

A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was early 21 Apr in Union, SD (DS); three North Dakota reports spanned 5-15 May. A Hermit Thrush was early 29 Mar in Cass, ND (MAO). Two Wood Thrush reports from North Dakota were both far w. of usual haunts. A single was in McHenry 19 May (REM), and another was at Bowman 25 May (TCL, PHS, CLW). The Curve-billed Thrasher that wintered s. of Roundup, MT was last seen 13 Apr (LH). An American Pipit was early 31 Mar in McHenry, ND (REM). Territorial Sprague's Pipts were numerous in much of North Dakota this spring. Peaks of up to 30 per day were noted in McHenry, ND.

WARBLERS

Five Golden-winged Warbler reports from the e. Dakotas spanned 5-27 May. An early Northern Parula was in Lake, SD 21 Apr (JSP). Cape May Warblers w. of the usual path included a single 12 May in Stark, ND (JWH), and one in Glasgow, MT 14 May (p.a., DE). The 14th record for Montana, if accepted, a Black-throated Blue Warbler was in Plentywood 27 May (p.a., CP). Rare in Montana, a Black-throated Green Warbler was in Ft. Peck 16 May (p.a., JC). The 6th record for South Dakota, if accepted, a Black-throated Gray Warbler was in Union 9 May (p.a., NT). Providing the

11th report for North Dakota, a Worm-eating Warbler was photographed 23 May in Grand Forks (TCL, DOL, PHS, CLW). A Prairie Warbler 27 May+ in Lincoln, SD would, if accepted, furnish the 10th record for the state (p.a., RDO, JSP). Connecticut Warblers made a stellar showing in North Dakota, with 15 reports and a peak of 7 in Kidder 27 May (PHS).

TANAGERS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

Two Summer Tanager reports were singles at Pierre, SD 13-14 May (p.a., KM, DB) and in Stutsman, ND 26 May (p.a., WM). A potential 11th record for South Dakota, a Green-tailed Towhee was in Pennington 13 May (p.a., JF). An Eastern Towhee was early 11 Apr in Clay, SD (GJS), and a Spotted Towhee was e. of normal in Grand Forks, ND 26-28 Apr (DOL). Now a casual migrant in the Dakotas, a McCown's Longspur was early and e. of their normal route in Stanley, SD 15 Apr (DB, RDO). A Lazuli Bunting was early 29 Apr in Stanley, SD (RDO). A male Painted Bunting at a feeder in Stark 1-2 May provided the long-awaited first record for North Dakota (JPL, CDE, LL). The 2nd earliest for North Dakota, a Dickcissel was in Jamestown 3 May (SS). A Pine Grosbeak was a rare visitor in Ft. Peck, MT 24 Mar (JC). Casual in cen. South Dakota, a Hoary Redpoll was in Hughes 7 Mar (RDO). About

the 10th report for Montana, a Lesser Goldfinch was in Poplar 22 May (p.a., LL). A Chaffinch photographed 23 Apr in Ward, ND (SH, REM) was certainly an escapee.

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Southern Great Plains



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Early, early, early arrivals seemed to be an overriding theme of the season across taxonomic groups from shorebirds to swallows, flycatchers to warblers. However, the scattering of eastern birds west and western birds east was less evident this season than in many previous seasons.

The effects of very heavy rains, especially across more southerly stretches of the Region, persist, both in disruptions of breeding cycles and in augmentations of wetland areas. Western Nebraska, by contrast, was very dry. The season was strangely interesting, and strangely dull, as it just seems to be harder and harder to find substantial concentrations of Neotropical migrants, although "digging around" still has its rewards.

Abbreviations: Hackberry (Hackberry Flat W.M.A., Tillman, OK); Hefner (L. Hefner, Oklahoma, OK); McConaughy (L. Mc-

Conaughy, Keith, NE); Quivira (Quivira N.W.R., Stafford, KS); Rainwater Basin (playas in s.-cen. and se. Nebraska); Red Slough (Red Slough W.M.A., McCurtain, OK); Tenkiller (L. Tenkiller, Sequoyah, OK).

