 12 (AP). A Gray Kingbird drifting W to Grand Isle Mar. 28 (ph. BMM, PW, CS, CK) was the only "mainland" report. Scattered Scissor-tailed Flycatchers detoured E with three at Grand Isle (PW et al.) and one in lower *Plaquemines* (AP) Apr. 10; one in *St. Mary*, LA, May 9 (RSB); one in *Bolivar* May 9 (N&JC Herbert); one in *Shelby*, TN, May 11–15 (F. Avant, GP); two in *Lauderdale*, TN, May 24 (JRW et al.), and one exceptionally far east in *Escambia* May 11 (2nd area May record; RAD, LD).

VIREOS TO PIPITS

A wintering White-eyed Vireo in *Winston* remained to Mar. 4 (TLS). A Yellow-throated Vireo in *Orleans* Mar. 14 (DPM) was early, and a Blue-headed Vireo there May 19 (PY) was late. A strong eastward movement of Warbling Vireos included eight+ in *Calcasieu* and *Cameron* Apr. 18–19 (SWC,

DLD, PEC). A territorial bird in *Lauderdale*, AL, May 31 (SWM) was in an area where the species was first noted in 1994. A Philadelphia Vireo reported in lower *Plaquemines* Mar. 14 (AP) was almost certainly a winterer; individuals in the *Oktibbeha* area Apr. 29 and May 1 (TLS, MS) furnished only the 4th–5th spring records.

A estimated 1700+ Red-eyed Vireos at Dauphin I. Apr. 28 provided a new Alabama high (GDJ). Northwest Florida's 5th **Yellow-green Vireo** was studied in *Escambia* May 11 (RAD, H. Barbig). Black-whiskered Vireos were discovered at Grand Isle Apr. 18 (AS, ph. PW et al.) & 19 (PW, ph BMM et al.), and five were in lower *Plaquemines* Apr. 19–May 2 (AP).

Tree Swallows were early in *Putnam* Mar. 6 (SJS) and *Shelby*, TN, Mar. 13 (VBR), and late in *Cameron* May 10 (PY) and *Caddo/Bossier* May 15 (PD). Early Cliff Swallows were in *Lowndes* by Mar. 11 (K. Kummerle) and in *Caddo* (JT) and *Shelby*, TN (CHB, GCP, VBR) by Mar. 21. Several pairs of Cave Swallows returned to last year's *Cameron* nest site; Alabama's 11th was in *Baldwin* Apr. 11 (GDJ, DGJ et al.). Red-breasted Nuthatches tarried to Apr. 18 in *Baton Rouge* (J.V. Remsen), Apr. 24 in *Oktibbeha* (TLS), May 2 in *Lafayette* (J. Burkepile), and to May 5 in *Madison*, AL (GDJ, DGJ). A Brown Creeper lingered in *Shelby*, TN, to May 9 (B&FP). A wintering Rock Wren in *White*, AR, remained to Mar. 30 (K&LN). A singing Bewick's Wren was a rare sight in *Escambia* Mar. 21 (L. Case, EC, C. Ascherfeld, *fide* RAD). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in *Noxubee* Mar. 13 (TLS) was earliest-ever there. Seldom encountered in n.w. Arkansas, a Veery was in *Benton* May 9 (MM). A Swainson's Thrush in *DeSoto* May 25 was latest ever for n.w. Mississippi (WRP, VBR), and Hermit Thrushes in *Calcasieu* (M. Johnson, K. Whittum) and *Oktibbeha* (TLS) Apr. 23 were late so far south. A fledgling Am. Robin in *Lafayette*, LA, was an early surprise Apr. 5 (PEC). An Am Pipit in *Caddo* May 9 (CL, L. Raymond) was exceptionally late for Louisiana.

WOOD-WARBLERS

A Nashville Warbler at Grand Isle Apr. 4 (BMM, CS), and six in Mississippi Apr. 25–May 3 (G&SK, TLS) were e. of normal. Infrequently detected away from the immediate coast, Cape May Warblers were observed in *Orleans* Apr. 18 (J. O. Coulson), *Shelby*, TN, May 3 (CHB), and *Noxubee* May 29–30 (TLS, MS); a wintering male in *Caddo* remained to Mar. 1 (T. Davis). Fourteen Cape Mays in lower *Plaquemines*

Apr. 19–May 7 (AP et al.) furnished an excellent season total for a single area. A rare "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler in *Cameron* Apr. 11 (PEC, GB) could have been a migrant or local winterer. Accidental in Mississippi, a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** in *Jackson* Mar. 12 (L. Jacobson) likely wintered. A Black-throated Green Warbler in *Plaquemines* Mar. 15 (AP) was thought to be the same bird seen in February; one at Grand Isle Mar. 1 (BMM, PW et al.) had also likely overwintered. A male **Townsend's Warbler** in *Escambia* Apr. 27–28 (RAD, DB) was the first for n.w. Florida. Remarkable were concentrations of 37+ Palm Warblers May 2 (JRW) and 25 Cerulean Warblers May 17 (MTOS) in *Shelby*, TN. An Am. Redstart (D. Preston) and Swainson's Warbler (MG, VBR) in *Shelby* Apr. 6 were earliest ever for Tennessee. An Ovenbird at Grand Isle Mar. 11 (DPM) had either overwintered or was an exceptionally early migrant.

