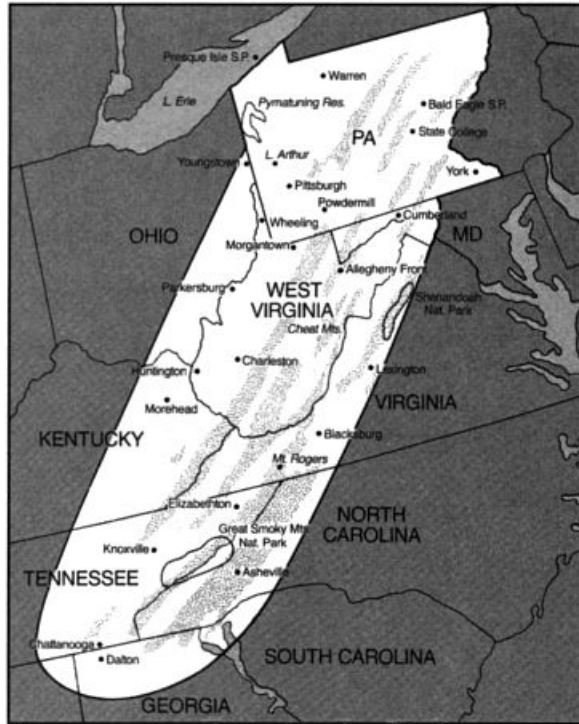


Appalachia



Chat was at Lurgan Beach (*Bruce*) 30 Apr (AWM). Point Pelee N.P. had a total of 8 Summer Tanagers 27 Apr–22 May (m. ob.), and an imm. male sang in the Wilson Tract n. of Long Point P.P. 12–31 May (RL, AC, VD). A Lark Sparrow was at Point Pelee N. P. 17 May (MB, SA), and another was at a feeder just w. of Dryden 8–21 May (CE). The same feeder hosted 2 Lark Sparrows a year earlier. Single Henslow's Sparrows were found at Point Pelee N.P. 12 Apr (AW et al.), at Wilmot Creek (*Durham*) 18 May (O&DP), and at Two Creeks C.A. (*Kent*) 9 May (DF). Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows are usually expected more often in the fall, but 3 were found at Point Pelee N.P., with single birds 1–20 May (AW et al.), 19 May (GTH et al.), and 20 May (GE). A Harris's Sparrow was at the Breakwater Field Station, L.P.B.O. 3 May (JF, SM). A second-year male Blue Grosbeak was banded in the Wilson Tract 15 May (CF, m. ob.), and a bright ad. male was at Point Pelee N.P. 5–10 May (TO, GS et al.). A Dickcissel at an Atikokan feeder 12–13 May (MCE, SP) was new for the e. end of the Rainy R. District. Another was off the Tip of Point Pelee N.P. 17 May (AW et al.) flying about in the fog. White-winged Crossbills nested for the first time in the Toronto area, where a nest with eggs was found 4 Mar at Palgrave C.A. (GC).

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Spring migration presented the usual mixed picture in Appalachia. There were some heavy fallouts of waterfowl, especially across western Maryland and Pennsylvania. At Erie, for example, over 30,000 ducks, mostly Canvasbacks and scaup, put down on Presque Isle Bay in mid-March. In May, good numbers of shorebirds appeared in eastern Tennessee where water levels were low in the upper lakes of the T.V.A. system. Nearly every field observer, however, commented on the generally poor flight and lack of significant fallouts of Neotropical migrants. At Powdermill Nature Reserve, Carnegie Museum of Natural History's field station at Rector, Pennsylvania, this spring's banding total of about 1800 birds was the third lowest ever and 35% below the 40-year average, but numbers of only a few Neotropical migrants (e.g., Least Flycatcher, House Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Canada

Warbler, and American Redstart) were much below average. Others, like Acadian Flycatcher, Gray Catbird, Wood Thrush, and Chestnut-sided Warbler, were well above average.

Abbreviations: P.N.R. (Powdermill Nature Reserve, Rector, *Westmoreland*, PA); P.I.S.P. (Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, PA).

