

Michigan counties were strong indicators of a good summer invasion.

A record-high spring count in Minnesota was 1300 Rusty Blackbirds in *Lac Qui Parle* 21 Mar (BJU). Wisconsin's first Great-tailed Grackle from winter lingered through 19 Apr in *Dodge* (LM), and a 2nd grackle was located in *Grant* 3 May (JR); Minnesota reported Great-taileds from four counties. A Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch at *L'Anse, Baraga*, MI stayed through 16 Mar (TA), while the 3 in *Carlton*, MN lingered through 26 Mar (MSc, m.ob.). Michigan reported no Pine Grosbeaks but had impressive numbers of Common Redpolls and White-winged Crossbills that far exceeded anything in the last decade. W.P.B.O. reported 2182 White-wingeds for the season, with a peak of 937 on 30 Mar. Minnesota's 7th Eurasian Tree Sparrow was found in *St. Louis* 15 Apr (A&AB), while Michigan had one continuing in *Cass* until at least 4 May and a surprising group of 3 in *Keeweenaw* 5-11 May (LCB, m.ob., p.a.).

Corrigenda: From spring 2006, delete the Ross's Goose at *Eau Claire, Berrien* 18-21 Mar, the Tufted Duck in *Huron* 15-21 May, Bell's Vireo in *Wayne* 6 May, and Western Tanager in *Iosco* 26-27 May, all in Michigan.

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Iowa & Missouri



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The 2007 spring season was one of weather contrasts across the Region. A blizzard enveloped Iowa at the start of the season, but temperatures were above normal for the last two thirds of the month. This

warm weather and southerly airflow was responsible for record- or near-record-early arrivals of many passerines in both states. Colder weather and snow returned during the first half of April, slowing migration, but warmer temperatures quickly returned and reached record highs in some areas by month's end. The April cold snap negatively impacted many early shorebirds, Purple Martins, and Tree Swallows, as it refroze some wetlands and damaged early blooming plants. May saw above-normal temperatures and precipitation for much of the Region, finally ending the prolonged drought in most areas. A series of strong cold fronts with heavy rains passed through the Region in mid-May but generally resulted in a poor grounding of Neotropical migrants. Consequently, the spring passerine migration was considered slow. Rarities included Harlequin Duck, Glossy Ibis, Rock Wren, Mountain Bluebird, and Bullock's Oriole. In addition, a nice flurry of White-faced Ibis, more White-winged Doves, 2 Western Tanagers, and a passle of Lazuli and Painted Buntings added spice to a good spring season.

Abbreviations: E.B.C.A. (Eagle Bluffs C.A., Boone, MO); Hawkeye (Hawkeye W.A., Johnson, IA); R.M.B.S. (Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, St. Charles, MO); Riverton (Riverton W.A., Fremont, IA); S.C.R. (Squaw Creek N.W.R., Holt, MO); Saylorville (Saylorville Res., Polk, IA); T.G.P. (Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City, MO).

WATERFOWL

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued their presence in the Region, with two Iowa reports: 6 May at L. Manawa, *Pottawattamie* (TKDy) and 6 near Mt. Pleasant, *Henry* 27 May-4 Jun (Dick Peterson, ph.). The waterfowl migration was about average, with excellent numbers of *Chen* geese in both states. Along the Missouri R., counts of 500,000 Snow Geese 5 Mar in *Saline*, MO (SH, EW) and 3200 Ross's Geese 14 Mar at Riverton (SJD) were quite high. Trumpeter Swans are becoming routine, with good concentrations of 26 (all unmarked) on 10 Mar at Runnells W.A., Polk, IA (AB, JG) and 14 on 17 Mar at S.C.R. (LL), with one there through 26 Apr



These Glossy Ibis were part of a remarkable flock of seven discovered 7 May 2007 at Moeckley Prairie, Polk County, Iowa. Photograph by Jay Gilliam.

(TR). It was a great spring for Cinnamon Teal: 4 males were noted in Missouri 5 Apr–6 May and 7 males in Iowa 8 Apr–9 May; most were in the w. half of the Region. In addition, 2 hybrids with Blue-winged Teal were reported in Missouri. The 2 male **Harlequin Ducks** reported from winter lingered until 11 Mar at Lock & Dam 14, Scott, IA (m.ob.). A sprinkling of other sea ducks included 2 Surf Scoters and 4-5 Long-tailed Ducks in Iowa and 3 Surf Scoters in Missouri. Lingering waterfowl included a Ross's Goose 30 May in Polk, IA (AB), a Canvasback 31 May at R.M.B.S. (CM), and a Common Goldeneye 28 May in Marshall, IA (MPr).

