

The Spring Migration

March 1—May 31, 1982

Abbreviations frequently used in Regional Reports

ad.: adult, Am.: American, c.: central, C: Celsius, CBC: Christmas Bird Count, Cr.: Creek, Com: Common, Co.: County, Cos.: Counties, *et al.*: and others, E.: Eastern (bird name), Eur.: European, Eurasian, F: Fahrenheit, *fide*: reported by, F.& W.S.: Fish & Wildlife Service, Ft.: Fort, imm.: immature, I.: Island, Is.: Islands, Isles, Jct.: Junction, juv.: juvenile, L.: Lake, m.ob.: many observers, Mt.: Mountain, Mts.: Mountains, N.F.: National Forest, N.M.: National Monument, N.P.: National Park, N.W.R.: Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, N.: Northern (bird name), Par.: Parish, Pen.: Peninsula, P.P.: Provincial Park, Pt.: Point, not Port, Ref.: Refuge, Res.:

Reservoir, not Reservation, R.: River, S.P.: State Park, sp.: species, spp.: species plural, ssp: subspecies, Twp.: Township, W.: Western (bird name), W.M.A.: Wildlife Management Area, v.o.: various observers, N,S,W,E,,: direction of motion, n., s., w., e.,,: direction of location, > : more than, < : fewer than, ±: approximately, or estimated number, ♂: male, ♀: female, Ø: imm. or female, *: specimen, ph.: photographed, †: documented, ft: feet, mi: miles, m: meters, km: kilometers, date with a + (e.g., Mar. 4+): recorded beyond that date. Editors may also abbreviate often-cited locations or organizations.

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

/Blair Nikula

With one very notable exception, the weather this spring was characterized by rather stagnant patterns featuring well below normal temperatures and winds generally out of the northerly or easterly quadrants, particularly during May. The one meteorological event of any significance was a full-scale blizzard which struck the area April 6-7 leaving an average of one to two feet of snow across the southern half of the region, followed by two days of bitter cold with temperatures falling to the teens (F) or below. Although difficult to document, avian mortality was thought to have been considerable among some of the early migrants (see below).

Despite near normal temperatures in March, most of the early migrants were a few days late in arriving and migration was halted completely by the April blizzard to the extent that by the time any movement resumed in mid-April, most species were one to two weeks behind schedule. A mild spell in late April brought a modest flurry of activity, but May was dominated by very cool temperatures and unfavorable winds (Boston recorded easterly winds on 23 of 31 days in May!), resulting in a very tardy and lackluster passerine migration. There simply were no regionwide waves, as evidenced by the disparate reports of "best days" (such as they were) from the various areas: May 18 in central Connecticut and Central Massachusetts, May 19-20 and 27 in Rhode Island, May 16-18 and 26-27 on Cape Cod, May 26-28 at the Manomet Bird Observatory (hereafter, M.B.O.), May 26 in Newburyport-Plum Island, and May 21-24 in Nova Scotia.

THE BLIZZARD: Although we in the Northeast are accustomed to erratic weather in April, one to two feet of snow, gale force winds and temperatures in the teens are hardly conditions to be expected even in that fickle month. However, such were the conditions experienced across the southern half of the Region April 6-8 and the impact on some of the less hardy early migrants seemed considerable. Documented mortality occurred among Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Bluebird, Tree Swallow, robin, and American Woodcock while Common Snipe, Killdeer and Wood Duck were also thought by some observers to have suffered losses. Readers are referred to the species accounts below for more detailed information on the affected species. This weather system apparently had little or no effect across the northern portions of the Region and was not even mentioned in reports received from Maine, Nova Scotia or Newfoundland.

Among the highlights this season were continued range expansions and/or population increases among: Turkey Vulture, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Common Raven, Mockingbird, Blue-gray Gnat-

catcher, Cardinal and House Finch, while continuing declines were noted for American Bittern, Loggerhead Shrike and the "spruce budworm" warblers (Cape May, Blackpoll, and Bay-breasted). Vagrants included: Arctic Loon, Western Grebe, Black-browed(?) Albatross, Mississippi Kite, Gull-billed Tern, Burrowing Owl, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Swainson's Warbler, Painted Bunting, Lark Bunting, Golden-crowned Sparrow (from winter) and Smith's Longspur.

Reporting coverage this season was generally good though in some cases extremely late in arriving (up to two months late!) Relatively comprehensive reports were received from Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine and Nova Scotia while coverage was spotty in Connecticut, New Brunswick and Newfoundland. Reports were also received from George's and Stellwagon Banks, allowing for some interesting comparisons between those two areas. Readers are reminded, for the umpteenth time, that these summaries can only be as complete as the *timely* reports received by your regional editors. While this writer encourages and welcomes any criticisms, those who would disparage of any shortcomings herein, should first examine their own contributions, or lack thereof. Let he who has not been derelict cast the first brickbat!



LOONS, GREBES — Impressive numbers of Com. Loons were noted passing Pt. Judith, R.I., May 15-16 with 545 counted on the 15th and 1027 on the 16th (RLF), while 210 there May 30 (RAC) was indicative of the typically late migration staged by this species. Red-throated Loons, which normally migrate a month earlier than Commons, totaled only 49 at Pt. Judith May 15-16 (RLF) and elsewhere numbers were very low. A well-described Arctic Loon at Plum I., Mar. 23 (RSH) was probably the same individual noted there sporadically throughout the winter.

At Greenwich Pt., Conn., 125 Horned Grebes were present Apr. 9 (G. Palmer). Red-necked Grebes were once again reported in excellent numbers, a total of 585+ in coastal Massachusetts, included a striking flock of 320 in Dennis Apr. 4 (BN *et al.*), 82 at Cape Ann Mar. 6 (RSH), 67 at Marblehead Mar. 4 (RSH) and 60 at Manomet Mar. 19 (M.B.O.). Inland, a total of six in w. Massachusetts was "more than usual" (SK), while 20 at Middletown Beach, R.I., Mar. 14 & Apr. 9 was the "best count in years" in that state (DLE). Farther n., 69 were at Chebucto Head, N.S., Mar. 6 (RJ). A dark-phase Western Grebe was in Scituate, Mass., Mar. 22-Apr. 4 (R. Campbell *et al.*).

TUBENOSES — An M.B.O. cruise recorded 5000 N. Fulmars on the n. edge of George's Bank (hereafter, G.B.) Mar. 3 and "several hundreds" were there May 15 (Rd'E) while closer to shore six were 8-10 mi s.e. of Block I., Apr. 30 (RAC) and several singles were noted on Stellwagon Bank May 11-31 (RP). An ad. albatross, seen sitting and in flight at distances ranging down to 50 ft over a 30-min. period on the s.e. corner of G.B., May 2 (PH) was thought to have been a Black-browed, based on the all-yellow bill and underwing pattern. Although there are now numerous sight records for this species and there would seem little doubt that it occurs, there is still no photograph or specimen from anywhere in the n.w. Atlantic. Greater and Sooty shearwaters were present on "normal numbers" on G.B., May 17-23 (*vide* EB) but both species were late in arriving on Stellwagon Bank with the first of each not reported until May 27 (RP). However, farther s. a single Sooty was 8-10 mi s.e. of Block I., Apr. 30 (RAC) and 35 were seen from Nantucket May 30 (*vide* RPE). Manx Shearwaters were again noted off Pt. Judith with at least two individuals seen on 3 dates Apr. 3-25 (*vide* DLE) but apparently not thereafter. A rather early Wilson's Storm-Petrel was reported from G.B., Apr. 18 (Rd'E) and, unlike the shearwaters, good numbers were present on Stellwagon Bank from May 20 on (RP) with a max. of 350 there May 22 (*vide* RPE). The wintering range of Leach's Storm-Petrel remains largely a mystery, although some mid-winter records exist from deep waters s. of G.B. (KDP). This year, Leach's were said to have arrived on the s. edge of G.B., Mar. 20 (PH) further suggesting a not-too-distant wintering ground.

CORMORANTS, HERONS — After last spring's massive flight, Double-crested Cormorants were reported in very low numbers in Rhode Island this year, a max. of 1639 at Pt. Judith Apr. 24 (RLF) being but 3% of last year's high. However, 1339 passing the same location May 15 (RLF) suggests that the main flight may have occurred somewhat later this year (and perhaps not on a weekend?). After more than two decades of expansion in our Region, "southern" heron populations seem to be leveling off, at least in s. portions. This season most species were reported in numbers lower than or equal to recent years' averages. One exception to this trend was Snowy Egret at the n. edge of its range where one was found in Traytown, Nfld., Apr. 14-16 (RB, photo) and a total of 27+ individuals in Nova Scotia was the "largest number ever" in that province (*vide* IAM). Other extralimital heron reports, all from Nova Scotia, included six Greats (also above average), one Cattle, two Little Blues, and 2-3 Greens.

An ambitious Black-crowned Night Heron flying N high over the s. edge of G.B. (date unspecified, ph.) was perhaps one of five individuals noted in Nova Scotia this spring. American Bittern was apparently in low numbers everywhere and several observers made discouraging comments regarding its status; there seems legitimate cause for concern over this Blue-listed species. Much the same may be true for Least Bittern, although it is extremely difficult to formulate any solid impressions regarding the status of this most elusive bird. Glossy Ibis was numerous in New Hampshire (*vide* SAG), "low" in w. Connecticut (CH) and apparently about average elsewhere.

WATERFOWL — A Whistling Swan was in Berkshire, Mass., Apr. 15-20 (ED *et al.*) and the wintering bird on Martha's Vineyard (hereafter, M.V.) was last reported Mar. 15 (SBW). Although Brant are among the latest of spring migrant waterfowl, a count of 500 in



Snowy Egret, Traytown, Nfld., Apr. 17, 1982, at north edge of range. Photo Roger Burrows.

Newburyport, Mass., May 19 (*vide* RPE) seems high for that date and may reflect the tardiness of the season. The five Greater White-fronted Geese in Newburyport, noted in the winter report, were last seen Mar. 7 (RHS). Snow Geese were very scarce, 500 over Gill, Mass., Apr. 1 (*vide* SK) being the only flock noted along the Connecticut River valley and the peak at Plum I. was a meagre 150 in late March (*vide* RPE). In New Hampshire they were said to have been "few and late" (SAG) and none were reported from the Maritimes.

Gadwall continue to solidify their status in the Region with a count of 101 on Plum I., May 4 (*vide* RPE) noteworthy, five in Scarborough, Me., May 10 (PDV) was a record count for that state, while at the n. edge of their range in Nova Scotia a total of ten was noted (*vide* IAM). Eurasian Wigeon made an impressive showing, 13+ were distributed among Nova Scotia, (four), e. Massachusetts (six+), Rhode Island (two) and Connecticut (one). "Common" Teal on the other hand, were scarce with one in Nova Scotia (IAM) and two in e. Massachusetts (*vide* RPE) the only ones reported. Ring-necked Ducks were mentioned in good numbers from several areas. Male Barrow's Goldeneyes in Gill, Mass., Mar. 16-19 and Apr. 18-19 (*vide* SK) and two in S. Gardiner, Me., Apr. 19 (PDV) were notable inland occurrences. A partial survey of the Isle au Haut area, Me., Mar. 14 yielded 91 Harlequin Ducks, and two lingered to May 22 in E. Orleans, Mass. (*vide* RPE). A number of reports involving sizable flocks of Com. Eider in late May reflect that species' increase as a nester in the Region. Migrant King Eiders included two on M.V., May 11-19 (*vide* VL), one at Quonochontaug, R.I., May 15 (RAC *et al.*), five migrating with scoters past Pt. Judith May 15 (RLF), and single males flying with scoters past Greenwich Pt., Conn., May 2 & 5 (DB). Although usually thought of as strictly a mid-winter duck, King Eiders, presumably individuals that have wintered to the s. of our area, are occasionally found in with flocks of migrating scoters in the spring and should be looked for in late April and May.

S.A.

As a result of studies conducted by Wayne Petersen and M.B.O. during the early '70s, much has been learned about the fall migration of scoters through s. New England. However, we still know little about the spring movements of these 3 species. This season, Richard Ferren's two weekends of monitoring sea bird movements past Pt. Judith, R.I., resulted in some interesting scoter observations from that area. On the weekend of Apr. 24-25 a total of 28,000+ scoters was comprised of 16,000 Surf, 11,000 Black and a mere 270 White-winged. Intriguing is the fact that flocks of birds were noted moving both E and W, with the W-moving birds predominating on this weekend. Ferren speculates that the eastbound birds originate from points farther s. and follow the coastline NE to e. Canada, while the westbound birds originate from wintering grounds off s.e. New England and follow an overland route to c. Canada. Later, on May 15-16 a total of 5437 scoters was comprised of 2400 Blacks, 1837 White-wingeds and 1200 Surfs. On this weekend virtually all birds were moving E. Note the pronounced increase in the percentage of White-wingeds. Clearly this subject merits further investigation and observers are urged to send in any reports of notable movements or concentrations of scoters next spring. The only other concentration of scoters reported this season was off of Nauset, Cape Cod where 5000+ White-wingeds, 1000+ Blacks and 250 Surfs were present Mar. 27 (BN).

RAPTORS, TURKEYS — Turkey Vultures continued their expansion N and increase, six+ were present on Brier I. (IAM), 28± were totaled in Maine (*vide* MKL), New Hampshire maxima were 16 in Alton Mar. 24 (EGL) and 14 at Ashland Mar. 30 (T. Randall) and in Massachusetts 48 were counted flying to roost at Quabbin Apr. 4 (*vide* SK). **Mississippi Kites** appeared once again this spring with single adults at Peaked Hill, N.H., Apr. 16 (†SAG, PAP *et al.*), Durham, N.H., May 9 (MLD) and Littleton, Mass., May 16 (JB).

The generally quiescent weather patterns, lacking in any damming effects, resulted in a "poor" (i.e. poorly detected) hawk migration. Cooper's Hawks were very few and Sharp-shinned Hawks were relatively scarce also, with the highest count a mere 22 at Peaked Hill, N.H., Apr. 22 (SAG). Marsh Hawks were said to have been in "high numbers" in Nova Scotia (*vide* IAM) but drew no comments elsewhere and 1-2 Red-shouldered Hawks on Brier I., May 2-3 were considered noteworthy at that location (SIT, EPS). An early Broad-winged hawk, "well described", was in Charlestown, R.I., Mar. 14 (*vide* DLE). Inland, this species' passage was barely noticeable with a 3-day total of only 74 at Mt. Wachusett, Mass., Apr. 17-19 (PMR) and 44 at Peaked Hill Apr. 24 (SAG). Typically late coastal concentrations of Broad-winged were 100± at Wellfleet, Cape Cod May 16 (CAG) and 42 on Brier I., May 23 (I. Kirkham). Bald Eagle reports s. of their nesting range included ten ± in Massachusetts, five in Rhode Island, and one in New Hampshire, while counts of 42 Osprey in Westport, Mass., in May (*vide* RPE) and 21 at Ft. Fairfield, Me., May 2 (*vide* MKL) provided further encouraging news of that species.

Following last winter's flight, only two Gyrfalcons were reported, both in Nova Scotia in April (SIT), however, no report was received from that species' traditional spring passage point at L'Ans-aux-Meadows, Nfld. Peregrine Falcon sightings totaled 21, about average by recent years' standards. One of the only noteworthy raptor movements involved Am. Kestrels migrating along the Massachusetts coast Apr. 18 when 172 were recorded at Plum I. (PMR) and 95 were counted in one hour at Wellfleet (BN).

The reintroduced Turkey population is flourishing in w. Massachusetts and this year 198 birds were taken during that state's third annual spring hunting season.

RAILS, SHOREBIRDS — An exhausted Sora was found in Plymouth, Mass., Mar. 10 (M.B.O.) while a count of 30 at the Amherst Pt. Bird Sanctuary, N.S., May 19 (SIT) was notable. In Rhode Island, an early (?) Clapper Rail was at Jerusalem Apr. 4 (RAC).

Pioneering oystercatchers included one at Plymouth, Mass., May 12 (M.B.O.), two in Scituate, Mass., May 23 (*vide* RPE) and three in Martinsville, Me., May 14-16 (MP *et al.*) one of which lingered into June and was photographed, providing the first documentation for **American Oystercatcher** in that state. Single Am. Golden Plovers



American Oystercatcher, Martinsville, Me., May 17, 1982. First documented state record. Photo/ Peter D. Vickery.

were in Chezzebrook, N.S., May 12 (*vide* FS), Newburyport, Mass., May 2-22 (*vide* RPE) and Jerusalem, R.I., May 2 where two were found May 11 (*vide* DLE). A **Wilson's Plover** at Milford Pt., Conn., in May (D. Sibley, M. Covington) represented the fourth record for that state in the last 4 years (NSP). Killdeer were numerous in many areas and some particularly noteworthy concentrations were found after the April blizzard: 135 in Greenwich, Conn., Apr. 8 (DB) and 47 in Westport, Conn., Apr. 9 (CH). Whimbrel reports were of one flying N over Old Lyme, Conn., May 2 (PJD), two on Monomoy May 8 (D. Folger), one in Westport, Mass., May 30 (*vide* RPE) and one in S. Thomaston, Me., May 28 (PDV). A Hudsonian Godwit in Brunswick, Me., in mid-May (JP, photo) was apparently that state's first spring record.

An amazing count of 99 Spotted Sandpipers in the Hull-Marshfield area, Mass., May 20 (*vide* RPE) must certainly be a regional high! Early shorebirds were a Solitary Sandpiper in Topsfield, Mass., Apr.

3 (RRV), a Least Sandpiper inland at Bolton, Mass., Apr. 2 (ML, SC), a Lesser Yellowlegs in Newburyport Mar. 27 (WRP) and Stilt Sandpipers at M.V., Apr. 27 (VL) and Newburyport Apr. 29-May 26 (RSH *et al.*). Other Stilt Sandpipers included two at Trustom Pond, R.I., May 5 (*vide* DLE) and one in Connecticut in May (NSP). Pectoral Sandpiper numbers returned to normal this spring with a max. of 35 in Newburyport Apr. 24 (RSH). Single Ruffs were at Sunday Pt., N.S., May 9 (*vide* FS), Scarborough, Me., May 14-15 (J & LP) and W. Bridgewater, Mass., Apr. 4 (WRP) while a total of 4-5 were at their traditional Newburyport-Plum I. location (*vide* RPE). No Curlew Sandpipers were reported this spring. Rare spring W. Sandpipers were carefully identified in Scarborough, Me., May 10 (PDV) and Nahant, Mass., May 17 (RSH) and two at S. Windsor, Conn., May 14 (RC) may have been a first regional inland occurrence at this season.

Wilson's Phalaropes ranged far and wide in May; one was photographed at Terra Nova N.P., Nfld., May 31 (RB), a "pair" was at Sunday Pt., N.S., May 24 (*vide* FS) while farther s., two were in Maine (PDV *et al.*), one in New Hampshire (S. Mallett), three were in Rhode Island (*vide* DLE) and a total of six in e. Massachusetts included four in the Newburyport area where they have nested recently. Red Phalaropes migrate *en masse* NE along the Continental Shelf in late April and May and this spring two observers were fortunate to be present along the s. edge of G.B. to witness the spectacle. From May 12-17, PH estimated 7000-10,000, all heading NE, and on a May 17-23 M.B.O. cruise, KDP's estimate of 13,000 total included one 10-minute count of 5000+! Conversely, two on Stellwagon Bank May 9 (RP) were the only sighting from those more littoral waters. Northern Phalaropes are later migrants in the spring and are much more regularly seen inshore than Reds. This year counts off Monhegan, Me., on 3 dates May 24-31 totaled 540 birds (*vide* MKL), 35 were on Stellwagon May 25 (RP) and inland two were in w. Massachusetts May 23 (*vide* SK) and one at Squam Lake, N.H., May 31 (*vide* SAG).

On Apr. 8 a storm-related total of 29 (one dead) Am. Woodcocks were found in S. Peabody, Mass. (RSH) and several observers commented on this species' scarcity following the blizzard. Some observers felt that Com. Snipe may have suffered some mortality also, but a "good flight" was noted in Rhode Island during April (DLE) and excellent numbers in e. Massachusetts included an unprecedented 300 in W. Bridgewater Apr. 16 (WRP).

JAEGERS, GULLS — Jaegers on Stellwagon Bank numbered 34± individuals May 8-31 (RP *et al.*), approximately half of which were thought to have been Pomarine, although conclusive identification of most could not be made. On G.B., seven Pomarine and one Parasitic were noted May 17-23 (KDP). Also on G.B. in mid-April were two skua sp. (PH), two more May 17-23 and, on the same cruise, three clearly identifiable **South Polar Skuas** (KDP).

Glaucous and Iceland gulls regularly linger into the late spring and this season there were a number of May reports, involving both species, and rather evenly distributed, inland and along the coast. A first winter **Thayer's Gull** was found in Newburyport Mar. 22 (RRV *et al.*) and collected the following day (identification confirmed by J. Jehl) and another well-described, molting first year bird was found in the same location Apr. 22 (†RSH). Although Thayer's Gulls have now been well documented in our area (with specimens and photographs) and much more information has been disseminated recently regarding their identification, observers are cautioned that field identification of the large *Larids* remains an often-abstruse endeavor and all sight records of this species (?) should continue to be accompanied by thorough details.

Lesser Black-backed Gulls numbered one in New Brunswick (WS), three in Nova Scotia (*vide* IAM), one in e. Massachusetts (WRP), one or two inland in w. Massachusetts (*vide* SK) and two in Connecticut (*vide* TB). All but the e. Massachusetts bird were adults. A count of 57 Ring-billed Gulls inland in Pittsfield, Mass., Apr. 15 (ED) was a record high for that location, while on the coast a peak of 1000 was in Newburyport Mar. 16 (RSH). Laughing Gulls at the "extremes" were one inland at Northampton, Mass., May 9 (AR), one in Nova Scotia, May 2 (SJF *et al.*) and one on G.B., May 5 (PH). Black-headed Gulls totaled 30+ individuals regionwide but Little Gulls were apparently scarce with eight+ in e. Massachusetts the only reported.

TERNS, ALCIDS — Two "portlandica" Arctic Terns arrived on M.V., May 28 (VL) and three were on Monomoy by May 30 (WRP). Common Terns again appeared inland in w. Massachusetts, with three in Gill on the early date of Apr. 21 and one there May 24 (*vide*

SK) Forster's Terns are becoming increasingly regular spring visitors, concurrent with their increase farther s., and a subadult on Monomoy May 26 (BN) was the fourth recorded in May in the last 3 years. A single **Gull-billed Tern** at Nantucket Apr. 30 (EFA) was strikingly early but another (?) at West Dublin, N.S., May 1 (SJF, L & JC) was even more surprising. A more seasonable individual was at Pt Judith May 16 (RLF). A Royal Tern at Nantucket May 17 (*vide* RPE) was unique this season while Caspian Tern reports were of 12 at Stephenville Crossing, Nfld., May 12 (RB), two at Brier I., May 1 (EPS, SIT) and farther s., a total of six in e. Massachusetts (*vide* RPE), seven in Rhode Island (*vide* DLE), and two in Connecticut (*vide* TB). The only Black Skimmer this spring was at Ninigret Pond, R.I., May 21 (*vide* DLE).

A lingering Thick-billed Murre was off Provincetown, Mass., May 6 (RP). Contrary to any impressions land-based observers may have developed in recent years, Dovekies are apparently *not* on the verge of extinction (!); on G.B. "many in flocks of 4-30, most flying ENE" were noted Apr. 8-30 (PH). At Seal I., N.S., 160 Black Guillemots were counted May 23 (*vide* LBM) and farther s., 35 at Cape Ann Mar. 6 (RSH) were indicative of that species apparent increase in Massachusetts waters recently.

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Following their presence in excellent numbers last winter, Short-eared Owls were widely reported this spring. Once again a **Burrowing Owl** graced our Region, this season's bird making a brief appearance in Northampton, Mass., May 4 (TG *et al.*). Although present for only a few hours late in the day, the bird was seen by over 60 observers—some hotline! Maine's wintering Hawk Owls were last noted Mar. 3 in E. Lebanon, Mar. 23 in Portland and Apr. 8 at Sullivan, but one at Brier I., May 8 and again May 15-16 was a startlingly late and out-of-range find. Also surprising was a Great Gray Owl on the coast of extreme s. Maine, at Cape Porpoise Mar. 4-25 (D. Finch, ph.).

At least three calling Chuck-will's-widows were present at their now-traditional locations on M.V. during May (VL *et al.*) while elsewhere singles were found at M.B.O., Apr. 25 & May 18 (TL-E) and in Scituate, Mass., May 22 (*vide* RPE). Red-bellied Woodpeckers also appear to be well-established in M.V., where about 4 pairs are said to be in residence (VL). Elsewhere in Massachusetts, a total of ten suggested an additional increase, and in Rhode Island, at least four were found (*vide* DLE). Red-headed Woodpeckers, on the other hand, were scarce; one was on Brier I., May 23 (I. Kirkham), one in Brunswick, Me., May 21+ (*vide* MKL), three in New Hampshire included a possible nesting pair present in Rumney again (SAG *et al.*), while in Massachusetts only four were found and none was reported from Rhode Island. Early Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were in New London, N.H., Mar. 28 (*vide* SAG) and Norwell, Mass., Mar. 29 (SH) but otherwise that species was very scarce.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES — A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** at Seaforth, N.S., May 11 (*vide* IAM) was unique this spring. Eastern Phoebes were particularly hard hit by the April blizzard. Observers throughout the s. half of the Region commented on their scarcity or complete absence following the storm. The only optimistic note came from w. Massachusetts, where SK reported that there was "some loss from blizzard but [phoebes] survived fairly well", and Nova Scotia, where the species was present throughout April in normal numbers. Three calling Acadian Flycatchers were back on territory in Granville, Mass., in late May (SK) and elsewhere six were noted in e. Massachusetts (*vide* RPE) and two were in Rhode Island May 20 (*vide* DLE). An Olive-sided Flycatcher was early in N. Sebago, Me., May 4 (*vide* MKL). Tree Swallows were also adversely affected by the blizzard; 20 casualties were found in a Manchester, N.H., box and the species was scarce everywhere following the storm. However, most observers felt that numbers had returned to normal by late April and a count of 2000 at the Amherst Pt. Bird Sanc., N.S., May 11 (*vide* SC) was encouraging and noteworthy.

Blue Jays are surprisingly late migrants through our area in the spring and, following last fall's large flight, above-average numbers were noted this year in the last half of May, particularly in e. Massachusetts and Maine, where northbound flocks of up to 200 were reported (*vide* RPE, PDV). Common Ravens continued to be recorded in w. Massachusetts, where nesting was strongly suspected at Quabbin, and the species was also present once again in the Pawtucket-away Mts. of s. New Hampshire (*vide* SAG). Two or more Fish Crows in Provincetown, Mass., May 16 & 18 (BN *et al.*) were a (surprisingly) rare find on Cape Cod. A total of 99 Black-capped Chickadees banded

at M B O , was well above average and suggested a return flight following last fall's large movement. However, Boreal Chickadees seemed scarce after their modest incursion last fall and winter. Tufted Titmouse bandings at M.B.O. numbered 28, also well above average, continuing their recent trend there. Red-breasted Nuthatches seemed inexplicably scarce following their fall and winter incursion.

Winter Wren populations apparently have not yet recovered from their decline of a few years ago and the species was hard to find once again this spring. Incredible, and belying the species' allegedly sedentary nature were single Carolina Wrens on an oil rig on the s. edge of G.B., Apr. 21 & May 26 (PH) over 100 mi from shore! Although the chances of two different wrens showing up at that location seem preposterous, a single bird surviving for over a month there is no less of a strain on the imagination. In any event, it seems safe to assume that these individual(s) were not successful in colonizing this new habitat! (One must wonder, however, when the first House Sparrows and Rock Doves will take up residence out there!) A Long-billed Marsh Wren was on Brier I., May 21 (IAM) and single Short-billed Marsh Wrens were in Blanford, Mass., May 30 (ML, SC) and in Barrington and Alton, N.H. on unspecified dates (*vide* SAG).

Mockingbirds appear to be well established in Nova Scotia and good numbers were noted in New Hampshire. Following the April blizzard large flocks of robins were noted in e. Massachusetts, and a number of dead or moribund birds were noted, particularly along roadsides. Swainson's Thrushes were said to have been in low numbers in w. Massachusetts (SK), but a total of 86 banded at M.B.O. was well above normal (TL-E) and good numbers were also present on Cape Cod (BN). Disheartening was a report of 17 dead E Bluebirds found along a nest box trail in Tyngsboro, Mass., following the blizzard (L. Files) but in New Hampshire the species was thought to have survived the storm without too much mortality (*vide* SAG). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were again seen in large numbers including at least two in Nova Scotia in May (IAM *et al.*). Golden-crowned Kinglets seemed very scarce while Ruby-crowned Kinglets ranged from low to about average. Northern Shrikes were predictably scarce and the now nearly extirpated Loggerhead Shrike was represented by just one individual in Northampton, Mass., May 4-9 (ML, SC *et al.*)

VIREOS, WARBLERS — An early White-eyed Vireo was on Plum I., Apr. 24 (S. Sweet *et al.*) and nine Philadelphia Vireos regionwide were typical for this seldom-detected spring migrant. A **Swainson's Warbler** in Provincetown, Mass., May 4-6 (J. Young *et al.*) furnished a first state and second regional record (†, ph.) although hardly unexpected in light of the species' regularity in New York recently. The first regional occurrence was of an individual collected on Seal I., N.S., Oct. 9, 1972. Few of the more regular "southern" warblers were noted this spring and none of the total of six Prothonotaries, six Yellow-throats and four (only) Kentuckys were n. of Massachusetts.

S.A.

A hybrid warbler, observed by many at Mt. Auburn, Mass., May 8 (†, WD, m.ob.), except for one important characteristic, most closely resembled the enigmatic Sutton's Warbler. The description included a bright yellow throat, black cheeks, gray back, white eyeline but no white patch behind the eye, and only faint streaking along the flanks. The one significant feature inconsistent with Sutton's was the presence of definite streaking on the back, a mark lacking in either of the presumed parent species (N. Parula and Yellow-throated). The bird apparently gave at least 3 songs, one of which was a typical Parula's and another which was described as a "double Parula song".

Four Yellow-breasted Chats included an apparently erythristic (*i.e.*, excess reddish pigmentation) individual in Plymouth, N.H., May 20 which was described as having a "pumpkin-colored" breast and throat (SAG). A count of 16 Blue-winged Warblers in Amherst, Mass., May 25 (PY) was indicative of that species increase and abundance in the proper habitat. Rare spring Orange-crowned Warblers were in Massachusetts (two) and Maine (two).

Banding totals at M.B.O. for the "spruce budworm" warblers (Cape May, Blackpoll and Bay-breasted) were very low, continuing a recent trend and suggesting that populations of these species may be returning to normal. Banding totals for Magnolia and Canada warblers on the other hand were well above average and in Nova Scotia, a single Magnolia at Malagawatch Apr. 26 (J. McNicol) was early

Louisiana Waterthrushes were in good numbers at the n. edge of their range in New Hampshire (*vide* SAG) and two were found in s.w. Maine.

BOBOLINK THROUGH SNOW BUNTING — In Ft. Kent, Me., a 5 mi roadside count of 300 Bobolinks May 18 (JRG) was impressive. Yellow-headed Blackbirds are being seen with increasing frequency in the spring and this season's total of eight+ included four in Nova Scotia, one in Maine, 2-3 in Massachusetts and one in Rhode Island. Perhaps the most bizarre observation following the blizzard occurred in Peabody, Mass., where RSH watched a Rusty Blackbird feeding on the exposed flesh of a dead robin! Early N. Orioles were in Boxford, Mass., Apr. 11 (A. Blaisdell) and West Pubnico, N.S., Apr. 19 (B. Hayward). Western Tanagers were at Mt. Auburn, Mass., May 7 and Nantucket May 21 (*vide* RPE) and four Scarlet Tanagers were in Nova Scotia in May where they are a rather rare spring vagrant. No less than 17 Summer Tanagers in Massachusetts was well above average and suggest a large flight but two in Rhode Island were the only others reported. Cardinals apparently are continuing their expansion N with increases noted in Nova Scotia and New Hampshire. Blue Grosbeaks were very scarce with one in Maine (PDV), two in e. Massachusetts (*vide* RPE) and three (apparently) in Connecticut (*vide* HFC), while the few overshooting April Indigo Buntings noted this year included two on G.B., Apr. 28 (PH) Male Painted Buntings visited feeders at M.V., May 16-19 (*vide* VL) and Westerly, R.I., May 19 (*vide* DLE).

Increases in House Finches were noted in Nova Scotia, c. New Hampshire, and the hills of w. Massachusetts. Common Redpolls were numerous and widespread throughout in March and small numbers lingered into April and early May in the n. areas. Hoary Redpoll reports always raise eyebrows among skeptical editors but fortunately a number of this year's scattered sightings were well-detailed and/or seen by cautious, experienced observers, and a modest incursion of this species did indeed seem real rather than imagined. Small groups of Pine Siskins were noted moving N into May and several observers in the s. half of the Region reported the species nesting in their areas. Scattered reports involving small flocks of both Red and White-winged crossbills were received from throughout the Region and season, however, the few Pine Grosbeaks present during the winter apparently left long before the onset of spring.

A Dickcissel at Mt. Auburn, Mass., Apr. 24 (I. Giriunas) was a rare

spring find and a Seaside Sparrow hopping around in the thickets at Nahant, Mass., May 17 (RSH) was a bit "lost". On Nantucket, a ♀ Lark Bunting visited a feeder May 22-25 (*vide* RPE) while the wintering Lark Sparrow in Leeds, Mass., was last seen May 9 (*vide* SK) and the Golden-crowned Sparrow in Holyoke, Mass., was last noted Apr. 9 (*vide* SK). Fox Sparrows were in abundance everywhere and were particularly conspicuous at feeders after the blizzard. An awesome count of 700+ in a 4-town area of Nova Scotia Apr. 9 (SC) is perhaps more than this Cape Codder will see in a lifetime! An early Lincoln's Sparrow was in W. Hartford, Conn., Apr. 25 (PJD) while two Lapland Longspurs were late at Manchester, N.H., May 31 (MTM). A ♀ Smith's Longspur photographed at Hammonasset S.P., Conn., May 2 (PJD) provided a second state record and fifth (?) for the Region. On Plum I., a count of 1000 Snow Buntings Mar. 6 (PMR *et al.*) was notable, although not without precedent.

ADDENDUM — A dead Boreal Owl was picked up at Malagawatch, N.S., Feb. 15 (J. McNicol) and preserved.

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QUEBEC REGION

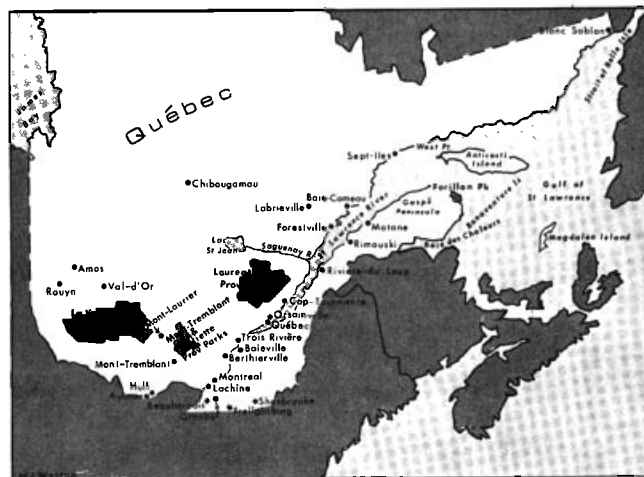
/Normand David and Michael Gosselin

On average, both temperature and precipitation were slightly down this spring, and April was especially cold.

LOONS THROUGH EGRETS — Early arrivals in the Gaspé Peninsula included a Com. Loon at Cap-d'Espoir Mar. 12 (PP), 20 Gannets at Cap-aux-Os Mar. 2 (DT), and a Double-crested Cormorant at Cap-des-Rosiers Mar. 15 (CCI). A Horned Grebe Apr. 24-May 4 (YG) and an imm. Great Cormorant May 31 (MBd) were both unusual at LaBaie, the latter providing a first sighting in the Saguenay area. With sightings at LaVisitation Apr. 24 (DD), Louiseville Apr. 26 (AP, MBv), and Saint-Michel du Squatec May 18-21 (PC, PD), the Little Blue Heron has been recorded in Quebec for a sixth consecutive year, presumably as a result of increased birder coverage. Single Cattle Egrets were noted at Sherbrooke Apr. 27 (VL) and Rimouski May 11 (RC) while single Snowy Egrets were at Baieville Apr. 28 (YA), Saint-Joseph de Beauce May 7 (CMh *et al.*), Rimouski May 11 (GG), and Mont-Louis May 25-26 (YL). The Great Egret seen at Saint-Gédéon May 9 (*vide* MS) provided a first sighting in the L. Saint-Jean area.