LOONS THROUGH STORKS

There were more than the usual number of Red-throated Loons across w. Pennsylvania, with reports 4 Mar–22 Apr of single birds from at least 10 scattered localities. Good counts of Common Loon included 28 at L. Julian, *Buncombe*, NC 13 Apr (WF) and 42 at Codorus S.P., *York*, PA 6 Apr (PR). Over 163 Horned Grebes were at Pymatuning L., PA 26 Mar (SKa), and 100 were on L. Somerset on 27 Mar (JP). Normally rare in Pennsylvania, 13 Red-necked Grebes were at Bald Eagle S.P. 16 Apr (DHo), 2 were at Shawnee L., *Bedford* 11 Apr (RG), and 2 were at Tamarack L., *Meadville* 19 Apr (RFL). Two of the Eared Grebes reported from last season at S. Holston L., TN were seen until 11 Mar (RK), and single migrants were at Brainerd Levee,

Hamilton, TN 5 Apr (*fide* KC) and P.I.S.P. 4 Apr (JMc). An American White Pelican was a rare find at Bald Eagle S.P., PA 16–17 Apr (DH, DS). Over 1000 Double-crested Cormorants stopped at P.I.S.P. 14 Apr (JMc, LMc), and there were 34 active cormorant nests in a rookery in Hawkins, TN (*fide* BC).

In w. Pennsylvania the number of American Bitterns sighted was the best in many years, with high counts of 8 at P.I.S.P. 22 Apr (NH) and 5 near Berlin 20–23 Apr (JP). Up to 4 Least Bitterns were listed at P.I.S.P. in May (m. ob.), one was at P.N.R. 24–25 May (RCL, MS), and one at Grand R. W.A., OH 30 May (CB). Rare in this mountainous region, single Snowy Egrets were at L. Osceola, NC 25 Apr (RSe, MW), the French Broad R. Valley 30 May (WF, MW), at Austin Springs, TN 25 May (RK), and at P.I.S.P. 27–31 May (PH, m. ob.). A Cattle Egret was an unusual find so far n. as Vandergrift, Armstrong, PA on 2 May (*fide* MH). Five Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen along the Susquehanna R. at W. Fairview, PA 17 Apr (JG), one was a rare find flying over P.N.R. 29 May (RM), and at least one pair was at Elizabethton, TN (BS, HPL), where they have nested since the 1970s. Seven Glossy Ibis in Blount, TN 8 Apr were the Region's only report (JA, DJ), as was an imm. Wood Stork at Chickamauga L., Hamilton, TN 24 Apr (LB).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

Three Greater White-fronted Geese that had been wintering at Brainerd Levee, TN continued there until 22 Mar (*fide* KC). In Erie, PA, where they are rare, at least 50 Snow Geese were at Fairview 13–19 Mar (JMc), and a flock of 55 put down at Waterford 18 Mar (JH). During a heavy migratory movement on 11 Mar, flocks totaling 2300 Canada Geese and 475 Tundra Swans flew past the White Deer Ridge hawkwatch, Lycoming, PA (JY). The 80 Gadwalls listed in Augusta, VA 7 Mar constituted a new spring high count for that area (YL), and 90 was an excellent count at Yellow Cr. S.P., Indiana, PA on 13 Mar (SK). Always rare in the Region, up to 2 Eurasian Wigeon were at P.I.S.P. 4–22 Mar (JMc), one was at Conneaut Marsh, Crawford, PA 19 Mar (IF), and 2 at Colesburg, Potter, PA 2 Apr (JMi). Heavy waterfowl fallouts at Tamarack L., Meadville, PA included 232 American Wigeon 9 Apr, 1000 Mallards 12 Apr, and 1460 Northern Pintails 25 Apr (RFL). A remarkable 700 Redheads and 3300 Ring-necked Ducks were on L. Arthur, Butler, PA 17 Mar (*fide* PH). Five White-winged Scoters were an unprecedented find at L. Julian, Buncombe, NC 24 Mar (WF, MW, BO), and during a sig-

