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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 *North American Birds* are keyed on page 251.

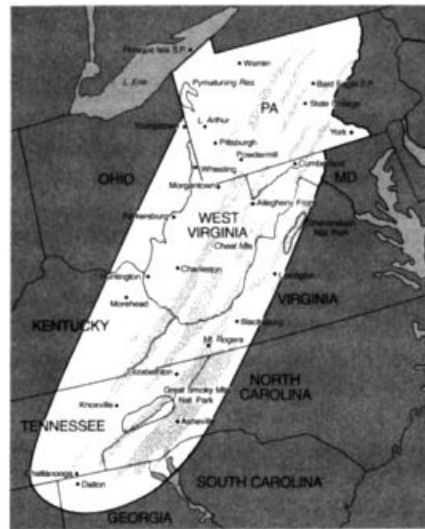
appalachian region

ROBERT C. LEBERMAN

There was cold weather and heavy snowfall over much of the Appalachian Region in early March, but the remainder of the season was generally warm and dry. Erie Bay was ice-free by mid-March. Waterfowl and gulls peaked there 19 March, when 20,000 ducks (mostly Canvasbacks, scaup, and Red-breasted Mergansers) and 40,000 to 50,000 gulls were estimated (JM). Inland from Lake Erie good numbers of puddle ducks occurred during the last two weeks of March, followed by heavy fallouts of diving ducks, gulls, and terns during the last half of April (especially 17–24 April) when heavy rains fell over parts of the Region. Perhaps, in part, due to localized drought conditions, more than the usual number of shorebirds were observed. Many hundreds of shorebirds were also attracted to Tamarack Lake, where water levels had been lowered to enable dam repairs by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission.

Most observers considered the passerine migration average or better, but believed that many of the later migrating, more northerly nesting species, largely passed over the Region without stopping. Local breeding species were generally on time or just slightly early and, with few exceptions, in good numbers. At Carnegie Museum's biological station, the Powdermill Nature Reserve, the overall migration was average compared to the last ten years, with just over 2000 birds netted in April and May. Out of 50 species analyzed, just three (Eastern Phoebe, Slate-colored Junco, and Brown-headed Cowbird) were banded in numbers one or two standard deviations below the ten-year average. Seven (Ruby-throated Hummingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Gray Catbird, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, and Lincoln's Sparrow) were captured in above-average numbers; all others were statistically average (RCL, RM).

Abbreviations: B.E.S.P. (*Bald Eagle State Park, Centre Co., PA*); N.A.M.C. (*N. Am. Migration Count*); P.I.S.P. (*Presque Isle S.P., Erie Co., PA*); P.N.R. (*Powdermill Nature Reserve, Rector,*



Westmoreland Co., PA); R.C.B. (*Robert C. Byrd Locks & Dam, Mason Co., WV*); Y.C.S.P. (*Yellow Creek S.P., Indiana Co., PA*).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Red-throated Loon reports came only from w. Pennsylvania, with one at L. Arthur, *Butler*, 22 Mar (MW), three at Colyer L., *Centre*, 2 Apr (AN, DB), one at Kahle L., *Venango*, 9–24 Apr (JS), one at Y.C.S.P. 23 Apr (GC), and a late bird in *Clarion* to 25 May (WF). A flight of 35 Com. Loons passed Soddy Mt. Hawkwatch, *Hamilton*, TN, 28 Mar (WH); weather-related fallouts included 34 on L. Arthur 23 Apr (DY) and 180 on Shawnee L., *Bedford*, PA, 18 Apr (JPa). Fifty Horned Grebes were at B.E.S.P. 18 Apr (AN, DB) and 375 were at Pymatuning L., PA, 4 Apr (RFL). Lone Red-necked Grebes were at *Keystone Res., Armstrong*, PA, 4 Mar (BR, JF), *Harmarville, Allegheny*, PA, 17 Apr (JV), and *Beaver Run Res., Westmoreland*, PA, 19 Apr (*vide TV*). An Eared Grebe lingered at S. Holston L., TN, until 7 Mar (BS), and two were at *Edinburg L., Lawrence*, PA, 1 Apr (CG, BD). On 18 May an **American White Pelican** appeared on the *Monongahela R., Pittsburgh* (DM), and one was at *Somerset L., Somerset*, PA, over 50 mi to the southeast, 18–19 May (v.t. SB). Double-crested Cormorants peaked the 2nd half of April, with 335 along the *Ohio R., Beaver*, PA, 21 Apr (BH), and 285 along the *Allegheny R., Pittsburgh* (SK), 258 at *Somerset L.* (AM), and 101 at *Baylor School, Hamilton*, TN (DJ, v.o.), all on 17 Apr.

