

that the Cap Tourmente bird overwintered somewhere in the East, as spring migrants usually appear only in early April in Iceland, the likely source of birds seen in North America. The other occurrence, in Newfoundland 26 Jun–11 Jul 1980, was associated with a wave of Icelandic vagrants that reached Newfoundland that spring (*vide* B. Mactavish).

#### WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Record-early parulids included a Black-throated Green Warbler in Westmount 24 Apr. (M. Beauchamp) and a Wilson's Warbler in Boucherville 29 Apr (C. Ménard). Local hotlines and birdchats were quite busy keeping track of a rather long list of casual but expected strays that included: a Prairie-Warbler on Ile des Soeurs 8 May (F. Morneau et al.), a Yellow-breasted Chat in Hull 27 May onwards (F. Bédard), a Summer Tanager in Victoriaville 11 May (MG), Western Tanagers 26 May in Amqui (R. Vaillancourt, L. Bérubé) and 19–29 May in Baie-Comeau (G. Deraps), a Lark Bunting in Rivière-Madeleine 16 May (G. Blanchette), Harris's Sparrows in D'Alembert, Abitibi, 16–18 May (G. Bergeron, M. L'Heureux) and nearby in La Ferme 18 May (M. Bigué), and finally a Blue Grosbeak in Bic 10–12 May (J. Chenard, R-C. Bérubé).

With some 12 records in May spread from Témiscamingue through the Gaspé Peninsula, the Clay-colored Sparrow is maintaining its well-established pattern of several consecutive years of showing up in any suitable site where breeding can occur. No less than 3 hybrid Dark-eyed Junco × White-throated Sparrow were found in the Québec City area, one by L. Vézina in Saint-Benjamin 2–3 May and the other 2 by the same lucky observers (JL, C. Nadeau) at Cap Tourmente 6 May and in Lévis 7 May. Several records of male and female Northern Cardinals in both the Chicoutimi (*vide* GS) and Rimouski (*vide* JLM) areas indicate that this species is establishing viable breeding outposts, as has happened with the White-breasted Nuthatch.

A description of a **Lazuli Bunting** was received from Saint-Léon, Lac Saint-Jean, 7 May (R. Savard), where a male spent about five minutes in the vicinity of a feeder; it emphasized a blue head, russet upper-breast, white belly and two white wing bars. Unfortunately, local observers were unable to relocate the bird and no photographic documentation was obtained for this sighting, which would represent a first record for the Region.

Yellow-headed Blackbirds included 3

different birds in the Montreal area (*vide* PB, ND) and one each in Lorrainville 10–11 May (F. Cadotte, JF), Amqui 10 May (L. Gagné), and Port-Cartier 19 May (B. Duchesne, J-F. Laporte). Single Orchard Orioles in Saint-Louis-de-France 7 May (S. Houle, J. Brunelle), and Montreal 23 May (M. Renaud) are pushing the species into the category of an annual spring visitor, not to mention the possibility of casual nester, since it has bred not that far s. in Vermont and New York.

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# new england



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**A**s usual, New Englanders rode another weather see-saw this spring. Warm southerly winds in March and early April induced the early arrival of some migrants and also put foliage well-ahead of schedule. Then, a two-week cold spell in the latter half of April put everything behind schedule, before the next stretch of warm weather in early May got everything cooking again. Thereafter, winds remained highly conducive to migration more or less through the rest of the month. These conditions produced one of the most consis-

tently productive months of May in recent memory. There were no huge waves; just a steady flow of migrants that kept birders busy and happy.

Probably the series of weather events that produced the most prevalent results occurred in the latter half of March and the beginning of April. In Boston, the last week of March was unseasonably warm. That trend continued in the first eight days of April, with temperatures roughly 8° above average. The abrupt end to this trend coincided with the passage of an intense storm that tracked just to the west of New England. The prolonged warm spell, and especially the strong, deep southerly draw that immediately preceded the storm, might have accounted for the early (in

some cases, record-early) arrivals of certain migrants. As discussed in their respective sections, these included both species of kites, Spotted and Least Sandpipers, Chimney Swift, White-eyed Vireo, and several species of wood-warblers.

