

(CRG et al.). Unexpected were 2–3 Smith's Longspurs at Felton Prairie, *Clay*, MN 15 Apr (ph. DAC) and 2 Chestnut-collared Longspurs in *Renville*, MN 13 Apr (RPR).

Another entry on Minnesota's long list of w. rarities was the male Black-headed Grosbeak at Moorhead, *Clay* 24–26 May (RHO, ph. DAC, m. ob.). Extralimital Blue Grosbeaks included a first-year male at Fernwood, *Berrien*, MI 22 May (p. a., WJ) and 2 reports in *Ozaukee*, WI (p. a., SC). Potentially a 5th Wisconsin record was the Lazuli Bunting in *Milwaukee* 26 Apr (p. a., SSm). Unprecedented was the total of 7 Lazuli Buntings in Minnesota; well-documented were singles in *Scott* 16 May (B&SF), *Kandiyo* 23 May (G&EB, ph. DAC), *Otter Tail* 26 May (E&JE et al.), and *Crow Wing* 30–31 May (ph. J&SB). All three states recorded **Painted Bunting!** Michigan had a female in *Presque Isle* late Feb–21 Mar (WNG) and a male in *Houghton* 12–16 May (BF, LCB, JMu), both attractively photographed. Providing 9th and 10th state records, respectively, were male Painted Buntings in *Iron*, WI 18–20 May (JBa, m. ob.) and *Aitkin*, MN 24–29 Apr (BBr, ph. JPR, m. ob.). Less attractive in Minnesota were 3 male and 4 female Great-tailed Grackles at Grovers L., *Jackson* 6 May+ (PHS et al.) and single males in 3 more counties. Rare for W.P.B.O. was an Orchard Oriole 22 May. Incredible was the appearance of 2 male **Scott's Orioles** in Minnesota. News about one in *Wright* 20 Mar–23 Apr (ph. BAL) did not reach the birding community until several weeks after its departure, but the other was much appreciated at *Oronoco*, *Olmsted* 17–20 Apr (GE, ph. AXH, m. ob.). Minnesota's only previous record was an imm. male at *Duluth* 23 May+ 1974 (*Loon* 47: 22–24, 48: 34).

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# Midwestern Prairie



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**S**pring weather of 2002 was generally cool and wet. March temperatures in Chicago averaged some three degrees Fahrenheit below normal. April readings were similarly low, with the exception of an unprecedented warm spell at mid-month, which produced record-high temperatures across the Region. The balance of April and most of May was also cool and damp;

indeed northwestern Indiana experienced a killing frost on 21 May.

Most contributors assessed the spring flight in positive but qualified terms—that is, though the migration was agreeable, superlatives were rare. The mid-April 80+ degree temperatures stimulated many migrant passerines to press northward ahead of schedule. As a result, scores of early arrival dates were established across the Region. Seasonal highlights included a Garganey in Ohio (discovered by field tripping members of the Indiana Audubon Society) and an alternate-plumaged Curlew Sandpiper in Iowa.

**Abbreviations:** B.S.B.O. (Black Swamp Bird Observatory, *Ottawa*, OH); Carl. L. (Carlyle L., s. IL); G.L.N.T.C. (Great Lakes Naval Training Center, IL); H.B.S.P. (Headlands Beach State Park, OH); L. Cal. (Lake Calumet, s. Chicago); Jax. P. (Jackson Park on the Chicago lakefront); R.E.D.A. (Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, MO); S.C.R. (Squaw Creek N.W.R., MO); T.N.C.K.S. (The Nature Conservancy Kankakee Sands wetland, *Newton*, IN).

## LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

As is typical, small numbers of Red-throated Loons were scattered across the Region, with five in Illinois and singles in Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio. A basic-plumaged Pacific Loon, discovered at Kentucky L., KY 30 Mar was seen sporadically until 13 May (DR, BL, HC, JDu, ph.). The only other Pacific Loon appeared at Clinton L., IL 11 May (RTC, EJC et al.). Common Loon tallies of 205 in *Lake*, IL 6 Apr (DBJ et al.) and 200 at Pleasant Hill Res., OH 27 Mar (SSn) constituted excellent spring counts. In late Mar, a noteworthy Horned Grebe fallout occurred in Ohio, with 300 in *Summit* 27 Mar (RHs), 250 at Pleasant Hill Res. 27 Mar (SSn), and 225 at Buck Creek S.P. 24 Mar (DOv). A dozen Red-necked Grebes were reported in Iowa, where this species is a local breeder; indeed, in early May one pair was observed building a nest at Cheever L., in *Palo Alto*, (LAS, Eth). Four Red-necked Grebes were also reported in Illinois, and a singleton was at Kentucky L., KY 10 Apr (DR, ph.). The only Western Grebes e. of the Mississippi R. consisted of singles at Kentucky L., KY 10 Apr (DR, ph.) and at Eagle Creek Res., IN 19 & 26 May (†RFB, RHe, m. ob.). Iowa maintained a monopoly on Clark's Grebes, with singles in *Warren* 29 Apr—2 May (†AaB, RIA, †A), HK, reportedly ph.) and 8-10 May near Mount Pleasant (†MCD, SJD et al.).

Though s. Illinois American White Pelican numbers were down this spring, the 950 birds logged at Horseshoe L., IL 19 Mar (KAM), provided the Region's maximum tally. Most extraordinary was a flock of 4 at Buck Creek S.P., OH 4 Apr (BM), which grew to a state-record 19 birds by 7-10 Apr (DOv, m. ob.). An Anhinga in *Massac*, IL 19 May (†VMK, LH, †JOS, m. ob.), provided one of only a handful of modern records for that state. It was an exceptional spring for the threatened American Bittern, with more than 86 birds scattered across all six states. The peak count was 6 at Mingo N.W.R., MO 31 Mar (DWi). By far the season's largest Little Blue Heron tally consisted of the 64 birds counted in *St. Clair*, IL 2 Apr (KAM). The 750 Black-crowned Night-Herons

counted during evening dispersals on 10-12 May (WJM, MKz), indicated that the L. Cal. colony is flourishing.

For the 2nd consecutive year, the Region experienced a major incursion of *Plegadis ibis*. In contrast to last spring's plethora of Glossy Ibis, this year featured White-faced Ibis. Reports e. of the Mississippi R. included 5 (4 ad. and one subad.) in *Tazewell*, IL 25 May (†RTC, RF, KR) and a single ad. in *Knox*, IL 27 May (MJB et al.). Indiana's 4th through 6th **White-faced Ibis** records were also recorded this spring. The first appeared briefly at Kankakee W.M.A., *Starke* 5 May (BGr, †JMc, ph.). The 2nd, which was discovered at T.N.C.K.S. 24 May (†RHe, CH, LAC), proved more permanent and was seen 25, 26, & 28 May (†JKC, †JMc, ph. m. ob.). The 3rd was at Grand Kankakee Marsh, *Lake* 27 & 30 May (P & JK, †PBG). The season's most impressive vulture report consisted of a flight of 878 Turkey Vultures on the ne. Ohio lakefront 29 Mar (JPg).

## WATERFOWL

Several correspondents employed the term "unprecedented numbers" in describing the spring Greater White-fronted Goose population. Peak counts included 10,000 at Clinton L., IL 17 Mar (RTC), 6000 in nw. Iowa 23 Mar (LAS), and a flock of 6000 in *Knox*, IL 11 Mar (MJB). Vying for oddest bird of the season was an individual believed to have been a Greater White-fronted x Snow Goose hybrid in *Greene*, IN 1 Mar (P&JK, ph., †JMc et al.). Ross's Geese were also abundant, with reports from every state except Ohio and double-digit daily counts from Illinois, Iowa, and Kentucky. One tardy Ross's remained at Salamonie Res. 17-18 May (GS, †Haw, Sst, ph.) to provide Indiana's 2nd May record. A **Brant** at Clear L., IA 16 Mar (†PH) provided Iowa's first record in more than a decade. Tundra Swans peaked 9 Apr when 300 flew over *Allamakee*, IA (Jill Stephenson, *vide* DC).