American Bitterns were widely report-

ed, including three at P.I.S.P. 18 Apr (JM), and three at Geneva Marsh, *Crawford*, PA, 5 May (IF). Least Bittern records came from 9 different localities, including Brainerd Levee, *Hamilton*, TN, 4 May (JD), Williams I., TN, 10 May (DV), Sugar Creek W.M.A., *Meigs*, TN, 15 May (KC), and banded at P.N.R. 19 May (RCL, RM). Single Snowy Egrets were found 10 May at Thomas Farm, *Hamilton*, TN (JW, CW), 3–8 May at Sandy Cr. Marsh, *Wood*, WV (*fide* JE), and 8 May at Berlin, *Somerset*, PA (JPa). Unusual in spring, an ad. Little Blue Heron was at Watauga L., TN, 1 May (HPL), and two were at Williams I. 10 May (DV). Ten Black-crowned Night-Herons represented a new high for Waynesboro, *Staunton*, VA, 13–15 Apr (YL); five at Mill Run, *Fayette*, PA, 8 Apr was an unusually high count for that area (MM). A Black Vulture at Northeast, *Erie*, PA, 28 Apr (GC) was well out of normal range, whereas 71 at Franks Mill, VA, furnished a new spring high for *Augusta* (YL).

WATERFOWL

A flock of 62 Snow Geese was in Park Twp., *Armstrong*, PA, 20 Mar (PRH). **Ross's Geese** were at Chattanooga Nature Center 28 Mar–1 Apr (KC) and Lavalette, *Wayne*, WV, 11–12 Mar (ph. WA); another first seen 4 Mar in Cranberry Twp., *Butler*, was later found (to 13 Mar) in Warrendale, *Allegheny*, PA (MW, ph. WS). Trumpeter Swan reports have become almost routine in the



Adult Ross's Goose at Lavalette, West Virginia, 11–12 March 1999, one of many found throughout the East and Midwest as this species continues to increase. Photograph/Wendell L. Agrabrite

n. part of the Region, with four on Erie Bay 19 Mar (JM), one at Volant, *Lawrence*, PA, 3–12 May (NR), and two at Conneaut Marsh, *Crawford*, PA, 10 Apr (CT). Over 2500 Tundra Swans put down on Erie Bay 19 Mar (JM), up to 411 were at Y.C.S.P. in March (*fide* PH), and 338 passed the Allegheny Front hawk watch, *Somerset*, PA, 30 Mar (MM).

Eurasian Wigeon were at Y.C.S.P. 7 Mar (BR, MF) and Seigel Marsh, *Erie*, PA, 24–27 Apr (JSC). A total of 475 Am. Wigeons was surveyed on w. *Crawford*, PA, lakes 20 Mar (RFL). Fifty N. Shovelers were on Kahle L. 17 Apr (JS). The high count of N. Pintails was 203 at Volant 13 Mar (MF). There were 166 Redheads and 1250 Ring-necked Ducks at Pymatuning L. 20 Mar (RFL). At L. Arthur there were 2000 Lesser Scaup 20 Mar (GW), and 2700 at Pymatuning 17 Apr (RFL). A Surf Scoter was a rare find in the Tennessee R. Gorge, *Marion*, TN, 17 Apr (DJ); in Pennsylvania three were on Keystone Res., *Armstrong*, 4 Mar (BR, JF), up to three were at B.E.S.P. 20–24 Apr (MH), and one was at Kahle L. 23 Apr (JS). Two Black Scoters were at B.E.S.P. 18 Apr (AN, DB). The maximum count for Long-tailed Ducks was 22 at L. Arthur 26 Mar (DD, DY). Buffleheads were common, with 475 at B.E.S.P. 18 Apr (AN, DB) and 1265 at Pymatuning 4 Apr (RFL). Up to 350 Hooded Mergansers were at L. Arthur in late March (v.o.); the species was confirmed nesting for the first time in boxes at 2 Pennsylvania Fish Commission lakes in *Somerset* (AM). Very high counts of Ruddy Ducks included 1600 on *Somerset* L. 19 Apr (RCL), 2000 at Pymatuning 4 Apr (RFL), and 2000 at L. Arthur 23 Apr (DY).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