SWANS THROUGH DUCKS — Migrant Whistling Swans were recovered in s. Quebec in 12 of the last 15 years; this year single birds were seen at Thurso May 4-9 (FC), Henryville May 5 (JHo), Portneuf May 5-21 (PED *et al.*), Guyenne May 6 (SG) and Senneterre in early May (*vide* SG), while five were at Roquemaure May 9 (SG). Twenty-two Brant at Carleton Mar. 21 (LB) were very early, and two at Arthabaska May 3 (AP, MBv) were rather unusual locally, as was the one noted at Saint-Gédéon May 14-15 (CG, MS). The only White-

fronted Goose of the season was at LaPocatière May 14 (PBr). The 12,500 Snow Geese near Baieville Apr. 14 (YA) made up the biggest flock ever recorded in the upper St. Lawrence Valley; birds at Barachois May 9-11 (Rbi, PP) and Gaspé May 15 (DG) also indicated that the species' flyway, formerly centered on Quebec City, has widened considerably. Again this year, Ross' Geese were noted near Quebec City: single birds were at Cap-Rouge Apr. 10 (RBA) and Sainte-Pétronille May 9-14 (PLE *et al.*), and four birds were at Lauzon May 5 (FG). Two pairs of Mallards at Gagnon May 24 (ST) provided another record in the heart of the range of the Black Duck (see AB 31:1978). Two Blue-winged Teal on Sainte-Marie I. May 7 (YP)



furnished a rare occurrence on the Lower North Shore. In addition to the now regular half-dozen reports between Montreal and Quebec City, three Eur. Wigeons were at Cacouna May 3 (RBI), one at Saint-Fulgence May 5 (YB) and another at Saint-Gédéon May 16-23 (MS, CG). A ♀ Canvasback was unusual at LaBaie Apr. 14-24 (YG), as were four Lesser Scaup in Forillon N.P., May 8 (FM). A Ruddy Duck reached Saint-Gédéon May 13 (MS, CG), another Pointe-aux-Outardes May 31 (FL), while a pair was in Rouyn in May (SG) and another at Cap-des-Rosiers May 30-31 (MT *et al.*).

VULTURES THROUGH CRANES — The usual influx of Turkey Vultures in s.w. Quebec produced several sightings as far as the Quebec City area in the last week of April (*vide* JHa, RS); a bird reached Saint-Léon-le-Grand, Matapedia Co., Apr. 24 (DF). Rimouski observers witnessed an unprecedented flight of raptors during the spring, including 612 Sharp-shinned and 1445 Red-tailed hawks, 24 Golden Eagles (seven of which flew over Pointe-au-Père May 11—GG), 12 Bald Eagles, and 12 Gyrfalcons (*vide* JL). An unbanded ad. Peregrine Falcon overwintered in downtown Montreal and was joined by a smaller adult Apr. 12; they engaged in courtship display but were last seen Apr. 26 (RG, PLY). Three Am. Kestrels at Gagnon May 22 (ST) and two on Sainte-Marie I., May 27 (YP) were just n. of their stated breeding range. No fewer than seven Sandhill Cranes were reported over s. w. Quebec: one each at Eardley Apr. 24 (RD *et al.*), Baieville May 2 (AD *et al.*), Carillon May 27 (GH), and four at Arthabaska May 9 (AL). This unprecedented number of observations adds to the recent trend of E expansion shown by this species.

PLOVERS THROUGH MURRES — For some years now the Am. Golden Plover has been seen in spring passage; undoubtedly this is owing to increased birder coverage; this season's reports were from Métabetchouan May 11 (MS *et al.*) and near Saint-Blaise May 30 (JHo). The same is true of the Hudsonian Godwit with sightings at Sainte-Pétronille May 22 (LM, JHu) and Saint-Fulgence May 23 (HT). The short visit of a breeding-plumaged Curlew Sandpiper near Saint-Blaise May 16 (MM, BB *et al.*) provided the first documented occurrence for the province. Four sightings of the Ruff confirmed its status as a regular transient. The Lower St. Lawrence was visited by a third American Avocet in 4 years, this one at Saint-Ulric May 17-24 (*vide* JL). Two Wilson's Phalaropes at Baieville Apr. 25 (CMc *et al.*) were the earliest ever, and 40 at the same place May 25 (DJ) may illustrate the great population increase of the last 10 years. A dead imm. Pomarine Jaeger was found at Saint-Gédéon May 17 (*vide* MS). Adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Kénogami May 22 (CG *et al.*) and Aylmer May 29-30 (BD *et al.*) furnished only our second and third spring records, and the former a first for the Saguenay area. Other noteworthy gulls included the first record of Laughing Gull at the Saguenay, at Saint-Fulgence May 5 (AM), a Franklin's Gull at Aylmer May 27 (BD), a record-early Little Gull at Beauharnois Apr. 18 (BB) plus another at Sainte-Pétronille May 18 (RS). An Ivory Gull at Pointe Saint-Pierre May 17 (LLg *et al.*) was late whereas a Forster's Tern at Baieville May 2 (PLe *et al.*) was the earliest ever. A Com. Murre off Trois-Pistoles May 27 provided an unusual spring occurrence (RJC).

OWLS THROUGH SWALLOWS — A Barn Owl visited a barn at Saint-Edouard de Lotbinière May 23 (PG *et al.*) and was never seen again. In the past, Com. Nighthawks have been occasionally reported in April, which is surprising for such a late bird. As birds that are out-of-season are also often out-of-range, it is essential in order to prevent any confusion with other species that these nighthawks be seen and heard; such was the case of two birds in Sherbrooke Apr. 1 (LLp, RBe) & 16 (AV). In Westmount, a Red-bellied Woodpecker made a brief appearance May 8 (PBa). Cap-Tourmente was the latest step in the spread of the Willow Flycatcher with a bird seen there May 30 (JHa); another had been reported in Magog May 27-29 (PBo). Single Barn Swallows at Beauharnois and LaPocatière Apr. 4 (PBa, YM) matched the earliest known date of arrival for the species. However, a record-early ♂ Purple Martin seen and heard in Montreal Mar. 18 (JB, *vide* PS) was particularly surprising in such a cold season as the present one.

TITMICE THROUGH WARBLERS — Lennoxville's Tufted Titmouse stayed until Apr. 1 (ET) while the birds of Stanbridge-East remained into the first week of May (CB). Seven Black-capped

Chickadees were seen at Gagnon May 6 (ST) and a Brown Creeper on Sainte-Marie I., May 7 (YP), both species were at the edge of their range. One of the very few Long-billed Marsh Wrens e. of Quebec City was recorded at Bergeronnes May 24 (AB). A Bohemian Waxwing turned up at Gagnon Apr. 19-20, as well as nine Starlings May 7 (ST). A Yellow-throated Vireo at Saint-Augustin, Portneuf Co., May 17 (LM) was a rare visitor n. of its range. For the second consecutive year a Prothonotary Warbler was found, this time at Sherbrooke May 16 (JPB). Cap-Tourmente is still one of the best places to observe bird migrations in the Quebec City area; a Golden-winged Warbler was seen there May 30 (FG) and a Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler Apr. 17 (RT). The latter form was also found at Rimouski Apr. 25 (JRP); previous Quebec occurrences were from the same localities in 1974 and 1975. A bright ♂ Hermit Warbler was reported from Westmount May 13 (MA, JHo, RY); the yellow head without facial markings, the black nape and throat as well as the black-striped gray back were noted by the observers. Recent e. Canadian records included birds in Ontario in the spring of 1981 and 1982. A Cerulean Warbler in Gatineau P.P., May 19 (BD) furnished a second local occurrence. A record-early Blackpoll Warbler was present on I. des Soeurs May 9 (PBa). At least two singing ♂ Louisiana Waterthrushes returned to Kingsmere May 30 (PBI *et al.*) and a Connecticut Warbler was seen and heard by many at Westmount May 19 (PBI *et al.*)

COWBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS — Eight Brown-headed Cowbirds appeared on Sainte-Marie I., Apr. 24 (YP) and three at Gagnon Apr. 25 (ST). Each spring brings back more House Finches than the previous one: this year two males and one female were in Sherbrooke Apr. 3-16 (JR, MMA, JD), a male in Rawdon Apr. 6-9 (SP), another in Cowansville Apr. 16-17 (MJS) and one in Portneuf-Station Apr. 17-18 (CMc), and at least seven birds filtered through at Philipsburg Mar. 23+ (CCh, GM). One of the latter was seen carrying nesting material. Several large flocks of redpolls came through s. Quebec in May. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Isle-Verte Apr. 29 set a record arrival date (LGD). One of the w. forms of the Dark-eyed Junco was reported from Sherbrooke Apr. 4 (JD). Two Chipping Sparrows reached Gagnon May 6 (ST), while an early Field Sparrow was at Valleyfield Mar. 27 (PBa) and a Swamp Sparrow, possibly wintering, at Cap-Rouge Mar. 9 (JHa).

CORRIGENDA — A few typing mistakes find their way in most seasonal reports; only the more important ones are corrected here. The line reading ". . . reported so early in the past. Unusual inland . . ." was omitted between pages 280 and 281 in AB 35. The date for the Yellow-throated Vireo in Laval was Oct. 6 (AB 36:157). The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in AB 31:154 should be deleted (PBo).

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HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

/William J. Boyle, Jr., Robert O. Paxton and David A. Cutler

The most singular feature of the spring season was unquestionably the freak snowstorm of April 6, which reached blizzard proportions in parts of the Region and dumped over a foot of snow on much of the area. It was followed the next day by strong northwest winds and record low temperatures, with more snow in some areas on April 9. Early migrants were caught by surprise and many observers commented on seeing hundreds of birds feeding along ploughed road shoulders searching desperately for food to sustain them through the severe weather. Most conspicuous were robins, but there were also large numbers of Killdeers, Common Flickers, Water Pipits, meadowlarks and others. Many of them, especially robins, fell victim to passing cars; one observer noted 200 dead robins in a two-mile stretch of highway in southern New York. Others, notably Eastern Phoebe and Tree Swallows, succumbed directly to the effects of the weather; in Dutchess County, New York, Eastern Bluebirds were found dead in their nest boxes sitting on frozen eggs. Fortunately, the weather did not last, and no long-term effects are anticipated.

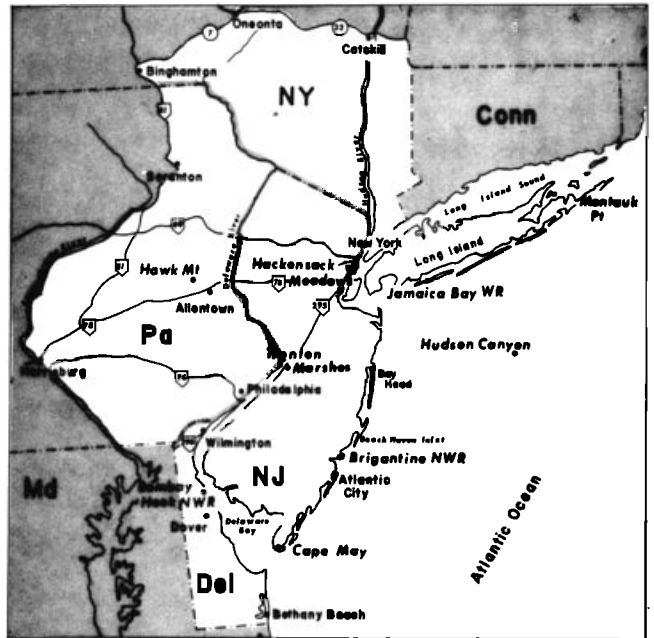
The long, cold winter delayed spring foliage and some early nesting and migrant birds, but the prolonged spell of fair weather in early May brought the season back into synchrony with the calendar. The good weather in May probably contributed to what was widely regarded as an uninspiring (JT) and unremarkable (GH) migration. Although all of the usual species were noted, even observers who were afield every day found no big waves of passerines and markedly diminished numbers of certain species. Numerous birders, especially in southeastern Pennsylvania, reported low numbers of tree-top species compared to average numbers of the birds of the understory. Some speculate as to whether this might be an effect of the widespread aerial spraying of Sevin for gypsy moth control. This insecticide is toxic to most invertebrates and the effect on the food supply of the canopy-dwelling passerines may cause them to bypass or linger only briefly in sprayed areas. Natural population cycles, such as those related to spruce budworm infestations, may account for the low counts of some species, however.

Frequently used abbreviations are: Bombay Hook, Bombay Hook N.W.R., near Smyrna Del.; Brig., Brigantine N.W.R., Atlantic Co., N.J.; J.B.W.R., Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York City.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Some sizable inland concentrations of Com. Loon included 64 at Culver's L., Sussex Co., N.J., Apr. 3 (FT) and 58 at L. Marburg, York Co., Pa., Apr. 9 (DHe), but Red-throated Loons were very scarce both inland and along the coast for the second year in a row. Horned Grebes, practically nonexistent during the winter, continued to go almost unreported except for migrant flocks at two coastal gathering points. An Eared Grebe at L. Ontelaunee, Pa., Mar. 28-Apr. 4 (GS) represented the second occurrence in as many years for this species in s.e. Pennsylvania. Also present there Mar. 28 were three Red-necked Grebes (GS); a half dozen others were in New Jersey during March and one was at Marsh Creek S.P., Pa., Apr. 15 (HA).

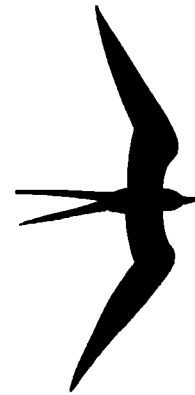
Single N. Fulmars were noted on pelagic trips out of Cape May Mar. 21 (PD, PK) and Barnegat Light May 29 (m.ob.). The latter trip went to Hudson Canyon, but found far fewer birds there than last year; only one Greater and a few Sooty shearwaters plus ca. 300 Wilson's Storm-Petrels. Two other Sooty Shearwaters were seen from the Cape May-Lewes May 27 (PK).

A White Pelican was seen sitting on Dog I., Great Bay, N.J., May 30 (S. Hollings) within sight of Brig., where one appeared sporadically Sept. 1978-Apr. 1979; it was not found again. A surprise incursion of Brown Pelicans began with the appearance of eleven flying N off Bethany Beach, Del., May 27 (M. Atchinson, *vide* WW). One was seen at Indian River Inlet, 5 mi further n., May 30 (*vide* P. Jahn), nine were there June 6 (*vide* WW) and 13 were observed flying N at Rehoboth Beach at midday, heading out across Delaware Bay towards Cape May (MVB). A short time later, 13 Brown Pelicans appeared off Cape May Pt. (DS) and one was seen there the next day. These numbers are unprecedented for both states. Among the increasingly frequent inland reports of Double-crested Cormorant were three records of single birds along the upper Susquehanna R. in n.e. Pennsylvania, Apr. 27-May 8 (WR, DG.).



S.A.

The most bizarre report of the season is indisputably that of Lee Bjong, who looked out the window of his home in Northvale, N.J., just 2 mi from the Hudson River Palisades, at midday on the day after the Apr. 6 blizzard to see a dark object hurtling from the sky into the teeth of a 50 mph NW wind. He ran outside to see the object, a big, black bird, open its wings to check its descent 100 ft away and then glide upward and away over the trees into New York State. Feeling that he recognized it, Mr. Bjong, a commercial artist, quickly drew a sketch of the bird with its long, narrow wings and long, pointed tail which had appeared forked at instants in the bird's gyrations. Working from memory, he then drew a second and finally a third sketch to show more accurately the proportions of head and bill and the crook and sweep of the wings. Only then referring to his field guide, he turned to **Magnificent Frigatebird** and found there a portrait of the ad. male almost identical to his own. The interesting progression of drawings leaves no doubt as to the identity of the bird.



Magnificent Frigatebird, Northvale, N.J., Apr. 7, 1982. Drawing/ Lee Bjong.

The snowstorm of Apr. 6, accompanied by thunder and lightning, resulted from the collision of two storm systems over New York City. One of these, bringing cold air from Canada, came in via the Ohio Valley; the other came up along the Atlantic Coast, bringing with it warm, moist air and, apparently, a Magnificent Frigatebird. All previous regional records have been from the coast, frequently after hurricanes. We thank R.F. Deed for the details of this story.

Of the several inland reports of Glossy Ibis this spring, the most unusual was that of a pair near Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Pa., May 13-15 (SB). The **White-faced Ibis** did not return to J.B.W.R. this year, but two different individuals were reported with supporting details by experienced observers. One studied closely at Port Mahon, Del., Mar. 20 represented a first record for that state (BR, RW), while another seen flying at close range with Glossy Ibises at Cape May, provided the second record for New Jersey (DS).

WATERFOWL — There was an excellent waterfowl migration in March and early April, especially on the inland lakes and reservoirs, with some large concentrations of diving ducks. Mute Swans staged a minor invasion of s.e. Pennsylvania in late spring, with one or two appearing on numerous lakes where they were previously unknown. In Delaware, however, the former thriving colony at Assawoman Bay has completely disappeared, probably as a result of human intervention (*vide* DAC). The blue morph of the Snow Goose continues to increase in relative proportion to the white; a flock of 37 blue with four white Snow Geese at Green Lane Res., Pa., is a complete reversal of the normal ratio (*vide* BLM). Five Eur. Green-winged Teal were noted, including three together at Tuckahoe, N.J. (JD, RM), and singles at Moore's Beach, Cumberland Co., N.J. (CS) and High Rock P., Staten I. (B. Schieffer). A Eur. Wigeon at Cornwall Bay, Orange Co., N.Y., Mar. 20 was a first county record (KM); other reports came from Delaware (1) and New Jersey (4).

The largest of the many sizable flocks of Ring-necked Ducks was one of 300 birds at L. Genevieve, Blairstown, N.J., Mar. 26 (FW). A ♂ Tufted Duck, of uncertain origin, was on the Central Park Res., New York City, Apr. 15 (D. Knowler, PP), but more surprising was a ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye near Kingston Pt., Ulster Co., N.Y., Mar. 16-21 (E. Treacy, A. Brayton *et al.*). On the 20th the bird swam to the Dutchess County side of the Hudson R. to become the first county record (R.T.W.B.C.). A dozen Harlequin Ducks was a normal count, but a female in Delaware Bay at Reed's Beach, N.J., May 25 was strangely out of place (D. Spector). May brought eiders to the L.I. Sound waters off Rye, N.Y.; an ad. male and ♀ Com. Eider May 21 & 27 represented the second Westchester County record (first in Hudson R., 1894), while an imm ♂ King Eider May 13-26 was the first ever for the county (TWB). A ♀ Hooded Merganser in Stokes S.F., Sussex Co., N.J., May 13 was probably breeding (FT), as was suspected of a pair of Com. Mergansers at Muddy Run in the Susquehanna R., Pa. (RMS). Spectacular concentrations of Com. Mergansers included flocks of 1300 at L. Assumpink, N.J., Mar. 13 (CL) and 1500 at Lincoln Park, N.J., Mar. 15 (RK).

VULTURES THROUGH RAILS — Black Vultures continue to increase gradually at the n. limit of their range. They appear firmly established in Salem and Hunterdon cos., N.J., and were noted several times this spring in n. Morris and Passaic counties. These areas offer excellent potential breeding habitat within 15 mi of the New York State line. Up to 10 birds were seen during the spring at the Baer Rocks, Lehigh Co., Pa., hawkwatch (KK) and a pair was resident at Hawk Mountain (SB).

The annual spring kite show was more evenly distributed around the Region this year. A Swallow-tailed Kite was at Pelham Bay P., Bronx, N.Y., May 26 (P. Root); another, or possibly the same bird, was at Greenbrook Sanctuary, Bergen Co., N.J., only 8 mi away, the same day (JS, LH), and two were at the latter location June 2-3 (LH, JS). A Swallow-tailed over Lewes, Del., May 27 was one of the few records for that state (WWF, CM, Gert Huyzers). In New Jersey, yet another bird was at Hope, Warren Co., June 6 (RK, R. Lewis, D. Roche), an unusually far inland location, while a late June sighting at Cape May will appear in the summer column. The first **Mississippi Kite** of the season was not at Cape May, but in Carpenter's Woods, Philadelphia, May 18, a first for that city and only the second for the state in this century (D. Roby *et al.*). Found roosting in the lower canopy, it was harassed by crows, driven off, then seen later by another party. What was probably a different individual was seen heading S at Blue Bell, Pa., May 22 (J. Cadwalader). In Cape May, a minimum of five different birds (based on plumage differences (CS), were thought to account for the numerous sightings from May 19-June 6, with two seen together May 31 (PD *et al.*). Finally, on June 6 Maurer capped an otherwise uneventful ferry crossing by finding Delaware's first **Mississippi Kite** soaring over the Lewes ferry terminal (RM).

Reports of Goshawk were up this spring and the n. New Jersey breeding population continues to slowly expand. Kane estimates as

many as 12 nesting pairs in 4 counties, including the first probable nesting ever for Morris County (IB). Reports from several hawk-watches confirm the continued improvement in the status of Cooper's Hawk previously noted in recent autumns. A pleasant surprise was a big spring movement of Red-shouldered Hawks recorded at several locations, especially a flight of 60 at Arundel, Del., Mar. 13 (BR). Late Rough-legged Hawks were at Money I., Cumberland Co., May 3 (DK) and at Marmora, Cape May Co., N.J., May 11 (RM). Two Golden Eagles at Marmora Mar. 1 were holdovers from the winter, as was a single seen several times in March near Newfoundland, N.J. (DH, RB, BM).

New Jersey's only nesting pair of Bald Eagles again produced an infertile egg, but this year it was replaced first with a plastic replica and then on Apr. 12 with a chick born in captivity in Maryland. The eagles adopted the transplant and it was successfully fledged in late May. In Delaware there were four active nests again this year. Three of the nests produced five nestlings, three of which fledged (JMA). The 21 ad. and 19 imm. Bald Eagles wintering in Sullivan County, N.Y., departed in late March—early April (P. Nye, *vide* JT); elsewhere there were scattered reports of 7 adults and 11 immatures, mostly from New Jersey and the Hudson R. valley. The Gyrfalcons of Lancaster County, Pa., were last seen in late March, the white one on the 23rd and the dark one on the 31st (*vide* T. Amico).

Black Rails were reported from several locations in May, with thriving colonies at Marmora, N.J. (ca. 10 calling males, RM) and Bombay Hook (8 males, DAC, HAR, WRU). A Purple Gallinule returned to Lighthouse Pond, Cape May Pt. S.P., in late May for the second year in a row (R. & H. Test, m.ob.).

SHOREBIRDS — With private funding from Delaware residents, the Cape May Bird Observatory was again able to run aerial surveys of the great shorebird staging area on Delaware Bay, this year including the Delaware side as well as the New Jersey side. Flights on May 21, May 27 and June 3 produced counts of 421,000; 284,000 and 196,000, respectively. The birds, mainly Semipalmated Sandpipers and Ruddy Turnstones with lesser numbers of Red Knots and Sanderlings, feed on horseshoe crab eggs on the vast, inaccessible mud-flats of the bay. Otherwise, most shorebirds seemed to be present in below-average numbers, as evidenced by Davis' careful counts at J.B.W.R. for a dozen dates from Apr. 3-June 12 (THD). Full reservoirs and a lack of rain pools contributed to a dearth of inland records (BLM).

Spring counts of Am. Golden Plover continue to increase, the biggest concentration being a flock of 50 in a Hainesport, N.J., field Apr. 14 (RRy). Two Black-bellied Plover at Muddy Run, Pa., were the first spring birds there in 10 years (RMS), while eight Semipalmated Plovers at Jones Beach, L.I., Mar. 20 were very early (GD). Two Whimbrels of the Eurasian race were noted in New Jersey: one the annual bird at Linwood Apr. 27-May 8 (MD, CD), the other at Tuckerton Apr. 28-May 1 (PWS *et al.*). The only Curlew Sandpipers were also in New Jersey at Brig., May 22 and at Reed's Beach June 2 (T. Hillman).



Bar-tailed Godwit, Longport, N.J., May 22, 1982. Photo/ Serge LaFrance.

Only two godwits were recorded this spring, but one of them was a **Bar-tailed Godwit** at the same Longport, N.J., sodbank May 20-27 where one appeared in 6 of 7 Mays from 1972-1978 (RM, m.ob., ph. SL); was it the same one? A Hudsonian Godwit was at Moore's Beach, May 19 (KBr). Ruffs again put on a good show with up to 13

different birds reported Pedricktown, N J , again led with four, including three together Apr. 17 (RK, ph. SL), but Bombay Hook was a close second with three during May (GT, PDM *et al.*). Two were at Moore's Beach May 8-9 (DK, G. Regansburg, PD, AH), and a breeding-plumaged male and female were together at Oak Beach marsh, L.I., May 16 (ROP).

Phalaropes were scarce again, and except for two ♀ Wilson's at Lincoln Park May 24 (DO) were all on the coast or at sea. Single Wilson's Phalaropes were at Cape May May 24 (PD, DS), J.B.W.R. May 16 (m.ob.), Oak Beach May 23 (ROP) and Woodland Beach, Del , Apr. 20-24 (B. Fox, S. Conyne *et al.*). Single N. Phalaropes were at Brig., May 20-30 (RM, BLM, SS), Cape May, May 23 (PD, DS) and J.B.W.R., May 30 (m.ob.), while 35 were seen on the Hudson Canyon pelagic trip May 29.

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS — The only jaeger reported was a single Parasitic on the Hudson Canyon trip. Late lingering Glaucous Gulls included two at North Arlington, N.J., May 14 (NB, RRY) one at nearby Kearny the next day (RK), and up to four different birds around Cape May from Mar. 25-May 16 (m.ob.). Iceland Gulls were even more conspicuous and included a number of inland records such as an immature at Hoopes Res., Del., Mar. 17 (BR) and another at Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon Co., N.J., Apr. 10 (EP). A first winter bird at Lewes, Del., first noted in January, stayed to molt into second-year plumage and was still present in June (WWF). Noteworthy records of Great Black-backed Gull were immatures at Baer Rocks Mar 13 (KK) and Berwick, Pa., Apr. 13 (DG), the former a first for Lehigh County. Once again we have a report of Thayer's Gull, this time a first-year bird seen in Cape May Apr. 28 by observers familiar with the species (DS, RM), but there is still no specimen or photograph for the Region. Another individual which might have been this species or a possible hybrid was also noted in Cape May May 10-June 30+ (DS *et al.*). Seven Lesser Black-backed Gulls was a good season's total, including one at Spruce Run Mar. 18 (EP) and three at one dump in Cape May Apr. 28 (DS, RM). Only three Black-headed Gulls and *no* Little Gulls were reported; both of these species have decreased dramatically in the past few years from their former status as uncommon spring migrants to the point of being rare. An ad. **Sabine's Gull** reported from Sandy Hook, N.J., Apr. 25 furnished an unprecedented spring record from the shore of a species extremely rare at any season (RRY).

An imm. Arctic Tern was at Cape May May 24 (DS, PD) and one or more were noted on the Hudson Canyon pelagic trip. Equally rare sightings were of single Roseate Terns at Cape May May 7-25 (K. Seager, DS) and at Cape Henlopen, Del., May 19 (WWF), the latter being the former location of that state's only nesting pair in the 1950s and 1960s. An early Royal Tern was at Cape May Mar. 30 (DS).

Razorbills were found commonly on a number of boat trips out of Cape May during March, with 20-40 seen on each trip along with a comparable number of unidentified alcids, all 15-45 mi offshore (AB, PD, PK). A single was at Montauk Pt., N.Y., Mar. 14-21 (GT *et al.*). The Mar. 21 trip out of Cape May also produced a Thick-billed Murre (PD, PK).

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Great Horned Owl pair attempted, unsuccessfully, to nest on the ground at Primehook N W R , Del. (G. O'Shea), but in Hunterdon County, N.J., only five of ten traditional pairs attempted to nest and only two were successful (OH) Heck, who has followed these pairs for years, has noticed increasing disturbance from snowmobiles and from chain saws for woodcutting during the critical February-March period when these birds begin nesting. He speculates that these activities may be disrupting the normal habits of the owls and discouraging them from nesting. This is certainly an hypothesis that bears investigating by those who have the requisite historical data. In support of the idea, Heck notes that numbers of nests of Red-tailed Hawks, which nest in the same areas but after snowmobiles and chain-saws have ceased to be a problem, increased this season. Following the above-average numbers this winter, Short-eared Owls were widely reported in March and April, and a few were still present in May in potential breeding habitat such as one at the Philadelphia Airport May 24 (DAC *et al.*)

Chuck-will's-widows appeared in a number of unusual places this spring. One was photographed in Forest P., Queens Co., N.Y., May 1 (GD), another was seen in North Arlington, N.J., May 14 (NB, RRY) and Westchester County's second record was of one calling at Marshlands Conservancy in Rye, May 25 but not thereafter (TWB).

Yet another called for 15 min on the evening of June 1 at New Hope, Pa. (M. Oresic, *vide* DH). Reports of Ruby-throated Hummingbird were sharply down, hopefully only because observers neglected to mention them.

Two Pileated Woodpeckers on Long Island were noteworthy, but one that turned up at Cape May Pt., May 15 represented only the second county record in this century (PD *et al.*). Amazingly, what was possibly the same bird was in the Suttons' backyard in Goshen, 15 mi n., the very next day (CS, P. Sutton). Encouraging numbers of Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported from much of New Jersey, and a few reports were received from s. New York State and Delaware.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES — For the second year in a row, a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was a spring vagrant in New Jersey, this year's bird appearing at Sandy Hook May 14-18 (F Steimle, MF, CM). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher netted at Centerville, Del., May 26 represents one of the few confirmed spring records for that state (D. Niles). An encouraging development this spring was the discovery of Cliff Swallows, a regionally threatened species, nesting under most of the bridges over the Delaware R , between Trenton, N.J., and Centerbridge, Pa. (AM, v.ob.).

Common Ravens are still spreading in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR) and are showing up more frequently in areas where they don't yet breed. Two were noted in migration at Baer Rocks Apr. 24 (KK), one was at Branch Brook P., Newark, N.J., May 5 (RDi, W. Shulman) and another was at Great Swamp N.W.R., Morris Co., N.J., May 6 (RRy). A Carolina Chickadee seen and heard at an Allentown, Pa , feeder Mar. 5 was well n. of its usual range (RWi, m.ob.). Boreal Chickadees, mostly holdovers from the winter, were found in all four states of the Region; the most extraordinary was one discovered at Wilmington, Del., Apr. 8-9 for only the second state record (JG, m.ob.).

Following the massive fall and winter invasion, numerous reports of late-lingering Red-breasted Nuthatches were received, some presumably nesting, but the only proven breeding was the discovery May 1 of a pair at a nest in Institute Woods, Princeton, N.J. (D. Minis, m.ob.); the pair was still present at period's end. Meanwhile, just over 100 mi to the s., the northernmost breeding pair of Brown-headed Nuthatches was busy feeding young May 2 in the same boat dock piling they have used in recent years at Henlopen Acres, Del (WWF). Two or three Short-billed Marsh Wrens singing in the pre-dawn hours of May 7 at Bombay Hook were at a site where they have bred in some years (GT *et al.*).

The Varied Thrush reported in the winter season column remained at the Terry's feeder in Orient, L.I., until mid-April (O. Terry, *vide* GSR). A very early Gray-cheeked Thrush was in Central Park Apr. 25 (J. Farrand); otherwise thrush reports were ordinary except for a flight of hundreds of thrushes of three species heard calling as they flew through an intermittent rain over various spots in n. Delaware during the early morning hours of May 24 (HAr, JCM, WRu *et al.*) Eastern Bluebirds seemed to be doing very well in spite of the setback of the April snows. The only shriek of the season was the wintering Loggerhead at Rosedale P., Mercer Co., N.J., which remained to at least Mar. 31 (m.ob.) and was heard singing for several hours on Mar 22 (RB).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Three reports of Philadelphia Vireo were received, all from the last week of May, including one seen and heard singing in Cape May May 30 (DS). This is an extremely rare spring migrant, frequently confused with other species; spring records should be substantiated by details. Many observers commented on a big increase in the numbers of Warbling Vireos. Deed reports the highest numbers in his 55 years of birding Rockland County, N.Y , while four were noted during May in Cape May where the species eluded the county listing efforts of Witmer Stone and Ernest Choate for eight decades (DS). Another in the cedar swamp near Gumboro, Del., May 23 was a possible breeder (PDM).

The spring warbler migration turned up 37 species, including two rarities, but was completely devoid of any big waves; several species were well below average in numbers, notably Black-throated Green, Tennessee, Cape May and Bay-breasted (the latter three associated with spruce budworm populations). Prothonotary Warblers appeared n. of their breeding areas at the Bashakill, Orange Co., N.Y., Apr. 25 (M. Evanyke, m.ob.) and three different birds in the Wilkes-Barre, Pa., area May 1-7 (WR *et al.*). Four were detected on Long Island May 1-2 (v.o.).

A **Swainson's Warbler** at Wading River, L I , May 19 was only the tenth New York State record (J. Clinton, *vide* GSR), while a Worm-eating Warbler at Forest P., Queens, Apr. 17 was one of the earliest New York sightings on record (GT). Although Golden-winged Warblers were present at many of their usual spots in Sussex County, N.J. (*vide* GH), they seem to be losing ground in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR) and s. New York State (JT, R.T.W.B.C.). The several reports of hybrids were mostly from this n. part of the Region. Five reports of Orange-crowned Warbler were one less than last year, but still a high spring count: single birds were at Rifle Camp P., Paterson, N.J., Apr. 11 (PB), Central Park Apr. 25 (PP), Sandy Hook May 7 (MF), Allentown, Pa., May 16 (BLM) and Wilkes-Barre May 18 (WR). Cerulean Warblers continued their upward trend of recent years and were very common in the Delaware and Hudson R. valleys (GH, RFD, JT, R.T.W.B.C.). Yellow-throated Warblers (no subspecific identification) at Wolfe's Pond Park, L.I., Apr. 20 (WS, NS), Mill Neck, L.I., Apr. 21 (D. Thompson) and Livingston, N.J., May 1 (RRy) were very well n.e. of their breeding localities. The nesting populations in the Delaware and Susquehanna valleys (*albilora*) and in s. New Jersey and Delaware (*dominica*) seem to be thriving. A Kentucky Warbler at the Bashakill May 22 was a local rarity (KM), but much more unusual was a ♀ Connecticut Warbler observed at length at Middletown, N.Y., May 16 and reported with details (JT). An uncommon fall migrant, this species is rarely reported in the spring. Ten Mourning Warblers, one as early as May 10 at Allentown, Pa., (T. & B. Kita), were a bit below normal. A Hooded Warbler at Yaphank Woods, L.I., May 16 was a good find (Gt. South Bay Aud.); although occasionally detected in spring and summer, the species has never been found nesting on Long Island.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS — Many observers commented on the abundance of Bobolinks in migration and on nesting grounds, an encouraging sign for a species increasingly threatened by habitat destruction. Four reports of Yellow-headed Blackbirds were about par: single birds were at Reading, Pa., Apr. 5 (*vide* AH), Princeton Apr. 9 (BM), Cape May Apr. 19 (DS) and Middletown, Del., Apr. 30 (CP, HAR). A Boat-tailed Grackle at Van Cortlandt P., in the Bronx Mar. 25 represented the first New York state record away from Long Island (W. Sedwitz). An interesting discovery was that of an apparent breeding colony of 20 Boat-taileds at Mad Horse Creek W.M.A., Salem Co., N.J., Apr. 25 through May (JKM). This represents a significant extension of the breeding range up the Delaware Bayshore for a species which has been steadily expanding up the Atlantic Coast of New Jersey and onto Long Island.

An ad. ♂ Western Tanager was studied at length in Mt. Holly, N.J., May 23 (S. McCrum), but could not be located thereafter. Good numbers of Summer Tanagers were reported from New York City and New Jersey as this species seems to be increasingly common as a breeding bird over the s. half of New Jersey. One at Tinicum Nat'l Envir. Center, Pa., May 21 was a little out of range (B. Stocku). Three Dickcissels at Stewartsville, N.J. after the April snowstorm were the only ones reported (DD).

After the big winter finch flight, some flocks lingered into the spring. Scattered groups of Pine Grosbeaks were still present in New York and n. New Jersey during March, the latest in Dutchess County Apr. 6 (T. Gilbert), while 40 were still at Beltsville L., Pa., Mar. 28 (BS). Four reports of Hoary Redpolls were received, including one with convincing details from Kingston, Pa., Mar. 5 (WR), but see AB 32:330 for some caveats on the difficulty of separating the two redpoll species. Although Com. Redpoll had been very scarce all winter, the snowstorm of Apr. 6 brought a massive invasion of the species within the next few days, especially in e. Pennsylvania and w. New Jersey but reaching as far as Delaware and Long Island. Flocks of 50-100 were widespread, and over 100 were banded at Hellertown, Pa., Apr. 10 (D. & E. Mease).

The big winter flight of Pine Siskins left many birds scattered throughout the n. part of the Region to the end of the period, many of them presumably attempting to nest, in typical post-irruptive behavior. One pair built a nest in Lopatcong, Warren Co., N.J., Apr. 23, but later abandoned it (F. Fulmer, *vide* GH), while another pair followed the same pattern at Dumont, Bergen Co., N.J., in May (R. Davis). A nest discovered at High Rock P., Staten I., Apr. 25 (WS, NS) successfully fledged young and another pair was presumed nesting at Fowlersville, Pa., Apr. 23 through May (DG). Small flocks of Red Crossbills were in Rockland and Dutchess cos., N.Y., during March (RFD, R.T.W.B.C.), but in April three different pairs were observed building nests on Long Island, where there are a few previous

breeding records. Two pairs built in Connetquot River S P , but later abandoned the nests (D Houle), another was found building Apr 12-14, a bird was sitting on the nest May 7 and the male was seen, possibly feeding young, after mid-May (E. Schwarting, GSR) The huge winter invasion of White-winged Crossbills left stragglers in small flocks over the n. half of the Region through March and one flock stayed in the same group of white cedars in an Allentown, Pa , city park from Mar. 13-Apr. 24 (SS, m.ob.). A Henslow's Sparrow was near Hawk Mt., May 3 (SB) and at least three males were singing at last year's breeding site in Dallas, Pa., in May (WR). Others were at Hop Bottom (E. Cowden) and elsewhere in n.e. Pennsylvania, but the Harvey's L. site was plowed up this year, so the birds moved on (WR). The Galeville, N.Y., airport had seven or more singing males May 29 at the colony discovered last summer (TV). A Seaside Sparrow found singing and photographed in a Bethlehem, Pa , city park Apr. 28-29 for only about the third Pennsylvania record (BS *et al.*).