Rarities abounded. Examples included an albatross, a ptarmigan (!), two Fork-tailed Flycatchers, Le Conte's, Harris's, and Golden-crowned Sparrows, and Brambling. Pending review by the respective state committees, at least three species represented first state records: Tufted Duck in Vermont, Mew Gull in Maine, and Le Conte's Sparrow in New Hampshire.

**Abbreviations:** MARC (Massachusetts Avian Records Committee); Monhegan (Monhegan Island, *Lincoln*, ME); Nantucket (Nantucket I., MA); Plum I. (Newburyport, Newbury, Rowley, Ipswich, including Parker River N.W.R., Essex, MA).

#### LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

A Pacific Loon was reported from Biddeford, ME, 4–26 Mar (*vide* LB), and another two reports came from Massachusetts: one at Plum I. 6 May and the other at Wellfleet 13 May (SP), both in breeding plumage. Also reported from Biddeford, ME, 30 Mar was a high count of 350 Horned Grebes (N. McReel). The **Eared Grebe** that has spent the previous five winters in East Gloucester, MA, was last reported 16 Mar (J. Soucy).

A Sooty Shearwater was a bit early off Rockport, MA, 26 Apr (RSH), and a Manx Shearwater was decidedly so off Pt. Judith, RI, 11 Mar (D. Wayland). The same **American White Pelican** that spent several weeks at Plum I. in 1997 reappeared this spring in Tyngsboro, MA, where it was seen off and on for over a month (18 Apr–3 May, 16–25 May). Its identity as the 1997 bird was confirmed when an observer noted that, as was the case three years ago, it was missing its left eye. This one-eyed bird was also seen in Ellenville, NY, 8 April (*vide* MR), and in Pelham and Nashua, NH, 23 and 24 May, respectively (PH).

Unusual among reports of long-legged waders were single Little Blue Herons north and inland in Bangor, ME, 16 May (E. Grew), and in Branton, VT, 20 Apr (S. Wetmore); a Great Egret  $\pm 10$  mi from the New Brunswick border in Linneus, ME, 10 May (S. Young); and 1–2 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at Monhegan 15–16 Apr (B. Boynton) and 18 May (H. Nielsen).

Black Vultures were once again found in most states within the Region. A single bird was reported from Vermont (Pittsford 31

**SA** The most sensational bird of the season was an ad. **Yellow-nosed Albatross** that began a thrilling series of appearances throughout the northeast (see next issue for details) with a brief fly-by visit to Penikese I., MA, one of the westernmost of the Elizabeth Islands, just n. of Martha's Vineyard, 9 May (C. Mostello et al.). The bird was observed at point-blank range as it made several close passes over a blind in which a team of incredulous tern biologists was working. They watched in amazement (but with the presence of mind to note key field marks such as the precise pattern of black and white on the underwing) before the bird flew out of sight over Buzzard's Bay.

Coincidentally, the first of only 2 Yellow-nosed Albatrosses recorded previously in Massachusetts was seen practically within sight of Penikese at Bird I., *Marion*, MA, by a tern biologist, 7 May 1971, nearly 20 years earlier to the day! Perhaps not so coincidentally, an ad. Yellow-nosed Albatross made a similar visit to Matinicus Rock, a small island in the Gulf of Maine, last summer (see pictorial highlights in *North American Birds* 53:445). Ornithologists have long recognized albatrosses' strong site fidelity to their nesting islands, both at traditional breeding colonies and as demonstrated by various individuals (Black-browed) that have returned to Northern Gannet colonies in Great Britain for more than 20 successive years. Those birds, for whatever reasons, were "off" seasonally by six months and geographically by an entire hemisphere. In this context and in light of the Maine sighting, and given albatrosses' strong aversion to flying over land except during their breeding cycles, it does not seem at all outlandish to suppose that the Penikese record and last summer's Maine record involved the same individual, and that each time, the bird might have been prospecting for an island on which to nest.