Connecticut Warblers were in *Putnam* May 16 (SJS) and *Jefferson*, AL, May 16 (PR) & 25 (PR, GDJ). Rare spring Mourning Warblers included separate birds in *Cameron* May 9 (PW) & 10 (DPM), one in *DeSoto*, MS, May 14 (WRP, G. Beaver), and one in *Jefferson*, AL, May 17 (H. Findlay, PR, GDJ). A Com. Yellowthroat in *Washington* Apr. 4 (MM) was earliest ever for n.w. Arkansas. Wilson's Warblers in *Cameron* Apr. 10 (GB, PEC) and May 9 (DPM, PY, PW), and a Canada Warbler there May 3 (PEC) were somewhat e. of their normal migration route.

Notably late warblers were a Tennessee in *Tate* May 25 (WRP, VBR); Chestnut-sides in *Cameron* (KF, JPK, DR) and *Claiborne* (CL, JT), LA, May 24; Blackburnian in *DeSoto* May 25 (WRP, VBR); Magnolia and three Am. Redstarts in *Cameron* May 30 (PW, CS); Swainson's Warbler in *Cameron* May 16 (JPK, DR); and N. Waterthrush in *Cameron* May 24 (KF, JPK, DR).

TANAGERS TO SPARROWS

A male Scarlet Tanager in *Grant*, LA, May 27 (K. Balkum) was late or possibly attempting to breed; 750+ at Dauphin I. Apr. 28 (GDJ) provided a new maximum for Alabama. Early and late W. Tanagers at Grand Isle Apr. 10 (ph. BMM, PW, CS, CK) and *Cameron* May 16 (C&J Barre) were upstaged by n.w. Florida's first May record, in *Escambia* May 11 (RAD et al.).

Scarce spring Clay-colored Sparrows were also unusually far east in *Lafourche* Apr. 4 (BMM, CS) and *Cleburne* May 11 (K&LN). A Lark Sparrow in *Calcasieu* Apr

24 (AS), four in *Cameron* May 9 (DPM, PY, PW), and one there May 10 (GG) were unusual near the coast; one in *Dyer* May 2 (JRW) was rare for w. Tennessee. Two in *Lawrence* and a nesting pair at a new site at Mooresville, *Limestone*, AL, May 3 (DC, GDJ et al.) were in an area where small numbers have regularly bred in recent years. Four Grasshopper Sparrows in *Lafourche* Apr. 10–18 (BMM, CS, PW) and individuals in *Cameron* Apr. 17 & 19 (SWC, DLD) were thought to represent trans-gulf migrants. A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow in *Tallahatchie* Apr. 22 (FB) provided a rare inland spring record, and a Seaside Sparrow on the L. Pontchartrain shoreline in *Jefferson* Mar. 20 (PY) was miles from appropriate habitat. Seventeen Lincoln's Sparrows in *Shelby*, TN, May 2 (JRW) was an exceptional concentration.

Additional records of late sparrows were as follows: four Am. Tree Sparrows in *Benton*, AR, Mar. 14 (MM, DC); 16 Chippings on the *Cameron* coast May 10 (DPM, PY, PW); Vesper in *Benton*, AR, Apr. 29 (MM, M. Powers); Swamp in *Oktibbeha* May 11 (TLS); White-throats in *St. James*, LA (T Sylvest), and *Oktibbeha* (TLS) May 11, in *Lafayette*, MS, May 12 (WMD), and May 25 in *Forrest*, MS (DCi).

GROSBEAKS TO FINCHES

A Black-headed Grosbeak in *Lafayette*, LA, to Mar. 15 had been present since mid-February (L. Wilson, J. O'Neale, v.t. D Patton); one in *Escambia* Apr. 20 (T. McCaskey, *fide* RAD) provided n.w. Florida's 2nd spring record. An Indigo Bunting wintering in *Prairie* was last seen Mar. 16 (T&R Singleterry), and a wintering Painted Bunting remained in *Iberville* to Mar. 14 (SWC, DLD). A Dickcissel in *Leflore* Mar. 23 (PB) and three singing in *Caddo* Mar. 25 (R Seidler) were early for migrants.