The wintering Harris' Sparrow remained at Gilgo Beach, L I , to at least Apr. 10 (m.ob.). A White-crowned Sparrow thought to be of the w. race *gambellii* was seen at Cape May Apr. 24 (DS). This subspecies has been banded on Long Island, but has not been confirmed from New Jersey. A late-lingering Lapland Longspur was in Cape May Mar. 28-Apr. 8 (DS *et al.*), while the last big flocks of Snow Buntings were 500 at Stewartsville, N.J., Mar. 10 (DD) and 75 at Mannington, N.J., Mar. 13 (RK), including many in breeding plumage.

CORRIGENDUM — The date of the dark-phase Gyrfalcon at Mannheim, Pa., noted in AB 36:159, should have been Jan. 1, 1982 not Dec. 1, 1981.

UNCONFIRMED REPORTS — A bird believed to be a Sooty Shearwater was seen at Baer Rocks Apr. 24 by several veteran hawk-watchers (D. Simpson, A. Grout *et al.*). Bizarre at it seems, there is a photographic record of a Kermadec Petrel at nearby Hawk Mountain, but a dark-phase jaeger seems more appropriate for the time and place.

OBSERVERS — (Subregional compilers in boldface): David Abbott, J.M. Abbott, Horace Alexander, Harry Armistead (HAR), **M.V. Barnhill**, Doug & Karen Batt, Seth Benz, **Irving Black**, **R.J. Blicharz**, Ed Bloor, Pete Both, Ned Boyajian, Alan Brady, Kate Brethwaite (KBR), **T.W. Burke**, Robert Conn, Chris, John & Mike Danzenbaker (MD), **T.H. Davis**, **R.F. Deed**, Peter Derven, R. Dixon (RDi), Mary Doscher, Georges Dreameaux, Paul Dumont (PDm), Dick Dunlap, **Peter Dunne** (PD), Mike Fahay, G.A. Franchois, W.W. Frech, G L Freed, Jose Garcia, Jeff Gordon (JG), Doug Gross, **Greg Hanisek**, Linda Hansen, David Harrison (DHa), Dorothy Hartmann (DH), Dan Heathcote (DHe), Otto Heck, **Armas Hill**, P.L. Hurlock, Cliff Jones, Rich Kane, Paul Kosten, Ken Kranick, Don Kunkle, Serge Lafrance, Charles Leck, Robert Maurer, Ken McDermott, Carol McIntyre, **J.K. Meritt**, Brad Merritt (BM), J.C. Miller, August Mirabella, **B.L. Morris** (BLM), Brian Moscatello (BMo), Frank Murphy, D. Oster, Ed Patton (EP), Jack Peachey, Carl Perry, Eleanor Pink, Peter Post, Charles Pusey, Rick Radis, G.S. Raynor, **William Reid**, Dave Roche, Bob Russell, Will Russell (WRu), Richard Ryan (RRy), R.M. Schutsky, George Scoufalos, Joseph Seneca (JSe), J Serrao (JS), Dave Sibley, Norma & William Siebenheller, Brad Silfes, P.W. Smith, Steve Smith, Clay Sutton, Fred Tetlow, **John Tramontano**, Guy Tudor, Tim Vogel, **R.T. Waterman Bird Club**, Winston Wayne, Berna Weissman, Rick West, Rick Wiltraut (RW1), Floyd Wolfarth.—**WILLIAM J. BOYLE, JR., 15 Indian Rock Road, Warren, N.J. 07060, ROBERT O. PAXTON, 560 Riverside Drive, Apt. 12K, New York, N.Y. 10027, and DAVID A. CUTLER, 1110 Rock Creek Drive, Wyncote, Pa., 19095.**



MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

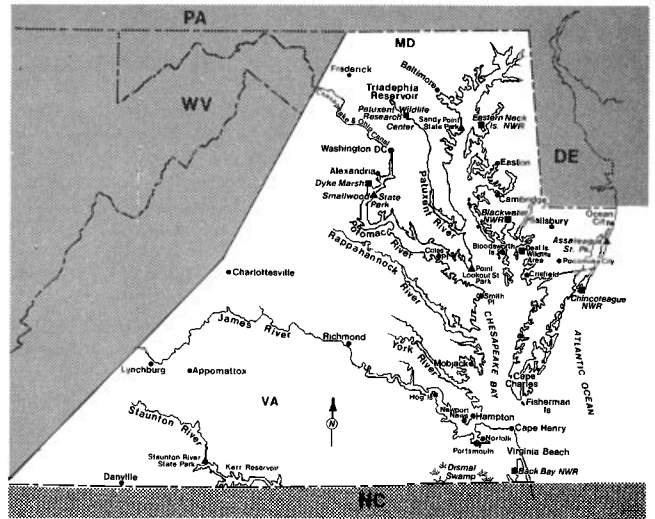
/Henry T. Armistead

A lack of rarities and paucity of many migrants characterized this spring, in addition to the late arrival of many commoner species, especially in early May. One observer wryly remarked on June 3 "Spring migration is due any day now" (RFR). Many birds showed up extra early in March but April saw the advent of unseasonable cold and brutal wind. On April 7 the entire Region experienced below freezing temperatures with averages for the day under 40°F. From April 6 to 10 temperatures were 9°-20° below normal throughout the Region every day. April averaged 2.75° below normal, March 0.65° above and May 2.5° above. In March, April and May precipitation was 0.56, 0.75 and 0.36 inches under the norm. Waterfowl lingered. Shorebirds and warblers were late. Winds were more often than not adverse to good migratory movement. Observers' comments were predominantly discouraging yet coverage of the raptor, pelagic and shorebird passage was relatively good with some very interesting results. Frequently mentioned localities: Asst. I.: Assateague I. (Maryland part); Balt.: Baltimore; Black.: Blackwater N.W.R.; C.B.B.T.: Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel, Va.; Chinc.: Chincoteague N.W.R. area; Craney: Craney I. disposal area, Portsmouth, Va.; S.P.S.P.: Sandy Point State Park.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Common Loons were present in above average numbers in May, symptomatic of the late spring. At S.P.S.P., 26 were seen May 8 (HLW) while off Ocean City 65 were counted May 1 (RN *et al.*). Good local counts included 50 at Taylor's I., Md., Apr. 16 (WGE), 38 at Bellevue, Md., Apr. 24 (HTA) and 23 in Dorchester County, Md., May 1 (CP, EMW). Latish ones were two off Ocean City May 29 (RN *et al.*) and two at Bloodworth I., the same day (DM, HTA). Scarce on Chesapeake Bay, a Red-throated Loon was at Bozman, Talbot Co., Md., Apr. 8 (HJJ) and an amazing ten were at Taylor's I., Apr. 16 (WGE). The last one reported was at Chinc., May 20-21 (CPW). Single Red-necked Grebes were seen at Washington, D.C., Mar. 20 (DC) and Apr. 6-10 (BH) and Great Falls, Md., Mar. 23 (LS, *fide* CPW). Horned Grebes continue to be very scarce with only two notable counts: 500 at Craney Mar. 30 (TRW) and 185 at Bellevue Apr. 24 (HTA). Unprecedented for the Region was a count of 23 N. Fulmars (possibly as many as 39) 35-63 mi off Virginia Beach May 9 with one Manx Shearwater also present (RLA, DFA *et al.*). Fourteen early Sooty Shearwaters were off Ocean City Apr. 24; 26 were seen there May 1 together with one Manx, and 34 Sooties, three Cory's Shearwaters and one N. Fulmar were present May 29 (RN *et al.*). Wilson's Storm-Petrels were first seen May 1 with 52 e. of Ocean City and 964 were there May 29 (RB *et al.*).

White Pelican continues to be regular in this Region, the individual at Hog I., Surry Co., Va. overwintering and spending the entire spring there (BW, HCl, RC *et al.*) but completely unexpected was another on Smith I., Md., May 21 & 23 (RT, *fide* HTA). Offshore Gannet totals included 69 on Apr. 24, 91 on May 1 and two first-year birds as late as May 29, all out from Ocean City (RN *et al.*). The highest count of *ad.* Gannets on these three trips was a mere six on Apr. 24 emphasizing, as Naveen points out, their earlier departure for the breeding grounds in contrast to younger birds. Peak Double-crested Cormorant estimates were 9500 at Fisherman I., May 8 (DFA, RA) and 1500 at Ocean City Apr. 24 (JGR). Good local counts were 90 at Hopewell, Va., May 12 (FRS, HCO) and 60 on Bloodworth I., May 29 (DM, HTA). Great Cormorant was almost unreported except for one at Craney Apr. 21 (TRW).

An early Little Blue Heron was at Deal I., Md., Mar. 31 (DM). The high count for the period was 46 at Chinc., Apr. 20-21 (CPW). Cattle Egret was late and low (FRS, HTA, JGR). As usual the first ones materialized in late March with one at Northwest River P., Chesapeake, Va., Mar. 25 (GW) and another at Chinc., Mar. 27 (JAG). At Deal I., Mar. 14 a Louisiana Heron was early (JLS, HTA). Predictably the first Yellow-crowned Night Herons showed up in late March, for example in Norfolk Mar. 31 (RC). Glossy Ibis was widely reported in mid-March with one at Deal I., Mar. 13 (DM, HLW), one at Jamestown, Va., Mar. 16-18 (JH, BW), six at Salisbury Mar. 17 (SHD), two at Irish Grove Sanctuary near Crisfield, Md., Mar. 20 (RFR), one at Clinton, Md., Mar. 21 (SL) and one at Bozman, Md., Mar. 26 (JGR). Unfortunately herons and their allies were mostly underreported, making generalizations difficult.



WATERFOWL — April's cold induced more waterfowl to linger into early May than normally do so. A Mute Swan at Deal I., Mar. 21 was two counties farther s. than they usually occur on the Bay (RFR). Near Federalsburg, Md., 2000 Whistling Swans were found in fields Mar. 7 (RFR) and 520 at Deal I., Mar. 14 comprised a good count for that date (HTA, JLS). Canada Geese left their Chesapeake strongholds unaccountably early with virtually none being seen on some days in late March and early April (DFA, HTA). Feral birds had eggs as early as Mar. 31 in Orange County (JM) and Apr. 10 in Louisa County (JBB) in Piedmont Virginia, with goslings seen by the end of April. In Queen Annes County, Md., 10,000 Snow Geese were reported from Tuckahoe S.P., Apr. 2 (WR, *fide* AJF) and a late, healthy adult was flying at Black., May 1 (CP, EMW) when a blue form bird was in Kent County, Md. (FLP). Top Gadwall counts were 250 at Craney Mar. 30 (TRW) and 530 at Deal I., Mar. 14 (JLS, HTA). Indications of a late spring were counts of 78 Green-winged Teal, 111 Lesser Scaup and 22 Bufflehead in Dorchester County (HTA, CP, EMW) plus 11 Am. Wigeon, 14 Canvasback, 26 Greater Scaup, and four Com. Goldeneye in Kent County (FLP, JG)—these all in Maryland May 1. A tally of seven species of diving ducks at Hampton, Va., May 15 was unusual for so late (WPS *et al.*). Unique was a Eur. Wigeon at Deal I., Mar. 13-Apr. 14 (HLW, DM, RFR *et al.*). The scarcer jety ducks were just barely present with two ♂ Harlequin Ducks in the marshy Chinc. causeway, an unusual spot for them, Apr. 3 (RFR, JLS *et al.*), an imm. ♂ Com. Eider at Ocean City for the month of March (PGD, DC, RFR *et al.*) and a ♂ King Eider at C.B.B.T., May 8 (DFA, RLA *et al.*). Scott found 5000 Surf Scoters—considered a conservative estimate—massed s. of Cape Charles Mar. 21. At Chinc., May 16, 30 Black Scoters were late (CT) and 100 at Taylor's I., Md., Apr. 16 was an excellent count by local standards (WGE). Two were at Washington, D.C., Apr. 26 (BH). Wolfe reported 3700 Ruddy Ducks at Craney Mar. 30, up from 1300 there Mar. 16 and his top Red-breasted Merganser tally in the James R. waters around this immense fill area was 800 Mar. 16. At nearby Hampton 1000 were seen Mar. 12 (RC). Two Com. Mergansers at Presquile N.W.R., Va., May 4 were quite late (WSP).

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS — The season's most sterling raptor report was a well-described **Mississippi Kite** at Occoquan Res. near Manassas, Va., May 17 (MBT, TB). Obviously the individuals seen in Cape May County, N.J. and elsewhere in the Region n. of here must pass through Maryland and Virginia somewhere. It is to be hoped that they will be detected more frequently. Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen at many more places than usual in May, another evidence of the late spring, these without doubt late migrants all (v.ob.), as were numerous latish Rough-legged Hawks such as six at Elliott I., Md., Apr. 10 (MEA, HTA), one at Denton, Md., May 1 (AJF) and one at Black., May 1 (EMW, HTA, CP). Maryland Golden Eagles were seen on the upper Patuxent R., Mar. 17 (JAG), at Black., throughout March (v.o., *fide* CPW) and in Kent County Apr. 2 (FLP). As of June 1 98 Bald Eagle nests were active in the Chesapeake Bay area (54 in Md., 44 in Va.) with 81 eaglets banded and eight more nests still to be visited (*fide* JMA). Apparently the strong winds of early

April, which gusted to hurricane force, did not seriously affect eagle production. High counts at Black, included four ad. and 15 imm. eagles Apr. 17 (WGE) and six ad. and eight imm. eagles Apr. 25 (HTA). At Wallop's I., Va., two Marsh Hawk nests were found. One on May 10 had four eggs and another active one on May 12 was empty (CRV, ENR). Twenty-seven Marsh Hawks were at Elliott I., Apr. 10 (MEA, HTA). A very early Osprey was seen along the Choptank R., Md., Feb. 13 (BH), the next one not being sighted until Mar. 3 at Williamsburg (TEA) and several others showing up Mar. 8-9 in various localities (v.o.). The dynamics of spring raptor flights are even less well understood on the Eastern Shore than they are elsewhere in the Region. However, the Am. Kestrel passage there seems more pronounced than that of most other species with 19 at Asst. I., Mar. 14, 14 at Deal I., Mar. 23 and 109 in three hours flying over Ocean City inlet Apr. 4 (HLW, DM). Wierenga continues to monitor hawks at Ft. Smallwood P. in n.e. Anne Arundel Co., Md., just s. of Balt. In only 77 hours of coverage spread out over 27 days 1802 raptors were counted, averaging out to 67 hawks/day or over 23/hour (HLW *et al.*). Highlights include 10 Red-shouldered Hawks and 81 Am. Kestrels Apr. 1, 22 Red-tailed Hawks and three Merlin Apr. 13, and 176 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 39 Cooper's Hawks and 37 Ospreys Apr. 17. Increased coverage of this interesting site is highly desirable. As late as May 20 six Sharp-shinned Hawks and 38 Broad-winged Hawks were seen and in previous years flights have extended well into June.

Concern for Bobwhite continues, especially in Piedmont areas where it has become scarce (v.o.). A calling Sandhill Crane frequented waste corn fields near Madonna, Harford Co., Md., Apr. 11-12 providing that state's first spring and Piedmont record (DK, JK, RFR *et al.*, ph.). Two King Rails at Sterling, Va., May 16-June 14



Sandhill Crane, Madonna, Harford Co., Md., Apr. 11, 1982. First Maryland spring and first Maryland Piedmont record. Photo/ Jean Kirkwood.

were unusual for the Piedmont (CT) and at Annapolis Apr. 12 one was heard migrating overhead at 11 p.m. (HLW). Nineteen Clapper Rails and eight Virginia Rails were heard in half an hour at Fairmount W.M.A., Somerset Co., Md., Mar. 13, prompted to call by an exceptionally warm and calm early spring evening (HTA). Representative Virginia Rail counts were 31 in Somerset County (CRV *et al.*) and 45 in Dorchester County, Md. (CP, EMW, HTA) May 1, not unusual numbers for these rich brackish marshes. At Elliott I., the high Black Rail total was 12 on May 7 (RFR, WB) with runnerup honors on May 1 when 10 were heard (CP, EMW, HTA). As in the past few years totals there are still below those of the late sixties and early seventies. Six were also in Somerset County, Md., May 1 (*vide* CRV) where birds were heard on several dates at Deal I. (DM, HLW). Singles were at S.P.S.P., May 28 (HLW) and Black Marsh near Balt., May 25-26 (RFR).

SHOREBIRDS — Many commented on the late shorebird migration, especially on the first two weekends in May when the cooperative censuses are done. An Am. Oystercatcher at Newcomb, Talbot Co., Md., May 26 was well n. of its usual Bay range (ML, *vide* JGR). At Chinc., Semipalmated Plover peaked at 500 May 22 (DFA) and Wilds, whose high was 443 there May 14-15, noted this as being < one quarter her 1981 high. Forty-one Piping Plovers were at Chinc., Apr. 9-10 (CPW). Single Am. Golden Plovers were at Black., Apr. 17 (WGE), Worton, Kent Co., Md., Apr. 27-May 1 (FLP) and eight were

near Ocean City May 22 (DFA). Massive concentrations of shorebirds were at Chinc., May 22, mostly along Tom's Cove feeding on horseshoe crab eggs, including 15,884 Ruddy Turnstones, 10,500 Red Knots, 58 White-rumped Sandpipers, 4761 Dunlin, 2435 Short-billed Dowitchers, 7808 Semipalmated Sandpipers, and 10,033 Sanderlings (DFA). Common Snipe were in low quantity (m.ob.) although 90 were e. of Hopewell Mar. 30 (WSP). Whimbrel staged an excellent flight. They were widely reported in both late April and late May with 300 on May 16 (CT) and 302 May 20-21 (CPW) at Chinc., twice Wilds' 1981 maximum. Always a surprise on the Bay, singles were at Balt., May 23 (WB), Bloodsworth and S. Marsh I., May 29 (HTA, DM), Smith I., Md., May 31 (HLW) and 16 flew by Deal I., June 1 (HLW). Ten Upland Sandpipers were at Nokesville, Va. Apr. 23 (KB, *vide* CPW) and 14 in Belfast Valley n. of Balt., Apr. 24 (HK, RFR). The first Solitary Sandpiper was at Hopewell Mar. 28 (JWD *et al.*).

S.A.

It is interesting to note the scarcity of some common shorebirds at Chinc.; on the eight thorough two-day surveys done there were no sightings at all of Pectoral Sandpiper, Com. Snipe and Killdeer and the following high counts: one Solitary Sandpiper May 6-7, 16 Greater Yellowlegs May 27-28, 24 Lesser Yellowlegs Apr. 29-30 and four Spotted Sandpipers May 27-28, the yellowlegs numbers being described as typical spring counts for this refuge (CPW). More heartening are these maxima: May 14-15, 2643 Red Knot, 3772 Dunlin, one Long-billed Dowitcher, seven Stilt Sandpipers, 5466 Sanderlings, two Wilson's Phalaropes and one Curlew Sandpiper; May 27-28, 7173 Ruddy Turnstones and 11,615 Semipalmated Sandpipers (CPW).

At Wallop's I., 136 Red Knots were many for so early May 8 (CRV) and two were 51 e. of Virginia Beach May 9 (DFA). Pectoral Sandpipers were universally regarded as scarce with the earliest report from Lilypons, Md., Mar. 24 (DHW). On Asst. I., a Least Sandpiper Mar. 14 was very early (DM, HLW) but in general they were late and in low numbers and the peak of 200 at Chinc., May 6-7 was one eighth what it was there in 1981 (CPW). The Chinc. Curlew Sandpiper was present May 14-24 (m.ob.). Also at Chinc., were a Hudsonian Godwit, for Virginia's third spring record, May 22-24 (m.ob.), two Ruffs May 16 (HLW, DM) and 1-3 Black-necked Stilts Apr. 16-May 30 (m.ob.). A Dunlin in Louisa County, Va., Apr. 13-14 represented a notable Virginia spring Piedmont record (JBB). Six Long-billed Dowitchers were at Hampton, Va., Mar. 28 (RC). A Stilt Sandpiper was at Wallop's I., May 8-9 (CRV, RFR *et al.*) and two were at Ocean City May 8-17 (BH *et al.*). From one-two Ruffs were at Black., Apr. 16-25+ (WGE, RLK, HTA *et al.*). Wolfe's Crane I. high for Am. Avocet was 69 Mar. 30, low for this locality. Naveen *et al.* saw four Red Phalaropes off Ocean City May 1 and also had four N. Phalaropes there May 29. Crane produced seven Northern and one Wilson's phalarope May 25 (TRW) and another Wilson's was at Lilypons May 22 (PGD).

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMERS — Out from Ocean City May 1 were one Pomarine and one Parasitic jaeger but the prize bird was an ad. Long-tailed Jaeger there Apr. 24 (RN, HLW, MB *et al.*). [Belated but careful records are of a Long-tailed plus a Red Phalarope 65-70 e. of Virginia Beach Sept. 13, 1980 (DFA).] Late Glaucous Gulls were singles at Lynnhaven Inlet, Va., May 8 (DFA, RA) and another at Bloodsworth I., May 29 (HTA, DM), the latter for a first Dorchester County record, also unusual in being *smaller* than most of the Herring Gulls it was with. Iceland Gulls were at the Montgomery County, Md., landfill Mar. 3 (EMW), near Williamsburg Mar. 25 (TEA, *vide* BW, first local record), and Old Pt. Comfort, Va., April 14+ (D & MM). The Lesser Black-backed Gull presence was muted compared with some other reasons but they were nevertheless seen at Washington, D.C., Jug Bay on the Patuxent R., Balt., and the Montgomery County landfill (DC, AH, *vide* CPW, WB, HLW) Mar. 12-May 1. A Thayer's Gull was reported from Alexandria, Va., May 10 (JMA). The only Black-headed Gull was at S.P.S.P., Apr. 10 (H-JF, *vide* CPW). Four Laughing Gulls were at Asst. I., Mar. 14 (DM, HLW) and eight at Craney Mar. 16 (TRW) but as usual the masses did not arrive until later in the month with 350 at Hampton Mar. 28 (RC) and 500 at Chinc., Mar. 31 (JHB). High counts of Bonaparte's Gull were 500 at Hampton Mar. 28 (RC) and 510 off Ocean City Apr. 24 (RN *et al.*). Two late Black-legged Kittiwakes were off Virginia Beach May 9

(RLA *et al.*). Ten Com. Terns at Bethel Beach, Va., Mar. 27 were early and three in Louisa County, Va., Apr. 11 were notable for a Piedmont area (JBB). Two Arctic Terns 55 mi out from Virginia Beach May 9 were the only ones reported this season (RLA *et al.*). Royal Terns, as usual, returned to Virginia in late March; the first sizeable group was 90 in Mathews County Mar. 28 (JBB) and by Apr. 21 there were 209 in company with one Sandwich and eight Caspian terns at Craney (TRW). On remote Holland I., 22 Royals and 23 Black Skimmers were good totals for farther up the Bay May 29 (DM, HTA). The first Caspian Tern was at Hopewell Apr. 4 (FRS, JWD) but they were low in numbers with a modest high of 47 at Hunting Cr., Alexandria Apr. 18 (DFA). Black Tern was also very scarce, only singles being reported, including a very early one at Barren I., Md., Apr. 25 (HTA).

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS — A pair of Ringed Turtle Doves attempted to nest unsuccessfully in Alexandria Mar. 2-Apr. 6 (JMA) continuing their at-best tenuous existence in the Region. The first cuckoos were a Yellow-billed at Newport News Apr. 17 (D & MM) and a Black-billed in Alexandria Apr. 27 (DFA). In Somerset Co., Md., May 1 Stasz *et al.* heard 22 Great Horned Owls, an excellent late spring total. A nest at Deal I. fledged two young, its presence apparently providing the *coup de grace* to the declining Great Blue heronry within which it was located (DM). Two Long-eared and a Saw-whet owl were at Gude's Nursery, Rockville, Md., Mar. 12 (HLW, DM). A late Short-eared Owl was in Somerset County May 1 (*vide* CRV). Breeding was suspected of Saw-whet Owl at Sterling, Va., where this species was present Mar. 10-Apr. 20 (CT) with possible Saw-whets calling at least until June 8. At Black., one was giving the whetting call Apr. 25 (HTA). In spite of one at Chinc., Apr. 19 (WGE) Chuck-will's-widows were late, but Com. Night-hawk, often hard to find until the second week of May, was widely reported Apr. 29-May 1 (v.o.). The first Chimney Swift was at Richmond Mar. 31 (BR, *vide* FRS) and Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Newport News Apr. 17 (D & MM), neither extraordinarily early. The latter seems to have declined in the past few years (v.o.). The *Selasphorus* hummingbird photographed in AB 36, 164 (1982) was definitely identified as a **Rufous Hummingbird** (JS, MT). Belted Kingfisher continues to be uncommon (DFA, HTA, JBB, CT).

Two Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were seen at Wakefield, Va., one of their dependable strongholds, May 7 (DFA). Almost all flycatchers were late and in below-average numbers. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were only seen May 12-24 (v.o.). Two Alder Flycatchers were e. of Hereford, Balt. Co., Md., May 24 (RE, *vide* CPW). The earliest E. Wood Pewee was at Richmond Apr. 23 (WSP). Rare on the Eastern Shore, an Olive-sided Flycatcher was well observed 5 mi s.w. of Sharptown, Wicomico Co., Md., May 7 (JGR, JE *et al.*). Others were at Lilypons May 22 (PGD) and Frederick County, Md., May 31 (DHW). Horned Lark seems to be declining as a breeder in Piedmont areas (DFA, DHW). The swallow migration was extremely poor in spite of some quite early arrivals: 18 Bank Swallows at Walkerton, Va., Apr. 5 (WSP), Rough-winged Swallow in Frederick County, Md., Mar. 21 (DHW) and five other localities in late March (v.o.), a Barn Swallow near Tappahannock, Va., Mar. 18 (WSP) and at three other sites in late March (v.o.), a Cliff Swallow at Black., Mar. 28 (JAG *et al.*) and a Purple Martin at Deal I., Mar. 13 (DM, HLW). Eight martins were found dead in the 21°F chill Apr. 7 at Denton, Md. (*vide* AJF). Surely other early insectivores must have been hurt by this strong cold front. Cliff Swallows returned to breeding areas in n.e. Loudoun County, Va. (DFA) and Hopewell (FRS). A late migrant was at Bloodsworth I., May 29 (HTA, DM). At Deal I., 2015 Fish Crows were seen at dusk Mar. 14 (HTA); this is a staging area for their roosts farther out on the Bay (*vide* HLW, DM).

Tufts heard a singing Black-capped Chickadee at Sterling Mar. 25 and found five Carolina Chickadee nests there destroyed by House Wrens. Red-breasted Nuthatch was very widespread throughout the Region in early May, especially on the Coastal Plain. The latest ones were in the Piedmont, however, at Rockville May 15 (MO) and Great Falls Park, Va., May 24 (DFA). A presumably late Brown Creeper was near the Chickahominy R., Va., May 29 (WSP) and a nest was found at Seneca, Md., May 9 (RH, *vide* CPW). This species continues to creep S as a breeder. A singing Winter Wren at Rockville May 10 was extremely late (MO). A singing Short-billed Marsh Wren there Apr. 29 was totally unexpected (HLW). Hermit Thrushes lingered later than the norm with very late ones at Richmond May 12 (FRS) and Kent County, Md. May 11 (FLP). A late flight of Swainson's Thrushes over Smith I., Md., totalled 25 May 30 (HLW, DM, HTA).

In spite of Apr. 6 weather that dropped to 26°F a clutch of E. Bluebird eggs laid in late March fledged five young April 28 in Stafford County, Va. (ETM). Bluebirds seem to have come through the hard winter. In Newport News City P. 80 young were banded this spring (D & MM). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen at three places in s.e. Virginia in late March, the first being one in Richmond Mar. 27 (BR, DP, *vide* FRS). The latest Ruby-crowned Kinglet reported was in Annapolis May 11 (HLW). Water Pipit lingered later than usual with 15 n. of Chestertown, Md., May 11 (FLP) and 30 at Suffolk, Va., May 2 (RC). Always erratic, Cedar Waxwing turned up throughout the Region in mid- and late May, well past its usual departure time, with 97 in Hampton May 15 (WPS), eight in Alexandria May 28 (DFA) and some June 5 at Sterling, Va. (CT).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS — Outstanding counts of vireos were 104 White-eyed in Somerset County, Md., May 1 (CRV *et al.*) and 122 Red-eyed and 26 Warbling in Loudoun County, Va. May 24 (DFA). The warbler migration was the subject of negative commentary, most opining that it was both late and sparse. In Dismal Swamp 103 Prothonotary Warblers were counted May 9 in company with five Swainson's and 42 Hooded warblers, no doubt breeders (FRS, RJW). A Swainson's turned up at Pennyfield on the Potomac R. n. of Washington, D.C., May 11 (PJO). A Worm-eating Warbler ground nest n. of Elliott I. had six eggs May 23 and six young May 30 (WK, HJJ, ph.), which later all fledged. A Lawrence's Warbler was in



Worm-eating Warbler at nest with six young, north of Elliott I., Md., May 30, 1982. Photo/ Warren Kucera.

Williamsburg Apr. 28 (*vide* TRW) and a Brewster's Warbler at Savage, Md., May 4 (PL). An Orange-crowned Warbler was in Williamsburg at a feeder Feb.-Apr. 11 (BW, m.ob.). Very early warblers included a N. Parula in Maribank, York Co., Va. Mar. 21 (LJ, *vide* BW) and a Yellow-throated Warbler w. of Williamsburg Mar. 14 (BW). Yellow Warbler was in good supply with 105 in Kent County (FLP *et al.*) and 94 in Somerset County, Md. May 1 (CRV *et al.*). During a census at Newport News May 15 217 Blackpoll Warblers were recorded (WPS *et al.*). A very late Palm Warbler was in Balt., May 12 (WB). In Loudoun County 43 Canada Warblers were reported May 24 (DFA).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS — Bobolinks were common in May with a maximum of 810 near Lynnhaven Inlet, Va., May 8 (DFA). A single Yellow-headed Blackbird was at a feeder in Denton, Md., Apr. 29 (CS, *vide* AJF). The last Rusty Blackbirds were two in Louisa County, Va., May 5 (JBB). Unique was a ♂ Brewer's Blackbird at Beltsville, Md., Mar. 7 (BH). Out of its element and possibly also its head was a ♂ Summer Tanager in the Bloodsworth I. saltmarsh May 29 (DM, HTA). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was very early at Denton Apr. 15 (MN, *vide* AJF). The Indigo Bunting which overwintered at Savage, Md., stayed until Apr. 21 (PL *et al.*, ph.). Three Dickcissels were s. of Frederick, Md., May 14-15, their breeding activities later put on hold by the hay harvest (DHW *et al.*). Another was at Vienna, Va., May 14 (ME, *vide* CPW). Northern finches made excellent showings for this time of year. Evening Grosbeaks were seen at at least 11 places in May with 100 in Dismal Swamp May 2 (TRW) and a hopelessly retarded individual at Beltsville May 24 (BH). Up to 20 Com. Redpolls were in the Washington, D.C., area until Mar. 9 (*vide* CPW). Pine Siskins were present in at least 15 spots in May with some still at Laurel, Md., May 20 (JS). A flock of White-winged Crossbills in Chevy Chase, Md., at least eight, was seen Apr. 14-26 (EMW, m.ob.). Eight Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrows were on Asst. I., Mar. 14 (HLW, DM). Henslow's Sparrow persists as a breeder at Elliott I., where seven were heard May 1

(EMW, CP, HTA) Unseasonably warm weather induced five Seaside Sparrows to sing at Rumbley, Md., Mar. 13, tuning up at least three weeks ahead of schedule (HTA). The last Tree Sparrow report was of one at Madonna, Md., Apr. 11 (RFR, DK). Very late White-throated Sparrows were in Richmond May 27 (FRS) and Rockville May 31 (MO).

CORRIGENDUM — The correct caption for the photograph on AB 36, 163 (March 1982) should be "Maryland's first Ross' Goose (in foreground) with Canada, Snow and Blue geese in the background, Blackwater N.W.R., Nov. 27, 1981. Photo/Michael O'Brien."

OBSERVERS — D.F. Abbott, J.M. Abbott, Robert Abbott, R.L. Ake, M.E. Armistead, T.E. Armour, Maurice Barnhill, Ken Bass, J.B. Bazuin, Warren Bielenberg, Mike Britten (MBt), Thomas Britten, J.H. Buckalew, Ray Chandler, David Czaplak, J.W. Dillard, P.G. DuMont, S.H. Dyke, Roger Eastman, Mildred Edwards, Jeff Effinger, J.W. Eike, W.G. Ellison, H.-J. Feddern, A.J. Fletcher, J.A. Gregoire, James Gruber, Alex Hammer, Bill Hayes, M.W. Hewitt, Robert Hilton, D.F. Holland, Julie Hotchkiss, H.C. Irving, H.J. Janosik, Leigh Jones, Hank Kaestner, Steve Kingswood, Dennis Kirkwood, Jean Kirkwood, R.L. Kleen, Warren Kucera, Paul Leifer, M. Levee, Sam Lyon, E.W. Marshall, E.T. McKnight, Debbie Mignogno, Dorothy & Mike Mitchell, P.R. Mocko, Emily Moore, M.P. Moore, Jack Mozingo, Ron Naveen, Marianna Nuttle, Michael O'Brien, P.J. O'Brien, H.C. Olson, F.L. Parks, Carl Perry, Darrell Peterson, W.S. Portlock, J.G. Reese, George Reiger, R.F. Ringler, E.N. Risley, Wilbur Rittenhouse, Betsy Roszell, R.P. Russell, F.R. Scott, Jay Sheppard, W.P. Smith, Christian Snyder, Lillian Spangler, J.L. Stasz, Byron Swift, Mike Tove, R.J. Tripician, Barry Truitt, Craig Tufts, Robin Tyler, C.R. Vaughn, D.H. Wallace, R.J. Watson, H.L. Wierenga, C.P. Wilds, Bill Williams, Gary Williamson, E.J. Willoughby, E.M. Wilson, T.R. Wolfe, Peter Yaukey.—**HENRY T. ARMISTEAD, 28 E. Springfield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19118.**

SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

March was unusually warm, but several cold snaps hit the Region at the end of the month and in early April, with the latter month remaining slightly wetter and cooler than normal. Many cold fronts passed through the area until the end of the month, when the weather patterns stagnated in the Southeast, producing warm and dry conditions. Not until mid-May did frontal systems again reach the Region, and the last half of May was very wet.

For the third spring in the past four, the passerine migration was very light over nearly all the Region, with only Atlanta, Georgia, birders commenting on a decent migration. The warm March was responsible for a large number of early records of migrant and breeding species, and the stormy weather with many fronts in April was good for finding waders and shorebirds inland. However, a heavy passerine migration through the Region depends on moderate-to-strong west or southwest winds from late April to mid-May. Such did not happen in 1982, as winds were mainly from the south; and the trans-Gulf migrants presumably headed straight north upon reaching the Gulf states, rather than flying to the northeast and east toward this Region. Thus, most migrant species of warblers, thrushes, and flycatchers, among other groups, were detected in disappointing numbers. There was, however, an excellent number of rarities sighted, particularly of species difficult to identify and requiring thorough details (such as a storm-petrel, a "peep" sandpiper, a tern, and a pipit). And, yes, there was a visitor from the East (eastern Siberia and Japan)!

GREBES THROUGH PELICANS — A Horned Grebe was late at Jordan Res., e. Chatham Co., N.C., May 9 (*fide* BR), whereas quite rare was an Eared Grebe in breeding plumage in n.e. Pamlico County, N.C., Apr. 30 (PJC, MEW). Patterson found a Pied-billed Grebe nest with 9 eggs Apr. 30 near Dublin, Ga. Four N. Fulmars seen 40 mi s. of Beaufort Inlet, N.C., Apr. 2 (LD) were the first ever reported from the Region s. of Cape Hatteras (except for an unpublished sighting near Charleston, S.C.). Late May pelagic trips off Hatteras, N.C.,

and Hilton Head I., S.C. (into Georgia waters), surprisingly failed to turn up Greater or Sooty shearwaters, finding only a few Cory's on both trips and 42 Audubon's off Hatteras May 30 (PGD, RLA). The 14 Black-capped Petrels off Hatteras May 30 (PGD *et al.*) were about par for the time and place, but the best find of this trip was two **Harcourt's Storm-Petrels** (the third or fourth state record but the first by sight only).

S.A.

Two Harcourt's Storm-Petrels were studied in flight with Wilson's Storm-Petrels as close as 25 yards, about 37 mi offshore, s.s.e. of Hatteras Inlet, N.C., May 30 (PGD, RLA, HL *et al.*).

Among observed features that DuMont mentioned as helping separate these two birds as Harcourt's from the Wilson's were: "1) a little larger size overall with a noticeably longer rearbody-and-tail look; 2) sharply pointed wingtips with nearly straight trailing edges along the primaries; (3) a bright white, band-like rump and sidetail; 4) the tail held unfanned with no legs/feet extending beyond during flight-direction changes, 5) a direct travel flight with longer wingbeating periods and longer gliding distances (on flat wings) along a rolling, mostly horizontal path; and 6) the wingbeats in travel flight being a little slower overall with the more relaxed downstroke reaching well below horizontal and the stiffer, slightly jerked upstroke reaching only a little above horizontal."