Northern Goshawks appeared in Slippery Rock Twp., *Butler*, PA, 12 Mar (SBu, RC) and Natrona Heights, *Allegheny*, PA, 19 Mar (PH); two were at the Allegheny Front hawk watch 26 Mar (DJo) and one was at Allegheny Mt., *Bedford*, PA, 1 May (JPa). Nesting goshawks were located in *Pocahontas*, WV, 25 Apr (JC) and Allegheny N.F., PA, 23 May (BW). Early Broad-winged Hawks were at Meadville, PA, 24 Mar (RFL), and P.N.R. 10 Apr (RM). Late Rough-legged Hawks were at Berlin, *Somerset*, PA, 5 Apr (JPa) and near P.N.R. 10 Apr (JG). At the Allegheny Front hawk watch, 27 Golden Eagles were tallied 1 Mar–2 May (DJo), and one was at Soddy Mt. hawk watch 20 Mar (WH). West of the mountains a Golden Eagle were at Lippencott, *Greene*, PA, 10 Apr (*fide* RB), in Girard



This male (note the relatively straight bill) American Avocet at Clintonville, Pennsylvania, 18 April 1999, was north of its normal range. Photograph/Gary Edwards

Twp., *Erie*, 26 Apr (JSC, TC), and late at Meadville, PA, 3 May (IF).

A Ruffed Grouse was a good find 11 Apr at Bakewell Mt., *Hamilton*, TN (RDS); in s.w. Pennsylvania grouse populations were considered high (RCL, RM). Eight Virginia Rails were at Akeley, *Warren*, PA, 22 May (DW). Sora were widely reported, with up to six calling at Mosquito L. *Trumbull*, OH, 16 May (DJH). A Purple Gallinule was a rare find at Brainerd Levee 11–17 May (KC). In Pennsylvania, where the species was nearly unknown 10 years ago, 15 Sandhill Cranes were reported (m.ob.) at 7 different localities from *Erie* to *Westmoreland*; a late bird was at Lookout Mt., TN, 14 Apr (KC).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Rare in spring, three Am. Golden-Plovers were at Brainerd Levee 29 Mar (KC) and one was at Pymatuning 18 Apr (RFL). Up to 15 Semipalmated Plovers were found at Green Bottom W.M.A., *Cabell*, WV, in early May (WA); 20 were at Tamarack L., *Crawford*, PA, 13 May (RFL), where the Pennsylvania Fish Commission had lowered water levels for dam repairs. Three Am. Avocets stopped 16 Apr at P.I.S.P. (JM), where they are rare but increasingly frequent; others were at Clintonville, *Venango*, PA, 18 Apr (GE, JS) and Codorus S.P., *York*, PA 17 Apr (*fide* PR). The 200+ Lesser Yellowlegs at Tamarack L. 22 Apr were exceptional, as

was a high count of 50 Solitary Sandpipers 7 May (IF). An unprecedented 10 Willets were found along the Ohio R., Wood, WV, 6 May (JE), and another was in the Y.C.S.P. area 31 Mar (TF) and 8 May (SG). In w. Pennsylvania, where Upland Sandpipers have become increasingly hard to find in recent years, encouraging reports of up to 4 pairs from 9 different localities were received. Whimbrels peaked at an amazing 60 at P.I.S.P. 25 May, and a Red Knot was there 23 May (JM).