The puddle and bay duck flights were unremarkable, with typical numbers and few surprises. Rarities included a male Cinnamon Teal at L. Shelbyville, IL 30 Mar (RTC) and a pair at Carl. L. 21 Apr (DKa, ph.), but the real prize was a male **Garganey** discovered at Mallard Club Marsh, *Lucas*, OH 19 May (†AWB, LP, †TT, JWH, AO, m. ob. ph.). If the bird, which remained until 25 May, is judged "wild" by the Ohio committee, it will constitute a first state record. Interestingly, tardy Gadwalls lingered into May in four states; the most remarkable of these involved 49 Gadwalls at S.C.R. 20 May (DAE). The Region's only Harlequin Duck consisted of an ad. male at Michigan City Harbor,



Three White-faced Ibis visited Indiana this spring, thereby doubling the number of state records. This individual was at The Nature Conservancy's Kankakee Sands, *Newton*, Indiana 24 (here) to 28 May 2002. *Photograph by Jeffrey J. McCoy.*

IN 16 Mar (UG, JKC ph., m. ob.). Scoters, and especially White-wingeds, were scarce this spring; the only sizeable accumulation consisted of 17 Surf Scoters in *Clermont*, OH 24 Mar (BS), which constitutes a fine inland count. Bufflehead lingered in the w. states, with one in *Hardin*, IA 31 May (MPr) and a record-late female at S.C.R. 20 May (DAE). The winter-period Barrow's Goldeneye in *Woodbury*, IA remained until 17 Apr (PL, BFH). In early May, several Hooded Merganser broods were observed along the Mississippi R. in *Fulton*, KY (HC, RDn, BPB). Additionally, a pair of Hoodeds and 8 chicks were at Bush W.M.A. (no date given) in e. Missouri (MBr), and two broods were seen at S.C.R. 20 May (DAE). A very tardy Red-breasted Merganser was at S.C.R. 30 May (DAE), providing a new late spring date for Missouri.

## HAWKS THROUGH CRANES

It was a good spring for Mississippi Kites, with reports from all six states. Most established breeding sites were occupied, and single extralimital kites were reported at Green Lawn



Indiana's first Ruff in five years, this striking white-headed male remained at the Grand Kankakee Marsh, Lake County 23-26 May 2002 (here 24 May) and was enjoyed by scores of Hoosier birders. Photograph by Jeffrey J McCoy.

Cemetery, Franklin, OH 2 May (JMm, m. ob.), in Muhlenberg, KY 14 May (MMo, MV), and a juv. in Lucas, OH 3 Jun (†GL). The season's most impressive Northern Harrier report consisted of 30+ birds at the reclaimed Hawthorn Mine, Sullivan, IN 2 Mar (AWB et al.). Northern Goshawks staged an average flight, with a dozen reported across the four n. states. The Region's only significant Broad-winged Hawk movement occurred in Ohio, where 1000+ were counted at Magee Marsh 16 Apr (VF); elsewhere, the daily maximum was only 54. In Iowa, a Rough-legged Hawk tarried in Cerro Gordo until 3 May (RG) to provide a rare May record for the state. The Region's Merlin total of 37 was near normal.

The Greater Prairie-Chicken report was not optimistic; peak counts were 22 in Illinois, 20 in Missouri, and 11 in Iowa. For the first time in six years, a **Black Rail** was reported in Indiana. This year, two calling birds were detected 25 May in a recently reclaimed wetland at T.N.C.K.S. (†JMc, BGr, †JKC, ph. m. ob.). Yellow Rail reports included singles at Busch W.M.A., MO 18 Apr (JJ), in St. Charles, MO 26 Apr (CA), and 3 May at T.N.C.K.S. (JMc). King Rail numbers were also up, with 4 in Ohio and 2 in Indiana. An early-arriving Common Moorhen at L. Cal. 9 Apr (WJM) proved to be the vanguard of an above-average flight that yielded one to 8 birds in every state. Two exceptionally late Sandhill Cranes lingered in Pulaski, KY until 11 May (SM, RBy).