Part of Ake's comments mentioned additional observed features of the Harcourt's. "The upperparts were black. The upperwing coverts were less distinctly light-colored, hence less obvious than those of the Wilson's. The rump patch was square across with no indentations or gentle widening in the middle. The tail had no noticeable fork. The underparts showed no white patches. The Harcourt's showed no foot-pattering." [The absence of tail fanning and foot-pattering should not be considered infallible, although observers have noted that these behavior patterns are more frequently observed in Wilson's than in Harcourt's.—HL]

LeGrand added that: "In gliding, the Harcourt's wings were held flat to slightly bowed. Because of the moderately long and pointed wings, as well as the fairly long glide, it reminded me of a small Audubon's Shearwater when gliding. A Wilson's does not give me the same impression, owing to the shorter and more rounded wings and briefer glide. Leach's bends the wings slightly downward at the wrists when gliding, unlike the flat-winged glide profiles of Harcourt's and Wilson's."

Both Ake and DuMont have seen Wilson's and Leach's together previously, and DuMont saw these two species together off Ocean City, Md., June 12, only 2 weeks after seeing the Harcourt's. DuMont conjectured that: "Harcourt's would probably differ from Leach's by: 1) appearing long-tailed instead of long-winged; 2) holding its wing more nearly straight along the leading edge instead of angled back at the carpal joint; and 3) looking whiter-rumped with straight fore and rear borders instead of duller-rumped with rounded corners and a thin, dark midline. In travel flight, the nearly uniform wingbeating and flat-winged gliding along a mostly horizontal path of the Harcourt's would differ from a typical flight of Leach's with jerky wingbeating and lurching glides on upraised wings mixed with vertical bounding and erratic direction changes."

DuMont concluded that: "In-field separation of Harcourt's from Wilson's and Leach's is very difficult, at best, and probably not possible most of the time. Most Harcourt's features seem to be intermediate between those of Wilson's and Leach's. No single or even 2 features of Harcourt's appear to be diagnostic; all features should be seen and considered. Direct comparison with a Wilson's or Leach's in the same binocular view is probably requisite."

Ten Wilson's Storm-Petrels in Georgia waters off Hilton Head I., May 29 (TM *et al.*) were uncommon, as were 12 seen from shore at Cape Hatteras point May 16 and five at Hatteras village the same day (AB). The best White Pelican count at Charleston, where the species has been wintering for several years, was three on Mar. 26 (A, W, & JH). Inland records of Double-crested Cormorants in spring continue to mount, especially in c. North Carolina at several recently constructed reservoirs. Double-figure totals were a peak of 10 near



Dublin Apr. 22-May 15 (TKP), 12 near Vass, N.C., May 2 (JHC), and a remarkable 73 (overcounting by several parties?) on a spring count at Jordan Res., May 9 (RD *et al.*). Four cormorants May 27 at L. Cammack near Burlington, N.C., were quite late (AB).

WADERS — There were many more reports of waders from inland localities than usual at this season, and the Little Blue Heron was found at 6 inland sites in North Carolina—Whispering Pines, Fayetteville, Raleigh, Durham, Jordan Res., and Winston-Salem. Single Snowy Egrets were notable in spring near Whispering Pines, Moore Co., N.C., Apr. 17 (JHC, DT), Winston-Salem Apr. 29 (CF, RS, BW), and at Augusta, Ga., June 5 (AW, VW). Six Black-crowned Night Herons Apr. 5 at Jordan Res. (BW *et al.*) was a good count away from a breeding locale, and the seven Am. Bitterns on the Durham spring count Apr. 27 (*fide* MS) was also an excellent tally. Although regular in the Charleston area as a non-breeder during the warmer months, a Wood Stork seen at Palmetto I. County P., Mar. 21 (BP, PN) was quite early. A Glossy Ibis was noteworthy inland at an Augusta heron roost Apr. 18 (AW, VW), but truly remarkable were the 35 Glossies noted, in several flocks, at Jordan Res., Apr. 5 (BW, MW *et al.*), with eight there Apr. 16. It seems only a matter of time before White Ibises become established as breeders at Bodie and Pea Is., N.C., although the single adult at Bodie I., May 8-10 (R & MC) and May 31 (PGD) was probably a non-breeder. An ad. **Roseate Spoonbill** was an excellent find in the Battery I. and Ft. Fisher area, N.C., Apr. 26-mid-May (JFP *et al.*), and likely the same individual was detected much farther up the coast at Morehead City, N.C., May 27-June 1 (GG *et al.*). Both this adult and an immature at Jekyll I., Ga., Apr. 27 into May (LG, HG *et al.*) were probably the earliest ever for the respective states.

WATERFOWL — An ad. Mute Swan at Ft. Fisher, N.C., late April-early May was considered "countable" by birders who saw it (JF *et al.*), although it might be many years before the species is placed on the state's official list. Notable was a blue-phase Snow Goose, more numerous inland than the white-phase, near Atlanta Mar. 28 (A.A.S.) and in nearby Norcross Mar. 29 (JV). Jordan Res. was the site of many noteworthy waterfowl records: early Blue-winged Teal Mar. 2 (BW, MW); good counts of 475 Ring-necked Ducks Mar. 11 (AB, LM), five Com. Goldeneyes Mar. 9 (BW, MW), and 123 Ruddy Ducks Apr. 8 (AB); late Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, and Ruddy Duck May 9 (*fide* BR), and late Hooded and Red-breasted mergansers May 15 (BW, MW). Among late waterfowl elsewhere were a ♂ Am. Wigeon May 20 and a ♂ Lesser Scaup May 13 at Fayetteville (PJC), four Buffleheads at Pea I., May 29 (AB *et al.*), and a ♀ White-winged Scoter at Atlantic Beach, N.C., Apr. 17 (WI). A ♂ Greater Scaup at Sweetwater Creek S.P., Mar. 7 was (amazingly) the first ever reported for the Atlanta area (PB *et al.*); whereas even rarer inland were single White-winged Scoters on L. Lanier, Ga., Mar. 21 (PB) and on L. Keowee, S.C., Mar. 25 (DM, JB), and five Surf Scoters on the latter lake Apr. 12 (JB, SW). Buffleheads were quite common at Sweetwater Creek S.P., near Atlanta, with a good inland tally of 65 Mar. 17 (D & PM). Slightly belated was the report of a ♂ **Masked Duck** at L. Ellis, N.C., Feb. 20-

25 (D & AC *et al.* ph.). The only previous Regional record was of one photographed in s. Georgia Apr. 1, 1962.

KITES THROUGH GALLINULES — Single Swallow-tailed Kites were frequently seen along the North Carolina coast between Beaufort and Bodie I., Apr. 25-May 31 (m.ob.), with two flying N near Avon May 29 (WI *et al.*). One along the Altamaha R., near Everett, Ga., May 1 (JG) was rare for that area and may have been a breeder. An ad. Mississippi Kite at Conyers May 15 (FM) furnished perhaps the third record for the Atlanta area, and one at Augusta Apr. 23 (AW, VW) might be the earliest ever for Georgia. An ad. Mississippi Kite near Avon May 29 (ML, LP) and later in the day at Bodie I. (JO, DA) provided the first spring record for the North Carolina Outer Banks. Approximately a week early was a Broad-winged Hawk near Clemson, S.C., Mar. 27 (HL, AA). I was given adequate details by telephone of an ad. Swainson's Hawk near Raleigh Mar. 21, but a thorough, written description was not received. If the report is filed with and accepted by the North Carolina Records Committee, it would represent the first spring record for the Region. Rough-legged Hawks are seemingly reported too often outside the winter season, and there are skeptics who question many winter sightings, much less those in the spring. A dark-phase bird with fairly good details was near Fayetteville Apr. 14 (PJC) and two light-phase birds, with only a description of the tails, were reported near Jordan Res., May 9. Golden Eagles were not detected this spring, and the only Peregrine Falcons reported were at Morehead City Mar. 25 (JF) and near Fayetteville Apr. 7 (PJC). There were several Merlin sightings from the coast, including one very late May 29 at Pine Knoll Shores, N.C. (LC); inland birds were found at Jordan Res., Mar. 13 (DTa) and Fayetteville Apr. 13 (PJC). At Cumberland I., Ga., 40-50 Am. Kestrels per hour were migrating Mar. 20-21 (HG *et al.*). A Purple Gallinule found in a Morehead City backyard Mar. 28 (BHS; *, N.C.S.M.) was surprisingly early, definitely out of habitat, and somewhat to the e. of the breeding range; and inland Com. Gallinules were rare at Augusta Apr. 3 (AW, VW), Raleigh May 1 (*fide* RJH), and Winston-Salem May 6 (DK, RS).

SHOREBIRDS — Extensive mudflats at Beaverdam Res., n. Wake Co., N.C., were instrumental in high totals of shorebirds noted by Davis: peaks of 28 Semipalmated Plovers May 12, 41 Solitary Sandpipers May 11, 160 Least Sandpipers May 12, 11 White-rumped Sandpipers May 12, three Dunlins May 11, and a rare-in-spring W. Sandpiper May 12. The nearby falls of the Neuse Res. lakebed, e. of Durham, had seven Am. Golden Plovers Apr. 10 (MS, AT), and single goldens were near Dublin Mar. 10 (TKP) and Pendleton, S.C., Mar. 14-21 (HL). An excellent inland count of eight Black-bellied Plovers was made at Jordan Res., May 9 (RD), and one was found near Clemson Apr. 9 (AA). Notable inland tallies were 30 Upland Sandpipers near Dublin Apr. 17 & 22 (TKP), 83 Greater Yellowlegs and 60 Pectoral Sandpipers on the Durham spring count Apr. 27 (*fide* MS), and nine White-rumped Sandpipers at Augusta June 1 (CB). A Lesser Yellowlegs May 26 at Pendergrass, Ga., was late (JP), whereas the Least Sandpiper Mar. 21 at Fairburn (D & PM) was the earliest-ever for the Atlanta area. Quite rare inland in spring were a Ruddy Turnstone at Jordan Res., May 15 (BW, MW), single Short-billed Dowitchers near Atlanta May 6 & 8 (PB) and near Fayetteville May 10 (PJC), and individual Stilt Sandpipers near Dublin Apr. 11 & 30 (TKP). Along the coast it was another uneventful spring for shorebirds, and the only phalaropes were seen offshore—three Northern off Hatteras May 30 (PGD *et al.*), two Northern in Georgia waters off Hilton Head I., May 29 (TM), and 100+ Reds 25-30 mi off Charleston Mar. 21 (DF). Fussell pointed out that the four Semipalmated Sandpipers at Ft. Macon S.P., N.C., Apr. 21, provided the earliest record for heavily-birded Carteret County. Observers should be aware that, despite the tremendous numbers of this species that migrate along the coast throughout May and early June, Semipalmateds are late migrants and seldom appear before mid-April along the coast (or late April inland). The best shorebird was a well-described **Baird's Sandpiper** at Pea I., May 31 (PGD, RLA, JBY); most previous Regional sightings in spring had less than adequate details, and a photo or other incontrovertible evidence at this season is highly desirable.

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — A Pomarine Jaeger at Atlantic Beach, N.C., Apr. 3 (WI, JF) was somewhat early, and Fussell had a good Pomarine count of 14 there (in 2 hours) Apr. 26. An excellent find for late spring was an imm. Glaucous Gull at Oregon Inlet, N.C.,

May 9 (R & MC, TW) An imm Great Black-backed Gull at Jekyll I., May 27 (TS) was rather late, and very rare inland was another immature at Jordan Res., Mar. 20 (AB). Three inland reports of Laughing Gulls were about par for the season: near Dublin Apr. 3 (TKP), at Augusta Apr. 30 (AW, VW), and near Vass, N.C., May 2 (TH). Bonaparte's Gulls were notable at Jordan Res., with an excellent inland count of 132 Apr. 10 (AB) and one late May 15 (BW, MW). An impressive group of 5000+ Bonaparte's migrating E past Atlantic Beach Apr. 3 included an ad. Little Gull in winter plumage (WI, JF), apparently the latest ever for the Region. Very late and rather far inland was an imm. Black-legged Kittiwake, described in great detail, flying with other gulls and terns over an impoundment in n.e. Pamlico County, N.C., Apr. 30 (PJC, MEW). Not to be outdone, however, was the ad. **Sabine's Gull** seen approximately 35 mi off Hatteras Inlet May 30 (HL *et al.*), the fourth for North Carolina but the first ever found offshore. Inland tern reports were disappointingly few, with a Forster's near Raleigh Apr. 28 (JM), a Least at Augusta May 20 (AW, VW), and two Caspians near Vass May 2 (TH) and another at Jordan Res., May 6 (BL) being the sum of observations. Remarkable were the 22 **Arctic Terns** reported about 15 mi off Jekyll I., May 15 (CH), with excellent details of birds seen in flight and resting on debris. This represents Georgia's second record and is, by far, the greatest number ever seen in one day in spring in the Region. Nine Bridled Terns off Hatteras May 30 (PGD *et al.*) and six off the Georgia coast May 29 (TM *et al.*) might be encouraging news, as the species has been rather scarce for the past few years, even in late summer. The second nesting record for North Carolina and the entire Atlantic Coast of the **Sooty Tern** was established when Parnell found an adult incubating an egg in a Royal Tern colony in the lower Cape Fear R., May 1. The bird was present for about a week thereafter, but the nest was abandoned.

GOATSUCKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — A Chuck-will's-widow at Blanch, Caswell Co., N.C., May 12 (JC) was rare for that area. Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were finally found in Dare County, N.C.; two were noted in the s. part of the county Apr. 5 in pond pines, and they were feeding young June 10 (LP, JMo). Single Gray Kingbirds were rare, although perhaps predictable, May 31 at both Hatteras (HL *et al.*) and Bodie I. (PGD, RLA, JBy). Willow Flycatchers were again singing on territory this spring along Salem Cr., at Winston-Salem (RS); and an individual singing at Sweetwater Creek S.P., May 1 (DB, PB), might have been on territory, although the site should be censused in June for confirmation of territoriality. Again this spring the migrant *Empidonax* flycatchers skirted the Region, with an Alder singing near Ft. Stewart, Ga., May 2 (JG) the only certain non-breeder reported. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was reported without details from the Chapel Hill area May 8. The first nesting of **Cliff Swallow** in the North Carolina Coastal Plain was documented when DuMont and Ake noted a pair of adults and a partially completed nest under the bridge spanning Oregon Inlet May 29 & 31. The species has nested for several years along the coast at Cape Romain Ref., S.C. (under a dock) but otherwise, nesting is restricted to the Piedmont.

CROWS THROUGH VIREOS — McNair observed a Fish Crow carrying a stick (nest building?) at Clemson in early April; however, the eight to ten birds present all spring were quite social, with little other behavior patterns indicative of breeding (HL). Perhaps the first legitimate White-breasted Nuthatch for Carteret County was one seen and heard Apr. 25 near Newport (RD). A singing Long-billed Marsh Wren was somewhat late near Fayetteville May 16 (PJC), as was a Short-billed Marsh Wren near Atlanta May 15 (JS), probably the latest ever for Georgia. Three Wood Thrushes Mar. 21 at Palmetto I County P., near Charleston were early (PN, BP); whereas two Water Pipits were late at Beaverdam Res., May 11 (RD), as was another near Atlanta May 13 (PB). North Carolina's fifth **Sprague's Pipit** record, with good but not exhaustive details (whereby all species having occurred in North America could be ruled out), was an individual at Jordan Res., Apr. 12 (BL). As several of the past state records have either lacked or have had questionable details, a photo or other positive evidence is badly needed.

For some unknown reason, large numbers of Cedar Waxwings lingered into late May throughout the Region, and even Columbus, Ga., had plenty as late as May 24 (*fide* SP). The warm March weather enabled a White-eyed Vireo to reach Jordan Res., by Mar. 20 (AB), approximately 10 days early. Solitary Vireos have been scarce as

breeders recently in the North Carolina Sandhills, thus, one singing in w. Ft. Bragg, Hoke Co., May 6 (JHC) was encouraging. Philadelphia and Warbling vireos avoided detection this spring, probably owing to the scarcity of W and SW winds in late April and early May

S.A.

One of the most amazing sightings ever for the Region, if not the Atlantic Coast, was an ad. **White Wagtail** photographed at Cedar I., N.C., May 15 (JF, BH). It had a black eye line, black back, and large amount of white in the wing, identifying it as the black-backed race (*lugens*) of the coast of n.e. Asia. This is apparently the first record for the species in e. North America, full details will be published elsewhere.

WARBLERS — Trans-Gulf species of warblers were noted in poor numbers this season, with only a few of the "Florida" migrants (such as Cape May and Blackpoll) being considered in normal or above-normal numbers. Black-and-white Warblers arrived at many sites at least a week ahead of schedule, as evidenced by one at Raleigh (JM) and three at Jordan Res. (AB), Mar. 20. Rare along the immediate coast in spring were a Golden-winged Warbler at Seabrook I., S.C., Apr. 27 (JRM) and a Blue-winged Warbler near Awendaw, S.C., Apr. 25 (TR); and a singing Tennessee Warbler was a good find at Rock Hill, S.C., May 7 (AEC). Six reports of Orange-crowned Warblers in North Carolina was a large number, including two at Raleigh Apr. 9 (JM), one near Burlington Apr. 20 (AB), and one at Jordan Res., Apr. 25 (AB, JA). The quite rare-in-spring Nashville Warbler was sighted at Raleigh May 1 (*fide* RJH), Jordan Res., May 2 (WI, FI), and near Atlanta May 5 (GS). Very early N. Parulas reached Charleston by Mar. 11 (LCA, PN) and Jordan Res., by Mar. 20 (AB); but *four* Cape May Warblers Mar. 24, in full breeding plumage in a flock of Yellow-rumped, were so early at Raleigh (JM) that they might have overwintered. A Blackburnian Warbler was uncommon and late at Southern Pines, N.C., May 18 (LW), and a Palm Warbler at Cape Lookout May 9 (JF) was the latest ever for Carteret County. The elusive Connecticut Warbler was detected only at Atlanta, on 3 occasions: May 2, 4, & 9 (*fide* TM), with the first 2 reports establishing record-early dates for the city. Also rather early was a ♀ Wilson's Warbler at Raleigh May 4 (GW).

ICTERIDS THROUGH FINCHES — Always exciting in the Region is the Yellow-headed Blackbird—two males were observed at Grovetown, Ga., May 28 & 30 (GSI). A W. Tanager at a Fayetteville feeder this winter was last noted Mar. 30 (RC, KM), and a ♂ Scarlet Tanager Apr. 13 was quite early and unusual at Cape Lookout (*fide* JF), especially since it allowed itself to be picked up! Also early were a ♂ Blue Grosbeak at Cape Lookout Apr. 10 (JF) and a ♀ Indigo Bunting at Clemson Mar. 23 (AA). Like the Indigo, a ♂ Painted Bunting in Fussell's yard at Morehead City Mar. 11-Apr. 10 was so early that the possibility of overwintering is present. The only Dickcissel report came from Townville, S.C., where four singing males at 2 sites had set up territories May 23 (HL, SG). Evening Grosbeaks were common in many areas in March and April, with the latest departure being an apparently sick bird at Catawba, S.C., May 19 (JRC). House Finches bred in the Sandhills for the first time, near Pinehurst, N.C.: Apr. 23 a female was seen building a nest at a golf course, and two males were also observed (JHC). An adult was seen feeding young at Durham May 1 (MG); and in Carteret Co. were two females at Cape Lookout Apr. 10 and another in Morehead City until Apr. 30 (JF). Pine Siskins also lingered later than usual—singles remained at feeders in Winston-Salem (RS) and Southern Pines (LW) through the end of May, and two were late at College Park, Ga., May 19 (D&PM). For the second consecutive spring, a Savannah Sparrow was detected in late May in Georgia—May 29 at Midway, Liberty Co (TS). Inland sightings of Lark Sparrows require details; unfortunately, none was received for birds reported from the Raleigh and Jordan Res. areas this spring. Although not a range extension, a singing Song Sparrow at Jordan Res., May 22 (BR) was the first indication of breeding at that heavily-birded locality.

ADDENDA — A nesting colony of **Wood Storks** was found July 6, 1980 near Millen, Ga., 80 mi inland (ALT, RLH). At least 100 active nests and 200+ feathered young were observed (*Oriole* 45 34-35). This is the largest colony ever reported from the Region and is the northernmost breeding site on the continent. Storks have nested sparingly in Okefenokee Swamp, Ga., and probably have nested on a

few occasions in coastal South Carolina. North Carolina's second winter record of **Northern Waterthrush** was of an individual studied carefully along a creek near Chapel Hill Jan. 17 (BL).

CORRIGENDUM — The Golden Eagle at Eufaula Ref., Ga., in February (AB 36:285) was an adult, not an immature.

OBSERVERS — Dennis Abbott, R.L. Ake, John Alderman, Atlanta Audubon Society, Alan Avakian, Jeff Beacham, Clarence Belder, Donna Brisse, Patrick Brisse, Allen Bryan, Jeff Byrd (JBy), Derb & Ann Carter, J.H. Carter III, Louise Cauthen (LCa), Ray & Michelle Chandler, Ruth Chesnutt, James Coman, A.E. Conway, J.R. Conway, Larry Crawford, P.J. Crutchfield, Lloyd Davidson, Ricky Davis, P.G. DuMont, Dennis Forsythe, Charles Frost, John Fussell, Hugh Garrett, Liz Garrett, Sidney Gauthreaux, Marie Ger-

stenberg, Gilbert Grant, Joe Greenberg, R.J. Hader, Chris Haney, Bob Holmes, Tom Howard, R.L. Humphries, Allen, William, & Jo Hutcheson, Fran Irvin, Wayne Irvin, Dorothy Kalet, Harry LeGrand, Bruce Lord, Merrill Lynch, Dinnie & Pam McClure, Kathryn McCoy, Douglas McNair, Francis Michael, Julie Moore (JMo), Terry Moore, J.R. Morris, Lynn Moseley, Jim Mulholland, North Carolina State Museum, Perry Nugent, Jim Orgain, John Paget, J.F. Parnell, Sam Pate, T.K. Patterson, Lance Peacock, Bud Pollock, Tom Reeves, Barbara Roth, Georgann Schmalz, Mike Schultz, Gary Simpson (GSi), Ramona Snavely, Terrill Soules, Jay Stolar, B.H. Stover, Don Tarbet (DTa), A.L. Tate, Dick Thomas, Andy Towle, Joel Volpi, Bill Wagner, Margaret Wagner, Steve Wagner, Anne Waters, Vernon Waters, Libba Watson, Gail Whitehurst, M.E. Whitfield, Tom Wilcox, Bob Witherington (BWi).—**HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR.**, Department of Zoology, Clemson University, Clemson, S.C. 29631.

FLORIDA REGION

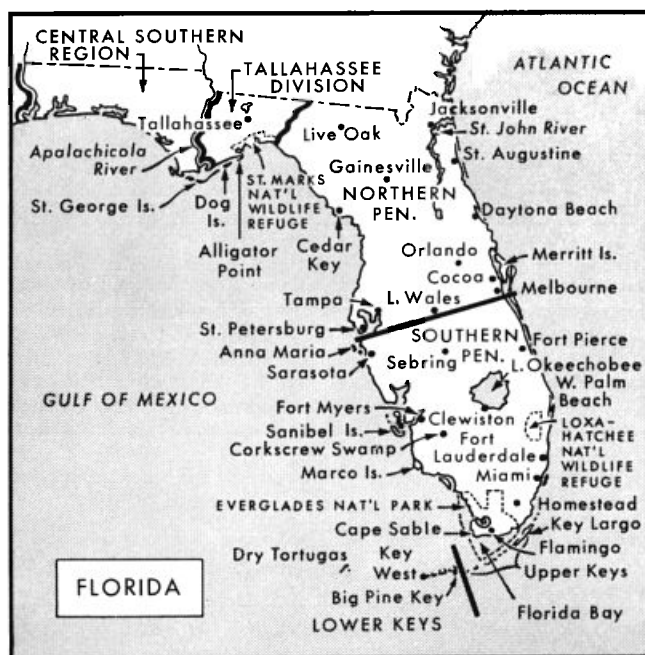
/Herbert W. Kale

Spring 1982 in the Florida Region (peninsular Florida and that portion of the panhandle east of the Apalachicola River) began with lakes at their lowest levels since the drought of 1970-71. Lake Okeechobee was three feet below normal. Signs that the drought was ending appeared in the last weekend in March when up to 16 inches of rain fell on south Florida. By the end of the period rainfall had restored lakes to near normal levels. Possibly the single weather phenomenon that most influenced the character of spring migration this year was the prevailing wind direction. Strong easterly winds throughout the period kept trans-Gulf migrants well away from the coast and many a birder went through the period without seeing a single Scarlet Tanager, rarely a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, or any of the trans-Gulf warblers. On the other hand West Indies migrants appeared more abundant than usual. Banders Steve and Annette Stedman on Casey Key, south of Sarasota, reported their best spring banding since opening their station in 1978. Another indication of the influence of these easterly winds was Johnny Johnson's comment that few land birds were seen migrating in the Atlantic offshore from Cape Canaveral. Fallouts of birds after the many weather fronts that passed down the peninsula were small and scattered, the most notable possibly being April 6-10, 23-25, and 28-29.

Regardless of the character of any spring migration in Florida, at least one of almost every species known to migrate through the state will be seen somewhere by someone. Guy McCaskie reported 160 species between May 7-15 in south Florida alone, and Joe Wilson conducting his Audubon Birdathon in northeastern Florida April 24 recorded 183 species! Possibly the most notable birds for the period were the Red-footed Booby at the Tortugas, and a Groove-billed Ani and Tropical Kingbird at Everglades National Park (details below) and one additional species never before recorded in Florida (and possibly in no other state either). It is reported below with no additional comment from me. Unfortunately, once again no report came from the Dade County area—surely *someone* is birding there. I thank Guy McCaskie for sending me his observations and only wish that more out-of-state visitors who bird in Florida would be equally as responsible and considerate. We extend our congratulations, gratitude, and regrets to Henry M. Stevenson, who is retiring as a Florida Region editor after 30 years of service. Few of us will ever equal that record. Wayne Hoffman (Dept. of Biology, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33620) has agreed to handle the 1982-83 winter period report.

ABBREVIATIONS: A.B.A.—American Birding Association; D.T.—Dry Tortugas; E.N.P.—Everglades National Park; F.A.S.—Florida Audubon Society; F.F.N.—Florida Field Naturalist; F.O.S.—Florida Ornithological Society; N. Pen.—Northern Peninsula; S. Pen.—Southern Peninsula; S.G.I.—St. George Island; T.T.—Tall Timbers Research Station; Tally Div.—Tallahassee Division; U.S.F.—University of South Florida.

LOONS THROUGH PETRELS — Although Com. Loons occasionally summer in Florida, one on Red Lobster Pond in Gainesville



May 31 (BPM, JWH, MK) tied the latest migration date. Rarely are they seen here in breeding plumage, but one in Apalachicola Bay with a freshly broken wing (HWK) and one killed on a highway near Gainesville (SAN), both in late April, were in full spring regalia. Two others in partial breeding plumage were reported on L. Worth May 18 (J & GP) and near East P., Franklin Co., May 27 (HMS & BS). Late Horned Grebes off S.G.I. causeway May 3 (JEC) and in Florida Bay n. of Key Largo May 6 (LA) were both in breeding plumage. An Eared Grebe at S.G.I. causeway Mar. 25 (JEC) was the last of several that wintered in the state. Five Cory's Shearwaters were reported 20 mi e. of Cape Canaveral May 24 (JJ) and one was chased by a small boat 10 mi off Palm Beach May 30 (HPL *et al.*). Up to 15 Audubon's Shearwaters were seen during the A.B.A. trip off Ft. Lauderdale May 14 and another was seen between D.T. and Marathon May 10 (GMC). Two Black-capped Petrels 35 mi e. of Cape Canaveral May 15 (JJ) were not unexpected, although they were closer to shore than usual, but four more 20± mi e. of Palm Beach May 9 (HPL *et al.*) were unprecedented and represent the nearest inshore and southernmost record for Florida.

TROPICBIRDS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — Two, possibly more, White-tailed Tropicbirds appeared almost daily this spring for brief periods of time over and around Ft. Jefferson, D.T. (m.ob.).

Up to eight Masked Boobies were at D.T., May 8-14, seen by many on the A.B.A. and F.A.S. trips, while six adults were seen in the Atlantic off Ft. Lauderdale May 19 (BR). Singles were seen May 10 about 15 mi e. of D.T., and May 14 e. of Ft. Lauderdale (GMC).

Brown Boobies were seen as usual at Bush Key, D T , and Rebecca Shoals by most visitors to D.T. The rare **Red-footed Booby** last seen at D T. in 1979, appeared again at Bush Key May 2-3 (CK) and again May 8 (LA, CO, HD), but it took a Questar telescope atop Ft. Jefferson to separate it from the nearby similar-appearing imm. Brown Boobies. Up to 90 Gannets in various plumages were seen flying N at Delray Beach, Palm Beach Co., Mar. 28 at 0700-0745 and 1400-1455 hrs. (RB). A ♂ Magnificent Frigatebird far inland over the Archbold Biol. Sta. near L. Placid May 17 (DRS) in the absence of any storm is a mystery.

S.A.

An unexplained reproductive failure occurred in a colony of Brown Pelicans on Merritt Island N.W.R., this spring. On Apr. 15 up to 200 active nests were present, but every nest had failed by the end of May (RCL). This tragedy, coupled with a decreasing population in Florida Bay (JAK) and reduced production in s.w. Florida nest colonies (THB) bring into question the intention of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to completely delist the Brown Pelican in Florida. It may not be Endangered, but it certainly should remain on the Threatened list.

WADERS — A "Great White" Heron that first took up residence in Sarasota Bay in July 1981, was seen displaying in February, but apparently was not paired when last seen Mar. 20 (RTP). Others were seen in Terra Ceia Bay Apr. 1 & 30, and Hillsborough Bay May 1, 23 & 25 (RTP). A Least Bittern on S.G.I., Mar. 13 (RMC & GG) was the earliest ever for the Tally Div. Whether or not a relationship to the Brown Pelican nesting failure exists, Wood Storks at Merritt Island N.W.R. had 300 active nests in March at the Moore Creek Colony, but by Apr. 20 only 4 nests still survived (RCL). Quite possibly the sudden rise in water levels in early April in the St. Johns R. valley where these storks feed was the cause of this failure. This declining species is now in process of being listed by the Dept. of Interior. A rare sight was 23 Glossy Ibises migrating 18 mi offshore e. of Cape Canaveral Apr. 14 (JJ). "Pink" (White x Scarlet) Ibis hybrids were reported at two sites, one in Hillsborough Bay Mar. 27 (RTP & GEW), another in Florida Bay near Flamingo May 7 (GMC). A "very bright, almost wild type" Scarlet was at Alafia Banks Apr. 1 (RPD & BWP). Roseate Spoonbills begin moving N along both coasts from their Florida Bay nesting colonies in March and April. One, for the second year in a row, was in Jacksonville by Apr. 24 (JW). They rarely occur inland, but six on the St. Johns R. floodplain in the Tosohatchee State Preserve, Orange Co., May 8 (HWK, JD, GB) were well inland, and three in Polk County Apr. 25-May 30 were in the center of the state (CG, m.ob.).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS — Two adults and three downy chicks in Naples, Collier Co., May 4 (MW) provided the southernmost record for the Fulvous Whistling Duck on the Gulf coast. White-winged Scoters departed the Banana R. in early March with ten last seen there Mar. 3, but about 20 Black Scoters remained through the end of May (RCL). A Hooded Merganser at the Tallahassee Sewage Plant May 23 (GEM) was the latest for the Tally Div. The long drought again prevented Everglade (Snail) Kites from nesting in L. Okeechobee and the Conservation Areas, but being nomadic in nature some of them moved up into c. Florida and were found nesting in cattails in L. Tohopekaliga and L. Kissimmee (SB). Because of the instability of cattails most of these nests would have failed except for the efforts of Steve Beissinger and Rod Chandler who transferred each nest into a wire basket on a PVC pipe. Up to four kites were seen in a privately-owned near-pristine 800-acre marsh (a rarity now in the upper St. Johns valley) on the n.w. corner of S.R. 60 and S.R. 512. Observations of Everglade Kites from anywhere in Florida by residents or visitors should be reported to the Loxahatchee N.W.R. (Rt. 1, Box 278, Boynton Beach, FL 33437, Ph: 305-732-3684).

A Sharp-shinned Hawk at S.G.I., Apr. 28 (HMS) was the latest ever for the Tally Div., and one at Ft. Desoto P., Apr. 24 (B & DC) was a day short of tying the latest N. Pen. date, yet, far to the s. they were still passing through D.T., feeding on migrating warblers, May 7-14 (F.A.S.). Single migrating Broad-winged Hawks were reported at Delray Beach Mar. 16 (PWS), Ft. Pierce Inlet Mar. 30 (H & WD), and Ft. Desoto P., Apr. 4 (B & DC). Short-tailed Hawks (dark-phase) were noted at Tosohatchee Mar. 27 (MKU & GM), E.N.P., (dark) May 7 (GMC), Fish-eating Creek (light*) May 15 (GMC) and the Green

Swamp, Polk Co (dark) May 30 (LH *et al.*). A light-phase bird wintered on Key West and was seen there Mar. 24 (MB) and Apr. 13 (FH *et al.*) Peregrine sightings throughout the Region were encouraging with birds seen at S.G.I. causeway Mar. 7 (RMC *et al.*), Hillsborough Bay Apr. 15 (RTP), Boca Grande Pass Apr. 23 (MMS), and S.G.I., May 9 (RMC & CME). Merlins were also widespread, at Naples (where they wintered) Apr. 4 (THB), Cape Canaveral, seven on Apr. 9 (RCL & DRS), Tosohatchee Apr. 10 (HWK, JD, & GB), w of Lantana Apr. 28 (HPL), and D.T., May 12-13 (F.A.S.). Two rare days with W winds this spring enabled Peggy Powell to observe Am Kestrels migrating N over S. Ponte Vedra Beach, Duval Co., with 22 birds Mar. 17 (0900-0930 hrs) and 113 birds on Mar. 22 (0830-1100 hrs).

TURKEYS THROUGH TERNS — An unprecedented sight on the highly urbanized barrier islands of Palm Beach County, was a ♀ wild Turkey at Palm Beach Mar. 23 (CW) and probably the same bird at the n. end of Hypoluxo I., Mar. 28 (*vide* GSH). The Caribbean Coot (?— see Stevenson's comments in AB:36, 288) that wintered in Tallahassee was last seen there Mar. 28 (GEM). At Cudjoe Key Semipalmated Sandpipers May 27 (CC & FH) set the latest date for the Lower Keys. The only Am. Golden Plovers reported were four at St. Marks Light Mar. 10, and one at L. Jackson, Leon Co., Mar. 21 (RMC), and the sole Upland Sandpiper was in a pasture near Alachua Apr. 22 (BPM). Solitary Sandpipers are usually just that, plus maybe one or two more, but *ca.* 18, 8 mi e. of Tallahassee Apr. 11 (GEM & HMS) and 17 at Loxahatchee N.W.R., May 1 (BHH, JH, PWS) were unusually unsolitary. Varying numbers of Red Knots were seen in Hillsborough Bay: 300 on Apr. 3, 600 on Apr. 22, dwindling to zero after May 15 (RTP). One of the rarest sandpipers in Florida, **Baird's Sandpiper** was seen on Old Keystone Rd., Pinellas Co., Apr. 10 by three birders from England and confirmed by Jeff More and Wes Biggs. Marbled Godwits were in Hillsborough Bay throughout April and May with up to 50 there Apr. 22 (RTP). A single **Ruff**, a female, was in a pond with Stilt Sandpipers and dowitchers along S.R. 27, 3.5 mi n. of Moore Haven May 8 (RS & DWF) and a N. Phalarope along the Tamiami Trail 3 mi w. of Carnestown May 15 (DS, AA *et al.*), was the latest ever for the S. Pen. About half way between Port Everglades and the Grand Bahamas early on the morning of Mar. 1, Edward Weidner of Green Bay, Wisconsin, saw two Pomarine Jaegers and that evening a group of 12-14 Parasitic Jaegers followed the ship for about 10 min. Three Parasitics (2 light, 1 dark) were 3 mi off Mullet Key May 15 while a fourth (light) was seen chasing a passerine (WH). Two Great Black-backed Gulls were still in Palm Beach Mar. 20 (PWS & BHH) and one at Lantana Beach Mar. 29 (BHH & PWS). Of the several Lesser Black-backed Gulls that wintered, only one, at Ft. Pierce Inlet Mar. 13 (H & WD), remained into the spring period. Bonaparte's Gulls in breeding plumage are rarely seen in Florida, hence three with completely black heads in a flock of 12 at L. Placid Apr. 11 (FEL) were unusual. A Gull-billed Tern at Cape Romano Apr. 11 was the first recorded in s.w. Florida in 20 years and 18 Com. Terns (16 adults) there May 9 were also a first (THB). Possibly influenced by nesting activity of Least Terns, the colony of Roseates at Key West have begun nesting on roof-tops there. This year an estimated **150-200** birds nested atop the Truman Annex, the tallest building on the waterfront (KW). This is the largest colony in many years in the Keys. A Sooty Tern was found moribund on the beach s. of Ft. Pierce Apr. 13 (JB, *U.S.F.). A Brown Noddy appeared at Ft. DeSoto P., Apr. 26 (DF) and was found dead there May 3 (GM & MWi). The rare **Black Noddy** put in an appearance at D.T. in mid-April (WBR) but then departed and was not seen subsequently. As usual, Bridled Terns were reported on most pelagic trips with birds seen between Marathon and D.T., May 8-10 and off Ft. Lauderdale May 14 (GMC) and off Cape Canaveral May 24 (JJ).