PARTRIDGE THROUGH RAPTORS

Gray Partridge appear to be slowly on the increase in n. Iowa, with numerous reports this spring in the n. half of the state. Native grouse did not fare as well. Ruffed Grouse were scarce, with single reports from strongholds in *Allamakee* and *Lucas* in Iowa and *Warren*, MO. Greater Prairie-Chickens are continuing their downward trend at leks in *Benton* (EW), *Harrison* (m.ob.), *St. Clair* (EW), and *Sullivan* (PW) in Missouri. At the lone Iowa lek at Kellerton Grasslands B.C.A., *Ringgold*, an encouraging 22 birds were tallied 1 Apr (Dennis Thompson) and a possible stray from South Dakota was in *Plymouth* 19 May (†SJD, †JG).

Two Pacific Loons were reported in Iowa: 10 May near Sioux Center, *Sioux* (†Ken Hollinga) and 18-27 May at the Council Bluffs energy ponds, *Pottawattamie* (†Bill Scheible). An impressive spring concentration of 177 Common Loons graced Clear L., *Cerro Gordo*, IA 13 Apr (Rita Goranson, PH). There were seven reports of Red-necked Grebe in Iowa 2 Apr–21 May, more than usual, to go along with four reports of Western Grebe 24 Apr–31 May. American White Pelicans continue to increase in the Region, as

counts of 5100 in *Lincoln*, MO 18 Mar (Eric Schuette) and 1500 in *Polk*, IA 11 Apr (BN) attest. American Bitterns had an excellent spring migration, with early arrivals on 24 Mar at R.M.B.S. (JWE) and 28 Mar in *Fremont*, IA (†KDy) and reports of up to 14 birds through the end of the season. Four Snowy Egrets and a Little Blue Heron in Iowa were about par for the spring; 1200 Little Blue Herons and 700 Cattle Egrets 20 May at a nesting colony in *Scott*, MO was impressive (JWE). A remarkable flock of 7 Glossy Ibis was seen 7 May at Moeckley Prairie, *Polk*, IA (†AB, ph., m.ob.), while a single was present at *Hawkeye* 12-16 May (THK, ph., m.ob.). White-faced Ibis had an average spring, with five reports of up to 10 birds in each state 13 Apr–19 May.

Mississippi Kites continue to expand in the Region. Numerous Missouri reports after 22 Apr included increasing numbers away from traditional Mississippi R. haunts. In Iowa, a record-early individual was seen 7 May in *Fremont* (KDy), and birds were back at their traditional Des Moines locales after 9 May (JB et al.). Bald Eagles continue to increase, with 150 nests in Missouri (Andrew Forbes) and a peak of 214 birds at Saylorville 18-Mar (SJD). The only Northern Goshawks were Iowa singles on 5 Mar at Saylorville (Darwin Koenig) and 13 Mar at Waubonsie S.P., *Fremont* (LJP, BKP). Red-shouldered Hawks appear to be slowly expanding in the n. part of the Region, with three reports in the n. third of Missouri and six Iowa reports away from traditional nesting areas. A few Swain-

son's Hawks were in each state after early Apr, about typical for spring. Golden Eagles lingered in both states; there were five Mar reports in Missouri and three reports in Mar–Apr in Iowa. The five Prairie Falcon reports, 2 birds in Missouri and 3 in Iowa, were all clustered in the period 4-14 Mar.

RAILS THROUGH TERNS

The only King Rails were one in *Warren*, IA 8 May (†JG) and 2 at Clarence Cannon N.W.R., *Pike*, MO 12 May (JWE). Early migrant rails included a Virginia on 23 Mar at S.C.R. (Peter Kondrashov) and a Sora on 31 Mar in *Story*, IA (SJD). Sandhill Cranes, possibly breeders, included a pair 6 Mar–31 May at S.C.R. (TR), where they nested last year, and numerous groups of up to 18 in the e. half of Iowa.