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBIS

The only regular Regional site for Black-bellied Whistling-Duck is McCurtain, OK; best count there was 20 on 20 May (DA). Two Black-bellieds farther n. in Tulsa, OK 12 May were unexpected (BC). Clearly a Regional "zootie," 4 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were seen at Tishomingo N.W.R., Johnston, OK 30 Apr (EBr, JRe). Best Snow Goose counts were 350,000 between Gothenburg and Kearney, NE 4 Mar (SB), and 200,000 at Harvard Marsh 16 Mar (PD). Two Snows, one injured, were in Cimarron, OK 11 (JW) & 18 May (JAG). A Ross's Goose in Tulsa, OK 11 Apr (LMc) was tardy. Tundra Swan, now the rarer of the native swans, was reported from Quivira 3 Mar-1 Apr (family group of 5; SS, m.ob.), with 3 at Rowe Sanctuary, Buffalo, NE 4 Mar



An American Bittern nest discovered 15 May 2007 in Harper County, Oklahoma provides the first nesting record for Oklahoma in 50 years. Photograph by Eric Beck.

(SB, KS). Trumpeters were reported s. to McCurtain, OK, where 2 birds remained through 24 Mar (DA, BH, m.ob.).

Almost regular in Nebraska, a Eurasian Wigeon was in York 6 Mar (RE). Certainly a sight, 50 Cinnamon Teal were in Scotts Bluff, NE 22 Apr (KD). Easterly Cinnamon Teal were in Lancaster, NE 22 Mar (JGJ) and Neosho, KS 6 Mar (MG). About 20 Greater Scaup were reported in Nebraska and Kansas, with the latest 15 Apr in Sedgwick, KS (PJ) and 24 Apr in Dakota, NE (BFH). Scoters, rare in spring, included Surfs in Harper, KS 1 Apr (PJ, CGs, KG) and Phelps, NE 6 May (KS) and White-wingeds in Cedar, NE 4-9 Mar (RD, MB), Platte, NE 19 Mar (RE), and Tulsa, OK 4-18 Mar (JW, MF, m.ob.). The rarest, Black Scoter, was represented by one in Tulsa, OK, 4-18 Mar (JW, MF, m.ob.). Also rare in the Region, Long-tailed Ducks were reported in Tulsa, OK 10-18 Mar (PR, DRe), Sioux, NE 28 Mar (WF), and Sedgwick, KS 15 Apr (PJ), latter a late date. A female Common Goldeneye in Sarpy, NE 12 May (CNK) was also tardy.

Greater Prairie-Chicken is doing well in se. Nebraska and is adapting to non-traditional habitat by establishing leks in crop fields and in public wetland areas, even adjacent to water (fide WRS). A count of 48 Lesser Prairie-Chickens in Harper, OK 2 Mar (K&SM, WL) was encouraging. Tenkiller again provided a loon sweep. Two Yellow-billed Loons were noted there 31 Mar with 3 Red-throated Loons (JWA). Up to 2 Pacific Loons were observed there 6-31 Mar (SH, RP, m.ob.), among a maximum of 137 Common Loons counted 5 Mar (SBe). Away from Tenkiller, a Red-throated was at Hefner 3-10 Mar (L&MT, JW). A Horned Grebe in Keith, NE 20 May (JMi) was late. Western and Clark's Grebes reported in winter remained through at least 7 Mar in Comanche, OK (K&SM et al.), with and another Western at Tenkiller 31 Mar (JWA). A few

Neotropical Cormorants moved northward to Coffey, KS again by 11 Mar (M&EL), with an excellent tally of 11 in Cowley, KS 12 Apr (GY), but only one was found at Red Slough, that 11 & 17 Apr (DA). The 5000 Double-crested Cormorants in Lancaster 13 Apr (RE) was a record spring count for Nebraska.