PARROTS THROUGH NIGHTHAWKS — Twelve Canary-winged Parakeets were noted in Palm Beach Mar. 20 (BHH & PWS) and a new exotic, a Blue-crowned Conure, *Aratinga acuticaudata*, was at Delray Beach Mar. 27 (RB). Although Mangrove Cuckoos are not unexpected wherever mangroves and other subtropical vegetation grow along both coasts, they remain rare n. of Florida Bay and the Ten Thousand Islands. One on Hypoluxo I., May 25 (HPL & GSH) was of interest. A **Groove-billed Ani** showed up in a flock of Smooth-billed Anis at Anhinga Trail, E.N.P., Mar. 8 (OLB) through mid-April (m.ob.). On Apr. 18 it was being severely harassed by the Smooth-billed Anis and when last seen was off by itself (BA & HWK).

S.A.

At dusk on April 1 in Colon Harbor, Panama, Tim Koebel, aboard the tramp tanker S.S. *Point Julie* outbound after transiting the Panama Canal, noticed a Potoo [probably a Common Potoo, *Nyctibius griseus*—Ed.] flying around the ship Just before dawn of April 6, as the ship was entering West Palm Beach inlet, Koebel was astonished to see a Potoo circle the ship and then fly off toward the n. side of the inlet.

Antillean Nighthawks were observed and heard calling with Com. Nighthawks in early May (m.ob.) at Marathon Airport, probably the best place in the Keys to see this new species (as of the 6th edition, A.O.U. Check-list, 1983). Two nighthawks flying S., one giving the typical Antillean call, were seen over Ft. Lauderdale May 24 (WG & TH) Little is known about the distribution of this species outside of the Keys. Both birds were also on D.T. in early May (m.ob.).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH SWALLOWS — For students of Ruby-throat migration, 12 at Ft. DeSoto P. on both Apr. 9 (JH *et al.*) and Apr. 11 (B & DC), are of interest. Five years ago I listed a first spring record for the Cuban Emerald as August 10, 1977 (AB 31:991). Four years later Nancy Newfield in Louisiana questioned me about the date. The month, of course, should be corrected to read April 10 (and now I know that no one in Florida critically reads my reports!) The first record of the **Tropical Kingbird** in E.N.P., Apr. 17, was well appreciated by those attending the F.O.S. spring meeting. It was perched in a *Ficus* tree near Anhinga Trail with a W. Kingbird and a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (m.ob.). A Scissor-tailed at Ft. DeSoto P., Apr. 11 (B & DC, MH) was the earliest in migration for the S. Pen. The Wied's Crested Flycatchers that wintered at Anhinga Trail departed a few days before the F.O.S. meeting (Apr. 16-18), as none were seen that weekend (*vide* OLB). An E. Phoebe on S.G.I., May 3 (JEC) was the latest ever for the Tally Div., and an Acadian Flycatcher that hit the WCTV tower at T.T., n. of Tallahassee May 9 (RLC) was a late migrant that provides specimen support for the late Acadians occasionally reported on S.G.I. A singing Willow Flycatcher, seldom reported in Florida, was early in Jacksonville Apr. 24 (JW) Three Least at Wellington, Palm Beach Co., Mar. 14 (HPL, PWS, TT) if not wintering (a rare event) were early migrants there. The latest date in the Lower Keys for a **Bahama Swallow** was set on Big Pine Key May 5 (LL), and a Cliff Swallow at the Tally Sewage Plant Mar. 29 (GEM) was the earliest for this rare spring migrant in the Tally Div. A rare **Cave Swallow** was again on the Eastpoint waterfront Mar. 7 (RC *et al.*) near where one occurred in December 1980 (AB 35:294). Paul Sykes informs me that after much study he is withdrawing his sight record of a Gray-breasted Martin in the Keys May 7-14, 1977 (AB:31, 991) and a note to this effect will be published in F F N.

MAGPIES THROUGH PIPITS — The Black-billed Magpie that was seen Feb. 26 at Lantana (HPL) must have flown N to Hutchison I., near Stuart, Martin Co., where one was photographed Mar. 27 (PL) and last reported Apr. 3 flying over a dune (JPS). This bird is presumed to be an escape, but from where? A Gray Catbird was late at Dunedin, Pinellas Co., May 22 (JM) and one singing at dusk in a Gainesville backyard May 21 (HWK) suggests possible breeding. The catbird that nested at Glen St. Mary, Baker Co., in 1981 was back on territory May 29 (PCP). An Am. Robin in Lyn Atherton's yard in Tampa May 22, may have been breeding as it was not far from a previous breeding site. At Ft. DeSoto P., three Wood Thrushes Apr. 3 (KT & LH) were early, a Swainson's Thrush Apr. 8 (RG *et al.*) tied the N Pen's earliest date, and a Gray-cheeked Apr. 7 (LA) was the earliest for the entire state. The Sprague's Pipit wintering at S.G.I. causeway was still there Mar. 26 (D & PM).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS — A rare Warbling Vireo was in s Jacksonville Apr. 24 (PCP). One of the two Bananaquits at Palm Beach Feb. 26 (erroneously reported as Dec. 26 in the winter season report) was last seen Mar. 15 (*vide* GSH). A Worm-eating Warbler at Palm Bay May 18 (JYA) was the latest for the state. In addition to being a rarity in the Lower Keys, a Swainson's Warbler on Stock I., Apr. 27 (SA) produced the latest spring record. A rare Golden-winged Warbler at Hypoluxo I., Apr. 4 (HPL, GSH *et al.*) was the earliest for the S Pen., and tied the earliest state date. Single Blue-winged Warblers were reported Apr. 10 at L. Worth (MME) and Ft. DeSoto P (JM, WB *et al.*), and Apr. 11 at Ft. DeSoto (B & DC) and Orlando (HWK). Nashville Warblers are so uncommon in Florida that one at

Ft DeSoto P., Apr. 10 (JM *et al.*) must have been the same bird seen there Apr. 14 & 15 (LA). Possibly the only Cerulean Warbler seen this period was one at the Univ. of N. Florida campus Apr. 24 (JW) Never abundant, even when winds are favorable, a Chestnut-sided Warbler Apr. 24 (B & DC) and a Bay-breasted Warbler May 9 (LH & KT) were especially rare this spring.

Undoubtedly, the warbler of the season has to be the ♂ **Kirtland's Warbler** carefully studied on Hypoluxo I., Apr. 29 (HPL & GSH—details in F.F.N.). A Kentucky Warbler at Frances Hames' birdbath in Key West May 16, besides being the first seen there in many years, was the latest for the Lower Keys, and ties the latest date for the state. Three more were at Ft. DeSoto P., Apr. 8 (CG *et al.*) and one Apr. 17 (LH *et al.*). Connecticut Warblers were at Greynolds P., Miami May 2 (MJA), Beer Can I., Sarasota May 4 (R & MS), and Casey Key May 10 & 13 (S & AS). The lone Wilson's Warbler that wintered in s. Jacksonville remained until Mar. 27 (JPC).

TANAGERS THROUGH SPARROWS — Only three reports of Scarlet Tanagers reached me—not surprising as this is a typical trans-Gulf migrant. A male in s. Jacksonville Mar. 8 (VMM) furnished the earliest record for the State. Two other sightings included one at Ft. DeSoto P., Apr. 9 (SI) and four there May 9 (KT & LH). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak and a Blue Grosbeak at Alligator Pt., Franklin Co., Apr. 7 (HS) were both early. Late goldfinches, one on S.R. 229, Baker Co., May 29 (PCP), and one at a feeder in Gainesville May 30 (OA), were the latest in the N. Pen. An Indigo Bunting w. of Boynton Beach May 31 (GSH & HPL) was the latest for the S. Pen. A Grasshopper Sparrow near L. Alfred Mar. 8 (PT *et al.*) may have been wintering nearby. Two Henslow's Sparrows, one singing, were still in Tosohatchee State Preserve Mar. 27 (HWK, GB, JD).

S.A.

The five surviving ♂ Dusky Seaside Sparrows remain in good condition, but celibate (thanks to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on both counts) in Gainesville. As of this writing hopes are again high that the Service will relent and allow these aging males to be bred in 1983 with females from the Gulf coast Seaside populations. Cape Sable Seaside is in excellent shape in E.N.P. and number in the thousands (OLB). The best place to see these Seaside is in the mucky grass prairie e. of Flamingo Rd., one mi s. of the Mahogany Hammock intersection.

The first record of Harris' Sparrow in the S. Pen., and the latest for the state was of an ad. male on Singer I., Riviera Beach May 18 (J & GP). The Lincoln Sparrow that wintered in Forest City, Orange Co., was last seen Apr. 8 (CT & FM), and a Song Sparrow on Payne's Prairie May 25 (JHH) was the latest in the state by over a month.

CORRIGENDUM — *Am. Birds* 30: 710. The correct date for the Wood Thrush was March 22, not March 2.

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ONTARIO REGION

/Ron D. Weir

Nature overlooked the fact that spring is scheduled for March! Aside from a warm low that crossed the south March 11-14 bringing waves of migrants, winter's icy grip held on tightly. By April 5, the whole province was plunged into record cold and snow, warmest in the extreme southwest at -10°C . This resulted in a spectacular reverse migration of thousands of birds along the shores of Lakes Ontario and Erie extending to Rondeau Provincial Park and Pelee National Park (hereafter, Rondeau and Pelee respectively). Ice conditions forced waterfowl into small open patches of water.

Widespread groundings were reported April 16-18, but continuous sunny weather from April 20-May 5 resulted in few birds being grounded. Successive lows May 5-8 caused spectacular falls along the north shore of Lake Ontario and, to a lesser degree, Lake Erie. Counted at the tip of Prince Edward Point (hereafter, P.E. Pt.) May 8 were 4500 Yellow-rumped Warblers and 7500 White-throated Sparrows brought down by the rain (K.F.N.). The only other fall affecting wide areas north to Pimisi Bay occurred May 15-16. The integration of the many excellent reports from observers show correlations between low pressure cell passage and groundings, dates of effluxes from the south and influxes to the north. Rarities abound! How can it all be fitted within the space allotted?

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — A record early Com. Loon passed Mississagi Light (hereafter, M.L.) Apr. 10 and peaked at 519 May 8 (JN). Loonwatchers at Whitby tallied 200-400 on several mornings within the first hour after sunrise and the maximum was 560 Apr. 27 (MB). Arrival at Rainy R., was Apr. 17, and 18 migrants passed Quetico May 13 (DE, SP). The loonwatchers at Whitby noted six Red-throats Apr. 15-May 27, an unprecedented number of well documented sightings. Another was found dead there Apr. 20 (MB). In the same period, singles were at Barrie, Port Hope, Pelee, Port Credit, Presqu'ile P.P., Scarborough and two were at Ottawa. Concentrations of Red-necked Grebes were lower than in the previous few springs with 150 at Cranberry Marsh Apr. 14 (D. Ruch, J. Jackson), 100 at Oakville Apr. 10 (JAK) and M.L., Apr. 17-25 (JN). The 30 at Burlington May 30 was a large number for the late date (KM). Observers reported Horned Grebe to be scarce. Single Eared Grebes were at Rondeau Apr. 14 (PAW), Port Dover & Arran L., Apr. 24 (DJH, MP) and the Port Stanley lagoons Apr. 25-May 2 (PR, AMcT). At Rainy R., 23 White Pelicans Apr. 12 were early (AW, DAS) and 45 were migrating Apr. 17 (DE *et al.*). One Great Cormorant in breeding plumage was at Amherst I., May 22 (MHE, RDW *et al.*), indeed a very rare bird on the Great Lakes at any time of year. Double-crested were widespread over the Great Lakes in numbers suggesting further recovery. At Rainy R., Apr. 14, 600 were seen (AW, DAS) and on Amherst I., May 22, 200+ were present (K.F.N.).

HERONS, IBISES — The Great Blue Heron at Ottawa Mar. 11 was early (BMD). Several species of southern herons overflow their normal bounds. An ad. Little Blue was photographed at St. Thomas (RH). Only four Cattle Egrets were reported between Apr. 15-May 24; at Long Pt., Ottawa, L. St. Clair and Dundas Marsh. (DJH, MG, AR, PAW, RC). Great Egrets were almost common, pun not intended. They wandered N to Barrie (one) and the Bruce Peninsula (two) and E to Prince Edward County (one), Kingston (three), Ivy Lea (one) and Mallorytown (one). A very early large white egret on Manitoulin I., (hereafter, M. I.), Mar. 27 was probably this species (GG). Lone Snowy Egrets appeared at Port Rowan Apr. 29-May 1 (DJH *et al.*), Amherst I., May 23 (K.F.N.), Ajax May 24-29 (SM *et al.*) and Trenton May 26-28 (HS *et al.*). The rarest of all this family to appear was the Louisiana Heron at Rondeau May 12 (JW, *vide* PAW). Glossy Ibis irrupted for the first spring since 1976. Singles were near Chatsworth May 5 & 31 (PM, TM), York May 5-9 (BD *et al.*), Kingston May 16 (AMcC), Barrie May 22 (D. Stuckey, JT), Ottawa May 30 (RF *et al.*) and two were at Bright's Grove sewage lagoon May 8 (DR).



SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — Whistling Swans peaked Mar. 12-19 in the southwest with 12,000 on the ice at Kettle Pt. (AR) and 17,300 in Dover Marshes (DR). They occurred in numbers well n. and e. of their normal spring route. Fifty were at Ivy Lea Mar. 2 (BS *et al.*) and between Mar. 11-14, 40 in Kingston, 25 in Ottawa, 120 in Whitby and 80 at St. Catharines. The Mute Swan on M. I., May 9-12 (CB, JL) was thought to be feral but its origin unknown. Some 11,000 Canada Geese were grounded at Bright's Grove Mar. 19 (*vide* AHK) and their main flight moved Apr. 24-May 6 as 10,000 went over Presqu'ile P.P. (WP) and 25,000+ over Kingston (K.F.N.) in the last few days of the period. Brant flew between May 12-22 and peak numbers were over e. L. Ontario May 16 when 1400 were at Ottawa (BMD), 7500+ at Kingston, 500 at P.E. Pt. (K.F.N.), 1000+ at Presqu'ile P.P. (WP). One White-fronted Goose in the Cranberry Marsh Apr. 9-10 (CW *et al.*) was migrating with Canadas and eight Snow Geese and appeared to be wild, as did the one in Ottawa Apr. 25 (G. McGee *et al.*), their third ever in spring.

Only seven other Snows were reported, at Kingston and M.I. (K.F.N., JN). Four ♂ Eur. Wigeon was an excellent number-two at Port Hope Apr. 19 (BO), Ottawa Apr. 25-28 (JC *et al.*), Cranberry Marsh May 4-8 (MB *et al.*). A pair of N. Shoveler May 1 in Algonquin P.P. constitutes their second record ever (JM, RDM) and the hybrid N. Shoveler x Blue-winged Teal May 4 Long Pt. left the observers wondering what went wrong (MP, DJH *et al.*). At Presqu'ile P.P. Mar. 27, a Canvasback was wearing a beak marker, blue with white letters #A (AGC, WP). The wintering ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye at Burlington was last seen Mar. 14 (KM) and the female at Ottawa May 3 (BMD). Bufflehead peaked at M.I., May 1-2 (JN) but the expected large Oldsquaw flight failed to materialize there. Its peak was only 300 on May 15 (JN). In the south, the 4000 at Presqu'ile P.P., May 4 (RDM, FH) was the largest group reported. A lone ♀ Com. Eider was reported at Niagara-on-the-Lake Mar. 15 (BMD), but details have yet to be received. Two and three ♀ King Eiders were also there Mar. 6 & 15 respectively (AGC, TB, BMD). A breeding-plumaged male with a female rested on the St. Lawrence R. near Mallorytown Landing Apr. 15 (D Ro). The White-winged Scoter flight was evident at M.I., May 19 with 650 (JN), P.E. Pt., May 22 with 150 (K.F.N.) and Whitby May 15-27 when regular evening departures occurred (MB).

VULTURES, HAWKS — Turkey Vultures were moving along the Niagara escarpment Mar. 22 (RK) and good numbers were reported throughout the south. Further n., one reached Virginiatown Apr. 18 (F&JW), nine were on M.I., Apr. 25 (JN) and 13 were dining on a road kill at Fort Frances Apr. 17 (DE *et al.*). A record 54 Goshawks were counted at the Grimsby hawk watch in the period, which was expected after last autumn's irruption, and about 4000 Sharp-shinned (*vide* KM). Red-tailed (Krider's) Hawk wandered E to the Rainy R. area Apr. 15 (AW, DAS) and Amherst I., May 16 (WG). An early Red-shouldered was at Ottawa Mar. 17 (BMD). Some 550 were tallied at

the Grimsby watch (*cf.* record 724 in 1980) with this year's peak of 172 Mar. 15 (*vide* KM). The 76 migrating past P.E. Pt., Mar. 27 are noteworthy (GV, RDW) and in Muskoka numbers were up (*vide* RB). Broad-winged arrived Apr. 9 at M.I. for their earliest (JN) and early birds were in Whitby Mar. 24 (DC). High numbers of Rough-legged were noted by several reporters. About 100 were seen at Grimsby (*vide* KM) and 24 were migrating along the Rainy R., Apr. 17 (DE *et al.*). On Amherst I., 14 were present Apr. 18 and one was there and at P.E. Pt., to May 31 (K.F.N.). At Grimsby, the four Golden Eagles were normal numbers but the nine Balds set a record. Six Balds in the Kingston area are an increase and 22 were migrating along the Rainy R., Apr. 17 (DE *et al.*). The one Gyrfalcon was seen near Sudbury in early March (C. Whitelaw). Eleven Peregrines and 23 Merlins were reported.

GROUSE THROUGH COOTS — A Spruce Grouse nest in Algonquin P.P. contained 5 eggs May 23 (MD) and that of a fecund Ruffed Grouse at Hepworth held 22 eggs (JJ)! Only five Bobwhites were noted, all in the southwest (*vide* AHK). Early Sandhill Cranes were on M.I., Apr. 2 (JN), remarkable in such cold conditions, and 65 were migrating over Quetico P.P. Apr. 18 (SW). In the south where the species is rare, there were six sightings Apr. 3-May 31 at Barrie, Bronte, Rondeau, Delaware and N. Gower (m.ob.). The much sought after, but elusive, Yellow Rail was heard on M.I., May 1-20 (JN *et al.*) and two were at Richmond May 15-23 (BMD, JH). The early Am. Coot at Whitby Mar. 7 was perched contentedly 8 m up a red pine tree (KL)—a site not given in field guides as preferred habitat!

SHOREBIRDS — Two Piping Plover were at Long Pt., Apr. 21-May 4 (*vide* DS). At Burlington, 1000 Killdeer passed in 3 hours in reverse migration (MJ, KM). Rondeau hosted 1000 Am. Golden Plover May 1, and 5 other sightings from the southwest each consisted of 100-300 birds (*vide* AHK). Whimbrel peaked May 19-26 along the lower lakes with 500 at Pelee May 26 (*vide* AHK) and 150 at P.E. Pt., May 22 (K.F.N.). Earliest-ever records included a Solitary Sandpiper Apr. 18 (SH) and Lesser Yellowlegs Apr. 15 (AEH), both Amherst I., and the 800 Lesser Yellowlegs at Bright's Grove May 1 are exceptional (*vide* AHK). A Willet at Kettle Pt. and two at Pelee May 4 (AR, DR) plus three from Owen Sound May 21-27 (D. Scott) were upstaged by an incredible 34 in the Dundas Marsh Apr. 27 (PS). One Purple Sandpiper was in Hamilton May 23 (KM). The Pectoral flight was very heavy, but only in the extreme southwest where 1000 were at Bright's Grove May 1 (*vide* AHK). White-rumped put on a strong showing with 36 at Bright's Grove, seven at Pelee (DR) and at St. David's 22 were seen May 30 (AW, MR). The Curlew Sandpiper at the Essex sewage lagoons must highlight the waders. First found on May 13, it was seen by many observers and photos by M. Brown are diagnostic. Two W. Sandpipers were reported at Strathroy May 8



Curlew Sandpiper, Essex, Ont., May 13-17, 1982. Photo/ Alan Wormington.

(WRJ) and Bright's Grove May 23 (AR). Well seen, heard and documented were single Long-billed Dowitchers at Pelee Apr. 4 (AW *et al.*), Strathroy May 2-3 (RHa *et al.*) and Bowmanville May 16 (RN). Also on May 16, three Stilt Sandpipers were at Harrow (AGC *et al.*), and one on M.I. (JL). At Aylmer, near London, eight were present May 19 (R&JS).

The first Marbled Godwits arrived at Pelee Apr. 18 (DR), another at Bowmanville May 5-16 (PB *et al.*), M.I. May 8 & 22 (CB, JL) and at least two were at Richmond May 14-16 & 23 (*vide* BMD). Also at Richmond May 14-16 were two Hudsonian Godwits (A. Dale, BMD *et al.*), only the fourth spring, and two others were at Harrow May 16 (JA). Intriguing is the report of three large godwitlike waders Apr. 3 at Presqu'île P.P. (AGC *et al.*) that the observers think were Hudsonian. Single Ruffs were at Pelee Apr. 4 (AW), Brentwood May 7-10 (AS, DH), Harrow May 8-9 & 22 (DR *et al.*) and Richmond May 19 (BMD *et al.*). An Am. Avocet was seen at Harrow sewage ponds May 11 (AR *et al.*). Wilson's Phalarope appears to continue expanding its range and numbers. The 25+ pairs on territory at Amherst I. are unprecedented (K.F.N.) and 26 birds were in Ottawa (BMD). Seven N. Phalaropes were found—one in Tiny's Marsh May 8 (JT), four at Ottawa May 19-25 (*vide* BMD) and two at Port Colbourne May 30 (JCh).

GULLS, TERNS — Three Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen. That at Gore Bay May 25 (WM, A. Shaw) was the first for M.I.; singles were again at Oliphant May 27 (MP) and Ottawa May 29 (MG, RG), their first in spring. Herring Gulls were grounded Mar. 27 at P.E. Pt., with 3000+ on the ice (GV, RDW), but by Apr. 10 thousands were passing M.L. (JN). An ad. Black-headed was at Long Pt., Apr. 25-May 31 (MGU, m.ob.) and the same individual may have been at Rondeau Apr. 4 (PAW) and Pelee May 12 (DR). Also at Pelee from May 12 were three ad. Laughing Gulls (DR *et al.*). Six Franklin's included birds along the St. Clair flats Mar. 21 (AR), Pelee May 7 & 15 (CEG, AGC), Kingston May 19 & 22 (PMack *et al.*) and Ottawa May 27 (BMD). At Bowmanville 5000 Bonaparte's lingered May 1-8 (PB), but only 15 Little Gulls were reported. Winter's last Black-legged Kittiwake was at P.E. Pt. Mar. 23 (MCE, RKE). Early terns included a Forster's Apr. 11 at Pickering (RDK) and a Caspian at Presqu'île P.P. (RDM). Forster's were in good numbers in the extreme southwest (*vide* AHK) and singles were in Kingston Apr. 18 (KFE, MCE), for the fourth year of the past 5, and Ottawa May 28 (BMD *et al.*), their fifth ever. Only one Arctic Tern was reported and that in Ottawa May 25 (BMD).

OWLS — Two Barn Owls were reported Mar. 6 & May 1 from the southwest (AGC, TB, DS). Algonquin P.P. had its first-ever spring Snowy on Mar. 16 (SE, DJ) and on Wolfe I., Mar. 21, 7 tarried after most of their kin had gone. One was still there May 20 (AEB). An injured ♀ Hawk Owl was found in Brockville Mar. 6, taken to The Owl Rehabilitation and Research Foundation (hereafter, O.R.R.F.) but died (KMCK) and one in Ottawa Mar. 12 was late (BMD). A Burrowing Owl described well by experienced observers, was near Kleinburg May 7 (GB *et al.*), and judging from the detailed description, was not from O.R.R.F. where two were stolen in August 1981. (KMCK). Great Gray Owl reports in the south were of singles—Mar. 7-8 Marlbank (SH *et al.*), late March, Owen Sound, (*vide* JJ), Apr. 20 Midland (*vide* CJM), Apr. 21 Ottawa (R. Bracken). In the north a male was found dead on the road at Quetico May 6, but two were seen there May 11 (DE) and one in Thunder Bay Apr. 15 (JS). Boreal Owls were absent from Quetico, the first time in several years, but one was on territory near Sudbury May 15 (WK). South of the breeding range were singles Mar. 20, Clairville (AD *et al.*) and Mar. 23, Ottawa (BMD). The latter was found with serious eye injury and delivered to O.R.R.F. where successful corrective surgery was done (KMCK).

NIGHTJARS THROUGH SWALLOWS — In addition to those at Pelee, six Chuck-will's-widows were in Rondeau from May 12 (PAW *et al.*) and one at Kitchener in late May (DF). The Com. Nighthawk Apr. 2 in London (M. Garber) was incredibly early and unlikely to have survived. Over 1000 flickers were migrating Apr. 16 at Kettle Pt. (AR). The wintering Red-bellied Woodpeckers were still present Apr. 7 at M.I. (I&JW), Apr. 18 (MB) at Whitby, Apr. 23 at Stratford (MPD) and noteworthy of the many migrants were singles near Sudbury May 8 (MH *et al.*), an area first, and P.E. Pt., May 15, 23, 25 (K.F.N.). A record early Red-headed was on M.I., Apr. 18 (JN) and the area's fourth spring Black-backed Three-toed there May 30 (CL), singles of which were at Orillia Apr. 25 (WZ) and Ottawa May 18 (P. Walker). Northern Three-toeds were in Algonquin P.P., Mar. 4 & 7 (RT) and Thunder Bay Apr. 25 (T.B.F.N.). Found dead at Port Elgin Apr. 8 was an early E. Kingbird (JJ) and a Western Kingbird May 21 at Cranberry Marsh was nicely documented (DC *et al.*). The very rare Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Pelee May 7 (DR, WC, MG). Mid-

dlexes's fourth Acadian Flycatcher occurred May 22-23 at London (MA) and others were at Kettle Pt. May 6 (AR), Rondeau (PAW) and Long Pt. May 24 (*vide* DJH). Early swallows were Tree at Kingston Mar. 14 (J. Hicks), Hamilton Mar. 18 (BD); Rough-winged on M.I., Apr. 25 (JN); Barn at Algonquin P.P., Apr. 16 (RT) and Cliff in the Rainy R. district (AW, DAS).

JAYS THROUGH WRENS — A Gray Jay nest at Sapawe held 3 eggs Mar. 28 and 3 young Apr. 4 (NB). The last dates for Boreal Chickadees in the south were Mar. 20 at Colpoys Bay (LR) and Apr. 17 at Pelee (JF). Tufted Titmice were in Kitchener throughout (CAC), but one at Whitby Apr. 21-23 was only their second (JM *et al.*) and one was banded at Long Pt. (*vide* DJH). The Red-breasted Nuthatch flight was tremendous Apr. 26-May 12 and 200 were at P.E. Pt., May 8 (K.F.N.). Ontario's annual Bewick's Wren occurred at Long Pt., Apr. 25-29, where one was banded (DS *et al.*), and Pelee May 9-10 (DR *et al.*). North of their usual range were two territorial ♂ Carolina Wrens in Kingston from Apr. 15 (K.F.N.) and another in Ottawa Mar. 6-31 (BMD *et al.*). In the southwest they were scarce (*vide* AHK).

MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS — A Mockingbird was well north at Copper Cliff throughout April (JN). Large flocks of robins suddenly appeared in the south Mar. 11-14, but on Apr. 4 their massive reverse migration all along the lower lakes was in high gear. The 10,000 in 3 hours at Burlington tells the story (KM, MJ)! Away from the southwest it was a bumper year for Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. Peaks were seven at Whitby May 23, eight and six at P.E. Pt., May 2 & 15 and four at Presqu'île P.P. May 20. Nesting pairs at these sites were 2, 2 and 1 respectively. Other birds were north to M.L., May 16 (JN), Meaford May 12 (J. Clarke), Barrie May 24 (WZ) and Ottawa Apr. 28 & May 17 (BMD). The lone Water Pipit Mar. 29 in Ottawa was early and the 300 there May 23 are exceptional for spring (BMD, A. Simpson). Bohemian Waxwings retreating after their strong winter showing were last seen in Atikokan Mar. 20 (DE), M.I., Apr. 10 (JN) and Thunder Bay Apr. 12 (T.B.F.N.).

A late N. Shrike was at Grimsby Apr. 14 (WK) and the last sightings were at Rainy R., Apr. 17 (DE *et al.*) and Sudbury Apr. 18 (JN). If migration data are representative then the fortunes of the Loggerhead Shrike continue to decline. Single birds only were reported from Waterloo, Barrie, Toronto, M.I. and Thunder Bay and none at all from Grey and Bruce cos., nor Algonquin P.P., where expected. Data from the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas should be more reliable indicators of its changing status. At Kingston where only one or two spring migrants were seen in 1981 and 1982, at least eight nest sites are known for each year. Bell's Vireos were found at Pelee May 6 (CEG *et al.*) and at Cranberry Marsh May 26-28 (JLV, JEM). At least 16 White-eyed Vireos were seen per day at Pelee for part of May and three were in Sarnia (DR), five banded at Long Pt. (*vide* DJH) and singles at Delaware May 5 (WRM), Kingston May 13 (CW), Presqu'île P.P., May 15 (CEG) and P.E. Pt., May 19-20 (K.F.E. *et al.*). Yellow-throated Vireos were north of their usual range at M.I. May 18 (JN) and Pimisi Bay May 29 (LKL).

WARBLERS — Six Prothonotary Warblers were reported away from their traditional haunts at Pelee and Rondeau. Singles were at Cranberry Marsh, P.E. Pt., Port Colbourne, Pinery P.P., and two at Long Pt. At least three Worm-eating were at Pelee (DR *et al.*), singles at P.E. Pt., Rondeau and Long Pt., where one was banded. Of the nine Blue-winged seen at Long Pt., eight were netted (*vide* DS) and at Pelee they outnumbered Golden-winged by 8 to 1 (DR). Blue-winged were n. to Gravenhurst May 23 (PT), e. to P.E. Pt., where a record six occurred from May 8, and to Canoe L. May 23 (K.F.N.). Two Brewster's hybrids were at Rondeau and another was banded at Long Pt. (*vide* DS). The Black-throated Blue at P.E. Pt., Apr. 27 was an earliest arrival (RDW) and eight Yellow-rumped were in the Rainy R. district Apr. 12 (AW, DAS). No fewer than six Yellow-throated Warblers were found. Pelee led the list with three on Apr. 24, May 4 & 8 (DR, CEG) and others were at Long Pt. May 17 for their third spring (*vide* DS) and P.E. Pt., May 20 for their second spring (RDW) and Unionville May 22 (P. MacKay). A Prairie at P.E. Pt., Apr. 27 was early (RDW) and three were on territory at Pinery P.P. (TC).

Louisiana Waterthrushes at Pelee, Rondeau and Long Pt. are regular in spring and birds at London and Kingston, where four breeding sites are now known, seem to have also become annual. Pelee and Rondeau provided five+ and four sightings respectively of Kentucky Warbler (JPK, DR *et al.*) and the only other was at Whitby May 28 (MB). The ♂ Connecticut seen at P.E. Pt., May 15 (TS) and

Mallorytown Landing May 20 (DAS) were well e of their normal route and a Mourning at Thunder Bay May 2 was early (MJM). Several Yellow-breasted Chats were seen at Pelee after May 7 and nests found (*vide* AHK). Four were at Long Pt. May 12-20 (*vide* DS) and singles at P.E. Pt., May 15 (RDW, PMack), London May 19 (WRM) and Whitby May 23 (MB). Hooded were numerous. Up to four/day were seen at Pelee (*vide* AHK), eight at Rondeau (PAW), five at Long Pt. (*vide* DS) and others at Cayuga May 8 (MF), P.E. Pt., May 16 (CE), London May 19 (J. Cartwright).

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS — Flocks of 100 & 250 ♂ Bobolinks were grounded at P.E. Pt., May 6 & 8 (K.F.N.) providing a tremendous sound and sight. Nine W. Meadowlarks were in the south Mar 23-May 24 at Sarnia, Lambton Co. (DR, AR), Pelee (PY), Toronto (AD), Pickering (JMS) and Strathroy (WRM). Nine Yellow-headed Blackbirds appeared e. of Thunder Bay. They were in Kingston Apr 17-29 (M&BW), Rondeau Apr. 19 & May 2 (PAW), Whitney May 28-29 (RS, DST), Huntsville May 2 (A. May), Ajax May 15 (*vide* SM), Harrow May 16 (JB), Paisley May 24 (JJ) and Port Severn May 29 (RB). Orchard Orioles were e. to P.E. Pt., May 8 & 12 (K.F.N.) and a pair was at Whitby May 13-31 (PB). At least five colonies of Brewer's Blackbirds are now on the Bruce Peninsula between Sauble Beach and Tobermory (JJ). A possible ♂ Western Tanager was reported May 1 at Amherstburg (N&MR). This species occurs in Ontario at least once in 19 years on average (RDJ *et al.*). P.E. Pt.'s fourth Summer Tanager was seen May 16-17 (RKE *et al.*) and two were at Rondeau May 5-15 (PAW).

FINCHES, SPARROWS — The only Dickcissel seen was at Pelee May 3 (DR). Evening Grosbeaks reappeared by Mar. 21 in the south and by Apr. 18 large numbers were everywhere. House Finches continue to consolidate and expand. First time occurrences were in Stratford Mar. 30 (MPD), Port Hope-Cobourg with ten Apr. 1-May 15 (ERM), Belleville May 23 (OR). Migrants were at P.E. Pt. again and one was banded at Long Pt., Apr. 7 (*vide* DS) for their first Pine Grosbeaks moved N by early March and late birds were seen Mar. 30 at Algonquin P.P. (RT) and Kingston (GH). Redpolls moved in large numbers and by Apr. 5 were down sharply south of a line from Bruce County to Ottawa. They peaked at Sudbury Apr. 3 (JN) and stragglers were in Barrie May 2 (CJM) and Ottawa May 10 (BMD). Some Hoarries accompanied the flocks, the last ones from Barrie Apr. 19 (CJM) and the Thunder Bay district Apr. 20 (AW, DAS). Three Red Crossbills were in Sudbury Apr. 9 (WD) and single White-winged at Sapawe Mar. 3 (DE), Algonquin P.P. Mar. 20 (RT), Port McNicoll Apr. 5 (JT) and Kingston Apr. 8 (PMack) topped by 15 in Etobicoke Apr. 8 (JAK). A Rufous-sided Towhee at Harris Hill Apr. 16 was well n. of its normal range (AW).

The single Grasshopper Sparrows at P.E. Pt., Apr. 17 (RDW) and Hamilton Apr. 20 (MF) were early and one was n. to Thunder Bay May 30 (T.B.F.N.). A first time Le Conte's Sparrow was identified at Port Hope-Cobourg May 4 (BO) and Melbourne (Middlesex Co.) May 14 (*vide* WRJ). Other singles were at Pelee May 2 (DR, JPK) and Cranberry Marsh May 8 (D. Ruch). Three Sharp-tailed Sparrows were on Amherst I., May 16 (WG). An amazing hybrid White-throated Sparrow x Dark-eyed Junco was netted at Long Pt., Apr. 17, Royal Ontario Museum (*vide* DJH, DS). The Dark-eyed Junco was one of the species that overflowed the south during late April and hundreds arrived at Sudbury and Pimisi Bay Apr. 16-18, and at Quetico and Pimisi Bay Apr. 24-27 (JN, LKL, SP). Fifteen Clay-colored Sparrows were found s. of Sudbury and a Harris' Sparrow was at Atikokan May 10-13 (DE, TN). The wintering White-crowned at Rainy R. was still present Apr. 12 (AW, DAS). Late Lapland Longspurs were at Richmond May 8 (BMD) and Blenheim May 10 (PAW).

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NIAGARA-CHAMPLAIN REGION
/Douglas P. Kibbe

Winter seemed reluctant to relax its grip on the Region this year. Except for brief warm spells mid-month, March remained wintry. Early returnees were blasted by a blizzard April 5 and 6 which dumped up to one and one-half feet of fluffy stuff atop a still substantial blanket of snow. When inclement conditions finally broke mid-April the resultant flood of migrants produced some of the best hawk flights ever seen at Braddock Bay and Derby Hill. The passerine and shorebird movements later in the season were generally unremarkable with few weather patterns capable of causing significant groundings. For sheer numbers of birds, however, the Lake Ontario shore continues to reign supreme. The importance of lakeside woodlots and wetlands to the millions of migrants which aggregate along the lake plains deserves far more recognition and study than it has received to date. Fortunately this apathy is changing and hawk watches are beginning to enumerate other species moving past the lookouts. Observers should realize that lake plain woodland habitats are probably far more critical to the small landbirds than they are to the soaring raptors, and take appropriate steps to preserve these natural areas.

GREBES THROUGH WATERFOWL — Despite the now annual armada of sport fisherman on L. Ontario, several good counts of Red-necked Grebes were made near Rochester, the best being 1100 + Mar. 25 (JS). A good flight of Great Blue Herons, 60 in 2 hr, was noted past Braddock Bay Apr. 13 (RD) and two nests at Montezuma N.W.R. were the Refuge's first in 40 years of operation (*vide* WB). Cattle Egrets were generally scarcer than usual. In the Burlington, Vt., area this apparent trend was contributed to by preemption of one



of their principal foraging areas by a prototype wood chip power plant. Increasing use of wood as fuel throughout the Northeast and its potential impact on nongame birds was the subject of a one-day conference held Aug. 7 in Vermont. Copies of the proceedings may be obtained from Ron Regan, Vermont Fish & Game, Montpelier, Vt. Great Egrets were found in modest numbers at a dozen locations and an early Snowy at Barcelona Apr. 1 (C & RS) heralded a modest influx with up to five at 4 New York locations. Least and Am. bittern reports remained low while seven Glossy Ibis at Chazy Landing May 4 and a single May 18 (MG) were remarkable.