May); 2 were seen in New Hampshire (Manchester 20 Apr, Rockingham 19 May); 8 were seen in Massachusetts (including 3 in Sheffield 20 Mar); 3 were still coming to a communal roost with Turkey Vultures in Ashaway, RI, 14 Mar–16 Apr; and 3 were reported from e. Connecticut. In w. Connecticut they are now so numerous that

local contributors no longer enumerate reports. If birders were as common in that area as are Black Vultures, this species probably would have been confirmed as a nesting species in the state by now.

#### WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

The frequency of occurrence of Greater White-fronted Goose has greatly increased in New England over the past 10 years; a total of  $\pm 14$  birds in four states this year probably represented a new Regional high. A minimum of 7 in Massachusetts included 1–3 in Hadley 3–10 Mar (J. Trimble, et al.); another 3 were in Mansfield, CT, 9 Mar (MZ); 2–3 individuals were found in s. New Hampshire in Durham 2–10 Mar. (SM), North Hampton 6–27 Apr (D. Donsker et al.), and Concord 14–26 Apr (J. Quinn); and one was reported from Farmington Falls, ME, 1 Apr (C. Jack). The biggest flocks by far of migrant Snow Geese were seen, as usual, in nw. Vermont. Roughly 12,000 northbound Snows were counted within an hour over Grand Isle 15 Mar (DH). Brants seldom touch down inland in New England as they pass overhead in spring migration, and if they do, it usually happens in May when most are beginning their overland flights. Such a grounding accounted for the appearance of 44 Brants in Montague, MA, on the Connecticut R. 21 May (M. Fairbrother). More unusual was one in a cornfield in Hadley 24 Mar (H. Allen).

Among the roughly 13 Regionwide Eurasian Wigeons, the most noteworthy were 3 drakes in Swanton, VT, 16 Apr (K. Copenhaver) and New Hampshire's first away from the coast, along the Connecticut R. in Colebrook (D. Killam). An ad. drake **Cinnamon Teal** in Gloucester, MA, 18–19 Mar (T. Raymond) was probably the real deal, but most likely will not make it into the books without a "questionable origin" asterisk. Three single Common Teal were reported, all in Massachusetts: Eastham 5 Mar (BN); W. Harwich 1–28 Apr (BO); and Hatfield 11 Apr (P. Champlin). In just the past 5+ years, the Tufted Duck has become an annual winter visitor to New England. This spring a drake that spent another winter in Clinton, MA, remained at least until 18 Mar (T. Pirro), a female that had not been seen earlier in the winter appeared in Westport, MA, 25 Mar (EN), and a drake in Shelburne, VT, 7 Apr (C. Gifford et al.) represented the first state record. Surf Scoters are the least likely of the three scoters species to appear inland in New England, so the discovery of 3 on the Connecticut Lakes in Pittsburg, NH, 16 May (EN) was noteworthy. A well-described Common  $\times$  Barrow's

Goldeneye hybrid was identified in Newburyport, MA, 7 Mar (RSH).

Kites had a banner year, especially in Massachusetts. The now-annual show started early at Cape Cod, MA, with a **Swallow-tailed Kite** in Barnstable 27 Mar (S. Clifton) and a sub-adult **Mississippi Kite** in Eastham 29 Mar (A. Thomas). These two early birds arrived on the s. winds that produced the aforementioned warm spell in late Mar/early Apr. Two other Mississippi were seen on the Cape, both from a hawk-watch site in Truro: one 6 May and another 27 May (TC). Additional reports of Swallow-taileds in Massachusetts came from Chatham 7 May (*vide* R. Prescott), Truro 10 May (J. Sones), Harvard 12 May (M. Holland), and Cambridge 13 May (R. Naticchioni et al.). The Chatham and Truro sightings might have involved the same individual, as might have the Harvard and Cambridge sightings. With kites, who knows? Elsewhere in the Region, single Swallow-taileds were also in Slocum, RI, 12 May (P. Paton) and in North Stamford, CT,