The shorebird migration was excellent again this spring. American Golden-Plovers put in a good early showing, with counts of 579 in *Lincoln*, MO 21 Mar (DR) and 147 in *Fremont*, IA 24 Mar (KDy). Counts of 100+ continued through May, with 139 on 18 May in *Pocahontas*, IA (SJD) being the last large group. Two Snowy Plovers at S.C.R. 29 Apr (JWE) was the only report of this rare migrant. Wandering Black-necked Stilts included one at E.B.C.A. 2 Apr (Bill Goodge), 2 at S.C.R. 14-29 Apr (TR), 3 at R.M.B.S. 2-3 May



This Whimbrel at Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, St. Charles County, Missouri 1 April 2007 was part of an early flight in the Iowa & Missouri region. Photograph by James P. Malone.

(DR et al.), one at Bob Brown C.A., *Holt*, MO 16 May (MBR), and a female on 9 May at *Hawkeye* (THK, ph., m.ob.). Widely scattered groups of up to 37 American Avocets were seen in both states after 12 Apr, about typical for spring. Whimbrels made news in both states, with up to 3 on 31 Mar–13 Apr at R.M.B.S. (†CM, ph., m.ob., record early); another record-early individual was seen 15-17 Apr at Coralville Res., *Johnson*, IA (†CRE, m.ob.). Three additional Missouri reports 12



This female Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was a one-day wonder on 7 May 2007 at Cottonwood Recreation Area below Saylorville dam, Polk County, Iowa. Photograph by Jay Gilliam.

Apr–22 May made for a good spring showing. An unusual flurry of Western Sandpiper sightings included three Missouri reports 2–24 May and three Iowa reports 22–25 May. These reports are later than expected when compared to historical reports and indicate a need for careful documentation of all spring reports of this species in the Region. Two Iowa Buff-breasted Sandpipers reports 15–17 May highlight the migration timing for this rare spring migrant. The only Red-necked Phalaropes were in Woodbury, IA: 7 (POR) & 19–20 May (SJD, JG, m.ob.). Many shorebirds arrived early this spring. Notable records included a record-early Piping Plover 8 Apr in Harrison, IA (Jonas Grundman), Upland Sandpipers on 17 Mar in Dunklin, MO (†Bill Reeves) and 2 Apr in Decatur, IA (NJM), 3 Dunlins on 1 Apr in Greene, IA (SJD, AB), and a record-early Wilson's Phalarope 24 Mar at B.K. Leach C.A., Lincoln, MO (DR, Tom Bormann).

Gulls made news in both states. An ad. Laughing Gull 11 Apr–9 May at Smithville L., Clay, MO (DW, †Kristi Mayo) was unusual away from the Mississippi River. Almost as remarkable was a report of 3 at Otter Slough C.A. 4 May (†Robert Lewis, Steve Dilks). As expected, rare gulls from winter lingered into spring in both states. An ad. Iceland Gull 3–4 Mar at Lock & Dam 14, Scott, IA (†SMF) was notable. Up to 5 Lesser Black-backed Gulls remained through 13 Mar at the latter site (SMF, m.ob.); a minimum of 3 birds at R.M.B.S. this spring included one on 3 May (CM, ph.); and an ad. was late on 26 Apr at Coralville Res., Johnson, IA (CRE, CJC, Diana Pesek). Glaucous Gulls lingered through 11 Mar at R.M.B.S. (JWE, Dave Becher) and 15 Apr at Saylorville (Bery Engebretsen, AB, JG, record late). Young Great Black-backed Gulls lingered until 4 Mar at R.M.B.S. (JPM, CM, m.ob.) and 23 Mar in Scott, IA (†SMF). A

Caspian Tern was early on 31 Mar at R.M.B.S. (JWE).

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

White-winged Doves again made headlines, with one from 19 Apr–14 May in Johnston, Polk, IA (†Stephanie Flater, ph., m.ob.), up to 2 birds 20 Apr–20 May in East Prairie, Mississippi, MO (JWE, m.ob.), one on 19 May in Webster, MO (Jackie West), and one on 28 May in Jefferson City, Cole, MO (Jim Rathert). Single Greater Roadrunners were e. of their typical Missouri range in

Reynolds 18 May (†Andrew Cox) and Shannon 18 May (†Paul McKenzie). Lingered Snowy Owls were restricted to Iowa, with singles at Neal Smith N.W.R., Jasper 20 Mar (Karen Vista-Sparkman), in Warren 24 Mar (JG, ph., m.ob.), and near Pella, Marion 8 Apr (BN, ph.); photographs suggest they may have been the same individual. A territorial pair of Short-eared Owls on 18 Apr at Copp Prairie, Kossuth, IA (MCK) suggests nesting for this rare Regional breeder. Unusually early Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were found in both states: 22 Mar at Salem, Dent, MO (fide CM) and 22 Apr at Ames, Story, IA (David C. Edwards). The wintering Rufous Hummingbird at Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau, MO was last seen on 8 Apr (fide JPU).