A thousand Whistling Swans, as usual at Chautauqua L. in mid-March, marked another good flight. An imm. Mute Swan which spent several days in late April on Little Sodus Bay represented this spring's sole record. Rarer waterfowl included eight White-fronted Geese at Aurelius, N.Y., Apr. 2 (VD, *vide* WB); single Barrow's Goldeneye at Elmira Mar. 26 and Rochester Apr. 9 (W & SC); and a veritable flood of Eur. Wigeon, with six males at 5 locations including one at Weybridge which has now hosted 3 of 4 records.

Table 1. Comparative raptor counts for Braddock Bay (BB) and Derby Hill (DH) hawk watches in 1982.

Species	Peak Count		Peak Date		Season Totals	
	BB	DH	BB	DH	BB	DH
Turkey Vulture	533 ^a	124	Mar. 31	Apr. 17	2335 ^a	1169
Goshawk	18 ^a	15	Mar. 31	Mar. 15	76 ^a	142
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2633	1670	Apr. 17	Apr. 17	8439 ^a	7734
Cooper's Hawk	48	86	Apr. 17	Mar. 31	167 ^a	624
Red-tailed Hawk	375	1232	Mar. 13	Apr. 16	2985 ^a	8132 ^a
Red-shouldered Hawk	76	227	Mar. 24	Mar. 18	243	969
Broad-winged Hawk	2098	6159	May 6	May 7	17,324	24,192
Rough-legged Hawk	62	79	Mar. 13	Apr. 16	411	472
Golden Eagle	2	4	Apr. 25, May 6	Apr. 17	11	14
Bald Eagle	4	3	Mar. 31	Apr. 17	34 ^a	22 ^a
Marsh Hawk	68	146	Apr. 16	Apr. 13	529	836 ^a
Osprey	21	35	May 6	May 7	143	340
Peregrine Falcon	2	1	May 19	—	4	2
Merlin	16	4	Apr. 10, May 6, 7	Apr. 13, 25	16 ^a	17
Am. Kestrel	248	69	Apr. 17	Mar. 24	986 ^a	540

^aTies or exceeds record for watch.

Total (includes unidentified).

36,237

45,344

HAWKS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — As usual the Region's two premier hawkwatches, Derby Hill and Braddock Bay, stole the show with their sheer volume (see Table). An imm. Swainson's Hawk passed over Derby Hill Mar. 31 (*vide* DM) and the Gyrfalcon lingered near Winooski, Vt., until Mar. 6 (CWS). A pair of Bald Eagles nested again in Jefferson County, as did the Ospreys at Montezuma N.W.R., undaunted by the loss of their former nest stub. Comments on the status of Bobwhite at any reporting localities are sought. With Ring-necked Pheasants generally declining, two at Tupper L., deep in the heart of the Adirondack Mts., must have been recent releases. Gray Partridge were found on Grand Isle and at St. Albans and Potsdam.

Shorebirding was generally unremarkable with few groundings; however, 300 Pectoral Sandpipers were present in Bergen Township May 2 (WS). Up to three Whimbrels were found near Rochester (R.B.A., G.O.S.), a Willet was discovered May 30 at Pullneyville (FDA) and a Curlew Sandpiper was present near Seneca Falls May 16-18 (JC *et al.*) the latter a Regional first. Only a single Red and two Wilson's phalaropes were sighted, while a half dozen Northerns were found.

GULLS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — Sixteen species of gulls and terns were reported from throughout the Region this spring. Perhaps equally remarkable, none of the rarities came from the Niagara R., traditionally a mecca for Larid enthusiasts. Central New York led the region with an ad. Laughing Gull at Elmira May 24 (DC, m ob., *vide* WB), an Arctic Tern at Montezuma N.W.R. May 7 (WB), an ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull near Rochester Apr. 10 (MD, KG), and an imm. Thayer's Gull on Little Sodus Bay Mar. 28 (FS). An Ivory Gull seen briefly Apr. 21 at Burlington (B & OE) apparently furnished Vermont's first sighting. The Black-legged Kittiwake which wintered at Dunkirk Harbor on L. Erie lingered until at least Apr. 3 (*vide* VP). Little Gulls were first noted Apr. 17 at Rochester but with its tendency to linger into January overwintering may not be long in coming. Imagine the probable fate of the Mourning Doves which hatched mid-blizzard Apr. 7 at Etna, N.Y.

Three Barn Owls were found; at Greigsville (MD *et al.*), Coxsackie (*vide* BC) and near Oneonta (*via* CB). The latter two, unfortunately, were dead. Several wise (or patient) Snowy Owls waited until April to depart. Hawk Owls at Keene and Canton were present through mid-March (H.P.A.S., KC) and a belated report of another in Ohio, Oneida Co., in December 1981 was received (*vide* DWC). Belying their status as potential breeders throughout the Region Long-eared Owls remained elusive, only a half dozen being noted. A Short-eared Owl at Hamlin May 20 (NH) raised hopes of local breeding. Fourteen Whip-poor-wills at Island Pond (NM *et al.*) were by far the best report received in years of a species once considered common throughout most of the Region. A 2-hr tally Apr. 13 at the West Spit of Braddock Bay of 55 Belted Kingfishers (RD) was followed five days later by a 1-hr count of over 300 Com. Flickers (FD). Eastern Phoebe, hard hit by the April blizzard, were down on several breeding bird surveys. Surely there are many more Acadian Flycatchers scattered among the w. New York lake plains woodlands than the six reported from Cattaraugus and Monroe Cos.

CORVIDS THROUGH SHRIKES — Although unreported from w. New York, Com. Ravens were found at Elmira and at a spa in Canton and nested near L. George. Fish Crows persist at Ithaca and along the Hudson R., n. to Albany. Many Boreal Chickadees were noted enroute N following last fall's exodus and a good movement of White-breasted Nuthatches occurred along the L. Ontario plains in mid-April. Much remains to be learned regarding the latter's normal seasonal movements. Only a single colony of Short-billed Marsh Wrens was reported, but this species frequently does not arrive in Regional fields until most birders have declared migration 'over'. Hopefully breeding bird atlasers will make concerted efforts to canvass uncut grasslands for this and other species (*i.e.*, Upland Sandpiper, Henslow's Sparrow) of concern because farmers have gone to earlier and more frequent mowing regimens. "Northern" Mockingbirds, apparently attempting to live up to the A.O.U.'s new appellation, continue to spread N, being found at Berlin and Brunswick, Vt. this spring. The concentrating influence of L. Ontario was reflected in morning counts of Am. Robins at Braddock Bay which averaged 4-5000 birds/hr Mar. 31 (WS) and Apr. 13 (RD). Hermit Thrushes appear well recovered from their recent winter weather induced population low, however, both kinglets and Winter Wrens

continued in below-average members. Reports of Bohemian Waxwings were received from Glenville (*vide* RY) and Dry Hill, N.Y. (JR & W) and Cornwall, Vt. (MN). Two N. Shrikes lingered until Apr 21 (KC) at Canton, nearly three weeks after Loggerheads had reportedly returned to the Region.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — No less than eight White-eyed Vireos appeared in w. and c. New York and a belated report of one in Cornwall, Vt., June 6, 1981 (BJ & P) was received. Prothonotary Warblers at Scottsville and Black Creek Marsh were out of their usual range as was a Worm-eating Warbler in Syracuse. Blue-winged Warbler is well on its way to replacing Golden-winged. In w. New York the ratio of Blue-winged to Golden-winged stood at 74 to 3, (A.C.B.C.) this year, a far cry from a 54 to 50 ratio recorded in 1955 (*In: Beardsley and Mitchell, Birds of the Niagara Frontier*). Sightings of Hooded Warblers have also increased; 23 were tallied at Letchworth S.P. alone (DBa). Rare spring visitors included a Yellow-throated Warbler at Phelps Apr. 25 (PT *vide* JS), a Kentucky Warbler near Keeney May 8, and four Connecticut Warblers in w. and c. New York May 23 & 30 and another in Vermont May 12 (JWi and LM)

— S.A. —

Although Connecticut Warblers are regular fall migrants through the e. states, spring records have been very rare until recently. In view of the rash of reports in recent years the following insight from two banders (RY, RG) near Albany may be of interest. This spring each captured and carefully identified (through measurements) a Mourning Warbler which had retained an incomplete eye ring typical of fall-plumaged birds. Presence or absence of this feature is frequently (but perhaps unwisely) used as a field mark during the spring to separate Mourning and Connecticut warblers.

ICTERIDS AND FRINGILLIDS — The W. Meadowlark at Pt Breeze was back on territory again this spring and up to two dozen Brewer's Blackbirds reappeared at Hamlin. A pair of the latter lingered through May 7, raising hopes of eventual breeding by this E expanding species. A single "subadult ♂" Brewer's was also reported from Allegany County (*vide* VP). Another w. stray, a ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird, frequented an Ithaca feeder May 6 & 7 (JPI, m ob *vide* WB). Orchard Orioles put in their best showing in recent years with 18 birds reported from 8 localities. On Mar. 20 Derby Hill witnessed a major blackbird movement estimated at 2 million birds in 3 hr.

Evening Grosbeaks, early contenders for finch of the season, were replaced by one of the best influxes of Pine Siskins witnessed in recent years. The latter were again confirmed or suspected of breeding in several locations. Other finches were generally well reported. Purple Finches, Com. Redpolls (and six Hoaries), White-winged Crossbills, and ever-increasing House Finches making the best showings. Grasshopper, Henslow's and Vesper Sparrows were poorly reported. An "Oregon-type" Junco was found in Essex County (H.P.A.S) and a Sharp-tailed Sparrow was identified in Greece May 30 (RO, *vide* G.O.S.). A major flight in mid-March left 100+ Song Sparrows at Braddock Bay (WS) and may have produced the extremely early Lincoln's Sparrow found Mar. 31 at Albany (SFT, TJ, *vide* KA).

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APPALACHIAN REGION

/George A. Hall

Spring, both the weather and the migration, almost missed the Region this year. In the north, March was cold and blustery and the ice did not leave the lakes and streams until the last of the month. In the south, March temperatures were normal, and precipitation totals were slightly on the wet side. April was colder than normal everywhere with record lows even as late as the 27th. Except for some late snowfalls precipitation was below normal. After this cold April the May weather turned hot and summerlike. For the first three weeks of May there was practically no precipitation, and there were no pronounced weather systems moving through. The last week of the month, however brought heavy rains which raised the month's total to above normal.

The migration was profoundly affected by these conditions. As reported in the winter account there had been little sign of spring migrants in late February, even in the south. This delay continued through March in the north and many of the early March species were decidedly late. The waterfowl migration was delayed because of the lingering ice, and when the breakup did come the waterfowl moved through rapidly and most places reported poor flights. The migration schedule got further behind during the cold April, although as usual some individual birds showed up at remarkably early dates. During the hot dry period in May the absence of pronounced weather patterns resulted in no great waves and the migrants slipped through almost unnoticed. While all of the species were reported, numbers were low, and most places reported the poorest warbler flight in years. Many species arrived somewhat later than usual, and indeed a few migrants were moving even at the end of the period. The cold early spring also held (aided by feeding stations) many of the winter visitors to fairly late dates.

Many fruit, both commercial and wild, crops were wiped out by the late April cold weather and it remains to be seen how the late summer and fall food supplies will be. In southwest Pennsylvania and most of West Virginia the season was highlighted by the emergence of a very large brood of the periodical cicada. The resulting noise blanketed out the songs of many species, but did supply an abundant food source during the nesting season.

In the text following place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Common Loons were somewhat more numerous than in recent years, and many of these remained in the Region until early May. A Red-necked Grebe was seen at Erie, Mar. 13-20 (SS & BG). Many more than the usual number of Double-crested Cormorants were reported from all areas having large bodies of water.

It was an unusual spring for the rarer herons. Great Egrets appeared in exceptional numbers for a spring season, while Snowy Egrets (five) were seen at State College, Pa., Apr. 26 (CS) and at Antes Fort, Pa., May 24 (PS). Little Blue Herons were at Chattanooga, Tenn., Apr. 18 (PHa, SK) and at L. Pymatuning, Pa. (DF). More unusual was the Louisiana Heron at Presque Isle S.P., Pa. (hereafter, P.I.), May 23 (SS, JM). Cattle Egrets were reported from Lock Haven, Pa., Apr. 15 (PS), Chattanooga, May 1 & 2 (LD), and Stuart's Draft, Va., May 17-20 (NH). Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported from near Chattanooga, Apr. 6 (LD, KD), P.I., Apr. 25 (JES, JmS), Clarksville, Pa., Apr. 27 (RB), Waynesboro, Va., May 15 (SR), and they nested again at Austin Springs, Tenn., for the fourth year (GE). The usually overlooked Am. Bittern was reported from seven localities.

A Glossy Ibis was at State College, Pa., May 1, for the seventh record in 23 years (HH).

WATERFOWL — As mentioned above the waterfowl flight was generally poor, although a concentration of some 20,000 ducks was at P.I. in mid-March (JM). Whistling Swans moved N in the period Mar. 5 to Mar. 20, but there were no great concentrations, although several flocks in the 200-300 range were reported from n. Pennsylvania. The only report from out of the normal pathway was of one at Charleston, W.Va., from December until mid-March (NG). The flight of Canada Geese was not widely reported. At Pymatuning L., numbers built up to over 7000 Mar. 5 but had declined to about 1000 by Mar. 13 (RFL). As a result of many liberations this species is now widespread in the Region as a nesting bird and has taken on a status that can only be



described as semi-domesticated. Snow Geese were reported from Pymatuning L., Mar. 5 both phases (RFL, ML), Milton, Pa., Mar. 14 both phases (SS), P.I., Mar. 19 white (DSt), State College, Pa., Mar. 21 both phases (MK), and Cambridge Springs, Pa., Mar. 21 (SS). Eight White-fronted Geese were seen at Hiawasee Recreation Area, Tenn., Mar. 27 (T.O.S.), and one was at Wooster, O., Apr. 7 (JB).

Most dabbling ducks appeared to low numbers, and several reporters commented on the declining numbers of the Black Duck in this Region. By nature of their behavior diving ducks usually appear in greater concentrations but none of these were very large. Canvasbacks appeared in somewhat larger numbers than usual. Flocks of Red-breasted Mergansers totalling 2000 at P.I., Apr. 24 (RFL & ML), and 1000 at L. Arthur, Pa., in late March (BS) were noteworthy. Hooded Mergansers nested near Chattanooga, for a first local record (BW). The Greater Scaup seldom turns up inland but 40-50 were reported in Rockingham, Va., Mar. 4-Apr. 15 and 75 in Bath, Va., Mar. 30 (R.B.C.) were noteworthy. Oldsquaws were reported only from Tidioute, Pa., Mar. 18, 26 (JK), Warren, Pa., Mar. 21 (JD), and Donegal, Pa., Mar. 29 (RCL). White-winged Scoters at P.I., Mar. 7-20, and Union City, Erie, Mar. 19 (JM) were seen at the expected time, but those at P.I., May 30 (JM) and Mill Hall, Pa., May 11 (PS) were quite late.

VULTURES, HAWKS AND EAGLES — Turkey Vultures were in unusually good numbers in the north, and the Black Vulture continues to expand N being in increased numbers in Washington, Md. (TDo, LDo), and it nested in Huntingdon, Pa. (WB), perhaps the northernmost nesting in Pennsylvania.

There were many more reports in spring migration than normal for both the Sharp-shinned Hawk and the Cooper's Hawk. Goshawks were also widely reported: s.w. Pennsylvania, five reports in March and two in April (PH), L. Erie shore, several reports (JM), Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pa. (hereafter, P.N.R.), Mar. 19 & May 27 (suggests breeding nearby) (RCL), Chattanooga, Mar. 23 (RS) and the Signal Point, Tenn., hawk watch, Apr. 10 (T.O.S.).

Red-tailed Hawks were in normal numbers most places as were Red-shouldered although the latter were in short supply at Lock Haven, Pa. (PS) and Charleston, W.Va. (NG). There was only a minor effort in hawk-watching this spring. At Harvey's Knob on the Blue Ridge in Virginia 738 hawks, including 426 Broad-wingeds were counted in 22 days, with 90 Broad-wingeds Apr. 16 (DP). At Chilhowee Mt., Tenn., 173 Broad-wingeds were counted Apr. 8 (SSd, BSd) and 59 Broad-wingeds at Signal Point, Tenn., Apr. 10 (T.O.S.). Rough-legged Hawks were in lower-than-normal numbers in n. Pennsylvania, but were found as far s as Highland, Va., Mar. 10 & 14 (R.B.C.) and Lewis, W.Va., Mar. 6 (B.B.C.). There were many more than the usual number of reports of Ospreys and Marsh Hawk. Merlins were reported from Hiawasee River Recreation Area, Apr. 5 (LD, KD), Warren, Pa., Apr. 12 (RC), McKean, Erie, Pa., Apr. 12 (RFL & ML), and six reports from s.w. Pennsylvania (PH).

There were four reports of Peregrines Peaks of Otter, Va., Apr. 10 (RR), Brasstown Bald, Ga., May 15 (JG), and two reports on Apr. 17 from two locations some 60 mi apart on the Blue Ridge Parkway, Va., which may have been the same bird (SKi, MD). Golden Eagles were reported from Highland, Va., Mar. 10 & Mar. 14 (R.B.C.), Sharps Peak, Va., Apr. 10 (RR) and from Pittsfield, Pa., May 16 (DO). In the Pymatuning L. area three Bald Eagle nests had four young, but a transplant into the unsuccessful nest failed (RFL), while the nesting eagles in the South Branch Valley, W. Va., had two young at the end of the period (GAH). Other Bald Eagle reports came from Allegheny Reservoir, Warren, Pa., early March (DS), Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., Mar. 27 (CH), Butler, Pa., Mar. 21 (BR) & Apr. 21 (MG), Blythe Ferry, Tenn., May 1 & 2 (LD), and Rimer, Va., May 30 (CK).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS AND CRANES — Both Ruffed Grouse and Turkeys appear more common than usual; Bobwhite are returning to normal populations in the c. part of the Region but remain low in the n. Ring-necked Pheasants have never succeeded s. of the Mason-Dixon line so reports from the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia (R.B.C.) and from Chattanooga (*vide* RS) are of interest. Sandhill Cranes were reported from the Chattahoochee N.F., Ga., 100 on Mar. 3 and 30 on Mar. 5 (HD), and Chattanooga, 75 on Mar. 4 (LD) and 93 on Mar. 5 (DM). These areas report the species every year, but one seen at Edinboro, Erie, Pa., May 13 (JH) and one seen in Tucker, W. Va., May 3 (DMi) were most unusual.

SHOREBIRDS AND GULLS — Although there were a few unusual reports the shorebird flight was not especially heavy or interesting. As usual most of the reports came from L. Erie where the largest flight was on May 25 with 350 birds of 15 species recorded (JM). The other shorebird "hotspot," Kingston, Tenn., was not generally productive this year. The more unusual records were: Am. Golden Plover, Chattanooga, Apr. 9 (LD), Wooster, O., Apr. 8 & 28 (JB), P.I., May 15-18 (JM & SS); Short-billed Dowitcher, Lock Haven, Pa., May 15 (PS); Long-billed Dowitcher, P.I., May 22 (JM & SS), Ruddy Turnstone, Pymatuning L., May 6 (DF), Fort Loudon, Pa., May 27 (JBo); Hudsonian Godwit, P.I., May 17 & 18 (first local spring record) (BG, SS); Stilt Sandpiper, Kingston, Tenn., May 16-28 (MB & GL); Sanderling, P.I., May 21 (RFL), Purple Sandpiper, Rockingham, Va., May 10 (first county record) (R.B.C.); N. Phalarope, Union City, Erie, Pa., May 19 (first local spring record) (JM), Fort Loudon, Pa., May 23 (JBo), Duffield, Pa., May 27 (MB); Wilson's Phalarope, Wooster, O., Apr. 10 (very early) (JB), Union City, Erie, Pa., May 7 (JM), Antes Fort, Pa., May 19-21 (PS). Western and White-rumped sandpipers were reported more commonly than usual in the spring. The Upland Sandpiper seems to be doing very well in the Appalachian Great Valley from Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Tennessee.

Thirty-six Am. Avocets were seen near Chattanooga, Apr. 16 (RS & LD), and five were at L. Arthur, Butler, Pa., Apr. 25 (second local and first spring record) (JBa, BBa).

The normal hotbed of larine activity, the s. shore of L. Erie did not produce many rarities this spring, although there were reports of Iceland Gulls there from Mar. 20 to a late May 30 (SS), as well as Franklin's Gull May 23 (JBk), and a Laughing Gull May 23 (JM, JH). Laughing Gulls (rare in this inland Region) showed up at Roanoke, Va., Apr. 11 (J & TDa), Kingston, Tenn., May 14 (MA), L. Arthur, May 22 (first s.w. Pennsylvania record) (JG), and Bald Eagle S.P., Pa. May 25 (DB) & 29 (CH).

Common Terns were in low numbers at P.I. (JM), but six seen on the Monongahela R. at Rivesville, W. Va. were unusual (GB). Forster's Terns were reported from Swannanoa, N.C., Apr. 21 (RRu), near Chattanooga, Apr. 27 (LO, KD), South Holston L., Tenn., May 2 (RL), Donegal, Pa., May 3 (RCL), and P.I., May 21 (RFL). Caspian Terns were reported from Norris L., Tenn. Apr. 15 (JHo), P.I. on several occasions with 85 there on Apr. 15 (m.ob.). L. Arthur, Apr. 24 (TM, NM), Seneca L., O., May 3 (ME), and Kingston May 13 (JT).

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Both species of cuckoo were in rather low numbers, even in the areas infested with gypsy moths. Three nestings of the Barn Owl were reported from Rockingham, Va. (R.B.C.) and two from the Elizabethton, Tenn., area (GE). Other Barn Owl reports came from Lewisburg, W. Va. (DW), Jersey Shore, Pa. (PS), and Lyndhurst, Va. (RSn). Screech Owl populations have not recovered from the effects of the cold winters a few years ago, but both Great Horned and Barred owls seem to be doing well. There were two reports of Long-eared Owl from

P.I., Mar. 14 (SS) and Apr. 17 & 24 (JM), and one from Bellefonte, Pa. (MW). A Short-earned Owl was present in Augusta, Ga. through late March (R.B.C.), there were two records from Erie, Pa., a road kill in late March (DSt) and one seen at P.I., Apr. 17 (JM). The only reports of Saw-whet Owls came from the extreme s. of the range: Great Smoky Mountains N.P., Apr. 14 (MDa & LT), and at Devil's Courtyard on the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina where as many as seven were heard on Apr. 4 (JY, RY).

One of the more interesting events of recent years is the N expansion of the Chuck-will's-widow in the e. mountain valleys. They arrived at Dalton, Ga., Mar. 13 (DC) and at Fincaastle, Va., May 1 (BK). There were several records in the Shenandoah Valley, Augusta (RSn), Rockingham (R.B.C.), and Berkeley, W. Va. (RBA). Besides these areas where the bird has been more or less regularly reported in recent years, there were several found in early June in the South Branch Valley in West Virginia (B.B.C.), at Cumberland, Md., May 29 (KH), and even more noteworthy was the record of one near State College May 11 (GK) and one at Edinboro, Pa., in the extreme n. May 18 (JMa, CMa). It is not clear why this species is suddenly doing well while its congener the Whip-poor-will is gradually disappearing from this Region.

The Red-bellied Woodpecker continues to do well in the north, and there are more than the usual number of reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers. Common Flickers seemed unusually scarce in n. West Virginia (GAH) but there was a report of a "Red-shafted" Flicker at State College, Apr. 3 (DMd). A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, apparently the same one reported in the winter was present near State College as late as May 19 (DPe).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CORVIDS — Eastern Kingbirds and Great Crested Flycatchers brought mixed reports, being quite low at some places but in good supply elsewhere. The E. Phoebe seems to have made a good comeback from winter mortality and has now become quite common. No Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were banded at P.N.R. (RCL) nor at P.I. (RFL) but they were reported to stage a good migration at Lock Haven, Pa. (PS). The Willow Flycatcher is doing well in one of its southernmost locations near Dillard, Ga. (FM) but at Marietta, O. (JS) and P.N.R. (RCL) this species was less numerous than in recent years. An Alder Flycatcher was at Blacksburg, Va., May 15 (CA). The only reports of Olive-sided Flycatchers came from P.I., May 23 (SS) and Augusta, Va., May 22 (R.B.C.).

Tree Swallows continue to do well and to move S. They nested at Woodfin, N.C. (BD) and 40% of the boxes in *Operation Bluebird* in Warren, Pa. were occupied by Tree Swallows. There was encouraging news of Cliff swallows with several new colonies located. Rough-winged and Bank swallows, however, were in low numbers, and many reporters did not comment on them. Purple Martins had appeared in the Region in February and were generally early, while a Rough-winged Swallow at Lyndhurst, Va., Mar. 27 was quite early (RSn).

The Com. Raven continues to do well. One was sighted near Clayton, Ga., May 15 (FM); it had not been known to nest there. A rather low elevation nesting (2500 ft) took place near Elizabethton, Tenn. (PR), and they are of increased occurrence in the lowlands of the upper Susquehanna Valley (PS).

NUTHATCHES THROUGH WRENS — After the autumn and winter invasion Red-breasted Nuthatches remained fairly common throughout the Region in the early spring and many remained fairly late. However breeding populations in the Cheat Mountains, W. Va. seemed low in late May (GAH). Brown-headed Nuthatches nested near Dalton, Ga., the second *Whitfield* nesting record (DC) and near Chattanooga (T.O.S.) and they were seen near Swannanoa, N.C., Apr. 7-8 (BD). A Brown Creeper nested in Washington, Md. (TDo, LDo), another example of the long-term trend towards lower elevation nesting in this species.

House Wrens were unusually plentiful with bandings double the normal numbers at P.N.R. (RCL), and this species nested at Red Bank, Tenn., first local nesting (KD). Carolina Wrens still have not recovered their numbers in the n. There were no reports of Bewick's Wren, truly a vanishing species in this Region. Short-billed Marsh Wrens were reported from P.N.R., May 11 (RCL) and Knoxville May 1 (PHt), while Long-billed Marsh Wrens were at State College Mar. 14 (HH), Conneaut, Pa., Apr. 25, Pymatuning L., May 1 and P.I., May 9 (RFL), and Austin Springs, Tenn., May 24 (DL).

MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS — Gray Catbirds were unusually numerous at most places and the Mockingbird continues to increase N

All of the spotted thrushes were in very low numbers throughout the Region. At P.N.R. the bandings of Swainson's Thrushes was 38% below average (RCL), and only two were seen all season at Morgantown (GAH). On the other hand nesting ground populations of Hermit Thrushes in the West Virginia Mountains seemed slightly above normal (GAH). Eastern Bluebirds are doing well, and the early breeding season in the several nest-box projects now operating in the Region showed excellent results.

Golden-crowned Kinglets were very scarce during migration, but like some other species populations were fairly good in the spruce belt in late May. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were somewhat more numerous than Golden-crowns but were still on the low side. Cedar Waxwings went from one extreme to the other, being either unusually numerous or almost absent. Six Bohemian Waxwings were seen at Slippery Rock, Pa., Mar. 4 (GW).

Northern Shrikes were reported only from Union City, Pa., Mar. 26 (JM) and P.I., Mar. 27 (DF). Comments in the Fall Season report prompted some observers to pay more attention to the Loggerhead Shrike. There were two reports from P.I., Mar. 17 (JF) and Apr. 10 (JM), and a report from Athens, W.Va. through the period (JP), but elsewhere the only reports came from the Appalachian Great Valley from Virginia to e. Tennessee, where small nesting populations were located.

The White-eyed Vireo continues its expansion N and is now common throughout the Region. The Red-eyed Vireo was in below-normal numbers at most places, but there were more reports of Philadelphia Vireos than is normal during Spring.

WARBLERS — The warbler migration, upon which most impressions of the migratory flight are based, was generally poor throughout. Almost all the expected species showed up, but numbers were low, and there were no waves. The birds dribbled through the area and while banding totals were only slightly down, the binocular birder probably saw rather few. At P.N.R. six species were in above-average numbers, 12 were below average, and 14 about average. In general the movement was on the late side, as for example the peak banding day at P.I. was May 17 (RFL), and a few migrants were still moving through at the end of the period. This late movement was hard to detect in those areas with cicadas because of the blanking out of such songs as those of the Blackpoll and Bay-breasted warblers.

A "Lawrence's" Warbler hybrid was at Saegertown, Crawford, Pa., May 12 (RFL). There were numerous reports of the "Brewster's" Warbler hybrid form: *Erie*, May 14 (DSt), May 19 & 21 (JM), P.N.R., May 15 (RCL), *Allegheny*, Pa., May 15 (DF), and Greensburg, Pa., May 9-25 (DSm). In most parts of the Region the Golden-winged has been displacing the Blue-winged but from *Erie* comes the report that pure Blue-winged (the normal species) are now becoming rare (JM). Another hybrid (?) of interest observed was what appears to be a good report of Sutton's Warbler near Pine Grove Forest S.P., *Cumberland*, Pa., Apr. 27 (SSt).

The Yellow-throated Warbler is another species continuing its N movement with now many reports in w. Pennsylvania. Yellow-breasted Chats have almost vanished from n. West Virginia (GAH). A remarkably early Blackburnian Warbler came to grief with a window in Fox Chapel, Pa., Mar. 16 (RBy).

BLACKBIRDS AND TANAGERS — Bobolinks were in unusually good numbers. There were two reports of Brewer's Blackbirds: *Butler*, Pa. Mar. 11 (GW), and State College, Pa., Apr. 14 (MR). The Summer Tanager was found at two new locations in *Allegheny* and one in *Butler* (PH).

NORTHERN FINCHES — Most of the species of northern finch mentioned in the Winter Season report remained in numbers at least through March and many remained until mid-May. Outstanding in this respect was the Pine Siskin. They were present in numbers throughout in March and most places had them in mid-May. Nesting was observed in at least 16 places in s.w. Pennsylvania (PH), at P.N.R. (RCL), State College (KJ), and at Morgantown (first state record) (GAH). Redpolls remained until mid-April but except for some seen in *Highland*, Va., Mar. 10 (R.B.C.) none were seen s. of Pennsylvania. Hoary Redpolls reported in the winter account were present near Slippery Rock, Pa. until Apr. 11 (GW). Evening Gros-

beaks were never very numerous, but a few were still present in mid-May. White-winged Crossbills were widespread in Pennsylvania in March and early April and were seen as far s. as *Lewis*, W.Va., Mar. 5 (B.B.C.). On the other hand Red Crossbills were reported only from *Allegheny*, Pa., (m.ob.), Marietta, O., Mar. 4 (ET), Harveys Knob, Va., Apr. 17 (LK & BH), and they are now regular on the Virginia-West Virginia border on Shenandoah Mt. (R.B.C.).

Pine Grosbeaks were seen at State College (KJ), Slippery Rock, Mar. 8 (GW) and Charleston, W.Va., Apr. 4 (GH).

OTHER FRINGILLIDS — A Dickcissel was at Jonesboro, Tenn., May 12-14 (RK). Grasshopper Sparrows seem to be doing better than they have for several years, and Henslow's Sparrows may be making a comeback. On the other hand in n. West Virginia Field Sparrows were in very low numbers (GAH) and most reporters did not mention this species. A Lark Sparrow was present near Waynesboro, Va., through March and early April (RSn). The first report in many seasons of Bachman's Sparrow came from the foot of the Blue Ridge near the Peaks of Otter, Va., (RR).

EXOTICS — A Bar-headed Goose was at Senecaville, O., from early May until the end of the period (ME & JS). Could this be the same one reported at Pymatuning in January? A Barnacle Goose was at Washington, Pa., Apr. 24 (RH, MH), and a Ruddy Shelduck was at L. Arthur, Apr. 2 (SC) and at Pymatuning L., May 15 (TM, NM). The Ruddy Shelduck present for several years now in *Columbiana*, O., now has a companion (NL), and one can only speculate if this is the Pennsylvania bird. Two Ringed Turtle Doves came to a feeder at Charleston May 23 (*fide* NG).

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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

/Kim R. Eckert

Every pejorative I could think of was used to describe the unbelievable weather here last winter. Never would we have to go through that again, or so we thought. But Spring 1982 provided weather just as bad if not worse, so it appears readers will find this introduction depressingly familiar and similar to last season's.

March was bad enough with colder than normal conditions, especially early in the month and especially in Minnesota. Duluth managed to set four low temperature records, three of these during the first week with readings in the -20° s F. There was some mildness late in the month, but this was accompanied by very windy conditions as evidenced by three tornadoes in Wisconsin and 100 miles-per-hour gusts of wind in southwestern Minnesota.

But things really got bad in April as it almost seemed the calendar went into reverse and we were heading back into winter. On April 1 warm winds blew in many early migrants, but this was as a result of a strong southerly circulation of air in advance of an intense low pressure which attacked the Region during the next three days. Everything fell: temperatures, barometric readings, freezing rain, snow—and birds. Some examples of the devastation: several southern Wisconsin locations set all-time low barometric pressure records with hurricane-like readings in the 28.50-28.60 inches range; winds in excess of 80 m.p.h. accompanied the blizzard which hit Michigan; and the Minnesota version of the blizzard included not only an initial round of widespread freezing rain and thunderstorms, but also a high temperature of only 15° at Duluth on the 3rd—30 degrees below normal.

The worst part of all this was the untold numbers of birds which had been blown in on the 1st and then trapped. Clearly, thousands died. Robin mortality was especially noticed as hundreds were hit by cars as they searched for food and warmth along highways (an estimated 15% of the robins in Kalamazoo died, RA reported). Tree Swallows in Michigan were also hard hit, according to DP: "Essentially all birds which returned prior to the early April snowstorms died . . . 50+ feeding on the ice at Sugarloaf Lake, Kalamazoo County on April 10; these birds were seen to actually land on the ice and walk along in search of moribund insects." Killdeer, flickers, phoebes and bluebirds were also mentioned by Michigan observers as especially hard hit. In Minnesota, Killdeer and meadowlarks died in large numbers along roadsides with the robins in northwestern Minnesota (K & SS), and in Duluth large numbers of birds crowded into feeding stations only to find seeds at some feeders covered by a layer of ice from the freezing rain.

Birds and birders continued to find tough going after the storm had passed. Severe cold persisted through the first third of April. On the 5th low temperatures dropped to 5° at Rochester and -15° at Tower, Minn., and on the 7th Madison shattered its all-time April low temperature record with a zero reading, while Muskegon, Michigan checked in with 1° ! Nor did the snow let up: on April 5 Milwaukee was hit with ten inches, and Muskegon had over a foot; on April 18 the North Shore of Lake Superior had up to $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches of snow fall; and on the 19th, up to a foot fell on southern Minnesota and central and northern Wisconsin. Many Wisconsin birders noted a reverse migration of insectivores as a result.

Spring finally arrived in early May; however, most of the Region reported an excess of heat and humidity then which resulted in stormy conditions through mid-month. The latter part of May followed with generally cool and wet weather. Most of the migration waves during the month came during the sudden warmth of the first half of May: May 4-9 in southern Minnesota, and May 14-18 at Duluth when constant fog and rain grounded migrants all over Park Pt. Wisconsin reported all its migrants passing through during the first three weeks of May, so that by the usually interesting end of the month there was nothing left to see. In all, most of the Region agreed that the month and the season ended on a lackluster note, although several exceptional rarities were seen during the period. And, it had to be reluctantly admitted, the weather was certainly anything but uneventful this spring.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — A total of 5013 Com. Loons migrated past Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Mich.



(hereafter, W.P.B.O.), with an impressive peak of 1895 counted May 8 (DE). The usually uncommon Red-throated Loon certainly made a good showing: there were several sightings on the Minnesota side of L. Superior May 18-27 (m.ob.), especially in Duluth where as many as five were seen together (JDe); 18 passed W.P.B.O. with a peak of seven May 26 (DE); and five were noted on the Wisconsin side of L. Michigan. The nine Red-necked Grebes at 4 Michigan locations was considered a low number. Eared Grebes appeared as far e. as the Chesterfield Twp. sewage ponds in Macomb County, Mich., May 13-14 (AR, PY, TH) and at three Wisconsin sites. Two W. Grebes appeared in Wisconsin: May 26 at Manitowoc (CS) and at Madison in mid-May (m.ob.). Wisconsin also reported a fine movement of White Pelicans in the w. and n.; some of these also appeared in Duluth Apr 14, 18 & 24 when an unusual n.e. Minnesota concentration of 27 was seen (*vide* KE). Both Michigan and Wisconsin reported excellent and encouraging numbers of Double-crested Cormorants at several sites

ANHINGA THROUGH BITTERNs — Wisconsin recorded its fourth **Anhinga** when one was carefully studied as it flew over Oshkosh May 2 (AC). A Cattle Egret wandered unusually far n to Agassiz N.W.R., May 6 (JMa). The currently-listed-as-casual-soon-to-become-regular Snowy Egret reappeared in Minnesota at its usual Big Stone N.W.R. home Apr. 24-25 (HK, BL), while the one at Green Bay Apr. 19 tied a Wisconsin arrival date record (MP). The Louisiana Heron may eventually join the Little Blue and Cattle and Snowy egrets as regular species in the Region; all three states had records this spring: one May 23 at Pte. Mouillee, Mich. (DF), one returned to Horicon N.W.R., May 25 (JPl), while another was far up at Osage, Becker Co., Minn., May 20-21 (J. Mittelholtz). A Yellow-crowned Night Heron Mar. 26-27 in Milwaukee was the earliest ever in Wisconsin (JDa). The eight Least Bitterns reported in Michigan was considered further evidence of this species' decline there.