**SA** A Willow Ptarmigan was discovered by a nine-year-old girl 16 May at Great Chebeague I., Cumberland, ME, where it remained through the reporting period (D.&B. Johnson, LB, SM et al., ph., vt.). Remarkably, this represented the 4th state and Regional record for this species, the most recent of a bird photographed at Bailey I., Harpswell, ME, 14 May 1977; see *Am. Birds* 31:974 for a discussion of this and previous state records. In *The Birds of Massachusetts* (1955), Griscom and Snyder mentioned a Willow Ptarmigan shot in Manchester, Essex, MA, 10 May 1859, that was ship-assisted from Labrador. While most North American galliformes are essentially non-migratory latitudinally (though some, including ptarmigan, are elevational migrants), both Rock and Willow Ptarmigans apparently engage in seasonal north-south movements that can only be characterized as migrations. As such, like any migrant, they can be prone to occasional inexplicable wanderings. This tendency may have accounted for the appearance of the Chebeague bird. All four New England records form a tight seasonal cluster within less than a four-week span; clearly, not a coincidence.

May 8 (*vide* P. Dugan). A pair of Northern Harriers was confirmed nesting in Stratford, CT, at the only known breeding site in the state (CB). Two Golden Eagle reports included a wintering bird that lingered at least through 25 Mar at Quabbin Reservoir in cen. Massachusetts (J. Hoye) and two in Stowe, VT, 17 Apr (L. Lackey). As usual, Plum I. produced the largest spring kestrel flight in the Region. This year's one-day best of 197 came a little early on 5 Apr (TC), while the second-highest total of 105 came a bit late on 1 May (TC).

An above-average total of three King Rail reports in Connecticut included singles in South Windsor 4 Apr (P. Cianfaglione), Litchfield in May (D. Rosgen), and Milford 13 May (D. Varza). Other singles were located in the Great Swamp in Rhode Island 20–27 May (D. Finizia et al.) and in Pittsfield, MA, 13 May (ML); a pair was found in W. Bridgewater, MA, also 13 May (S. Arena). Like most other marsh birds in the East, Common Moorhens continue to decline throughout the Northeast. The only ones reported this spring were in Maine and Rhode Island. Two of the three Maine birds were at traditional breeding sites; the Rhode Island individual was at Pt. Judith 31 Mar (J. St. Jean). The only gallinule reported from Massachusetts was a **Purple Gallinule**, seen only one day at Nantucket 2 May (M. Phillips).

The frequency with which Sandhill Cranes have appeared in New England has increased significantly in the last 5–10 years. A total of 5 in Massachusetts included the apparent family group of 3 that spent most of the winter in se. MA. This trio was last seen in Fairhaven 4 Mar (E. Salmela). The other 2 in the Bay State were in Chatham 8 May (RVC) and Amherst 19 May (D. McKenna). A single crane, almost certainly the same bird that spent part of last year in the same area, was seen sporadically in Monroe, NH, 31 Mar–17 May (S. Turner et al.); another was in Cabot, VT, 13 May (V. Birtwhistle-Fritz). Four reports from Connecticut brought the Regional number this season to 11, a total that probably represent a modern record-high count for New England.

#### CHARADRIFORMS

American Golden-Plovers are a scarce spring visitor to the Region; this year's seasonal total of 4–5 was above average. Two reports, a month apart, from Biddeford, ME, 28–30 Apr (G. Carson et al.) and 30 May (R. Toochin) may have involved the same bird. In Massachusetts, singles were seen in Newburyport 13 May (RSH) and