American Bitterns were in good numbers at Quivira 16 May, when 13 were tallied (HH). Sightings of this species in at Red Slough spanned 13 Mar (one; DA) through 30 May (6; DA et al.); breeding was documented, with a nest located in Harper, OK 15 May (EBe). The only Nebraska report of Least Bittern was of one in Clay 28 May (PD). Tricolored Herons were seen in Tulsa, OK 29 Apr (BC) and as far n. as Riley, KS 29 Apr (CG). Early Cattle Egrets were in Otoe, NE 26 Mar (L&CF), record early, and also in Tulsa, OK 26 Mar (JSi). An early wandering White Ibis was in Canadian, OK 15 May (TU), as was the unexpectedly large group of 30 at Red Slough by 20 Mar (DA). Glossy Ibis reports continue to pepper the Region, up to 2 at Hackberry 13 Apr-15 May (L&MT) and singles in Sedgwick, KS 20 May (PJ) and Sarpy, NE 25 May (EB), plus 2-6 at Red Slough 10-31 May (DA, BH). A White-faced Ibis appeared at Red Slough 10 May (DA, BH), with as many as 13 there on 31 May (DA).

RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS

Northwesterly Black Vultures have increased in the past few years; this season, one was in Sedgwick, KS 31 Mar (GY), up to 8 were in Comanche, OK 25 Apr (fide MH), and 2 were in Oklahoma, OK 15 Apr (NV). A pair of Ospreys was at a nest in McIntosh, OK 19 May (LR) for perhaps the 4th nesting attempt in Oklahoma. Mississippi Kites away from the Ogallala, NE breeding site included one in Lancaster 7 May (LE), with another still extralimital in Johnson, KS 20 Apr (MC). A westerly Broad-winged Hawk was in Morton, KS 19 Apr (DW). A Regional first (and quite a surprise) was the Zone-tailed Hawk roosting with 6 Turkey Vultures in Keith, NE 25 Apr (CBR, VOB, SK; ph.); it could not be relocated 28 Apr (MB). A Golden Eagle wintering in the e. part of the Region was in McCurtain, OK 1 Mar (DA). Peregrine Falcons were widespread throughout the Region, with early migrants by

25 Mar in Comanche, OK (JAG) and Tillman, OK (L&MT); one 19 May at Hackberry (L&MT) was rather late.

Black Rail is reported regularly from Quivira, where 1-2 were found 16 (HH) & 26 May (CG). It is probably more widespread in the Region than records indicate, as suggested by the presence of 1-2 at Hackberry 28-29 May (EBe). The only King Rails reported were 2 at Red Slough 27 Apr-1 May (DA, BH). A Virginia Rail in Pratt, KS 6 Mar (M&ER) may have wintered there, and another at Hackberry 28 May (L&MT) was late. A Sora in Cimarron, OK 21 Apr (DWO) was farther w. than expected. The 1-2 Purple Gallinules at Red Slough 10-31 May (DA, BH) maintained this Regional outpost for the species. Rare anywhere in the Region, up to 4 Common Moorhens at Red Slough 25 Apr-30 May (DA, BH) were perhaps less of a surprise than the single in Seward, NE 17 May (JG). An incredible 200,000 Sandhill Cranes were in the cen Platte Valley, NE 12 Apr (CH). A Common Crane with about 1000 Sandhill Cranes was reported on private property e. of Lewellen, Garden, NE 10 Mar (PH). A Whooping Crane with Sandhills "on the Platte River" in Ne-



Representing only the fourth reported nesting of Osprey in Oklahoma was this nest at Lake Eufala, McIntosh County, Oklahoma (photograph taken 19 May 2007). Photograph by Lorraine Richmond.

braska 16 Mar was thought to be the individual that has now spent its 3rd winter there (TS). In addition, about 65 migrant Whoopings were reported in the Region 17 Mar-3 May (fide WRS, fide LM, fide JAG).