WATERFOWL — Several thousand Whistling Swans were reported at several e.c. Wisconsin areas, making for an excellent migration; this was about the only bright spot in an otherwise poor waterfowl migration picture in that state. A peak of 2500 swans was also reported Mar. 28 at Shiawassee N.W.R., Mich.; this same refuge recorded 25,000 Canada Geese Mar. 20 (JBU *et al.*). Eight White-fronted Goose sightings in Wisconsin were more than usual, and one of these was an unprecedented late individual which appeared May 16 at Goose Pond and lingered into June (m.ob.). A Cinnamon Teal was seen at Swan L., Minn., Apr. 16-18 (JFz), but even more out of range was the one Apr. 26-28 at the Detroit sewage ponds (AR, m.ob.) Also, a Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal hybrid May 9 at Horicon N.W.R. was described as uniformly reddish except for white markings on the face and flanks (L. Peavler). More unusual was a **European Wigeon** Mar. 21-22 at Green Bay (TBa *et al.*). An impressive 580 Oldsquaw were counted at W.P.B.O., May 18 (DE). All three scoters were noticeably scarce this spring: in Minnesota, only seven White-winged at four locations were reported, while *no reports* of Surf or Black scoters were received; Wisconsin managed only two White-winged, two Surf, and four Black Scoter sightings; the only Michigan reports were from W.P.B.O. (where else?), with a total of 1617 White-winged counted in May, 22 Surfs May 16 and six Black Scoters May 13 (DE). Over 1000 Ruddy Ducks were concentrated at Erie Metropark, Mich., Apr. 15 (AR), and a lone Ruddy May 11 at Duluth was unusual (KE).

HAWKS — Incredibly, Wisconsin had two **Swallow-tailed Kites** this spring, representing the fourth and fifth 20th century records. One was in Door County May 15-17 (WK, JHa), and another was discovered in Oconomowoc May 31 and was still being seen into mid-June (RSh). No fewer than four well-documented **Ferruginous Hawks** were seen in Minnesota: Apr. 17 in Chippewa County (KL), Apr. 24 at Big Stone N.W.R. (HK), May 7 at Agassiz N.W.R. (JMa), at May 15 at Mountain Lake (m.ob.). Wisconsin noted three **Golden Eagles** in March, while in Michigan 11 **Golden**s were seen, eight of these at W.P.B.O. Also at W.P.B.O. was a **Gyr Falcon** Apr. 15 (BS)—no, this is not an editorial comment, it's the observer; one of the Gyrs which wintered at Duluth tarried until Mar. 21. Michigan's first documented **Prairie Falcon** was reported May 3 (DE, JBa)—one guess where it was—yes, W.P.B.O. **Prairie Falcons** were also seen twice in Minnesota where the species is rare but regular: Mar. 14 in Wilkin County (S & DM) and May 16 in Cottonwood County (HK). **Peregrine Falcons** were seen in very good numbers in all three states: 14 were reported in Minnesota, and 13 were seen in Michigan, five of these at W.P.B.O. Generally, the Region finished the season with a decent migration of hawks, although only W.P.B.O. had significant numbers to report: 58 **Turkey Vultures**, 131 **Goshawks**, 11,647 **Sharpshinned**s with 3000 counted May 5, 2336 **Red-tailed**s, 11,211 **Broad-winged**s with a peak of 5500 May 7, 1083 **Rough-legged**s, 34 **Bald Eagles**, 269 **Marsh Hawks**, 117 **Ospreys**, and 29 **Merlins** (BS, TLe).

GALLIFORMES THROUGH COOTS —

S.A.

At the last remaining Michigan Greater Prairie Chicken booming grounds, no males were recorded and there was no more than an unconfirmed report of two females present, so it now appears that the Michigan population of the Greater Prairie Chicken may well be extirpated (DP).

Once again, Michigan's **Bobwhite** numbers were reportedly down sharply. Two **King Rails** were reported in the Detroit area in May (AK, AR), but **Virginia** and **Sora** were both down in number in Michigan. The earliest **Yellow Rail** record for Wisconsin was an exhausted bird picked up near Milwaukee Apr. 20 which died two days later (*vide* JFk).

S.A.

Controversial and exciting was a meticulously documented **Caribbean Coot** initially found Apr. 20 along the nature trail at Metrobeach near Detroit (AR). It was subsequently seen and argued about by m.ob. into June. Whether this was a genuine vagrant or something dropped off by one of the foreign ships which frequent the nearby shipping lanes or even an escape from someone's collection (the bird was described as quite tame) may be impossible to determine. But a more relevant discussion would be on the issue of whether there is such a thing as *F. caribaea* in the first place. This and the Tennessee bird (AB 36:177), both so far from the West Indies, would seem to suggest the Am. Coot morph theory is more valid (see DeBenedictis, AB 36:150).

SHOREBIRDS — Remarkably, another **Wilson's Plover** was found in Duluth. After one appeared here in July, 1981, it was thought it would be a long time before another would wander so far off course, but a female was seen May 15-20 (LWe, TLa and m.ob.). Good numbers of **Whimbrels** were reported in Michigan and Wisconsin, but in Minnesota there was only one report from Duluth. **Upland Sandpipers** were reportedly absent in the Detroit area, while Am. **Woodcocks** were scarce there (*vide* AK). A total of 37 **Willet**s in Duluth May 8 was the highest number ever there (JG, KE). **Dunlins** were found in impressive numbers with an estimated 7000 at Horicon N.W.R., May 16-22, and 5000+ in Bay County, Mich., May 21 (AR). Another in a long list of Wisconsin rarities was its third **Curlew Sandpiper**, studied at Milwaukee May 15 (RSu, MD). **Marbled Godwits** wandered farther e than usual with one May 16 at W.P.B.O. (DE), as many as six individuals at four Wisconsin sites, an unprecedented flock of 20+ at Duluth May 20 (KE, RJ), and an unexpected individual at Grand Marais May 26 (M & KH). **Hudsonian Godwits** were also unexpectedly abundant as evidenced by the 22 individuals at 8 Michigan locations and the count of 300 in a single flock in Polk County, Minn.,

May 15 (K & SS) The **Ruff** is an annual event in the Region now, and this spring no fewer than five individuals were seen: a female May 16 in Tuscola County, Mich. (AR, TH), a winter-plumaged male May 7 at Horicon N.W.R. (DT), a male in partial breeding plumage May 10-11 in Eau Claire, Wis. (JPl), and a pair (the male in full red and black breeding dress) May 9 at Aitkin, Minn. (JB, WN). A **Sanderling** Apr 20 at Milwaukee posted a record date for Wisconsin (BC), as did an Am. **Avocet** at Green Bay Apr. 19 (MP); an avocet also was found Apr. 25 at the Erie Gun Club, Monroe Co., Mich. (PY, TH).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — Although jaegers are commonplace in Duluth in fall, they are almost unheard of in spring. It was therefore amazing when an obvious ad. **Pomarine Jaeger** flew by four birders May 20 as they were watching the **Wilson's Plover** mentioned above (RJ, DBo *et al.*). Two unidentified jaegers were also seen in Duluth May 22 (MH). Four **Great Black-backed Gulls** were seen in Michigan, while two wandered as far w. as Wisconsin, both in Manitowoc: an immature May 14 (JJ) and an adult May 29 (CS). A full ad. **Thayer's Gull** was observed at Duluth May 15 (JG). An ad **Laughing Gull** in Duluth May 18-21 provided only a fifth Minnesota record (KE); this species was also far out of range at W.P.B.O., May 22 (m.ob.), but the one at Milwaukee in late May raised fewer eyebrows since **Laughing Gulls** are almost regular on L. Michigan. Four **Franklin's Gulls** were seen e. as far as Michigan. **Little Gulls** were seen in all three states: two adults flew over Duluth May 19 where this gull is now an annual event (KE), in Wisconsin at least five returned in May to the Two Rivers nesting site, and another was in Bay County, Mich., May 16 (TH, AR). A second-year **Black-legged Kittiwake** at Duluth May 27-30 represented a fifth Minnesota record and the first ever in spring (KE *et al.*). **Terns** were noted in good numbers especially in Wisconsin and in Duluth where a local record of nine **Forster's** flew in May 11 (KE); also **Caspian**s appeared in quantity unusually early at several Michigan locations.

OWLS —

S.A.

Boreal Owls appeared in spectacular numbers, but not all of this could be considered good news. At least 34 appeared Mar. 3-Apr. 10 in n.e. Minnesota, all but two of these along the North Shore of L. Superior. Unfortunately, most of these were found weak or dead from starvation, but none stayed put or alive long enough for listers to witness as they had here in 1978 when 65 **Boreals** of a healthier generation appeared (AB 32:355). It was somewhat surprising that this invasion began so late in the season; only four had been reported earlier: November-February. It was not as surprising, however, as some have stated (AB 35:272), when one was seen with a flying squirrel in its grasp, since flying squirrel remains had been found in the 1978 Minnesota nest (AB 33:137). More significant was T. Martinson's report of one **Boreal Owl** seen Mar. 10 with another **Boreal** in its talons.

Not to be outdone, W.P.B.O. banders joined in the fun by catching 36 **Boreal Owls** in their nets (DE)! Obviously, this is the highest total ever there, since an average spring's total there has been about seven, the previous high had been 18 in 1978.

But there is still more to report. Singing ♂ **Boreal Owls** were again heard in April along the Gunflint Trail, Cook Co., but none of the four located could be traced to a nest (M&KH, KE). However, as U.S. Forest Service employee T. Matthiae routinely checked a waterfowl nesting box near Brule L., Cook Co., May 3, a ♀ **Boreal Owl** poked her head out of the hole. Three days later the interior of the box was examined for the first time and three eggs were seen. One egg hatched May 25, another May 26, but when the nest was next checked June 3 everything was gone—young, eggs, and even the pellets and mouse remains seen earlier. Nor was there any sign of a predator having stirred up the wood chips on the floor of the box. Although the location of the nest had been revealed to only a few trusted individuals, the possibility of the young having been collected has to be considered. There have been only two **Boreal Owl** nests ever found in the 48 contiguous U.S. states: the 1978 Minnesota nest mentioned above, and a Colorado nest found in May, 1981 (AB 35:848).

Late Snowy Owls were seen May 16 in Duluth - (S. Berde) and May 19-20 in Houghton County, Mich. (AR). A Hawk Owl was found near Duluth Apr. 8-11 (J. Eaton); there had been only one in the state earlier in the winter. The elusive Burrowing Owl was found May 6 in Lac Qui Parle County, Minn. (C&MB). A Great Gray Owl was seen near Grantsburg, Wis., May 26 (JHo), while in n. Minnesota an above average total of nine were found. W.P.B.O. banders caught a season total of 27 Long-eareds and 17 Saw-whets (DE).

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — Another Chuck-will's-widow was found in Kalamazoo County May 13 (KC), and in the same area an early Chimney Swift was recorded Apr. 16 (RA). Hummingbirds were described as scarce and late in the Detroit area (AK). Red-bellied Woodpeckers appeared unusually far n. with one May 13 in Delta County, Mich. (B&CT), at least two at W.P.B.O., May 11-23 (DE), and another at Schroeder, Minn., May 5 (*vide* Tbi). Observers in Michigan's Lower Peninsula reported the Red-headed Woodpecker as scarce. Three elusive N. Three-toeds were found in Minnesota: Mar. 18 along the Echo Trail (B&LG), May 3 & 12 along the Gunflint Trail (M&KH), and May 25 near Tofte (JDe). The flycatcher migration in Wisconsin was both good and early, as evidenced by an early Great Crested Apr. 18 in Eau Claire (JPI). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was certainly unexpected May 9 in Detroit (R&RC), and almost as unusual was Minnesota's eighth Say's Phoebe May 22 at Blue Mounds S. P. where the species has appeared twice before (N. DeKam).

JAYS THROUGH SHRIKES — A peak of 4303 Blue Jays was recorded May 15 at W.P.B.O. (DE). Both Winter and Short-billed Marsh wrens were scarce in the Detroit area since there were only two records of each (*vide* AK). Bewick's Wrens are quite unusual in the Region, but each state had one to report: only the fourth recent Minnesota record was a cooperative visitor forced to a St. Paul feeder during the foul weather Apr. 3-10 (m.ob.), one was seen at the Schlitz Audubon Center in Milwaukee May 18 (BC, WW, MBo), and another wound up at the Chesterfield Twp. sewage ponds, Macomb Co., Mich., May 14 (PY). Although only three Mockingbirds were reported in Wisconsin, at least 14 Michigan sites recorded them and among the eight seen in Minnesota were three together in the same tree in Duluth May 19 (Tla, KE)! Many observers noted a poor thrush migration, although Kalamazoo and Duluth reported just the opposite. Three very early Hermit Thrushes were seen in n. Minnesota, obviously driven into view by the blizzard then: Apr. 2 in Crosby (JB), Apr. 4 at Agassiz N.W.R. (JMa) and in Duluth (D. Green). The rare but regular Mountain Bluebird appeared twice in Minnesota, with a male near New Ulm Mar. 17-18 (EM) and a female in Otter Tail County Mar. 29 (S&DM). Townsend's Solitaires also turned up twice: one Mar. 14 in Charlevoix, Mich. (CM), and another Apr. 14 at Mankato, Minn. (D. Paulson). Several N. Shrikes lingered later than usual, even into early May, as a result of the persisting cold. Michigan and Wisconsin each managed but three Loggerhead Shrike records, but in Minnesota recent optimism regarding this species was reinforced by no fewer than 22 sightings, the most in years.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — Most observers agreed this favorite group had an early migration generally with good movements locally. Many White-eyed Vireos again were found, one as far n. as Taylor County, Wis., May 14 (SR), and another in Houston County May 15-23 (E&MF), representing Minnesota's seventh record. Bell's Vireos were reportedly scarce in Wisconsin, although one in Milwaukee May 7 was at a record date (DT). Many Worm-eating Warblers were seen in Wisconsin, while three were noted in Michigan, and two made it as far as the Twin Cities. Golden-winged Warblers were thought to be scarcer than usual in Michigan; meanwhile, a Blue-winged May 14 at Escanaba, Mich. was much farther n. than expected (LWa). Truly amazing was the ♂ Hermit Warbler photographed in Kaukauna, Wis., Apr. 27, obviously for a first state record (DM). The Yellow-throated Warbler at Wood Lake Nature Center, Richfield May 4-7 may pale by comparison, but it was only the second ever in Minnesota (J. Love *et al.*); also at Wood Lake at the same time were a Worm-eating, Brewster's-type hybrid, and a Hooded—easily the fanciest array of rare warblers ever seen together in the state!

Yellow-throateds were also seen May 9 in Oconomowoc, Wis. (RG), and in Kalamazoo County May 15 (RA). The rare Prairie Warbler was seen at three Michigan and two Wisconsin locales;

Kentuckys were especially common in Wisconsin, while in Michigan there were five records, and in Minnesota the lone report was May 16 in Bloomington (D. Ruhme); at least ten Yellow-breasted Chats in s. Wisconsin represented a fine movement, and one at Duluth May 18 was clearly out of range and only the second local occurrence (KE), Hooded Warblers also appeared in excellent numbers in Wisconsin and at 8 Michigan sites. Finally, there were several warblers which appeared much earlier than normal: a Magnolia Apr. 30 in Cottonwood County, a record for Minnesota (LF); a Black-throated Green Apr. 25 at Bemidji, the earliest ever for n. Minnesota (AS); a record arrival for a Pine Apr. 15 at Eau Claire, Wis. (JPI); an Ovenbird Apr. 18 in Kalamazoo County (RA); a Wilson's Apr. 25 at W.P.B.O., the earliest ever for the Upper Peninsula (DE); and an Am. Redstart Apr. 28 in Duluth, a record Minnesota arrival (*vide* KE).

TANAGERS THROUGH LONGSPURS — Only the tenth Wisconsin W. Tanager ever was a male in Eau Claire May 10 (JPI). The usual few Summer Tanagers appeared in May, with two each in Michigan and Minnesota and three in Wisconsin. A Cardinal near W.P.B.O. May 19 was unusually far n. (DE), but more unusual in Michigan were the Black-headed Grosbeaks May 23 at East Tawas, Iosco Co. (VM) and May 30 in Baraga County (JW). Dickcissels were seen in only small numbers in s. Wisconsin and Minnesota, and what few there were arrived unusually late. A concentration of 2000 Purple Finches was reported May 11 at W.P.B.O. (DE), and the House Finch appears to be on the verge of regular status in Michigan, where there were no fewer than nine reporting locales, including a report of a nest with two young in Detroit May 26 (*vide* AK). Considering the weather it was not surprising that so many redpolls were reported into May at many locations, but it was amazing that Com. Redpolls lingered until May 20 at Ashland, Wis. (DV) and even into early June in Taylor County, Wis. (SR); there was even a carefully studied Hoary in Duluth May 11 (KE)! Wisconsin also reported many tardy White-winged Crossbills well into May, with a few still in Milwaukee into June (MBO). Lark Buntings managed to get lost and wander E to Taconite Harbor in n.e. Minnesota May 12 (*vide* Tbi), to Madison Apr. 4 (RH) and to an Ashland, Wis. feeder May 22-23 (DV). Wisconsin reported an especially poor sparrow migration, although the bright spots here were a very early Savannah Mar. 24 in Ozaukee County (BC), and a very late Harris' lingering into June in Ashland (DV). In the Detroit area only two Henslow's Sparrows made for a very poor showing (*vide* AK); an early Lincoln's Sparrow appeared in Kalamazoo County Apr. 19 (RA). And the final rarity of the season was Michigan's second Chestnut-collared Longspur which somehow found its way to the summit of Brodway Mt., Keweenaw Co., May 9 (A&DW, R&MK).

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MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

/Bruce G. Peterjohn

By all accounts, it was not a "normal" spring for birds or weather. March was unusually wet in most areas; this precipitation plus snow melt produced some locally severe floods. Temperatures varied considerably. In the north, they averaged below normal and included some below zero readings during early March. In the south, they were above normal and reached record high levels during the last week of the month. These weather conditions produced a reasonably good waterfowl flight, especially in southern and central areas that were ice-free during March.

April will be remembered as one of the snowiest in history. Two strong cold fronts passed through the Region April 5-12 dumping one foot of snow at some Great Lakes locations and lesser amounts elsewhere. Record cold temperatures including some below zero readings accompanied these fronts. This inclement weather caused local groundings of large numbers of loons, grebes, Killdeer, robins, sparrows and longspurs. Remainder of the month was characterized by below normal temperatures and precipitation. With the exception of a fairly strong movement April 16-19 when a number of record early overflights were discovered, the cold weather retarded migration by 1-2 weeks.

In contrast to April's cold weather, May was unusually warm. Many record high temperatures were set as the thermometer reached well into the 80's F during most of the month. Precipitation varied from well above normal in Iowa, northwestern Missouri and Illinois to below normal in Ohio and Kentucky. May's weather was not conducive for the formation of defined flights. Most passerines were late and seemed to trickle through in disappointingly small numbers.

As usual, all extraordinary sight records must be thoroughly documented at the time of observation. All documented records have been denoted by a dagger (†).

ABBREVIATIONS — M.M.W.A.: Magee Marsh W.M.A., O.; O.W.R.: Ottawa N.W.R., O.; S.C.R.: Squaw Creek N.W.R., Mo.; Spfld: Springfield, Ill.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRD — An early Com. Loon returned to Des Plaines, Ill., Mar. 4 (PD). While the April snowstorms grounded loons on most lakes and ponds in n. Ohio, similar concentrations were not observed elsewhere. The only Red-throated Loon was found at Chicago Mar. 12-20 (†HR, PC) while single Red-necked Grebes appeared in Ohio at Avon L., Mar. 10 (†JP) and Caesar Creek L., Mar. 27 (†JHi). Horned Grebes were abundant in Ohio following the April snowstorms including 177 at Cleveland Apr. 8-12 (M), 163 at L. Rockwell Apr. 7 (LRo) and numerous reports of 30-80 birds. They received mixed reports elsewhere and were noticeably scarce in Kentucky and Missouri. Eared Grebes migrated through the w. states in customary numbers and were reported from 5 Illinois locations Apr. 1-May 30. One appeared at Cleveland Apr. 16 (M). Western Grebes have become regular spring migrants through Iowa where there were 3 reports Apr. 30-May 12. They were exceptional in Indiana where two were discovered at Summit L., May 23 (†BJ *et al.*) and a dark-phase grebe was at Otterbein L., May 31 (†DA, †EH *et al.*). Pied-billed Grebes remained scarce, the largest reported flock was only 17. In w. states, the peak White Pelican concentration was 2000 at S.C.R., Apr. 17 (L). The only e. report was of one at Summit L., Ind., May 23 (†BJ *et al.*). Double-crested Cormorants continue to increase, especially in Iowa where 600 were reported from Fremont County Apr. 24 (RS *et al.*) and there were 3 other sightings of 100-350 birds. Other exemplary concentrations included 250 at S.C.R., Apr. 17 (L), 140 at Rice L., Ill., Apr. 22 (RSa) and 75 at Ballard W.M.A., Ky., May 5 (BM). An Anhinga at Table Rock L., Apr. 14 (†JDo) was unusual for s.w. Missouri but was eclipsed by the state's first **Magnificent Frigatebird** which was briefly observed at Marshfield Apr. 2 (†JSo).



HERONS — Early Green Herons returned to Kentucky L., Ky., Mar. 13 (JE) and Newtown, O., Apr. 3 (NW). Normal Little Blue Heron concentrations were observed at Madison County, Ill. and Ballard W.M.A., Ky. Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were discovered at 6 Iowa, 3 Illinois, 3 Ohio and 2 Indiana locations. Fewer Cattle Egrets were observed than last year beginning with an early migrant at Gary, Ind., Mar. 21 (KB). Away from nesting colonies, 40 were present at Merom power plant, Ind., May 12 (DJ), 29 at Homer, Ill., May 23 (JSm) and 10-20 at 3 other locations. Great Egrets were noted in normal numbers. At least five Snowy Egrets were observed in the w. Lake Erie marshes during May. Elsewhere, 1-2 egrets were reported from 3 Missouri, 2 Iowa, 2 Kentucky and 1 Illinois locations. Louisiana Herons returned to traditional sites at Madison County, Ill., May 8+ (RK) and M.M.W.A., May 18 (†JP). Black-crowned Night Herons have almost disappeared from Indiana but remained relatively stable elsewhere. Fewer Yellow-crowned Night Herons were observed, there were only 19 reports as compared with 36 last year. Least Bitterns were also scarce, appearing at only 13 locations in all states except Kentucky. In contrast, Am. Bittern sightings increased with reports from more than 40 locations. Detailed descriptions adequately identified two Glossy Ibis at Spfld May 4 (†H), one at Hudson, O., May 19+ (†TL, m.ob.) and two White-faced Ibis at Forney L., Ia., May 13-18 (†T, m.ob.). A *Plegadis* ibis at S.C.R., May 28 (L) lacked sufficient details for specific identification.



Ross' Goose (center), Ottawa N.W.R., O., Mar. 19, 1982, a first record for Ohio. Photo: Allen Chartier.

WATERFOWL — This spring's waterfowl flight was the best in several years. Diving ducks were particularly abundant while puddle ducks were reported only in moderate numbers. Whistling Swans were widespread with concentrations of 1000 in the w. Lake Erie marshes and 65 at New Albin, Ia. (JS). Most noteworthy of 11 reports away from traditional migration routes were flocks of 26 at Dayton, O., Mar. 6 (CBe, JH), 17 at Monroeville, Ind., Mar. 17+ (LP), 17 at L. Sangchris, Ill., Mar. 10 (DCo) and two near Sebree, Ky., Mar. 9 (MW). One lingered through May 9 at Atterbury W.M.A., Ind. (*vide* BG). The peak Canada Goose movement was noted during mid-March. Large numbers of White-fronted Geese were not detected in w. states this spring. However, they were more numerous than usual farther e. with 1-35 at 9 Illinois locations Mar. 11-May 12, 34 in Fulton County, Ky., Mar. 17 (BP), 2 Indiana reports including 16 at L. Waveland Mar. 22-23 (ABr) and 4+ visited the w. Lake Erie marshes Mar. 7-25 (†m.ob.). A Ross' Goose in Ottawa County Mar.

18-21 + (†JP, m ob —ph) provided a first record for Ohio. In Iowa, they are now regularly observed among the large flocks of Snow Geese with 1-7 reported from 3 s.w. Iowa locations Mar. 17-Apr. 3. While escaped waterfowl are frequently reported in this Region, a thoroughly-described ♂ Garganey in DuPage County Apr. 18-23 (†DL, †m.ob.) represents a possible legitimate first record for Illinois. A Green-winged Teal x Am. Wigeon hybrid was observed in Columbus Mar. 31 (†JF). Cinnamon Teal reports included one at Big Marsh, Ia., Apr. 4-5 (FM *et al.*), two near S.C.R., Apr. 10 (LG *et al.*) and one at S.C.R., Apr. 24-26 (TBa, †BR). Single Eur. Wigeon were reported from the w. Lake Erie marshes Mar. 13-May 14 (†JP, m.ob.), Summit L., Ind., Mar. 20-27 (†BJ, m.ob.) and Meredosia, Ill., Apr. 7-8 (†RSa).

A flock of 100 Canvasbacks at Kentucky Dam Mar. 3 (CN) was exceptional for Kentucky while the largest scaup flocks included 10,000 (both species) at Lorain, O., Mar. 14 (TL) and 10,000 Lesser in Lee County, Ia., Apr. 10 (JR). Noteworthy late Com. Goldeneyes included one at Barkley L., Ky., May 5 (BM *et al.*) and two at Forney L., Ia., May 14 (T *et al.*). Oldsquaw numbers improved somewhat with a maximum of 47 at Chicago Mar. 14 (JL) and 7 inland reports from all states except Missouri. The only Harlequin Duck was observed at Avon Lake, O., Mar. 7-8 (CH *et al.*). With the exception of 80 White-winged Scoters at Chicago Mar. 7 (JL), only scattered singles were observed along the Great Lakes. Inland singles were reported from Saylorville Res., Ia., Apr. 8 (JS), Dallas County, Ia., Apr. 22 (RM) and Salamonie Res., Ind., Apr. 10-11 & May 9 (*vide* JHa). Between 2-6 Surf Scoters were noted at the Chicago area lakefront Mar. 25-26 and one appeared in Wabash County, Ill., May 1-2 (LH). The only Black Scoter was recorded at Chicago Mar. 1 (PC, TM). Red-breasted Mergansers were reported in good numbers with a Great Lakes maximum of 5200 at Chicago.

DIURNAL RAPTORS — For the second year in a row, weather conditions were not conducive for spring hawk flights. The only noteworthy movements were reported from O.W.R. as follows: 231 Turkey Vultures Mar. 23 and 223 on Mar. 28, 202 Sharp-shinned Hawks Apr. 24, 406 Red-tailed Hawks Mar. 23 and 244 Apr. 16, 54 Red-shouldered Hawks Mar. 23 and 250 Broad-winged Hawks Apr. 16 & 25 (JK, BL, JP).

A Swallow-tailed Kite visited Rice L. and Sand Ridge S.F., Ill., May 7-10 (RSa, †T & PP, m.ob.), providing a second recent record for the state. The same individual may have wandered into Indiana where one was observed near Battle Ground May 31-June 1 (†TC, †EH). Up to six Mississippi Kites were reported from 4 w. Kentucky locations during May while extralimital birds appeared at St. Louis (m.ob.), in company with the Swallow-tailed Kite at Rice L., May 7 (RSa) and at Spfld May 18 (†H). A total of seven Goshawk reports were received from Iowa, Ohio and Illinois with one lingering through May 15 at Park Forest, Ill. (K *et al.*). Both Cooper's and Red-shouldered hawks were reported in normal numbers for recent years. Swainson's Hawks were restricted to w. states where there were 9 sightings in Iowa but only one in Missouri. Golden Eagles were observed at 5 sites in Iowa, Ohio and Illinois Mar. 16-Apr. 16. Bald Eagles were widespread during March including 217 along the Mississippi R., Ia.-Ill. Mar. 10. Numbers declined rapidly by the end of the month (P). An increased number of sightings in Indiana and Ohio was encouraging as was Missouri's first nesting attempt since 1962 where one nestling was being reared at an unspecified s.w. Missouri location (JW). While Marsh Hawks were scarce in many areas, 47 at Lawrenceville, Ill., Mar. 12 were exceptional (LH). Ospreys appeared in early April and were fairly numerous in all states including a peak of 16 at O.W.R., Apr. 24 (JK). A gray-phase Gyrfalcon was thoroughly studied at Crane Creek S.P., O., Mar. 14 (†J *et al.*). The only Prairie Falcon report was from the Lawrenceville, Ill. airport where the wintering birds lingered through Mar. 7 (LH). A total of 18 Peregrine Falcon reports Mar. 6-May 17 was encouraging as were 13 Merlin sightings Mar. 23-May 3. Numbers of both species continue to gradually improve.

CRANES THROUGH COOT — The Sandhill Crane migration was fairly typical with the expected "thousands" in n.w. Indiana and n.e. Illinois. Along its migration routes, 250 cranes in Lyon County, Ia., Apr. 10 were exceptional (*vide* DH) while flocks of 300 in s. Hardin County, Ky., Mar. 4 (AB), 21-50 near Louisville Mar. 11-12 (BP, *vide* S) and 1-6 in the w. Lake Erie marshes Mar. 13-May 5 were expected. After a 5-year search, Indiana's first Sandhill Crane nest of this century was discovered in Steuben County this spring (MWe).

Rails were reported in slightly improved numbers. A total of 13 King Rail sightings was normal for recent years although one in Meade County, Ky., May 5 was unusual for that state (*vide* BM). Noteworthy rail concentrations included 23 Virginias and 53 Soras in Lake County, Ill., May 8 (DJh, AS) and 30 Soras at Hendrickson Marsh, Ia., May 2 (PM). Single Yellow Rails were observed at Muskrat Slough, Ia., May 1 (†CB, †T) and Champaign, Ill., May 7 (†BCh). Black Rails were only found in Iowa with one at Hendrickson Marsh Apr. 24-May 1 (†PM) and one at Sycamore Slough May 6 (†TS). Few Com. Gallinules were reported; this species may be declining in many locations. A total of 12,000 Am. Coots in n.w. Missouri Apr. 17 was unusual (L).

SHOREBIRDS — As usual, shorebird habitat and concentrations were unevenly distributed. While traditional sites attracted a normal number of species and individuals, the overall flight was not spectacular.

Early Semipalmated Plovers returned to Forney L., Ia., Apr. 7 (TB *et al.*) and Pulaski County, Ky., Apr. 13 (JEI). Between 1-3 Piping Plovers appeared at 10 locations Apr. 17-May 8. The only Snowy Plover was discovered at S.C.R., Apr. 17 (L *et al.*). American Golden Plovers were widespread with local concentrations of 250-5000 in all states. Early migrants returned to Cone Marsh, Ia., Mar. 13 (TS) and Spfld., Mar. 18 (H). An early Black-bellied Plover was reported in Fulton County, Ky., Apr. 16 (BP, AB). A maximum of 67 Ruddy Turnstones was reported along L. Michigan during May while 1-4 were noted at 7 inland sites. The only documented Long-billed Curlew visited S.C.R., Apr. 6 (†LG) where it is a casual migrant. Whimbrels were scarce with singles near Overton, Mo., May 20 (†SS, JT), Chicago May 22 (JL) and Waukegan, Ill., May 23 (JN). An early Upland Sandpiper returned to Oxford, O., Mar. 18 (TP). Normal numbers of resident birds were found at traditional sites. Willets were widespread beginning with an early migrant near Forney L., Ia., Apr. 7 (TB *et al.*). They appeared in all states with maxima of 44 at Atterbury W.M.A., Ind., Apr. 30 (BG), 32 at Stockton L., Mo., Apr. 24 (RMa *et al.*) and 12-18 at 3 other locations.

Noteworthy Lesser Yellowlegs concentrations included 1100 at Riverton W.M.A., Ia., Apr. 24 (RS), 1000 at Coralville Res., Ia., Apr. 24 (PW) and 300 in Fulton County, Ky., Apr. 16-17 (BP, AB). Red Knots were restricted to the Great Lakes where 1-2 were found at 4 sites May 23-27. White-rumped Sandpipers were numerous in w. states including 300 at S.C.R., May 9 (L) and "hundreds" at Riverton W.M.A., Ia., May 13-14 (T *et al.*). Baird's Sandpipers are uncommon spring migrants in w. states where 55 in Muscatine and Clinton counties, Ia., May 13 were exceptional (P, JH). Spring reports e. of the Mississippi R. should be thoroughly documented. Many of the e. spring reports describe Baird's in juvenal plumage, a plumage they lose during the previous winter. Observers should be aware that spring-plumaged Baird's are quite different from the buffy juveniles that are regularly encountered during autumn and are not adequately described in any of the popular field guides. Dunlin appeared in normal numbers beginning with three early migrants near Forney L., Ia., Apr. 7 (TB *et al.*). Short-billed Dowitchers were scarce, even along the Great Lakes.

Early Long-billed Dowitchers returned to S.C.R., Mar. 28 (L, KJ) and Wabash County, Ill. and Knox County, Ind., Apr. 4 (DJ). A flock of 125 at S.C.R., May 8 was unusual as were singles at Chesterton, Ind., Apr. 23 (†KB) and Ottawa County, O., May 8 (†LRo *et al.*). An early Stilt Sandpiper returned to Marshall County, Ill., Apr. 18 (LA). They were widespread in small numbers, especially e. of the Mississippi R., where there were 13 reports. Western Sandpiper observations included two at Nashua, Ia., May 2 (FM), 2-5 at Spfld., May 19-25 (H) and 12 at L. Calumet, Ill., May 29-31 (JL). The only Buff-breasted Sandpipers were observed near Overton, Mo., May 21 (SS, TBa *et al.*). Between 1-5 Marbled Godwits were discovered at 10 Iowa, 3 Missouri and 1 Ohio locations including an early migrant near Shenandoah, Ia., Apr. 3 (RP). Hudsonian Godwits also returned early with 3 near Forney L., Ia., Apr. 7 (TB *et al.*). They were numerous in Iowa, Missouri and Illinois with maxima of 65 at S.C.R., Apr. 17 (L *et al.*) and 41 in Greene and Calhoun cos., Ia., May 11 (T *et al.*). Singles wandered E to the w. Lake Erie marshes. While a few Ruffs have become regular migrants through the Region, this spring's influx was unprecedented. The 7 reports included single males at Terre Haute, Ind. (†RE *et al.*) and Decatur, Ill. (†RSa *et al.*) Apr. 10, single females at Wayne County, O. (†DK *et al.*) and Schell-Osage W.M.A., Mo. (†KH *et al.*) Apr. 17, single males in Porter County, Ind., Apr. 18 (†PG, †KB) and near Meredosia, Ill., Apr. 23-May 3

(†RSa), and a female at O W R., May 22 (†J *et al.*) American Avocets appeared at 12 locations e. to Cleveland with flocks of 25 at Coralville Res., Ia., Apr. 25 (CB) and 12 at Spfld Apr. 21 (H). An early Wilson's Phalarope returned to Wayne County, O., Apr. 17 (Dk *et al.*). Between 1-3 N. Phalaropes appeared during late May at 6 sites in Iowa, Missouri, Illinois and Ohio.

GULLS, TERNS — Glaucous Gulls lingered through May 15 at Spfld. (H) and Cleveland (M). Noteworthy inland singles appeared at Schell-Osage W.M.A., Mar. 13 (†LG) and L. Manawa, Ia., Mar. 19-24 (RMy *et al.*). Iceland Gulls remained at Chicago through May 21 (JL) and one was discovered at Louisville Mar. 30 (†LR). A Great Black-backed Gull at Indiana Dunes, Ind., Mar. 21 was noteworthy (†JWh) while single Lesser Black-backed Gulls at M.M.W.A., Apr. 2 (†JP) and Chicago Apr. 25 (†JL, m.ob.) provided unusual spring records. Thayer's Gulls remained at Chicago through Apr. 24 (JL) while immatures were discovered at 2 L. Erie locations through May 15 (†m.ob.). Ring-billed Gulls staged a major movement through many areas Mar. 22-28. An imm. Black-headed Gull was briefly observed at Chicago May 5 (†RG, PC). One or two Laughing Gulls appeared at 5 Great Lakes sites during May while inland reports included singles in LaSalle County, Ill., Apr. 25 (JHm), Kentucky Dam May 4 (†BM *et al.*), S.C.R., May 12 (†BH) and two at Spfld., May 15-17 (H). Franklin's Gulls were more numerous than normal in Illinois where there were 4 flocks of 10-26 birds. Scattered singles were noted farther e. Single Little Gulls were found at 3 L. Erie locations Mar. 27-May 8. Forster's Terns returned to Chicago Apr. 4 (MD). Increased numbers of migrants were reported from e. states. Few Com. Terns were observed along L. Erie while the Chicago maximum was 240 on May 9 (JL). Normal numbers appeared at inland sites. Twelve Least Terns at Kentucky L., Ky., Apr. 14 were early (JE). May sightings included 2-6 at two w. Kentucky locations and one at Meredosia, Ill., May 23 (RSa). An early Caspian Tern returned to Sandusky Bay, O., Mar. 18 (LRo). The species was widespread in small numbers with a maximum of 75 at Lorain, O., Apr. 24 (TL). Black Terns were very scarce in most areas, the only large flock was 160 at Oquawka, Ill., May 22 (LM).