Plymouth 9–15 May (S. Hecker); another was noted in Galilee, RI, 2 May (PAB). American Oystercatchers nested again at Stratton Is., Saco, ME, (*vide* K. Gammons) and another was on the Isles of Shoals, Rockingham, NH, 2 & 16 May (DHa). The significance of oystercatcher records in n.-coastal New England has diminished in recent years since the species began nesting in Nova Scotia a few years ago. A **Black-necked Stilt** in Wells, ME, 29 May (R. Duddy) furnished only the 5th or 6th state record. The occurrence of two Marbled Godwits, one in Westport, MA, 2 May (R. Couse) and the other in Old Orchard Beach, ME, 28 May (P. Comins), was a nice surprise given that this species is not annual in New England in the spring. Arguably, the best shorebird of the season, eclipsing even the stilt at least in terms of seasonal rarity, was a **Baird's Sandpiper** at Napatree Pt., RI, 27 May (R. Larsen). Pending review by the state committee, this would represent the first spring record for the state and one of very few Regionwide in the spring. The early arrival of a Least Sandpiper in Ipswich, MA, 2 Apr (RSH) might have been related to the aforementioned warm weather in late Mar/early Apr, as was, perhaps, the appearance of a Spotted Sandpiper in Bolton, MA, 9 Apr (G. Gove). Two Ruffs were found this spring, at Hammonasset Beach S.P. in Madison, CT, 22–25 Apr (J. Maynard et al.) and Rowley, MA, 5–7 May (H. d'Entremont et al.). Rare is the year in which at least one Ruff does not appear in Newburyport Harbor, MA, and this was one of those years. A Red-necked Phalarope put in a surprise showing in a tiny inland pool in Morris, CT, 18–19 May (B. Devine), and a Red Phalarope on a small reservoir in Arlington, MA, 23 Apr (MR) was equally surprising.

The same fields in Hadley that contained the aforementioned Greater White-fronted Geese and Brant also contained an impressive collection of gulls 6 Mar, including 2 Glaucous, one Lesser Black-backed, and 2 apparent hybrid Herring × Glaucous—the so-called Nelson's Gull (C. Marantz). Single Lesser Black-backed Gulls, by themselves, no longer merit mention in this space now that they are appearing in bunches. Massachusetts counts of multiples included 3 inland at Hadley 3 Mar (J. Trimble), 5 at Brewster 2 Apr (BN), 5 at Provincetown 13 May (SP), and 4 at Monomoy, 12 May (BN). A seasonal total of 10+ in coastal Connecticut was part of a larger phenomenon described by Greg Hanisek: "With the productive Manchester landfill now closed,

gull activity centers on the period from mid-March to mid-April, when gulls mass along the shore to feed on eggs of a spawning marine worm. This year feeding aggregations as large as 50,000 were noted from Stamford to Madison." In addition to the Lesser Black-backed, the following seasonal gull totals were also attributed to this phenomenon: 10+ Black-headed, 5+ Littles, 12+ Icelands, and 2 Glaucous. Black-headed Gull numbers were fairly typical within each of the other coastal states: 4-5 in Maine, one in New Hampshire, and  $\pm 10$  in Massachusetts. Little Gulls numbered 2 in Maine, 2 in New Hampshire, and  $\pm 13$  in Massachusetts. Three Mew Gulls in Massachusetts included a bird in 2nd-winter plumage in S. Boston 11 Mar (R. Donovan), another 2nd-winter bird in Newburyport Harbor 15-24 Mar (RSH), and an ad. in Brewster 25 Mar (RVC). Oddly, despite the fact that Mews are annual in winter in Massachusetts (mostly around Boston Harbor), they are rarely found anywhere else on the entire Eastern Seaboard. So, a well-described first-winter bird in Portland, ME, 20-26 May (L. Bevier et al.) was big news. The Mew Gull is listed as hypothetical on the Maine list, so this sighting could represent a first state record, pending review by that state's committee. The most noteworthy tern report of the spring was of an apparent Arctic Tern on the Connecticut R. in Montague, MA, 24 May (B. Lafley et al.).

#### PARAKEETS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Based on their long-standing breeding status in Rhode Island and sustained presence for over 5 years in se. Massachusetts (though they have yet to be confirmed as breeding), Monk Parakeets have recently been added to the Massachusetts state list. Single birds were seen this spring in Boston (Roslindale) 6 Mar and in Milton 1 Apr (BO). Whether these solitary birds originate from the established flocks in the se. or from cages is anyone's guess. An estimated 5-10 Chuck-wills-widows return each spring to Edgartown, MA, on Martha's Vineyard, where they have long been suspected of breeding, though nesting has yet to be confirmed anywhere in New England. This year, in addition to the Vineyard regulars, singles were also heard at Pt. Judith, RI, 8 May (J. Meyers) and Wellfleet, MA, 13-31 May (D. Crockett et al.). The latter, another suspected breeder, was almost certainly the same individual that has been present there each summer since 1997. An early Chimney Swift in Fairhaven, MA, 13 Apr (M. LaBossiere) may have been ushered in by

the aforementioned warm spell.