An 11 April 2007 snowstorm grounded many longspurs in northern Iowa, including this male Smith's Longspur in Hamilton County. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore.

Red-headed Woodpeckers are drawing conservation attention in the Region, so counts of 48 on 3 May in Decatur, IA (NJM) and 62 on 12 May in Livingston, MO (SK) were encouraging. Yellow-bellied and Alder Flycatchers had a good spring migration; 12 Alders each on 21 May at S.C.R. (TR) and 24

May at Lime Creek Nature Center, Cerro Gordo (PH) were good counts. Eastern Phoebe arrived early in Iowa, with numerous reports 10–14 Mar, within a few days of the record-early date. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were more numerous than normal; out-of-range birds included a breeding pair in Livingston, MO (SK) and singles in Butler, MO (BB, JWE, JPM) and Mississippi, MO (JPU), in Fremont, IA 28 Apr (KDY, ph.), in Polk, IA 7 May (Dick Stilwell, ph., m.ob.), and in Dallas, IA 10 May (†Leland Searles). The last Northern Shrike was seen 27 Mar at Dunbar Slough, Greene, IA (RIA, PHA).

Early vireos in Missouri included a White-eyed 31 Mar in Butler (BB) and a Warbling 26 Mar in St. Louis (†Margy Terpstra). Black-billed Magpies maintained their lone outpost in Plymouth, IA, with one or 2 birds seen after 14 Apr (POR, m.ob.). Fish Crows continue to increase in Missouri and are being seen earlier and in greater numbers. Out-of-range birds included one at E.B.C.A. 13 Mar (Brad Jacobs) and one at Knob Noster S.P., Johnson 27 Apr (Neil Young). Purple Martins and Tree Swallows arrived very early in both states. Martins were in s. Missouri by late Feb (fide CM) and reached Wayne, IA by 24 Mar (AB). Tree Swallows were widespread in Missouri by early Mar, record early arrivals reached Scott, IA by 10 Mar (†Walter Zuurdeeg, †Don Robinson), and they were widely reported from several Iowa locales 11–13 Mar. Intriguing were reports of Carolina Chickadees expanding northward into Cooper and Monteau, MO

(†EW); it would be interesting to know if any of these reports involve hybrids with Black-capped Chickadee. A few Red-breasted Nuthatches lingered in both states, the last on 24 May in Sioux, IA (JVD). A Rock Wren in Montgomery, IA 1 May (†Dan Dorrance) furnished a rare spring report. Bewick's Wrens

had a good season, with more than usual reported in Missouri, including 4 from the n. part of the state, and two Iowa reports of singles after 21 Apr at the usual *Lee* locale (JG) and 9-14 May in *Madison* (Eugene & Eloise Armstrong, ph., m.ob.). A male **Mountain Bluebird** must have been a pleasant sight at Friendly Prairie C.A., *Pettis*, MO 21 Apr (†Adrian Andrei). The thrush flight was good in both states; counts of nocturnal migrants showed strong peaks on 7-8 May and 25-26 May in cen. Iowa, most of which were Swainson's (m.ob.). Wintering Varied Thrushes in Iowa lingered until 2 Mar at Mason City, *Cerro Gordo* (*fide* PH), 10 Mar near Seargent Bluff, *Woodbury* (POR), and 24 Mar at Sioux Center, *Sioux* (JVD).

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS

The warbler migration can best be summarized as average, with the primary fallout on 5-6 May in Iowa. A few early records occurred this spring, including an Orange-crowned 5 Apr in *Polk*, IA (†Carol L. Berrier), a Black-throated Green 23 Mar in Hillsboro, *Jefferson*, MO (†Tom & Lynda Mills), 2 Yellow-throateds on 31 Mar at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., *Van Buren*, IA



This male Indigo Bunting x Lazuli Bunting hybrid photographed 9 May 2007 at Fairfax, Atchison County was only the second report ever of this hybrid in Missouri. Photograph by Tommie Rogers.