## SHOREBIRDS

The plover highlight was a male Snowy Plover at S.C.R. 15 May (DAE). Piping Plovers were more plentiful than normal. An overzealous migrant, at Huntington Res., IN 6 Apr (†JW, SSt) provided a new early-arrival date for the state. It was a banner year for this endangered species in the w. states, with 8 reported at Iowa's two traditional nesting locations, plus an additional 7 migrants. The maximum Piping Plover count consisted of 8 at Clarence Cannon N.W.R., MO 25 Apr (RK). Though American Avocets were scarce in Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio, excellent counts were recorded elsewhere, with 34 at G.L.N.T.C. 26 Apr (†DBJ, DD et al.) and 29 at S.C.R. on the same date (DAE). Noteworthy counts of the more common shorebird species included 200 Greater Yellowlegs at R.E.D.A. 2 May (C & JM), 850 Lesser Yellowlegs at Myre Slough, IA 7 May (PH), 69 Solitary Sandpipers at Reelfoot L. N.W.R., KY 23 Apr (DR), 25 Ruddy Turnstones in Christian, KY 17 May (MBe), 81 Sanderlings at G.L.N.T.C. 22 May (DBJ), 580 White-rumped Sandpipers at Riverton W.M.A., IA 13 May (SJD), 2600+ Dunlin at Ottawa N.W.R., OH 11 May (SZ et al.), 250 Stilt Sandpipers at S.C.R. 16 May (DAE), and 223 Wilson's Phalaropes at Riverton W.M.A., IA 13 May (SJD). Willets peaked at G.L.N.T.C. 2 May, when 51 were counted (†DBJ et al.). Inland Whimbrel reports included a singleton in Newton, IN 14 May (†Haw) and a group of 7 at Riverton W.M.A., IA 23 May (RTf). Marbled Godwits were

unusually widespread this spring, with one to 18 recorded in every state except Kentucky.

The Waukegan, IL Purple Sandpiper reported last winter lingered until 2 Mar (DD, DBJ, m. ob.). The season's brightest shorebird was an alternate-plumaged **Curlew Sandpiper** that appeared below the dam at L. Red Rock 6-7 May (†AaB, †PHA, †JJD, †THK, KN ph. m. ob.) to provide Iowa's 3rd record. It was a good season for Ruffs, with a female in Christian, KY 23-28 Apr (DR, BL et al.) and a white-headed male at the Grand Kankakee Marsh, Lake, IN 23 May (BGr), which remained to thrill scores of observers through 26 May (†JMc, †JKC, m. ob., ph.). Red-necked Phalaropes were more common than normal, with reports from all six states. Most remarkable was a mid-May fallout of this species in Kentucky in which 9 birds were seen at three locations during the 17-19 May interval (DR, RDn, TD, JE, et al.). The previous spring maximum for the state was only one.

## JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS

Spring jaegers are quite rare anywhere in the Region, consequently, the imm. light-morph Pomarine Jaeger at H.B.S.P. 10 Mar (LRO) was noteworthy. As has been typical in recent years, small numbers of Laughing Gulls occurred in each of the six reporting states. The Cleveland lakefront was the center of small gull activity, with at least 2 Black-headed Gulls, which were seen sporadically during the 13 Mar—7 Apr period (BM, LRO, †STZ, m. ob.), and a maximum of 10,000 Bonaparte's Gulls 7 Apr (LRO). Thayer's Gull numbers on the Great Lakes were typical, but a plethora occurred in Iowa, where a remarkable 10 birds were reported. Inland Lesser Black-backed Gulls lingered at Clear Fork Res., OH (4 ads.) through 31 Mar (RTt, JH), at Kentucky L., KY until 24 Mar (BPP, DOB) and at R.E.D.A. through 16 Mar (G&TB). A tardy Glaucous Gull also tarried at Kentucky L., KY until at least 30 Mar (DR). The peak Caspian Tern flights occurred on L. Michigan, where 647 were found at the Port of Indiana 1 May (BGr) and 336 were counted at G.L.N.T.C. 24 May (DBJ). An overzealous Forster's Tern arrived in Allen, OH 26 Mar (JK, et al.), and an impressive count of 500 birds was logged in Cerro Gordo, IA 13 May (PH). The only Least Terns reported away from established breeding sites consisted of 2 at Eagle Bluffs, MO 9 May (EWd). Black Terns were more prevalent than normal, with double-digit counts in every state, peak tallies e. of the Mississippi R. included 170 in Madison, IL 14 May (FH) and 50 at T.N.C.K.S. 14 May (Haw).

## DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared-Doves continued their

Regional expansion: new sites were reported in Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri. Kentucky's first **White-winged Doves** arrived in force, with singles in *Calloway* 16-22 Apr (CM, CP, HC et al., ph.) and *Marshall* 17-21 Apr (SW, ph.). Another White-winged was in Chicago's Lincoln Park 28 May (†WS, JPu, OMc), and there were also three undocumented reports from Missouri. Indiana's first acceptable Monk Parakeet was recorded in *Lake* 7 May (†JMc, ph.), possibly a wanderer from the Chicago population, which was only recently judged to be firmly established. Previous Indiana records involved birds that were deemed unestablished. Both cuckoos, and especially Black-billeds, were scarce throughout the Region.

Following last winter's invasion, Snowy Owls lingered into spring in every state except Indiana. Records included single birds in *Poweshiek*, IA 4 Apr (DT), at Montrose on the Chicago lakefront 1 Apr (GAW), in *Pendleton*, KY 1 Apr (JHy, m. ob.), and at Grand Pass, MO 10 Mar (EWd). In Ohio, 3 lingered at undisclosed locations until 20 Mar (*vide* RHa). Spring Common Nighthawk flights are rarely of significant size; consequently, the evening movement of 81 at Cuyahoga W.M.A., OH 27 May (LG) was noteworthy. The Whip-poor-will migration is poorly documented, so the discovery of single migrants in downtown Chicago 16 Apr, 10 May, 12 May and in Chicago's Grant Park 16 Apr (KRW), provided valuable data. The **Lewis's Woodpecker** that wintered at Missouri's Shell Osage W.M.A. lingered until 4 May; interestingly, the bird remained in the same small woodlot throughout its entire eight-month stay (*vide* RDM). Once again, possible nesting Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported in three n. Iowa counties (*vide* MCK), and a fine count of 40 sapsuckers was logged at Fox Island Park, IN 9 Apr (Haw et al.).

### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Three exceptionally early Eastern Wood-Pewees were reported in Kentucky; the first of these appeared in *Ohio* 12 Apr (MMo, BPB). The remarkable 36 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers banded at the B.S.B.O. 24 May (*vide* RHa), attests to abundance of this species in the spring flight. The Region's peak Alder Flycatcher count came from Algona, IA where 17 were counted 29 May (MCK). An early Apr fallout of Eastern Phoebe produced the following counts: 57 in Jax. P. 2 Apr (PRC, KC), 41 in nearby Grant Park on the same day (DFS), and 32 in *La Salle*, IL 6 Apr (DFS). These are all among the five highest counts for the state. A Great Crested Flycatcher in *Ringgold*, IA 20 Apr (AaB, JSi) and an Eastern Kingbird at Spring Valley W.M.A., OH 9 Apr (DSa, GM), were both extremely early.