Rare in the Oklahoma Panhandle were 1-2 Black-bellied Plovers in Cimarron 13 (JW) & 17 May (JW, MP). Early arriving American Golden-Plovers were 3 in Tulsa, OK 10 Mar (LMC) and 5 in Clay, NE 19 Mar (PD), the latter one day shy of being record early for the

state. The single Snowy Plover in *Oklahoma*, OK 10 Mar (JW) and the 15 at Hackberry 15 Mar (L&MT) were also rather early. A Snowy banded at Quivira 16 Jun 2005 was seen there 7 Apr (SS, M&ER). Piping Plover is a low-density migrant in the Region, so reports of 9 in the w. half of Oklahoma 14-28 Apr (*vide* JAG) and 5-10 at Quivira 29 Apr (DF) were of interest. Very early was one in *Saunders*, NE 2 Apr (RHe). Mountain Plovers were found at regular locations in *Cimarron*, OK 11-18 May (1-2; JW, G&MK) and *Kimball*, NE 26 Mar (LS).

Among an onslaught of early arrivals were 2 Black-necked Stilts at Hackberry 25 Mar (L&MT) and 6 in *Sheridan*, NE 12 Apr (WM). Once rare in the Region, numbers of Black-neckeds have increased substantially; 29 were in *Sheridan*, NE 8 Apr (L&MT), with 100+ at Quivira 3 May (M&ER) and 72 at Hackberry 13 May (L&MT). Among early arrivals at Hackberry were 6 American Avocets 21 Mar (L&MT), 4 Lesser Yellowlegs 4 Mar (L&MT), and a Spotted Sandpiper 8 Apr (L&MT). Also early were 6 Lesser Yellowlegs at Red Slough 13 Mar (DA). A rare migrant, Whimbrel reports came only from Oklahoma: the peak count at Hackberry was 4 on 26 Apr, with at least one present 22 Apr-15 May (L&MT, EBe, m.ob.); one was in *Cimarron* 11 May (JW); and 2 were in *Tulsa* 7 May (BC). An amazing 3000+ Long-billed Curlews coming to a roost in *Finney*, KS 29 Mar (T&SS) must have been a sight to behold; still a good number was the 30 in *Harper*, OK 25 Mar (EBe). Marbled Godwits are low-density migrants, making the 37 at Hackberry 16 Apr an unusual count (L&MT). Ruddy Turnstones appeared in excellent numbers, including a remarkable 44 in *Seward*, NE 19 May (JGJ). Elsewhere, 20 were reported 4-24 May in Nebraska (*vide* WRS), 3 in Kansas 15-17 May (MG, GP), and 4 in Oklahoma 11-19 May (L&MT, MJ, SBe).

Rarer westward, a Sanderling was in *Cimarron*, OK 17-18 May (MP). Reports of Semipalmated Sandpiper in early Mar are normally considered misidentifications; however, 9 were nicely documented at Hackberry 4 Mar, and 2-5 were there 10-29 Mar (L&MT). Western Sandpiper is usually scarce in the Region



Charles Brown, Valerie O'Brien, and Sarah Knute picked this Zone-tailed Hawk out of a Turkey Vulture roost near Lake McConaughy, Keith County, Nebraska 25 April 2007. Photograph by UNKNOWN PHOTOGRAPHER.

in spring, thus the 200+ at Quivira 21 Apr (SS) was an unexpectedly high count. The 3 at Hackberry 25 Mar (L&MT) added to the list of early migrant shorebird species. Four thousand White-rumped Sandpipers in the e. Rainwater Basin 17 May (JGJ) was an excellent count, as was the tally of 2275 Baird's Sandpipers at Hackberry 15 Apr (L&MT). The 42 Baird's at Hackberry 4 Mar (L&MT) were early. Pectoral Sandpipers numbered 350 in *Thayer*, NE 11 May (JGJ), and Dunlins showed in record numbers in Nebraska, with 235 in the e. Rainwater Basin 17 May, 133 of these at a single *York* site (JGJ), and an additional 250 reported 2-24 May (*vide* WRS). Up to 3 Dunlins at Hackberry 10 Mar-22 Apr (L&MT) are part of an emerging pattern of occurrence before mid-Apr in the Region. A record-early arrival was a Stilt Sandpiper at Hackberry 15 Mar (L&MT), with the 5 in *Seward* 4 Apr (LE) the 2nd earliest on record in Nebraska. Good tallies of Buff-breasted Sandpiper came from all three states, with 250 in the e. Rainwater Basin 17 May (JGJ), 41 in *Sedgwick*, KS 20 May (PJ), and 40 in *McClain*, OK 10 May (JAG).