A report of a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** at Block I., RI, 8 May (S. Comings) is pending review by the state committee, as is another from White I. in the Isles of Shoals, Rockingham, NH, 25 May (DHa). No details reached this writer. However, the fact that they purportedly occurred only slightly more than two weeks apart collectively lent a little extra weight to the credibility of the reports. A pair of Acadian Flycatchers, presumably the same pair that established a new northernmost breeding outpost two years ago and the first state nesting record, returned again in mid-May to Pawtuckaway S.P., Nottingham, NH (A&BD). One in Portland, ME, 5 May (PDV), was bit out of range, contrary to what its moniker suggests.

Loggerhead Shrikes have all but disappeared as breeding birds in the Northeast, and even migrants, at least in spring, have become *bona fide* rarities. Two this spring were in Sterling, MA, 2 Apr (ML) and Groton, CT, 21-22 May (J. Restivo). An ad. Northern Shrike in Scarborough, ME, 12 May (LB, et al.), was very late. A rush of early White-eyed Vireos in e. Massachusetts included single birds in Eastham 8 Apr (BN), Barnstable 10-11 Apr (S. Miller), and S. Boston 15 Apr (SD); an above-average total of 4 in Maine included an early individual Downeast in Bar Harbor 1-14 Apr (G. Willow et al.). The early arrivals of some or all of these vireos may have been associated with the aforementioned warm spell.

Fish Crows were found in Burlington, VT, again this spring, following the first nesting confirmation in the state two years ago; one was also seen in Peru, VT, 13 May (WN). A House Wren in Augusta, ME, 1 Apr (N. Famous) was early, especially for a site that far n. and inland. The two reports of Sedge Wrens both came from Maine: one in Brownsfield, York, 11 May (J. Preis, et al.) and the other in Bangor 22 May (M. Lindblad).

Following one of the biggest Bohemian Waxwing flights on record this past winter, it came as no surprise that big numbers remained well into the spring season. Some of the larger flocks from selected states included 116 in Turners Falls, MA, 18 Mar (T. Gagnon); 200 in Augusta, ME, 21 Apr (D. Ladd); 235 in Grafton, NH, 5 Mar (*vide* PH); and 2000+(!) in Burlington, VT, 23 Mar (N. McElveny). Ironically, the latest report from anywhere in the region this spring came from se. New England: 27 were still present in Wellfleet, MA, 1 May (J. Sones).

#### WOOD-WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

An impressive assortment of wood-warblers arrived early in Massachusetts. A **Connecticut Warbler** in Mt. Everett, MA, 6 May (T. Tynning) furnished a rare spring record for this secretive species. The first of 2 Prothonotaries at Nantucket appeared 30 Mar (*vide* E. Ray), and a Hooded Warbler was in Marblehead 5 Apr (J. Lawrence et al.). A Tennessee Warbler in Marblehead 10-15 Apr (RSH) was the earliest ever in the state (and Region?); another in Sharon 30 Apr (R. Titus), though not a record-breaker at 10 days early, was nonetheless intriguing in the context of the first. Also early were 2 Northern Parulas, one in Vineyard Haven on Martha's Vineyard 7 Apr (E.&M. Siebert) and the other the next day in Provincetown (G. Martin). A Black-and-white Warbler at Plum I. 8 Apr (D. Small) was also early. In Rhode Island, another 2 Prothonotaries were found in N Kingstown 1 & 5 Apr (*vide* DE). The tightly clustered arrival dates strongly suggest that they all arrived on the same bus, so to speak. It is likely that their arrivals were related, at least in part, to the aforementioned warm spell and/or storm.