Northwest Indiana's Monk Parakeets are wanderers from the large established Chicago population. Though many have been seen in the past, this bird, photographed at State Line Woods 7 May 2002, constitutes the first Indiana record since Monk Parakeets were elevated to "established" status in Illinois. Photograph by Jeffrey J. McCoy.

Extralimital Scissor-tailed Flycatcher reports included a male at Cypress Creek N.W.R., IL 14 Apr (FKB) and a female on the *Mississippi-New Madrid* line, MO 14 May (LK). Out-of-range vireos included a White-eyed in *Winneshiek*, IA 18 May (DK) and a Bell's in *Lake*, IL 8 May (†DBJ, DD). Early vireo reports included a Blue-headed in Shawnee S.E., OH 1 Apr (RRy), a Yellow-throated in *Whitley*, KY 7 Apr (BPB), and 3 Warblings at Mermet L., s. IL 6 Apr (FKB).

Also quite early were Northern Rough-winged Swallows in *Warren*, KY 21 Mar (DR) and in *Du Page*, IL 31 Mar (UG). The concentration of 1000 Northern Rough-wingeds at Saylorville L., IA 21 Apr (BE) is quite unusual for the spring flight.

The previously reported Illinois Beach S.P. Brown-headed Nuthatch spent the winter at

that site and was last reported 6 Apr (AFS). Some serious Blue-gray Gnatcatcher counts were logged this spring, with 122 tallied in *Union*, IL 12 Apr (KAM) and 121 in Shawnee S.E., OH 15 Apr (RRy). Following last spring's paltry *Catharus* thrush flight, the situation improved this year, as evidenced by widespread double-digit Swainson's counts and a peak tally of 75 in *Lake*, IL 17 May (DBJ et al.); however, many correspondents continued to lament the dearth of thrushes. An exceptionally late Hermit Thrush occupied a downtown Chicago park 26-29 May (KRW). At the other extreme, a Wood Thrush in *Massac*, IL 28 Mar (FKB) provided a record-early arrival date for the state.

### WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Perhaps encouraged by the mid-April "summer" weather, many passerines arrived well

**SA** Morning shoreline passerine flights along L. Michigan shorelines occur regularly in spring; birds involved in these movements invariably fly directly into the prevailing winds. This spring, two remarkable examples occurred on s. Lake Michigan. On 16 May, the wind was from the southwest at 10-15 knots, and an approaching cold front was predicted to arrive in mid-afternoon. During the morning, a massive southbound flight (reverse migration?) was recorded on the eastern shore at Waukegon, IL (n. of Chicago). A 4.5-hour sampling of this movement yielded 1010+ Bank Swallows, 1350+ Cliff Swallows, 1550+ Barn Swallows, 202 Cedar Waxwings, and 218 Bobolinks, the latter a state record (EWW). At the same time, 101 km across the lake at Indiana Dunes S.P. (on the southern shore), a very heavy flight also occurred. In 2.25 hours, observers tallied (among other things) 418 Eastern Kingbirds (a state high count), 120 Cliff Swallows (numbers of other swallow overwhelmed the observers), 680 Cedar Waxwings, 21 Cape May Warblers, 143 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 61 Scarlet Tanagers (another state record), and 167 Indigo Buntings (JKC, KJB). The Indiana birds all flew westward, into the wind. Interestingly, the flight directions of these two movements and the geometry of L. Michigan placed both groups on a collision course. If both continued along the lakefront, they would have met somewhere on the Chicago lakefront; however, the ultimate disposition of the two movements remains unknown.

ahead of schedule. Early arriving warblers included a Blackburnian in *Henderson*, KY 13 Apr (RRd et al.), a Palm in *Muhlenberg*, KY 6 Mar (MMo), a Blackpoll in Kansas City 19 Apr (RDM), a Black-and-white in *Fayette*, KY 23 Mar (JB, PB), an Ovenbird in *Hocking*, OH 29 Mar (ME), a Northern Waterthrush 12 Apr in Jax P. (PRC), a Louisiana Waterthrush in *Jackson*, IL 17 Mar (RSM), and a male Canada in Bloomington, IL 21 Apr (†MLR).