Two W. Sandpipers were unusual at Woodcock L., PA, 29 Apr (IF). A high total of 80 Least Sandpipers was at Tamarack L. 13 May (RFL). Baird's Sandpipers, rarely reported from the Region in spring, were at R.C.B. 20 Apr (WA) and Y.C.S.P. 11 May (MH). A maximum of 54 Pectoral Sandpipers was at Tamarack 17 Apr (RFL, IF). The Region's only Stilt Sandpiper was at R.C.B. 8 May (WA). A Wilson's Phalarope was a rare find at P.I.S.P. 7 May (JM), and one was at Imperial, Allegheny, PA, 14 May (JHo, MJ). The only Red-necked Phalarope was observed at Staunton, VA, 15 May (YL).

Two or three Franklin's Gulls were unusual finds at P.I.S.P. 23 Mar, as were at least eight Little Gulls 24 Mar–15 Apr (NH, JM). Single **Black-headed Gulls** were at Erie 1 Apr (JM) and 20–22 Apr (GC) and at Somerset L. 20 Apr (RCL, SB). In Pittsburgh 6 Herring Gull nests were on an Allegheny R. bridge, and two were along the Ohio R. near Sewickley (PB). Three Thayer's Gulls frequented P.I.S.P. 4 Mar–9 Apr (JM); inland, where they have been almost unknown, one was at Kahle L. 17–23 Apr (JS, GE). At Erie, Iceland Gulls peaked at 12 on 1 Mar; an amazing eight Lesser Black-backed Gulls were there 4 Mar–18 Apr, along with about 18 Glaucous Gulls 3 Mar–23 Apr (*fide* JM). Caspian Terns were unusually common, with 30 at Reedsville, Preston, WV, 20 Apr (GF), 16 at L. Arthur 23 Apr (DY), 15 at Somerset L. 20 Apr (RCL), and 11 at Sandy Cr. Marsh, Wood, WV, 18 Apr (JE). At P.I.S.P. the best count was 65 on 5 Apr (GC). High counts of Forster's Terns, away from L. Erie, included 20 at Somerset L. 20 Apr (RCL) and 51 at Y.C.S.P. 8 May (GL, GS); throughout the Region, s. of Erie, the number of Forster's Terns reported outnumbered Com. Terns 8 to 1.

OWLS THROUGH PIPITS

A dead Barn Owl was recovered at Hinton, Sommers, WV, in mid-March (*fide* JPh); otherwise the species went unreported. Up to eight Long-eared Owls were at P.I.S.P. 3–22 Apr (DD), and one first seen in

Sequatchie, TN, in February remained to 6 Mar (KC). Two Short-eared Owls were in Trumbull, OH, 20 Mar (DJH) and 22 were reported from 7 different localities in Pennsylvania. Up to four N. Saw-whet Owls were calling at Oil Creek S.P., Venango, PA, 21–27 Mar (RS), one was in downtown Warren, PA, 12 Mar (*fide* DW), and one was heard calling on Roan Mt., TN, 1 May (LM, JB). A Rufous Hummingbird at Elizabethton, TN, 15–17 Apr provided a first spring record for that area (BS, HPL). Olive-sided Flycatchers were widely reported from Pennsylvania and West Virginia, and Least Flycatchers were in good numbers in the West Virginia mountains (WA). For the 3rd consecutive year a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was at Charleston, Bradely, TN (15 May), where a pair nested successfully in 1997 (DGH).

A Fish Crow, along the Allegheny R. at Kittanning, Armstrong, PA, 13 May (SB) was well w. of the usual range in Pennsylvania, as was a Com. Raven near Clarksville, Greene, PA, 22 Apr (RB). High counts of Tree Swallows included 1000+ at Shawnee L. 11 Apr (JPa), and about 3000 at Pymatuning L. 4 Apr (RFL). About 550 Bank Swallows were in 2 colonies near Conneaut L., PA, 13 May (RFL); a colony in Venango, PA, consisted of 250 recently excavated or re-excavated cavities, suggesting as many as 400+ birds (JS). Most contributors thought Cliff Swallows were on the increase; a high count of 400+ was made at a colony at Pymatuning 13 May (RFL). In May a nesting pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches was observed in Red R. Gorge, KY, where they are rare breeders (FR). A singing Winter Wren at Mill Cr. Park, Youngstown, OH, was somewhat out of place 15 May (NB). Two Sedge Wrens were at Mosquito L., OH, 16–20 May (DJH), and one was at Erie N.W.R., Crawford, PA, 21 May (MG). A late Ruby-crowned Kinglet was at W. Mifflin, Allegheny, PA, 27 May (KBe).