The regular southern spring overshoots, including Yellow-throated, Prothonotary, Hooded, and Kentucky Warblers, Summer Tanager, and Blue Grosbeak were represented as follows: Yellow-throated Warbler—2 in Connecticut, 2 in Massachusetts, and 2 in Maine; Prothonotary Warbler—2 in Connecticut, 2 in Rhode Island; 9 in Massachusetts, and 2 in Maine, Hooded Warbler—11 in Massachusetts (reaches Connecticut and Rhode Island as a breeding species); Kentucky Warbler—6 in Massachusetts and one in New Hampshire; Summer Tanager—one in Connecticut, 7 in Rhode Island (record number in the state in spring), 10 in Massachusetts, and 2 in Maine; Blue Grosbeak—5 in Massachusetts and 3-5 in Maine.

The **Spotted Towhee** first found during the winter season in Amherst, MA, was last reported 7 Apr (E. Labato). More than 10 years ago, local birders predicted that Clay-colored Sparrow would soon become a regular breeder in the Region. This assumption was based on a (then) increasing number of spring records, some involving pairs on territory or at least territorial males. Since then, the species has been confirmed nesting 2-3 times, relatively modest gains. However, the numbers persist. Records this spring included one in Connecticut, one in

Rhode Island, one in Vermont, 2 in Massachusetts, and 3 in Maine. None appeared to be territorial. A **Lark Bunting** made a rare spring visit to the Region when a male visited a feeding station in Truro, MA, 25 Apr–4 May (B.O.). A **Le Conte's Sparrow** captured at a banding station on White I., *Rockingham*, NH, 16 May (DHa, M. Charette, ph.), represented the first state record. The great majority of the previous sightings elsewhere in the Region are from fall. A count of 40–50 White-crowned Sparrows in Burlington, VT, 6 May (S. Morrical) represented a high count for that state. A Gambel's White-crowned that spent most of the winter at a feeder in Marshfield, MA, was last seen 1 May (D. Furbish). A report of a **Golden-crowned Sparrow** in Oakland, ME, 6 May (G. York) was accompanied by a sketchy but convincing description. Pending review by the state committee, this bird would represent either the 2nd or 3rd record for Maine. A **Harris's Sparrow** made a one-day showing in Amherst, MA, 13 May (B. Lafleche et

al.). Most of the few annual records of Lark Sparrow come from the fall season, so one in New Sharon, *Franklin*, ME, 29–30 May (LB) was noteworthy.

Two early Indigo Buntings in W. Tisbury, MA, on Martha's Vineyard 1–3 Apr (M. Keefe), may have arrived with the early warblers mentioned above. A Dickcissel that spent the winter at a feeding station in S. Boston remained until 15 Apr (RD). A male Yellow-headed Blackbird put in a one-day appearance in Northampton, MA, 16 May (B. Bieda et al.). The Boat-tailed Grackle was confirmed breeding again this year at the only known nest site in the Region, the Lordship Marshes in Stratford, CT (CB). The **Brambling** first found during the winter season at a feeding station in Weston, CT, was seen sporadically through 22 Mar (E. Lamore); see the previous issue for more details. Following the relatively big redpoll flight this past winter, a few attendant Hoary Redpolls remained at feeders into spring. They included one in Sandwich, NH, through 14 Mar (T.

Vazzano), one in Easthampton, MA, through 21 Mar (BO), and at least 9 in Maine (*vide* JD, WT).

**CORRIGENDA**

The Tufted Duck reported last year from Bantam Lake, CT, was present 26 Apr, not 26 May.

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# HUDSON-DELAWARE

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**M**arch was a continuation of late February, with warm weather and somewhat lower-than-normal rainfall. After a moderate beginning which encouraged many early arrivals, April was dominated by below-normal temperatures and above-average rainfall, resulting in a lackluster migration. However, conditions improved by the last two days of the month, with a good movement. May began very warm, with a good flight during the first week. Overall, May was warm with well-above normal rainfall and a few good flight days.

The highlights of the season were Yellow-nosed Albatross in New York and New Jersey, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck in New Jersey, Cinnamon Teal in Delaware, Long-tailed Jaeger in Pennsylvania,