Short-billed Dowitchers passed through in

timely fashion, with 60 in Nebraska 10-20 May (*vide* WRS) and 46 in *Tulsa*, OK 7 May (JWA). Long-billeds continued the early surge, with 197 at Hackberry by 4 Mar (L&MT) and a peak count of 4500 there on 22 Apr (L&MT). American Woodcock reports are becoming more numerous to the n. and w. of typical range in Nebraska, with one in *Lincoln* 27 Mar (TJW) and 2 in *Cherry* 23 Mar (WF). A Wilson's Phalarope in *Scotts Bluff* 17 Mar (AK) was record early by a day for Nebraska, and 2 at Hackberry 29 Mar (L&MT) were also quite early. The best count of Wilson's Phalaropes was the impressive 6000 at Hackberry 29 Apr (L&MT). Breeding of Wilson's in the e. Rainwater Basin is only sporadic; thus copulation 9 May (JGJ) and two nests each with four eggs in *Clay* 14 & 29 May (PD) were significant finds. Rare eastward was a Red-necked Phalarope in *Sarpy* 22-26 May (CNK, EB, JR).

Two Laughing Gulls trekked in at the end of the season in *Douglas*, KS 21 May (GP) and *Hefner* the next day (PV), while

an ad. Little Gull in *Lancaster*, NE 13 Mar (JGJ) was Nebraska's 11th in spring. An easterly California Gull was in *Lancaster* 24 Mar (D&JP), with sightings of singles at *Hefner* 3 & 20 Mar (JAG, TG) and another on 3 Mar at L. Overholser, *Oklahoma* (L&MT). Tardy for Oklahoma was a Thayer's Gull in *Oklahoma* 3 Mar (L&MT); only one other was reported, an ad. at *McConaughy* 1 Mar (JGJ). Occurring with regularity these days, Lesser Black-backed Gulls were in *Lancaster* 10 & 13 Mar (JGJ) and at *McConaughy* 28 Apr (MB). Glaucous Gulls in *Lancaster*, NE 9-11 Mar (JGJ, LE, CNK) and *Harlan*, NE 4 Mar (G&WH) were the only reports. Three Common Terns were in Nebraska 10-30 May (PD, JMi, MB). The 4 Black Terns in *Harper*, OK 22 Apr (EBe) were early.

ROADRUNNER THROUGH WAXWINGS

Greater Roadrunner continues to creep northward in Kansas; 8 individuals were reported in five s.-cen. counties n. to *Stafford* (*vide* LM)—but the real n. pioneer was one in s. *Chase* 30 Apr (JP). Black-billed Cuckoos, usually uncommon, were found 20 May in *Tulsa* (TM) and the next day in *Cherokee*, OK (D&JV),

with 5 more reported in Nebraska (L&CF, JR, JM). Burrowing Owls are re-occupying e. Rainwater Basin sites at the e. edge of the range in Nebraska, with reports from three sites in Clay (JGJ, PD). An excellent count of Burrowing Owls was the 30+ on Nature Conservancy land in Barton, KS 14 Apr (SS, DK), while one showed up early in Geary, KS 22 Mar (C&JO). Barred Owls continue to expand westward along the Republican R. into Nuckolls, NE, with 1-2 noted 1 Apr (LRa, RH) and a single 20 Apr (DE). The only Northern Saw-whet Owl reported was one quite out of range in Sedgwick, KS 17 Mar (LH).