The Swainson's Thrush flight was improved over most recent years. A Gray-cheeked Thrush was still near Ohiopyle S.P., PA, 4 Jun (CF). A high count of 175 Am. Pipits was at Swoope, Augusta, VA, 27 Apr (YL).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Hybrid warblers included Brewster's at Staunton 28 Apr (YL), near Pittsburgh 27 Apr (KBe), and at Franklin, Venango, PA, 13–16 May (JS), and a Lawrence's in Juniata, PA, 11–14 May (*fide* MKp). Orange-crowned Warblers were at New Castle, Lawrence, PA, 13 May (BD), Pittsburgh 7

May (SS), Mosquito L., OH, 8 May (CB), and Youngstown, OH, 16 May (NB). Yellow-throated Warblers were found breeding at Buckaloons, Warren, PA, well n. of the usual range (DW), and were especially common along the Youghiogheny R. in s.w. Pennsylvania, where they were virtually unknown 2 decades ago. Single Yellow Palm Warblers were at P.I.S.P., where rare, 6 Apr (NH) and 8 May (PH, JV). Several observers from Virginia to Pennsylvania commented on excellent numbers of Cerulean Warblers this spring; 23 singing males were counted 7 May at South River Falls, Green, VA (MS). A Black-and-white Warbler in Preston, WV, 11 Apr was early (GF). In the north, Prothonotary Warblers were doing well at their stronghold in Conneaut Marsh (RFL); 10 were at Mosquito L. 8 May (CB) and one was in N. Park, Pittsburgh, 14 May (JHo). Up to three Swainson's Warblers were in Red R. Gorge, Wolfe, KY, in May (FR); for the 2nd consecutive year, a singing male was at Loyalhanna Res., Westmoreland, PA, this year from 8 May into June (MM). At least six Connecticut Warblers were seen or banded at P.I.S.P. 12–17 May (JM, RFL), providing a very good spring total. Several contributors mentioned good numbers of Mourning Warblers in the West Virginia and Pennsylvania mountains.

A Clay-colored Sparrow was a rare find at Staunton 30 Apr (YL). One returned to reclaimed stripmines in Clarion, PA, where the species nested last summer (WF), one was in Erie 8 Apr (DB), and one–two were at P.I.S.P. 11 May (JM). The sparrow of the season, however, was a male **Lark Sparrow** at Rock Springs, Centre, PA, from 10 May to the end of the period, the first for the State College area since 1931 (PRd, m.ob.). Henslow's Sparrow populations were high in several Somerset, PA, reclaimed stripmines (JPa), but they were not widely reported elsewhere. A very late Fox Sparrow was at P.I.S.P. 23 May (MHD), and 28 May was a late date for White-throated Sparrow at Staunton (YL). The latest Snow Bunting report was from Friedens, Somerset 16 Mar (SB). A male Blue Grosbeak at P.I.S.P. 13 May (MHe) furnished just the 2nd Erie record for the species. A singing male **Painted Bunting** was observed at Ohiopyle S.P., PA, 4 May (JHo, MK), and a female was in nearby Westmoreland, PA, 9 May (N.A.M.C.). The only Dickcissel report came from Delmont, Westmoreland, PA, 6 Apr (KBy). Two Brewer's Blackbirds reported at Gray, PA, 4 Apr would be new for Somerset (SB).

Six Red Crossbills were at Cranberry Glades 28 Mar (WA), up to 10 were at 3 other sites in *Pocahontas*, WV, 25–26 Apr (JC), and as many as 13 were on Roan Mt. in May (RK). Two Pine Siskins were at Cranberry Nature Center, *Pocahontas*, 25 Apr (JC), and up to 20 were on Roan Mt. during late May (RK). The only report of Evening Grosbeak was of one 16 Mar in *Washington*, WV (JE).