nificant flight 16–17 Apr at least 40 White-winged put down on a dozen different lakes in w. Pennsylvania (m. ob.). Up to 5 Surf Scoters were rare finds on L. Arthur 18–31 Mar (*fide* PH), as were 2 were near Ligonier, PA 21 Apr (RCL, RFL). Two Black Scoters were on Pymatuning L., PA 21 Apr (RFL) for the season's only report. Good numbers of Long-tailed Ducks were spotted in w. Pennsylvania from early Mar through the 3rd week of Apr, with high counts of 50 at Shawnee L. (RG) and 60 on L. Somerset (JP) 11 Apr. A very late Common Goldeneye was at Ft. Loudoun Dam, TN 5 May (PL). A raft of 500 Ruddy Ducks on the upper lake at Pymatuning 22 Apr (IF) was unusually large for the spring season.

An impressive total of 226 Ospreys passed by the Tussey Mt., PA hawkwatch this season, with a peak of 45 on 21 Apr (*fide* GG). Pennsylvania Game Commission personnel reported 29 Bald Eagles fledged from 22 active nests in nw. Pennsylvania. A very late Northern Harrier was still at Hooper Lane, Henderson, NC 24 May (RSe, WF). At Tussey Mt., a total of 123 harriers was reported, including a high count of 46 birds 7 Apr; other unusually high spring totals there included 3473 Broad-winged Hawks, 10 Rough-legged Hawks, and 162 Golden Eagles: 22 of the latter on 11 Mar (DL, ML). A Swainson's Hawk, always a rare find along the Appalachians, was spotted at Tussey 11 Apr (ML). A Rough-legged Hawk at Hooper Lane 24 Mar–1 Apr was a first for that county (WF). At the Allegheny Front hawkwatch, Bedford, a total of 61 Golden Eagles was spotted, including 21 on 12 Mar (*fide* DB). Vying for rarest raptor of the season was a white-morph Gyrfalcon at P.I.S.P. 31 Mar & 8 Apr (*fide* JMc).

A King Rail at Geneva Marsh, Crawford, PA 27 Apr (RFL) was the Region's lone report. Eight Virginia Rails were at Grand R. W.A., Trumbull, OH 30 May (CB), and an ad. with 6 chicks was at Shady Valley 20 May for one of the few breeding records for Tennessee (WC). A dozen Sora were seen in just a small section of the marsh at Geneva, PA 16 May (RFL), where the species is apparently doing well. The first Sandhill Cranes had returned to their breeding area in Lawrence, PA by 3 Mar (BD), and sightings of migrants came from five other Pennsylvania counties, led by a flock of 19 at P.I.S.P. 15 Mar (LWa). Almost unknown in Pennsylvania 20 years ago, the Sandhill Crane's eastward range expansion is nothing short of remarkable. Elsewhere in the Region, one crane was in the French Broad R. Valley, NC 1–13 Mar (MW, WF), and one at Mosquito L., OH 18 Apr (DH).