A Chuck-wills-widow in Comanche, OK 23 Mar (JAG) was early, as were Whip-poor-wills in LeFlore, OK 25 Mar (B&NL) and Osage, OK 26 Mar (MP). Other early arrivals were 3 Chimney Swifts in Tulsa, OK 20 Mar (TC), with Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in McCurtain, OK 21 Mar (MH) and Delaware, OK the same day (EW), and Black-chinned Hummingbirds as early as 20 (D&CS) & 25 Mar in Comanche, OK (K&SM) and in Grady 25 Mar (DL). A few Black-chinneds e. and n. of usual included singles in McClain 7 Apr (M&JF) and Payne 17 Apr (O&TT). Convincing details were provided for a Red-naped Sapsucker as far e. as Hall, NE 5 Mar (WF). Somewhat northerly in Oklahoma was a Ladder-backed Woodpecker in Harper 29 Apr (EBE).

A Western Wood-Pewee in Lincoln, NE 19 May (CNK) was at the e. edge of its range. The only Yellow-bellied Flycatcher reported was in Lancaster, NE 21 May (KP). An Acadian Flycatcher in Payne, OK 23 May (TO) was w. of the usual range. Cordilleran Flycatcher is rarely reported in migration in the Region; one was in s. Sioux, NE 30-31 May (HKH). The local Vermilion Flycatchers had returned to Cimarron, OK by 21 Apr (DW); a female was there 12 & 19 May (JW, MP). An early Ash-throated Flycatcher was in Tillman, OK 23 Mar (L&MT), with 2 n. to Harper, OK 22 & 29 Apr (EBE). Yet another early migrant was a Cassin's Kingbird in Cimarron, OK 21 Apr (DW); it was clearly outdone by an Eastern Kingbird as far n. as Riley, KS 23 Mar (CG). Scissor-tailed Flycatcher reports were led by one in McCurtain 21 Mar (BH). Scissor-tailed have established themselves as breeders n. to Buffalo (KS) and Sarpy, NE (JT). More early arrivals included White-eyed Vireo in Cleveland 21

Mar (RG), with 2 each in Comanche, OK 22 Mar (K&SM) and McCurtain, OK the same day (BH). The only report of Plumbeous Vireo was of a migrant in Scotts Bluff, NE 16 May (BN). A Blue-headed Vireo, rare westward, was in Harlan, NE 11 May (G&WH). Two Yellow-throated Vireos in McCurtain, OK 22 Mar (BH) were also early. A Philadelphia Vireo in Scotts Bluff, NE 26 May (KD) was only the 4th for the Nebraska Panhandle. Playing the early arrival game in almost treeless terrain was a Red-eyed Vireo in Tillman 21 Mar (L&MT), with another in McCurtain 1 Apr (MR).

Some 2152 Blue Jays in Payne, OK 21 Apr (SMc) made a splendid tally. Fish Crows expanding westward up river systems were one in Oklahoma, OK 30 Mar (NV) and as many as 19 in Sedgwick, KS 7 May (LH). A carefully identified Common Raven, a rare visitor in extreme sw. Kansas, was in Morton 12 Apr

NE 23 Mar (WF).

The only Veeries reported were 2 in Sarpy NE 8 May (NF), one in Johnson, KS 10 May (MG), and one in Cherokee, OK 2 May (MP, MD, SH). A Gray-cheeked Thrush in se. Garden, NE 20 May (JMi) was a rarity that far w., and a Swainson's Thrush in Otoe, NE was record early 16 Apr (L&CF). Wood Thrushes in Cleveland, OK 27 Apr (DKa) and 26 May (JAG) were rare w. sightings. An early Gray Catbird was in Johnston, OK 19 Mar (EBr). Nebraska's 7th Curve-billed Thrasher was found in Perkins 22 Apr (JGJ); Nebraska's 6th, the long-staying male in se. Sioux, was observed trying to make a nest in mid-Apr (fide AK).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Rare anywhere in the Region, 2 Blue-winged Warblers in Scotts Bluff, NE 8 May (AD, KD) made only the 4th spring Panhandle record, singles were in Cherokee, OK 2 May (MP, MD, SH) and in LeFlore, OK 24 May (G&MK). Seven Golden-winged Warblers were reported along the e. edge of the Region in the very short period 5-9 May (fide WRS, fide LM, fide JAG). Westerly Northern Parulas were one in Morton, KS 21 Apr (DW) and 2 in Comanche, OK 1 Apr (K&SM); rather early were singles in Washington OK (MP) and Tulsa, OK (AR), both 21 Mar. Cape May Warbler, a Regional "zootie," made an outstanding showing, with 3 in Nebraska 7-17 May (LE, ST, JGJ) and 3 in Kansas 8-13 May (CL, MHi et al.). Kansas had the only Black-throated Blue Warblers, singles in Johnson 13 May (MHi et al.) and Kiowa 18 May (M&ER et al.). A Black-throated Gray Warbler in Morton, KS 21 Apr (DW) was unexpected. Westerly was a Blackburnian Warbler in Oklahoma, OK 7-8 May (NV), with others in Tulsa 16 (GK) & 19 May (BC). Yellow-throated Warblers arrived early in all three states: 19 Mar in Ok-