Several warbler species also appeared in unusually high numbers, noteworthy among these were 53 Northern Parulas in *Union*, IL 12 Apr (KAM), 78 Yellows in *Bureau*, IL 4 May (DFS), 30 Chestnut-sideds at Magee and Metzger W.M.A.s., OH 18 May (RH<sub>a</sub>, SW<sub>a</sub>), 121 Magnolias banded by B.S.B.O. 9 May (*vide* RH<sub>a</sub>), 64 Cape Mays at Urbana, IL 19 May (RTC), 40 Black-throated Blues at Magee Marsh, OH 13 May (SR<sub>v</sub>), 67 Northern Waterthrushes at L. Cal. 7 May (DFS), and 44 Wilson's banded at B.S.B.O. 24 May (*vide* RH<sub>a</sub>). Rarities included male Audubon's Warblers at Jax P. 18 Apr (DES, MJS, †PRC) and at Magee Marsh, OH 27 Apr (†JS<sub>v</sub>), plus a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at Dawes Arboretum, *Licking*, OH 17 Apr (SA, JM<sub>m</sub>, MW, ph.), and a Kirtland's Warbler at Metzger Marsh, OH 6 May (†GL)

Interesting tanager reports included a record-early Summer Tanager at Mermet L., IL 7 Apr (FKB) and a female Western Tanager found dead at Northwestern Univ., Chicago 12 May (\*KRW). Clay-colored Sparrows were both plentiful and widespread, with reports from all six states. Singing Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows are unknown in the Region; consequently, the 5:00 a.m. refrain of a Nelson's (subsequently seen) at T.N.C.K.S. 25 May (JMc) was totally unexpected. Exceptional Swamp Sparrow counts included the following record tallies 257 in Jax. P. 5 May (PRC), 255 in Chicago's Grant P. 19 Apr (DFS), and 150 at Carl L 13 Apr (DKa). The 19 Harris's Sparrows reported in Illinois included a peak count of 6 ads. at Lost Mount N.W.R. 14 May (VMK et al.) Other reports e. of the Mississippi R. included singles at Spring Valley W.M.A., OH 6 Apr (†DSJ), in *Monroe*, IN 2 May (JH<sub>v</sub>, SH<sub>v</sub>), at Wolf L., IN 10 May (CMA), and in *Wabash*, IN 14 May (SDo). It was a good spring for Smith's Longspurs. Maximum counts included 250+ at Rosecrans Airport near St. Joe, MO 13 Mar (JH<sub>i</sub>) and 225 in *Fulton*, IL 23 Mar (RTC). Additionally, 14 tardy Smith's lingered in *McLean*, IL until 7 May (MLR). Most surprising was an ad. male Black-headed Grosbeak that made a brief appearance in *DuPage*, IL 8 May (†BF) Also accompanying the mid-Apr passer-

ine incursion were very early Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in *Union*, IL 12 Apr (KAM) and in the Indiana Dunes 18 Apr (SB). A male Painted Bunting returned to the recently established East St. Louis, IL nesting site 7 May, and 2 males were there 16 May (DKa, ph.).

Impressive Brewer's Blackbird reports included counts of 300 birds at three Illinois locations: *Clinton* 16 Mar (DKa), Carl. L. 24 Mar (DKa), and *Pulaski* 1 Apr (KAM). Record-early Orchard Orioles were logged 12 Apr in *Jackson*, IL (RSM) and 15 Apr in Cleveland, OH (LRO). Except for Purple Finches, which were widely reported in above-average numbers, the winter finch flight was not impressive. A few Red Crossbills appeared in Illinois and Ohio and one to 9 White-winged were reported in four states. Small to modest numbers of Common Redpolls appeared in every state except Kentucky; the southernmost record consisted of a single in St. Joseph, MO 21 Mar (LL).

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