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western great lakes region

JIM GRANLUND

It was a good season for rarities and there were a good number of early arrivals and species north of their normal range, particularly southern warblers in Minnesota. However, most observers found the migration to be average to slow through much of the Region. Noteworthy sightings included a Smew in Minnesota, providing a first state and Regional record, possible first Michigan records of White-tailed Kite and Western Wood-Pewee, and a Wisconsin's first of Great-tailed/Boat-tailed Grackle.

Weather was variable throughout the Region. Minnesota had temperatures which were 2–3° F above normal and above-average amounts of precipitation in April and May. Both Michigan and Wisconsin had colder than normal temperatures in early March and average temperatures in May. Wisconsin's April temperatures were average while Michigan's were above average. The first two states had highly variable precipitation, with the southern portions being wet in April and the northern areas being very dry. Wisconsin had normal precipitation in May while Michigan's precipitation was the reverse of April (wet north and dry south).

Abbreviations: M.B.R.C. (*Michigan Bird Records Committee*); N.C. (*Nature Center*); S.G.A. (*State Game Area*); W.P.B.O. (*Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Chippewa Co., MI*).

LOONS THROUGH IBISES

Above average this season was the 813 Red-throated Loons censused at W.P.B.O. with a peak of 122 on 2 May (staff). Eared Grebes were reported as scarce in Wisconsin with singles 4 Apr in *Bayfield* (RB, DVe), 19 May in *Dunn* (SR et al.), and 31 May in *Washington* (BD); two to three were at the Muskegon Wastewater, *Muskegon*, MI, 10–28 Apr (AB, CF). Wisconsin had W. Grebe reports 10–11 Apr in *Ozaukee* (MK, et al) and 25–28 May at Crex Meadows W.A. (DT, RH, MP). A Clark's Grebe was reported in Minnesota 8 Apr on L. Traverse, *Traverse* (CM). American White Pelicans continue to be more common in Wisconsin,



with reports from 10 counties this spring. In Michigan groups of 3 on 18 May, 16 on 20 May, and 11 on 29 May at W.P.B.O. were exceptional for that location. All 3 states reported Snowy Egrets with 9 individuals in Minnesota, 3 reports in Wisconsin, and an unusual report of one on the beach at St. Joseph, *Berrien*, MI (KM). Minnesota had Little Blue Herons on 16 May in Fletcher, *Hennepin* (SC), and 22 May at Agassiz N.W.R. (m.ob.), while Michigan had individuals 8 May at Saugatuck, *Allegan* (JG), and 16 May in *Alpena* (CR). A Tricolored Heron was reported from Wisconsin 6–17 May at Crex Meadows W.A. (JH, FL, et al) and another was seen 28 Apr–20 May at the Erie Marsh Preserve, *Monroe* (AB) in Michigan. In Wisconsin a **White-faced Ibis** was seen 26 Apr n. of Beaver Dam, *Dodge* (AM, CH), and another was reported in Minnesota 5–8 May in *Dakota* (m.ob.).

WATERFOWL

Minnesota had unprecedented numbers of Ross's Geese this season, including flocks of 50 in *Nobles* 20 Mar (PJ), 18–20 in *Otter Tail* 2 Apr (SM, DM), 70+ at Shaokatan W.M.A., *Lincoln*, 3 Apr (PJ, DN), and 28–30 in *Wilkin* 4 Apr (SM, DM). Wisconsin also had an exceptional migration, with reports from 6 counties. Michigan had individuals 17–18 Apr at the Muskegon Wastewater System, *Muskegon* (DS, CF) and 26 Mar–10 Apr at the Michigan State Univ. Sewage Ponds, *Ingham* (AB, BC, AC). Also in Michigan was a Brant at W.P.B.O. 25 May (KB, PC, AB). A male Eur. Wigeon, and a possible female, were seen 4–5 Apr in *Dane*,