This Eastern Screech-Owl at Black Mesa State Park, Oklahoma 18 May 2007 was in Cimarron County, where only Western Screech-Owl had ever been recorded. Photograph by Joseph A. Grzybowski.

(SS, TCa). Three early Tree Swallows were in Harlan, NE 18 Mar (G&WH), while an early Barn Swallow made it to Red Slough 4 Mar (DA), with 2 in Johnston, OK two days later (DWO). Creeping northward was a Tufted Titmouse in Thurston, NE 17 May (BFH). The latest Red-breasted Nuthatch reported was in Omaha 21 May (RS). Occasional in nw. Oklahoma, a Canyon Wren appeared in Ellis 31 Mar (ES). Two subspecies of Marsh Wren occur in Nebraska; the first singing Marsh Wrens on territory were westerners in Holt,

mulgee, OK (JW), 29 Mar in Leavenworth, KS (JS), and 1 Apr in Sarpy, NE (RS). Quite unexpected was a Prairie Warbler w. to Cherry NE 28 May (GW). Rare in spring, 6 Bay-breasted Warblers were reported (fide WRS, fide LM, fide JAG), most westerly a bird in Comanche, OK 28 May (L&MT, K&SM), with another rather late in LeFlore, OK 24 May (G&MK). Usually an early migrant, Black-and-white Warblers appeared at Red Slough 13 Mar (DA), with as many as 8 in McClain, OK by 18 Mar (PM). Prothonotary Warblers

leading the pack were singles in *Johnston*, OK 30 Mar (DWo) and *McCurtain*, OK 2 Apr (MR). Rare away from e. Oklahoma and Kansas, Worm-eating Warblers were found in *McClain*, OK 30 Apr (M&JF) and *Sedgwick*, KS 6 May (PG). A *McCurtain*, OK specialty, 2-3 Swainson's Warblers were at Little River N.W.R. 21-23 Apr (MR). Early were Louisiana Waterthrushes in *Washington*, OK 14 Mar (MD) and *Tulsa* 19 Mar (TM) and a Kentucky Warbler in *McCurtain*, OK 1 Apr (MR). Another warbler "zootie," Connecticut Warblers were located in *Washington*, OK 8-9 May (MP et al.), *Douglas*, NE 12-13 May (TP), and *Sarpy*, NE 12 May (L&BP). Hooded Warblers in *McCurtain*, OK 24 Mar (DA) and 1 Apr (MR) were also a bit early.

A Summer Tanager, subspecies undetermined, was photographed in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 23 Apr (KD), a record-early date, with another in *McCurtain*, OK 2 Apr (MR). On the e. edge of migration corridors were a Western Tanager in *Morton*, KS 10 May (LL) and a Green-tailed Towhee in *Morton* 12 May (JPV). Spotted Towhees lingered in *Comanche*, OK through 23 May (VF) and in *Lancaster*, NE 24 May (LE). A phenotypically typical (but silent) Eastern Towhee was at *McConaughy* 21 Apr (BFH), far w. of the usual summer range in Nebraska. Going far eastward was a Canyon Towhee in *Gove*, KS 7 May (JPV).