Twenty Yellow-headed Blackbirds in *Natchitoches* Apr. 19 (CL, HJ) represented an excellent count for Louisiana, but paled in comparison to a new Arkansas high of 300 in *Little River* May 12 (DA). One in *Clark* May 26 was late (D&DH). A Rusty Blackbird in *Shelby* May 16 (GP, B&FP) was the latest record for Tennessee. Still rare outside s.w. Louisiana, a Great-tailed Grackle wandered N to *Natchitoches* May 18 (CL, HJ). Becoming almost expected at certain coastal sites, Shiny Cowbirds imposed themselves on *Escambia* Apr. 8 & 19 (RAD, B. Bremser), *Lafourche* Apr. 30 (RS, D. J. L'Hoste), Grand Isle May 3 & 25 (ph. BMM et al.), *Baldwin* Apr. 27–29 (GDJ, RAD), and Dauphin I. Apr. 28 (GDJ, DGJ)



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A Baltimore Oriole in *St. Mary* Mar. 1 (GP) and a Baltimore and a male Bullock's in *St. John-the-Baptist* Mar. 8 (PW, RS) were lingering wintering birds; a migrant Bullock's was in *Cameron* Apr. 17 (DLD, SWC).

Late finches included two Evening Grosbeaks in *Marion*, AR, Apr. 1 (P&B Jones), and an Am. Goldfinch in *Forrest* May 29–31 (DCi).

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Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *Field Notes* are keyed on page 295.

SA The Migration Over the Gulf Project, a collaborative effort of the Minerals Management Service, LSU Museum of Natural Science, Clemson University, and several oil companies, was initiated to monitor spring and fall migrant usage of man-made petroleum industry structures in combination with more "wide-angle" trans-gulf migration data from radar and mainland "ground checks." In the inaugural season of a 3-year study, 5 platforms at various locations off the Louisiana coast were monitored from Mar. 15–May 15. Preliminary (unreviewed) highlights: Red-throated Loon Mar. 23 (DGC); six Audubon's Shearwaters on 4 dates Mar. 15–Apr. 21 (JRK, RK); 14 Masked Boobies on 9 dates Mar. 21–May 13 (RWR, JRK, DPM, RK, BPG); Brown Booby Mar. 21 (RWR); 22 Cinnamon Teal Mar. 13 (JRK); eider sp. (!) Apr. 1 (RWR); nine White-winged Scoters Mar. 15 (JA); six Red-necked Phalaropes Apr. 20 (JRK); Red Phalaropes Mar. 14 & 17 (DGC, JRK); 56 Pomarine Jaegers on 19 dates Mar. 13–May 9 (DGC, JRK, JA, LCB, RK); six Parasitic Jaegers on 4 dates Mar. 16–Apr. 8 (JRK, RK); Black-legged Kittiwake Mar. 16 (DGC); Bridled Terns May 6 (two; JRK) & 9 (RK); four Sooty Terns May 10 (BPG); five Lesser Nighthawks on 4 dates Apr. 3–May 4 (LCB, JRK); Ash-throated Flycatcher Apr. 17 (JRK); Brown-crested Flycatchers May 9 (JRK) & 10–12 (JA); "Tropical" Kingbirds May 6 & 14 (JRK); Gray Kingbird May 3 (RK); Black-whiskered Vireo May 5 (RWR); Townsend's Warbler Apr. 8 (LCB); Connecticut Warbler Apr. 30 (JRK); W. Tanager Apr. 18 (DGC); Am. Tree Sparrow (!) Apr. 22 (JRK); Clay-colored Sparrow Apr. 1 (JA); two Lark Sparrows Apr. 1 (RWR, JA) and one May 10 (JRK); three–four Grasshopper Sparrows Mar. 31–Apr. 8 (JA); White-throated Sparrow May 5 (JRK); an early Painted Bunting Mar. 19 (RK); and Bronzed Cowbirds Mar. 31 (JA) and May 7 (JRK).

Also of interest were substantial numbers of White-winged Doves and small to modest numbers of Am. Bittern, Reddish Egret, Osprey, Mississippi Kite, Am. Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Baird's Sandpiper, Franklin's Gull, Mourning Dove, Whip-poor-will, Least Flycatcher, W. Kingbird, N. Rough-winged Swallow, Bank Swallow, Cliff Swallow, N. Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Nashville Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, E. Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Brown-headed Cowbird. Whether or not these records pertain to true trans-gulf migrants or circum-gulf migrants that are "short-cutting" or being blown offshore will be difficult to determine. During a frontal passage the night of Apr. 28–29, King and Arvin witnessed "the" event of the spring as virtual "rivers" of northbound passerines flowed past their platforms. Numbers were estimated in the hundreds of thousands. Needless to say, the fall migration results are eagerly awaited!