(RLC), single Black-and-whites on 21 Mar in *Barry*, MO (Nancy Rochovansky) and 31 Mar at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (RLC), a Worm-eating 17 Apr in *St. Louis* (Nick Barber), and a Kentucky on 24 Apr (John W. Rutenbeck) and a Canada on 6 May (CRE, CJC) at Croton Unit, Shimek SF, *Lee*, IA. Cape May Warblers staged a below-average flight in Missouri, with nine reports 23 Apr-17 May; a strong Iowa flight included 21 reports 6-16 May. The season's lone Black-throated Blue Warbler was a male on 9 May at Smithville L., *Clinton*, MO (DW). Connecticut Warbler is always a good find, especially away from e. Iowa. This spring,

there were 5 in Missouri in the period 11-24 May; a record-early arrival was seen 6 May at Cumming Wetlands, *Warren*, IA (†JG). A few warblers appear to be expanding northwestward in the Region: Yellow-throated Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Kentucky and Hooded Warblers were all reported in small numbers from nw. Missouri or w. Iowa. Prairie Warblers made news in Iowa, with three reports: 4 May at Mason City, *Cerro Gordo* (Harsha Jayawardena, ph.), 7-31 May and later at Pleasant Creek Recreation Area, *Linn* (Jim Forde, m.ob.), and 14 May at Geode S.P., *Henry* (†PHA, RIA, ph.). Two male Western Tanagers graced nw. Iowa: at Ruthven, *Palo Alto* 16 May (Linda Foerster, ph.) and at Oak Grove Park, *Sioux* 20 May (†SJD).

TOWHEES THROUGH SISKINS

Spotted Towhees made news with a good showing, especially in Iowa, where there were eight reports. Many were seen the first week of May; a male at Brown's L., *Woodbury*, IA 16 May (POR) and a female 23-28 May at T.G.P. (†JWE, m.ob.) were the latest. Two apparent Eastern Towhee x Spotted Towhee hybrids were reported in nw. Iowa in late May; observers should carefully eliminate this possibility when reporting Spotted Towhees. Henslow's Sparrows, on the increase in the Region as a breeder, arrived early this year in *St. Louis*, MO 21 Mar (Ian Hunt) and at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., *Van Buren*, IA 31 Mar

(RLC). Smith's Longspurs were well reported in both states, with a peak of 300 on 8 Mar at Rosecrans Airport, *St. Joseph*, *Buchanan*, MO (MBR) and 3 record-late individuals on 8 May in *Kossuth*, IA (MCK). The Iowa blizzard on 11 Apr grounded impressive numbers of longspurs, including 4650 Laplands in *Wright* and 110 Smith's in *Hamilton* (SJD, ph.).

Lazuli Buntings staged a mini-flight into nw. Missouri, with one in *Clay* 3-7 May (Ron Barry, †Linda Williams, ph., m.ob) and up to 4, including a hybrid, from 8-10 May at Fairfax, *Atchison* (Evonne & Wilbur Wright, †TR, ph., m.ob.). A male Painted Bunting re-



This male Lazuli Bunting graced a feeder 4 May 2007 at Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary, Clay County, Missouri. Photograph by Linda Williams.

turned to Brookside Park, *Ames*, *Story*, IA 8 May and was regularly seen thereafter (†JB, m.ob.). A female Bullock's Oriole at *Galena*, *Stone* 9 May (†Dave Gagne) was an excellent find in Missouri. A wintering Baltimore Oriole lingered through 21 Mar at Cedar Hill, *Jefferson*, MO (†Wally George), while an aberrant individual was photographed 9 May in *Boone*, IA (Barb Clay, Jim Moreland, ph.). Winter finch reports were pathetic: a lone Red Crossbill at *Kansas City*, *Jackson*, MO 2 Mar-12 Apr (Dick Dawson) and four Iowa reports of Common Redpolls 8 Mar-29 Apr were the only records of note.

Corrigendum: The report of 10,005 Lesser Yellowlegs at S.C.N.W.R. 13 May 2006 (*North American Birds* 60: 382) is an error; the peak was 3213 there on 15 May (Frank Durbian).

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