In recent years Swainson's Warblers have been regularly overshooting their known breeding range. This bird, banded at Powdermill Nature Reserve 15 May 2001, was one of two found in Westmoreland, Pennsylvania this spring. Photograph by Robert S. Mulvihill.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Unusual spring shorebird sightings included an American Golden-Plover at Pymatuning L. 27 Apr (RFL) and a record 23 American Avocets at P.I.S.P. 22 Apr (JMc, m. ob.). High counts of Greater Yellowlegs included 71 at Pymatuning 12 Apr (RFL), and a flock of 43 put down in a rainstorm at Lawrence, PA 21 Apr (BD). There were 58 Lesser Yellowlegs at Miller Pond, Pymatuning 19 Apr (RFL). An unprecedented 11 Willets were on the Tennessee R., Hamilton, TN 24 Apr (KC), and one was at S. Holston L. 17 May (RK). In an encouraging trend, more than the usual number of sightings of Upland Sandpipers was made in Somerset, PA (TM, JP) and Garrett, MD (JC, FP) this spring. Single Whimbrels were at P.I.S.P. 18 & 24 May (*fide* JMc). On 13 Apr there were 9 Marbled Godwits at S. Holston L. (RK) and 3 at the Kingston Tennessee steam plant (RH), and one was found along the Tennessee R. 24 Apr (KC). Eight Sanderlings were at Kingston 15 May (RH), a particularly high count away from L. Erie. There was an especially large flight of White-rumped Sandpipers through the Region during the 2nd half of May, particularly in Tennessee, where 40 were listed at Kingston 22 May (*fide* RK) and 20 at Brainerd Levee 23–24 May (KC). A Stilt Sandpiper was a rarity at Brainerd Levee 4 Apr (LW, JC), as was another in Washington, TN 28 May (RK). High Short-billed Dowitcher counts included 16 at Brainerd Levee 12 May (KC) and 33 on 12 May at S. Holston L. (RK). Rare in spring, the only Long-billed Dowitcher sighting came from Brainerd Levee 23 Apr (KC). Over 100 Common Snipe were listed in Lawrence, PA 21

Apr (BD). A Wilson's Phalarope in the French Broad R. Valley 14 May was a first for *Henderson*, NC (WF, BO, MW), while a flock of 10 in *Preston*, WV 21 Apr (GF) surely must be a record high total for the entire Appalachian Region!

More than the usual number of rare and unusual larids was reported from the Region. A rare find anywhere in w. Pennsylvania, 2 Laughing Gulls strayed across the mountains to L Somerset 1–2 Apr (JP, SB), and one was seen on several occasions at P.I.S.P. 23–27 May (*fide* JMc). Up to 5 Franklin's Gulls were major rarities in the w. Allegheny Mts. at L. Somerset 21–23 Apr (MF, SB, JP). There were two reports of Little Gulls: one bird along the w. shore of the Susquehanna R. at Wrightsville, PA 23 Mar and 2 at Accomac, *York* 3 Apr (DHo). Rare gulls at P.I.S.P. (all *fide* JMc) included a Thayer's Gull 4 Mar, three records of Iceland Gull 4–16 Mar, a single Lesser Black-backed Gull 16 & 25 Mar, and six reports of Glaucous Gull 2–25 Mar. An ad. Black-legged Kittiwake at Shawnee L. was a first for *Bedford*, PA 8–10 Apr (J&KB, SC, DB). Among the few observations of Common Tern away from L. Erie were reports of 7 near Mercer, PA 11 May (NT) and 5 at S. Holston L., TN 17 May (RK). A Least Tern was a very rare find in *Sequatchie*, TN 18 May (HW).

DOVES THROUGH PIPITS

A **White-winged Dove** that appeared in New Castle in late Apr remained through the end of May, establishing the 2nd w. Pennsylvania record of the species (ph. CG, m. ob.). Seldom reported in the Region, a Barn Owl stayed at a silo near Ringgold, *Catoosa*, GA at least through 5 May (PL), and a pair again nested in Johnson City, TN (RK). Up to 3 Long-eared Owls could be found at P.I.S.P. 20 Mar–9 Apr (DDr, m. ob.). Increasingly common, especially in reclaimed strip-mines, Short-eared Owls were widely reported in w. Pennsylvania, where the high count was 18 at Curllsville, *Clarion* 20 Mar, with at least one still there 29 May (JF). A **Boreal Owl** captured and banded at P.I.S.P. 7 Apr (ph. DDr, JMc) provided the first Pennsylvania record since 1896! Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported from as far s. as Roan Mt., NC 1 May (RK) and Big Bald Mt., TN 29 Apr (JMg). Eleven Chuck-will's-widows were an exceptional count from *Washington* and *Carter*, TN 29 Apr (RK, FA). Early Whip-poor-wills were at P.I.S.P. (DDr) and Mt. Lebanon, PA (GO), both on 22 Apr, and high counts included 10 in *Henderson*, NC 15 May (WF) and 39 in *Sullivan*, TN 26 May (JMg). A rather early Chimney Swift was at *Clarksville*, PA 10 Apr (RB). A Rufous

Hummingbird that had wintered in *Hamilton*, TN was last seen 9 Mar (*fide* KC).