A surprise for both location and date was a male Lark Bunting in *York*, NE 4 Apr (LE). Early Grasshopper Sparrows were in *Hall*, NE 26 Mar (DKi) and *Geary*, KS 25 Mar (BS). Early enough to suggest local wintering, 2 Henslow's Sparrows were at *Red Slough* 4 Mar (DA); one was there 27 Mar (DA). Seven Henslow's were found in a lightly grazed pasture in *Otoe*, NE 12 May (WRS). Late-migrating Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found at *Red Slough* 15 May (DA) and in *Lancaster*, NE 21 May (KP). A Harris's Sparrow at *Red Slough* 22 May (DA) was very late that far south. A Golden-crowned Sparrow was in *Riley*, KS 7 Mar (LJ, CG), and Nebraska's 9th was in *Sioux* 4 May (B&DW). "Hundreds" of Lapland Longspurs migrating over *McConaughy* 21 Apr (BFH, JPr) were quite late.

Northern Cardinals at the nw. edge of the range in Nebraska were a pair in *Scotts Bluff* 16 May (KD) and singles in *Blaine* 24 Mar (WF) and *Thomas* 25 Mar (WF). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak in *Washington*, OK 18 Apr (MP) was early, as was one in *Riley*, KS 16



This Golden-crowned Sparrow, Nebraska's fourth documented, was in Sioux County 4 May 2007. Photograph by Bruce and Donna Walgren.

Apr (DR); a Black-headed was e. to *Tulsa*, OK 27 Apr (D&RJ). Also easterly were Black-headed in *Riley*, KS 9 May (MM), *Sarpy*, NE 12 May (EB), and *Knox*, NE 14-15 May (MB). At least 10 Lazuli Buntings were reported from e. portions of the Region 5-20 May (*vide* WRS, *vide* LM, *vide* JAG), an above-average number. Painted Buntings at the edge of their range in Kansas were noted 1-11 May to *Riley* (CG), *Geary* (C&JO), and *Douglas* (KR). The only reports of the apparently declining Rusty Blackbird were of 1-2 in *Dixon*, NE 11-22 Mar (JJ) and 2 females in *Lancaster*, NE 22 Mar (LE). An early Bullock's Oriole was in *Comanche*, OK 17 Apr (L&MT), and another was easterly in *Arthur*, NE 20 May (CNK). The only reports of Red Crossbill were of singles in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 12 & 26 May (AK). Only one Common Redpoll was reported: a male first seen during winter which re-appeared after an absence at a feeder in *Wayne*, NE 15-16 Mar (JJ). Only moderate numbers of Pine Siskins were reported, the top counts being of 25-30 in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 29 Mar-5 Apr (AK). A surprising 6 or so Lesser Goldfinches found their way to *Grant*, KS 28 Mar and 11 Apr, as well as a pair 27 Apr (KH). In addition, single Lessers were in *McClain*, OK 18 Mar (M&JF), *Finney*, KS 26-27 Apr (T&SS), and *Scotts Bluff*, NE 25 May (*vide* AK).

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Jorgensen, Alice Kenitz, Dan Kim (DKi), Clem N. Klaphake, Sarah Knute, Jeanne Miller (JMi), Wayne Mollhoff, Brent Nelson, Valerie O'Brien (VOB), Don & Jan Paseka (D&JP), Theresa Pester, Kevin Poague, Jerry Probst (JPr), Larry Randolph (LRA), Justin Rink, Rick Schmid, W. Ross Silcock, Larry Snyder, Tom Stehn, Kent Skaggs, Scott Taylor, Jerry Toll, Bruce & Donna Walgren (B&DW), T.J. Walker, Gordon Warrick. KANSAS: Ted Cable (TCa), Mark Corder, Dave Fischer, Matt Gearheart, Cory Gregory, Chet Gresham (CGs), Paul Griffin, Kevin Groe-

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