An exceptionally early Olive-sided Flycatcher was in *Greene*, TN 21 Apr (*fide* RK), and Olive-sideds were more frequently recorded elsewhere in the Region than usual, with three other reports from Tennessee, one from North Carolina, and seven in Pennsylvania. A record-early Eastern Kingbird was at Stuart's Draft, *Augusta*, VA 11 Apr (*fide* YL). Two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were in *Sequatchie*, TN 16–31 May (*fide* KC), and one in *Knox*, TN 1–5 May was a county first (*fide* RK). A pair of Loggerhead Shrikes was found nesting in *Washington*, TN this spring (RK). Late dates for Northern Shrike included one at Whipple Dam S.P., *Huntingdon*, PA 4 Mar (GG), one at Ellisburg, *Potter*, PA 13 Mar (JMi), and one that lingered at P.I.S.P. 8–31 Mar (LMc). A flock of 100 Horned Larks was still at Sayre, *Bradford*, PA 11 Mar (RS). A Purple Martin banded at Stuarts Draft, VA 27 Feb was record early for that locality (*fide* YL). Over 1000 Tree Swallows were observed feeding over Conneaut L., PA 21 May, a rather late date for such a large concentration, and a high count of 110 Cliff Swallows was made at Pymatuning L., near Linesville 17 May (RFL). A record-early Barn Swallow for *Augusta* was at Waynesboro, VA 16 Mar (AL), and 25 Mar was an early arrival date for both L. Arthur, PA (DD, DY) and *Wood*, WV (JB). Up to 2 Sedge Wrens were at Brainerd Levee, TN 9–14 Apr (KC), and one was a rare find in *Transylvania*, NC 23 Apr (*fide* NS), as was one at P.I.S.P. 5 May (RSt). A large flock of about 400 American Pipits was seen in *Henderson*, NC 14 Mar (WF, RSe), and a rather late flock of 50 was at Townville, SC 2 May (PL).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

As Blue-winged Warblers continue to expand their breeding range into that of the Golden-winged Warbler, the number of hybrids has apparently increased. In addition to numerous reports of Brewster's Warblers, which have become almost routine throughout the Region, a Lawrence's Warbler was banded at P.N.R. 5 May (RCL), and another was seen at *Clarksville*, PA 28 May (RB). Many contributors expressed concern about the low numbers of migrant Cape May Warblers, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll Warblers, and American Redstarts seen this spring; however, there was little consensus as to cause. An Audubon's Warbler at Amnicola Marsh 14 Apr was a first for *Hamilton*, TN (*fide* KC). The parulid of the season, however, was the singing **Kirtland's Warbler** found at Piney Tract,

Clarion, PA 12 May (JF, LF), just the 3rd spring record for the state. A very early Worm-eating Warbler appeared in *Clarion*, PA 12 Apr (JF). More than the usual number of Swainson's Warbler reports came from s. Appalachia, and one banded at P.N.R. 15 May (ph. RM, RCL) and a singing male at Bushy Run Historic P., *Westmoreland*, PA (MMc, m. ob.) were well n. of the known breeding range. Rare anywhere in the Region in spring, a Connecticut Warbler was a good find at Jackson Park 17 May (RSe), as were singles at P.I.S.P. 5 & 21 May (*fide* JMc). A Wilson's Warbler at Jackson Park 4–5 Apr was very early (WF, RSe, BO).

Following last season's **Green-tailed Towhee** in *Allegheny*, MD (the first state record), a bird (same bird?) was reported at Indian Springs W.M.A. in adjacent *Washington* 26 Apr (HP). An exceptionally late American Tree Sparrow was still at Amnicola Marsh, *Hamilton*, TN 7 Apr (MP). In Pennsylvania, where they have been reported with increasing frequency in recent years, at least 6 Clay-colored Sparrows were found 29 Apr–20 May at scattered sites from *Erie* to *York* (m. ob.)—one of these was singing from the same tree alongside the singing Kirtland's Warbler reported above! The season's only Lark Sparrow was reported from Baylor School, *Hamilton*, TN 28 Apr (JSL). A Le Conte's Sparrow at Riverport 17 Mar & 9 Apr was a first for *Hamilton*, TN (BJ, JC), while a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Austin Springs 24 Apr (RK) and 2 at Shady Valley, TN 20–24 May (HPL) were rare spring migrants. A rarity for P.I.S.P. was a **Harris's Sparrow** 14 May (BM, RSt). Dark-eyed Juncos were noticeably few and departed early from Upper Cedar Cr. Valley, *Shenandoah*, VA (DDa), and *Clarksville*, PA (RB); at P.N.R., it was the poorest spring by far for juncos in 40 years of banding (61 this spring compares to a 40-year average of 400). A Lapland Longspur was seen in *Potter*, PA as late as 1 Apr, and a flock of 100+ Snow Buntings was still there 11 Mar (JMi). An early female Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared at a feeder in *York*, PA 9 Apr (AMc). Fewer Dickcissels were reported than usual, with just one or 2 in *Washington*, TN 11 May (RK) and one at Ligonier, PA 26 May (JG). A Western Meadowlark was singing as if on territory at Trauger, *Westmoreland*, PA 28 Apr (DL, m. ob.), and another was at nearby Crabtree 12 May (MMc). Purple Finches, scarce over much of the Region, were in good numbers in the Upper Cedar Cr. Valley, VA (DDa). A pair of Red Crossbills came to a feeder near Blue Ridge, GA in early Apr (*fide*

MB), and a few remained at Davis, *Tucker*, WV at least through the end of Mar (GF), the season's only reports. Pine Siskins nested at Hocking Hills S.P., OH, where one was feeding a fledgling Brown-headed Cowbird 31 May (FR).

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Western Great Lakes



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The weather during the season was changeable and unpredictable. March was cool and dry throughout the Region. April alternated between cool and warm periods, with near normal precipitation. In particular, the end of April was warm, nearly nine degrees Fahrenheit above average in parts of Michigan. This early warm air seemed responsible for the early arrival of many migrants. The warmth also caused the trees to leaf out early, making detection of migrants later in the season more difficult. May's temperatures were erratic but averaged cooler overall. It was particularly cool in the latter half of the month. Precipitation ranged from average to above average.

Michigan had a fine season for unusual species, with two new state records, Lewis's Woodpecker, and Swainson's Warbler, and second state records for Common Eider, Wilson's Plover, and Painted Redstart. Highlights in Minnesota included White-faced Ibis, Black-headed Gull, Eurasian Collared-Dove, and Great-tailed Grackle. Records of note in Wisconsin were Brown Pelican, Glossy Ibis, Cinnamon Teal, King Eider, and Black-headed Gull.

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

LOONS THROUGH IBIS

Minnesota reported a record number of Red-throated Loons, with 39 on 9 May at Duluth, *St Louis* (KB). In Michigan, numbers were down at W.P.B.O., with 285 individuals and a peak of 39 on 19 May, while elsewhere the species was more widespread: reports came from six other counties, including an unusual inland report from 29–30 Mar on L. Lansing, *Ingham* (BC). Wisconsin reported 2 on 17 Mar at Manitowoc (DT). An alternate-plumaged **Pacific Loon** was reported 27 May at W.P.B.O. (staff), pending acceptance by the M.B.R.C. Common Loon numbers were down at W.P.B.O. for the 3rd consecutive season, with only 5035 recorded during the season, with a peak of 821 on 5 May. Hundreds of Red-necked Grebes were staging at Wisconsin Pt., WI (RJo) and nearby Park Point in Duluth, MN (PS) during mid-Apr. The migration was average in Michigan, with W.P.B.O. staff reporting 407 during the season and a peak of 102 on 3 May. Minnesota contributed the only Clark's Grebes in the Region, including individuals 9–25 Apr at Coon Rapids

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