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Early cuckoos included a Yellow-billed at Elizabethtown, Ky., Apr. 14 (GE) and a Black-billed at Oxford, O., Apr. 19 (JI). Both species were reported in reduced numbers in many locations. A Roadrunner was discovered near Blue Eye, Stone Co., Mo., May 10 where this species was formerly regular (MM). The only Barn Owl was reported from Ottawa County, O., Apr. 2 (JP). A Snowy Owl lingered through Mar. 25 in Iowa where a Burrowing Owl was observed in O'Brien County Apr. 13 (RC, RH—ph.). Migrant Long-eared Owls were reported from 13 locations while a nest was discovered in Winneshiek County, Ia. (RB). A normal number of Short-eared Owl reports included 1-8 birds at 16 locations. Saw-whet Owls were more widespread than last spring including maxima of seven at M.M.W.A. and in Tippecanoe County, Ind. One at Louisville Mar. 31 provided a rare record for Kentucky (*vide* BM). In addition to its traditional locations, Church-will's-widows were noted n. to Dayton, O. (*vide* CM), Mason County, Ill (LA) and Indiana Dunes, Ind. (MAB). Early Com. Nighthawks appeared at Louisville Apr. 15 (AB) and Tippecanoe County, Ind., Apr. 16 (DA). A flock of 125 at Quincy, Ill., May 17 was unusual for spring (A & FD). More observers reported declines in Ruby-throated Hummingbird populations, even in Kentucky and Missouri where this species was formerly doing well. Hummingbird numbers should be closely watched in the future. The only Com. ("Red-shafted") Flicker was observed at Cherokee, Ia., Apr. 23 (MB). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found in locally improved numbers including a maximum of 24 at Chicago Apr. 18 (JL).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CREEPERS — An early E. Kingbird returned to Vigo County, Ind., Apr. 12 (RE). Its migration was poor in some areas although 43 in w. Kentucky May 8 were noteworthy (JE). A few W. Kingbirds were reported from w. states while one wandered E to Homer, Ill., May 23 (†JSm). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers returned to Vernon County, Mo., Apr. 2 (KH) while extralimital reports included a nesting pair near Belgrade, Mo. (SD) and singles in St. Louis County, Mo., May 7 (DD) and Waubonsie S.P., Ia., Apr. 24 (†FM *et al.*). A Great Crested Flycatcher in LaPorte County, Ind., Apr. 18 (MR) was a part of the mid-April overflight. In some areas, E. Phoebes were thought to have declined as a result of the April snowstorms. Say's Phoebes reappeared at their traditional

Plymouth County, Ia., location during May Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were widely reported, even in Iowa where they were once thought to be unusual. Early Acadian Flycatchers at Louisville Apr. 12 (AB) and Falls of the Rough, Ky., Apr. 17 (m.ob.) were unusual since this species was late elsewhere. Alder Flycatchers were discovered in many areas after May 13. Observers are learning to look for this late migrant after most other species have moved through the Region. Normal numbers of Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported.

This spring's swallow migration was not impressive although only Bank Swallows were widely reported as scarce. Exemplary peaks included 1000 Tree Swallows in Fulton County, Ky., Apr. 16-17 (BP, AB), 1400 Barns at Chicago May 23 (JL) and 750 Cliffs in Fulton County Apr. 16-17. The Barn Swallow migration started early with 4 sightings Mar. 20-22 N to Riverton W.M.A., Ia. (RMy). Early Purple Martins arrived at Cadiz, Ky., Mar. 3 (CN), Farmington, Mo., Mar. 16 (SD) and M.M.W.A., Mar. 19 (AC). The April cold weather produced considerable mortality among these early migrants. Migrating Blue Jays were most noticeable at Cleveland May 1-5 with a peak of 841 per hour May 4 (M). Normal numbers of Fish Crows were noted along the Mississippi R. n. to St. Louis. The Black-capped Chickadee movement was modest with a maximum of 26/hr at Cleveland during mid-April (M). Red-breasted Nuthatches were widespread; daily maxima were generally 5-10 birds. They remained into the late May and early June in all states while nesting was confirmed at Cincinnati (FR), Indianapolis (*vide* CK) and South Bend, Ind. (MR). Brown Creepers nesting at Newtown, O. (WR) and exhibiting breeding behavior in Posey County, Ind. (JSk, JC) were unusual for the s. portion of the Region.

WRENS THROUGH SHRIKES — House Wrens at Louisville Mar. 1 (AB) and Clarksburg, Ill., Mar. 16 (KF) could have been early migrants or overwintered. Winter Wrens received some encouraging reports but are still scarce in many areas. A greater number of Bewick's Wrens sightings may only reflect better reporting of this species. In s. states, they were found in good numbers in the Springfield, Mo., area (CB) and 6 reports were received from Kentucky. Farther n. 4 Illinois sightings included birds in Spfld (H) and Monmouth (LM) while one appeared in Gibson County, Ind., Feb 1-Mar. 20 (CMi *et al.*). Only 10 Short-billed Marsh Wren reports were received and none from Indiana or Ohio. The Am. Robin migration was quite impressive during March and April. Unfortunately, the April snowstorms forced robins onto paved roads where many were killed by cars. A Varied Thrush at Waterloo, Ia., Apr. 11 was late (†FM, †RMy). An early Wood Thrush returned to St. Louis County, Mo., Mar. 17 (CP) while Swainson's Thrushes and Veeries were scattered across Ohio, Indiana and Illinois during the Apr. 17-19 overflight. In general, the thrush migration received mixed reports with no apparent pattern to their distribution. The only noteworthy concentration was 100 Veeries per day at Cincinnati Apr. 20-24 (BC) Illinois' first Mountain Bluebird was a thoroughly studied female at Sangchris Lake S.P., Apr. 9-11 (†H, m.ob.).

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were noted in good numbers beginning Mar. 20 at Glasgow, Ky. (RSt). Golden-crowned Kinglets were scarce in many areas. Two lingered through late May at Indianapolis where nesting was suspected (AST). Water Pipits were reported in better numbers including 1000 in Knox County, Ind., Mar. 28 (DJ). A Sprague's Pipit was documented from Taberville Prairie, Mo., Mar. 13 (†LG). The only Bohemian Waxwing appeared at Cherokee, Ia., Mar. 12 (†DB). The Cedar Waxwing migration was normal; the March-early April movement was most noticeable in Kentucky and Ohio while large numbers passed through many areas during the latter half of May. This winter's N. Shrike flight lasted well into spring with 9 reports including one at Rolling Prairie, Ind., Apr. 8 (*vide* MR). Loggerhead Shrikes appeared to be stable in Iowa while 12 reports from Ohio, Indiana and n. Illinois were more than normal for recent years.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — White-eyed Vireos continued to increase in n. states. Bell's Vireos were scarce in Illinois but returned to traditional sites farther e. One in Ballard County May 19 (S) and two in McCracken County May 22 (DC, BP) were unusual for Kentucky. Early Solitary Vireos returned by Apr. 1 to Red River Gorge, Ky (DC) and Columbus (BS) while a Red-eyed Vireo in Benton County, Ind., Apr. 18 was also early (DA). A total of nine singing ♂ Swainson's Warblers along the Eleven Point R., Oregon Co., Mo., May 19-23 were exceptional for that state (JW, SS *et al.*). Worm-eating Warblers were widely scattered across the n. states. Fair numbers of

Golden-winged Warblers were reported including eight at Van Meter S.P., Mo., May 15 (KH, CHo). Five "Brewster's" Warblers were reported from Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. Tennessee Warblers were generally abundant beginning with Apr. 17 arrivals at Chicago (MD) and Henderson County, Ill. (LM) and one at Waterloo, Ia., Apr. 21 (FM). A normal number of Orange-crowned Warblers was reported beginning Apr. 13 at Chicago (TM) while a very late migrant was at Big River S.F., Ill., June 5 (†LM). A Magnolia Warbler appeared at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., Ia., Apr. 18 (JSa) while one lingered at Chicago through June 12 (AA). Cape May Warblers received mixed reports. Five sightings in Iowa and 3 in Missouri were normal. Early Black-throated Green Warblers returned to McCreary County, Ky., Mar. 20-21 (NS, RBA). Cerulean Warblers were scarce in many areas but not Mammoth Cave N.P., Ky., where 100 were noted May 1 (DN). An early Yellow-throated Warbler returned to Pike County W.M.A., Ill., Apr. 1 (RSa). This species continues to expand N as evidenced by 13 in Van Buren County, Ia., Apr. 18 (JSa). A Bay-breasted Warbler returned to Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., Ia., Apr. 18 (JSa) while one at Chicago June 12 was late (AA). Early Blackpoll Warblers were discovered Apr. 17 at Falls of the Rough, Ky. (KC) and Maumee Bay S.P., O. (J, CH) and at Forest Park, Mo., Apr. 19 (RK). They passed through several areas in good numbers. A Prairie Warbler at Lansing W.M.A., Ia., May 23-30 (†RM_y *et al.*) was noteworthy for Iowa. Palm Warblers were also quite common beginning with a Mar. 28 migrant at S. Bend, Ind. (T & LS). The mid-April overflight scattered N. Waterthrushes across the n. states while a Louisiana Waterthrush appeared at Ledges S.P., Ia., Apr. 2 (†JR). Connecticut Warblers were reported in good numbers from all states except Missouri while Mourning Warblers were also widespread. Hooded Warblers were observed in increased numbers in n. states. A bird appearing to be a Wilson's x Canada Warbler hybrid was described in detail from Chicago June 1 (†PC).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH TANAGERS — Bobolinks passed through most states in fair numbers although 80-100 in Bullitt and Jefferson Cos., May 8 were unusual for Kentucky (DP). A very early migrant appeared at Marias Temps Clair W.M.A., Mo., Apr. 4 (G & TB). Western Meadowlarks in Lyon County, Ky. (S, FS), Pickaway County, O. (JF) and Holmes County, O. (DK) were unexpected. Yellow-headed Blackbirds returned to traditional marshes e. to L. Erie but numbers were reduced in n.w. Indiana and n.e. Illinois. Extralimital reports included one at Dayton April 21-29 (m.ob.), three at Marias Temps Clair W.M.A., Mo., Apr. 23-May 1 (RW *et al.*) and one at Farmington, Mo., Apr. 27 (RL *et al.*). Brewer's Blackbirds were more numerous than usual in e. states; Illinois reports included 3 flocks of 20-32 birds and 100 near Meredosia in early April while 40 were observed in Fulton, Ky., Mar. 16-17 (BP) and nine in Knox County, Ind., Apr. 3 (DJ). Great-tailed Grackles were present at S.C.R. throughout the period with a maximum of 17 on Mar. 27 (L, KJ). An early Scarlet Tanager returned to Dayton Apr. 14 (CM, PH). Only six Summer Tanagers were reported n. of their normal range. They were scarce in some s. localities.

FINCHES, SPARROWS — Black-headed Grosbeaks were discovered at Champaign, Ill., May 4 (†VL) and St. Louis May 12 (†CP *et al.*) while one thought to be a hybrid was observed at Amana, Ia., May 10 (†T *et al.*). Normal numbers of Blue Grosbeaks were reported from within its regular range but one at Chicago May 19-20 was unusually far n. (JL). Several Painted Buntings were found near Eagle Rock, Mo., May 10 (MM). They are apparently rare but regular in s.w. Missouri. Evening Grosbeaks were scarce with only 1-6 reports from each state and ten or fewer birds at most locations. Purple Finches were also scarce in most areas. The only noteworthy concentration was 75 at Falls of the Rough, Ky. where a few lingered through May 25 (KC). The House Finch expansion continued at a fast pace. In Kentucky, they appeared at new locations in Warren, Barren, Casey and Boone Counties. New Indiana locations included Porter and Vigo Counties while as many as 11 were observed at Ft. Wayne (JHa). In Illinois, up to five were regularly observed at Urbana (RCh) while 1-2 briefly appeared in Douglas and Vermilion Cos., and at Chicago. In addition to the winter reports, Hoary Redpolls were also identified at Laurens, Ia., Mar. 2 (RC, RH—ph.) and Toledo Mar. 22 (†ET). Common Redpolls generally departed from s. areas by late March although they lingered at M.M.W.A. through May 4 (JP). Among the hundreds banded in n. Ohio were two "Greater" Redpolls (*Carduelis flammea rostrata*). Pine Siskins were widespread with daily maxima of 15-40 in most areas. Many lingered into late May and early June.

While nesting was suspected at many areas, definite breeding records included seven nests at Urbana, Ill. (RCh) plus single nests at Naperville, Ill. (JWi), Davenport, Ia. (*vide* P) and Ames, Ia. (JD). Red Crossbills appeared at 14 locations in all states except Kentucky. A nest was destroyed at Des Moines (MBr) while late birds lingered through June 1 at Columbia, Mo. (*vide* SS) and Sterling, Ill. (BSh). White-winged Crossbills were equally numerous, appearing at 12 sites in all states except Indiana. A flock of 34 at Bernheim Forest, Ky., Mar. 24 (LS) was the largest reported.

Lark Buntings were found May 4 in Fremont County, Ia. (†RP) and Urbana, Ill. (†RCh). Savannah Sparrows were numerous during April including 117 at Spfld Apr. 9 (H). Le Conte's Sparrows were reported in normal numbers in w. states while singles were observed at 3 Illinois sites and in Gibson County, Ind. Small numbers of Henslow's Sparrows appeared in all states; populations may be declining in some areas. Sharp-tailed Sparrow reports included one at Spfld May 22 (H) and three at Muskrat Slough, Ia., May 23-24 (†T *et al.*). Vesper Sparrows were numerous during the April snowstorms with Apr. 9 flocks of 140 at Spfld. (H) and 75 in Johnson and Louisa Counties, Ia. (T). Lark Sparrows appeared to be stable within their normal range. The only Bachman's Sparrow was found near Hamlin, Ky., May 8 (JE). A Dark-eyed Junco at Michigan City, Ind., May 29 was very late (KB). In e. states, Clay-colored Sparrows were discovered at 4 Illinois locations while one was in Ottawa County, O., May 19 (†JP). A singing ♂ Brewer's Sparrow at Chicago May 26 (†PC, HR, tm.ob.) provided the first record for Illinois. A Harris' Sparrow near Wabash, Ind., Mar. 5-9 (m.ob.) was the only report e. of its normal range. Fox Sparrows were plentiful with concentrations of 132 at Chicago Mar. 24 (RG, PC) and 50 at Spfld., Apr. 6 (H). Lincoln's Sparrows received mixed reports although 45 at Chicago May 14 (JL) were noteworthy.



Smith's Longspur, near Lone Tree, Iowa, Mar. 27, 1982. Photo/T.H. Kent.

S.A.

Weather conditions undoubtedly contributed to this spring's longspur flight, which was one of the largest in recent memory. A McCown's Longspur was discovered among the hordes of longspurs in Parke County, Ind., Apr. 6 (†ABr). At least 4000 Lapland Longspurs were noted there Apr. 6 while many flocks were observed in migration the following day (ABr *et al.*). Other noteworthy Lapland Longspur concentrations included 1000 in Johnson County, Ia., Mar. 27 (T *et al.*) and 1000 at Spfld Apr. 8 (H). Smith's Longspurs made an impressive showing. In Iowa, a concentrated effort to find this species yielded 9 reports Mar. 21-Apr. 18 including 200 near Lone Tree Mar. 30 (†TS). Illinois maxima were 100 at 2 locations during early April. In Indiana, an incredible 1500 were estimated in Parke County Apr. 7 (ABr, EH *et al.*) while they were also observed in Knox County Mar. 13-Apr. 18 including 150 on Apr. 11 (DJ). To complete this extraordinary migration, single Chestnut-collared Longspurs were discovered at 3 locations, near St. Joseph, Mo., Apr. 3 (†KJ), Muscatine County, Ia., Apr. 4 (†JH) and near Sangchris Lake S.P., Ill., Apr. 10-11 (†RCh, m.ob.).

ADDENDA — Satisfactory documentation has been provided for the Pomarine Jaeger at Michigan City, Ind., Aug. 8, 1981 (AB 36:185) (†EH). After review of the photographs and documentation, the imm.

Lesser Black-backed Gull at Land Between the Lakes, Ky., Jan. 30-31, 1982 provides a second acceptable record for Kentucky. Ohio's first record of a **Mew Gull** was provided by a first-year bird of the race *brachyrhynchus* at Lorain Nov. 29-Dec. 27, 1981 (†J, fm.ob.). Identification of a photograph of this bird was confirmed by Guy McCaskie.

CORRIGENDA — The Sept. 9, 1981 Horned Grebes in Iowa were found at Little Clear L., not Clear L. (AB 36:182). The Sept. 17, 1981 report of an Evening Grosbeak in Shenandoah, Ia. should be changed to Oct. 17 (AB 36:185). The sighting of a Black-and-white Warbler at Ames, Ia., Feb. 19, 1981 has been rejected by the Iowa Records Committee and should be deleted.

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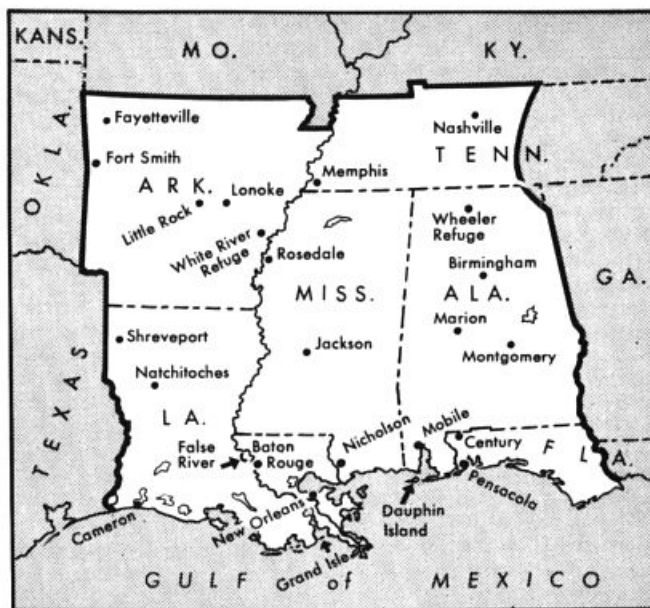
CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

/Thomas A. Imhof

Birdwatchers in this Region marvel at the endurance of tiny migrants that, after crossing 500+ miles of water, continue on inland for about 300 more miles. When these birds have to battle the headwinds and turbulence that accompany cold fronts, this 300-mile reserve of energy becomes vital. These adverse fronts cause birds to shorten their journeys, thus providing good coastal or even inland birding in direct relation to the severity of the weather. This spring the weather in this Region was colder and wetter than usual. For Birmingham on May 30, the deficiency in mean temperature for the year was 214°F (1.4°/day) and the excess in rainfall, 1.58 inches. Reports from other areas indicate similar but a bit wetter weather, especially coastally.

On the Louisiana coast the spring was cool and wet. On the best birding day, April 24, it "rained intermittently from 9 a.m. to sunset and forced thousands of passerines down" (BO). One party in the Cameron area tallied 180 species (PM, BO); the total Louisiana Ornithological Society (hereafter, L.O.S.) figure that day was 197. "Many other fallouts occurred in April near Grant Terre"—Brent Ortego. Potentially interesting was the week preceding May 9. On that date at Grand Isle there were "many dead transients on the beach (thrushes, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, catbirds), also same day many birds landing on the offshore oil rigs and on a 22-ft boat about 25 miles off Empire, Plaquemines Parish"—Dan Purrington. On May 7-8 at Johnson's Bayou, Cameron Parish, there was at least one bird per tree, on even small saplings, in the coastal woods. We conservatively estimated 500 birds in one acre . . . in over 20 years of birding, I'd never seen anything that came close to this"—Van Remsen. Two-day totals included Gray Catbird, 600; Magnolia Warbler, 475; Am. Redstart, 400; Swainson's Thrush, 250; Black-and-white Warbler, 215; Ovenbird, 200; Indigo Bunting, 115; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 90; Red-eyed Vireo; E. Wood Pewee; Tennessee Warbler; Wood Thrush; Northern Waterthrush; Black-throated Green Warbler; Blackburnian Warbler; Hooded Warbler; Acadian Flycatcher; Philadelphia Vireo, 23; in decreasing abundance (VR, SC, RDP). Of this list of 18 species, ten of the top 12, and none of the bottom six were on the list of 32 species banded at Fort Morgan, 350 miles to the east, April 26-28 (TI, JI).

On the Mississippi coast, "spring migration was a little less exciting than what we might wish for. Of the few major wet fronts, the most dramatic was on April 23-24, the best birding days April 9, 10, 21, 27, 28, May 1 and 8. Winter birds left fairly early and migrants were generally a little behind schedule"—Judy Touns. The migration on



the Alabama coast was "far superior to last spring's; excellent variety and good numbers of regular migrants. Best days were April 25: 25 species of warblers, and May 9"—Greg Jackson. At Mobile the "best day of April was the 25th after the tornadoes; April 10 was also good"—Venetia Friend. One Mobile observer (RB) reported many exhausted migrants off Chandeleur Island (no date) including a Scarlet Tanager victimized by two gulls. The best reported one-party list for Alabama was 166 species coastally on April 16, with the comment, "clear, sunny weather, missed many common migrants"—(MB, DC). In Decatur on March 25, marble-to-golfball-sized hail hurt many nests under observation (NB). In nearby Skyline W.M.A., the last freeze was April 9, in Birmingham April 7. The best birding around Birmingham was in the periods April 5-11, April 14-May 5, and a lesser one May 8-18; with good days April 14, 20, 21, 23, May 5, 12; quite different from coastal peaks. Banding at Fort Morgan April 26-28, this writer was impressed with the timing of the tasselling of the dwarf live oaks (*Quercus geminata*) and the ripening of dewberries (*Robus trivialis*) to provide an abundance of food for hungry migrants, a fact well evident to a bander.

At Pensacola "the migration was good"—Bob Duncan. In Arkansas "the season was remarkably dull. I never encountered very many migrant warblers, despite weekly trips"—Charles Mills.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES. — Red-throated Loons, rare in the Gulf at any time, were reported from Biloxi Mar. 2 (JT) and Ft. Pickens, Pensacola Apr. 3 (OF, MM, CK, MJ). The Brown Pelican comeback is wonderful to behold; 675 from Ft. Morgan Apr. 17 (MB, DC) and 391 young from Queen Bess I., Barataria Bay, Jefferson Par., Apr. 19 (BO, JSi). On May 2 at Hattiesburg, 250+ White Pelicans were noted (RM, PR). A changing imm. Masked Booby was at Ft. Morgan Apr. 17 (MB, DC). Gannets seemed more numerous than usual. After a max. of 50 (see winter report), 7-8 were still present at Grand I., Mar. 21 (MMY, m.ob.). At Port St. Joe Apr. 3, 324 were counted going S out in the Gulf, and eight hours later they were still going by. With this 1½-hour count expanded to eight, it is easy to see why the observers (JS, CSh) estimated 1000-2000. Now the question: how does this strictly marine bird overfly the Florida peninsula? Certainly there are not enough records to show that it goes via Key West. Double-crested Cormorants in Barataria Bay declined from 1536 Mar. 3 to about 400 the last week of April (BO). Late inland records were one at Decatur May 16 (GJ, HK) and at Gallatin, Tenn., May 8 (SS, BSt, AH). A census of herons near Hot Springs, Ark., shows 26 Great Blue nests May 11, and on May 29 1570 Cattle Egrets, 1160 Little Blues, 11 Green, and four Great Egrets (H & MP). In Barataria Bay, the "total numbers in April were only about one-third of what they were in 1976"—BO. At Pine Bluff the Snowy Egret was seen for the first time in 10 years Apr. 25 (US & DH). A nesting White-faced Ibis on Cat I., Mobile Co. (CD, RWH, PJ, JJo) May 15 provided the first breeding record for Alabama.

WATERFOWL THROUGH HAWKS — Goose news from the vicinity of Lacassine N.W.R., La., include 5100 Snows and 7190 White-fronteds Mar. 13 and 13 small Canadas Mar. 6 (BO, SO, ABe). Five Mallards near Mobile Apr. 25 were the latest s. of the Tennessee Valley except for a few scattered summer records. (GJ, DJ). Two Black Ducks Apr. 16 near Mobile were the latest (MB, DC) except for the Tennessee Valley, where at Decatur May 16 a pair with 5 young was seen (GJ, HK). A ♀ Mottled Duck with two young was seen at Lyman Hatchery, Miss., May 25 (JMc). Six Oldsquaws, present throughout March, were last seen Apr. 10 near Biloxi (JT, m.ob.). The fifth Harlequin Duck for the area was a male at Ft. Pickens, Pensacola Apr. 2 (TM, WV)-May 23 (MJ, m.ob.). Two Com. Mergansers were in the Pensacola area this spring, a female which lingered to Mar. 5 (RD) and a male at Ft. Pickens Apr. 3 (TM).

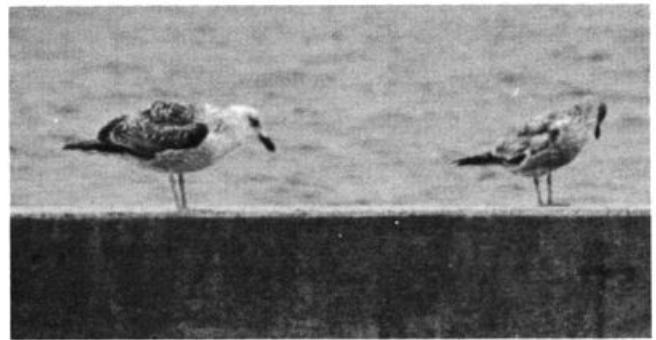
An early Mississippi Kite was at Hattiesburg Mar. 28 (TG, LG). Ten kettles of 4+ Broad-winged Hawks near Opelousas, La., Apr. 4 probably represented a major movement, although the observers (BO, SO, ABe) wonder where the birds found cover passing over an extensive rice belt. Swainson's Hawks were seen at Hattiesburg Mar. 21 (RM, PR) near L. Fayetteville, Washington Co., Ark., Mar. 27 (JN), Apr. 17, two (CR, DPe), and May 9 (BSt). Bald Eagles were reported from Gulfport, Miss., Mar. 1 (SDe); Port St. Joe, Fla., Mar. 7 & 8 (SS, BSt); Ashland City, Tenn., Apr. 11 (SS, BSt, AH, RHo); and St. Martin Parish May 8 (NNeI, PN). A late Marsh Hawk was along Highway 27 in Cameron Par., Apr. 25 (DM, m.ob.). Ospreys seem to be in better shape with 5-6 noted along the Mississippi coast (JT) and others showing signs of local breeding in Arkansas and Alabama. (CMi, GJ, VF). Peregrine Falcons were noted at Port St. Joe, Fla., May 7 (SS, BSt, MG), near New Orleans the same date (DM, m.ob.), and at Ft. Morgan Apr. 16 & 17, different birds (DC, MB), and May 8 (MCM, CK). A Merlin that wintered in New Orleans was last seen Apr. 4 (MMY, DM); a female was at Belle Mina, Limestone Co., Ala., Mar. 20 (MB, CB, ABa). Breeding Am. Kestrels seem to be disappearing from many favored places in this Region; for Alabama from Mar. 14 there was one report: June 9 in St. Clair County (LT) in spite of several Big Days and cooperative counts.

GROUSE, THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — A Ruffed Grouse near Pulpit Rock, Cheaha S.P., Ala., May 16 (LGa) updates the presence of this species in its southernmost locality. The park is a candidate for wilderness designation if the scenic highway does not get prior approval. A beautiful sight of seven Sandhill Cranes migrating over Sterret, Shelby Co., Mar. 29 (JP, RL) was also rare—only the third inland sighting for Alabama. A Yellow Rail was flushed in the Pascagoula R. marsh, Miss., Apr. 17 (JT). One Black Rail was heard

calling (time of day?) near Creole, Cameron Par., Apr. 24 (SC, MRu, GR) and another found crushed May 20 on a Birmingham street (MRu), for a first record for inland Alabama. A neck-tagged Am. Coot on the Birmingham CBC (TI) had been banded in July, 1981 at Horicon N.W.R., Wis. (KW).

A thorough survey of the Blakely I. ponds, upper Mobile Bay, Ala., Apr. 16 (MB, DC) produced the following state maxima; Semipalmated Plover, 260; Greater Yellowlegs, 1125; Lesser Yellowlegs, 1180; Least Sandpiper, 6500; Dunlin, 5500; Short-billed Dowitcher, 3500; Long-billed Dowitcher, 500; Semipalmated Sandpiper, 2000; Western Sandpiper, 6000; Black-necked Stilt, 87. A survey of Grand I., La., in March and April (BO) yielded these high counts: Semipalmated Plover, 122, Mar. 31; Wilson's Plover, 53, Mar. 31; Black-bellied Plover, 250, Mar. 3; Whimbrel, 82, Apr. 13; Short-billed Dowitcher, 3000, Mar. 3; Red Knot, 1050, Apr. 20; Dunlin, 6407, Mar. 31; W. Sandpiper, 4630, Mar. 31.

Other interesting shorebird sightings included: Piping Plover at Johnson S.P., Forrest Co., Miss., Apr. 13 (RM, PR); Okay Levee, Howard Co., Ark., May 6 (CM); third spring record for the state; Com. Snipe, a very late specimen May 15 (*T.T.R.S.) on St. Joseph Pen., Fla. (HS, JMS); an early Spotted Sandpiper Mar. 13 on Brickyard Cutoff, Appalachicola R., Fla. (HS, ES); Lesser Yellowlegs, 2027 Apr. 10 in 50 mi of rice country near Welsh, La. (BO); and 1500 Pectoral Sandpipers Mar. 28 in a field near Miller's L., Evangeline Par. (BO). White-rumped Sandpiper peaked at 80 at Marion Fish Hatchery, Ala., Apr. 29 (RR), 50+ at Centerton Hatchery, Benton Co., Ark., May 18 (JN, CW); and on the coast 200+ at Pascagoula R. Marsh, Miss., May 15 (JT). A Baird's Sandpiper was at the Centerton Hatchery May 15 (CW). At the Pascagoula R. marsh, peaks (JT) included 1000+ Least Sandpipers May 1; 2000+ Dunlins Mar. 13; 70 Stilt Sandpipers May 8; about 8000 peep, mostly Westerns, Apr. 17; and a late Wilson's Phalarope May 25 (JT, m.ob.). A count of 4000 Long-billed Dowitchers was made in a rice field near Welsh, La., Mar. 13 (BO). Inland Stilt Sandpipers included a very early one Mar. 24 at Swan Cr. W.M.A. (MB, DC) and eight at Centerton Hatchery May 15 (CW). The rice-field Hudsonian Godwits peaked at ten Apr. 25 near Welsh (DM, RDP, NNeI) and one was at the Centerton Hatchery May 18 (JN, CW). An Am. Avocet was at Cape San Blas, Fla., Mar. 27 (JMS, CSh); 120 were on Blakely I., Apr. 4 (CD, DG); on Apr. 17 on Pensacola Bay there were 16 (OF, GG); the same day at Lakeland Farm, Marion, one suddenly appeared at a pond two hours after passage of a cold front (JJo, B.A.S.) for the second inland spring record for Alabama; then on Apr. 27 at Pascagoula R. marsh, 42 were counted (JT, GM). The Centerton Hatchery also produced a Wilson's Phalarope May 15 (CW); and a late one was at Bonnet Carre Spillway May 29 (MW).



First-year Great Black-backed Gull, Lake Pontchartrain, La., Mar. 28-29, 1982, third Louisiana record. Photo/ Mac Myers.

GULLS AND TERNS — The Glaucous Gull that wintered at Pensacola (RD) was last seen Apr. 15 (TM). Possibly the imm. Great Black-backed Gull, last seen Mar. 29 in New Orleans (MMY, DN, JR, RDP, m.ob., photo), was the same bird, present since November, that fed on the dump and was found at Seabrook Bridge and along L. Pontchartrain; certainly it represented the first winter record for the species in Louisiana. One near Decatur, Jan. 8 & 9 (DHu) furnished the third inland record for Alabama. "Old one-foot," the Lesser Black-backed Gull, recognized by his injury as being present since 1977 along the Alabama-Florida coast, was last seen at Pensacola on Apr. 10 (OF, CK, A & TZ). While some observers (CDU *et al.*) have called it a Western Gull, this writer believes it virtually impossible for a sedentary species to move 2000 mi E (See this issue, p.899). In New

Orleans a second specimen (L S U M Z) of **Thayer's Gull** was obtained on Mar. 7 (SC) and one or two others were seen the same day (DM, VR, m.ob.). Ring-billed Gulls were abundant in Alabama with a state max. of 4775 counted near Mobile Apr. 16 (MB, DC) and 1785 at Eufaula N.W.R., Mar. 12 (MB). Franklin's Gulls were also numerous, nearly all in summer plumage: 43 on L. Millwood, Ark., Apr. 11 (CMI), and late ones May 8 at Hattiesburg, Miss. (LG, TG), May 7 & 15 in Cameron Parish (VR, JR, MMy, DM), and May 19 in Hot Spring County, Ark. (MP). After an imm. Black-legged Kittiwake was collected (*L.S.U.M.Z.) Apr. 23 at Holly Beach, Cameron Par. (JM), another was found in the same locality May 1-15 (DM, m.ob.). On May 9 at Grand Isle, 300 Com. Terns were a large number for so late (RDP, MMy, NNeI, DM). Three Forster's and 20 Caspian terns at Wheeler N.W.R. were very early Apr. 21 (AM).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Late White-winged Doves were at a feeder in Biloxi Apr. 27 (CV), in Cameron Parish May 5 (DM), and at Ft. Morgan May 9 (CJ, DJ). The Ringed Turtle Dove was noted May 17 & 18 at Gulf Breeze (RD, LDu, SDu). A rare nesting of the Ground Dove was at Reserve, La., where a nest was found in May (AV, *vide* RS). Roadrunners were found on the w. edge of the Region at DeRidder May 7 (BO) and Okay, Howard Co., Ark., Apr. 12 (CMI, CG). Two Black-billed Cuckoos at Nashville Apr. 29 (SR, SS) were seen copulating, good evidence of local breeding. A late, singing Whip-poor-will was at Gulf Breeze May 9 (RD, LDu). On Grand I., Apr. 9 a **Lesser Nighthawk** was seen (MMy, RDP, DM, NNeI), and at Ft. Morgan Apr. 26 another was heard but not seen well (TI, familiar with call, JI), for a first record for Alabama. The earliest-ever Chimney Swift for Alabama was seen in Mobile Mar. 7 (MF). The White-collared Swift reported in this column last spring from Pensacola was not the first record for the U.S. Two birds were seen Dec. 4, 1974 at Rockport, Tex., by Thomas W. Burke and Susan J. Stappers (AB 29:84). See AB 36:139-141 for the full story. Comments by Nancy Newfield on hummingbirds included a possible Buff-bellied from a Dubach, Lincoln Par. feeder, far n. of the usual, May 9, which stayed a few days. She banded twice as many (24) Ruby-throateds this year as last, and they were heavier. The only one this writer handled this spring was at Ft. Morgan Apr. 28 and weighed exactly 3.0 gms. The Red-headed Woodpecker was more common than-usual, especially in coastal woods (RD, PT); several at Ft. Morgan Apr. 26-28 included one adult banded (ph., JI) and an immature circling high in the air over the beach like a lost migrant (TI), two were on Gulf Islands N.S., Miss., Apr. 15 (JT). Similarly a Hairy Woodpecker was in coastal woods in Cameron Parish Apr. 5 (VR, m.ob.).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS — A Gray Kingbird at Cape San Blas May 15 may indicate local breeding (HS, JMS). Western Kingbirds were in Hot Spring County, Ark. Apr. 27 (MP) and Archer I., Chicot Co., Ark. May 12 (NH). A Great Crested Flycatcher at Ft. Morgan Apr. 26 had been banded there Apr. 25, 1972. This 10+-year-old bird had a brood patch on each occasion and was apparently a locally-breeding female! (TI, ph. JI) Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were seen early, Apr. 23 in Cameron Parish (MMy) and in Gulfport May 7 (JT). Least Flycatchers were identified Apr. 16 in the Tensaw Delta, Ala. (DC, MB); Apr. 29 at Radnor L., Nashville (SS), and May 1 in the Sipsej Wilderness, Ala. (DC, MB). An Olive-sided Flycatcher was in Tombigbee S.P., Itawamba Co., Miss., May 20 (JT). A rash of early swallows included Barns at Clermont Harbor, Miss., Mar. 9 (JT, GM) and in Hot Springs County, Ark., Mar. 11 (MP); a Bank and a Cliff at Ft. Morgan Mar. 14 (GJ, DJ); and a Cliff at Decatur, Ala., Mar. 24 (DC, MB). Cliff Swallows have now established two colonies close to the Gulf (probably a sign that they will occupy soon some of the area between the Gulf and the Tennessee Valley, the longtime s. boundary e. of Texas. One colony at Middle Pearl R., La. is in its second year and held 18 nests Apr. 18 (RDP); the other new one is on the U.S. 90 bridge over the Tensaw R., Ala., and held 22 nests May 16 (BD, *vide* JWI). A pair of Bewick's Wrens with a nest May 8 near Gallatin, Tenn. (SS, BSa, AH) was encouraging news for a species fast disappearing in this Region. Migrant Long-billed Marsh Wrens were noted in Arkansas May 3 in Hot Springs County and May 9 in Benton County (MP, BSa). A total albino Mockingbird on the Mississippi Gulf coast in May (MSm, LDe, *vide* JT) had red eyes.

Breeding Am. Robins have apparently reached the L.S.U. campus, a pair with the male singing throughout April and May (VR). The Gray

Catbird has closed a gap in its breeding range in s e Alabama, a pair with nest and four young hatched May 27 in Dothan (JWa). A very late Ruby-crowned Kinglet was in Cameron Parish May 8 (VR, *L.S.U.M.Z.). In Logtown, Hancock Co., Miss., Apr. 19, 57 singing White-eyed Vireos were counted (JT). In Fayetteville, Ark., May 11 three Bell's Vireos were noted (JN, CW). An early Red-eyed Vireo was at the Brickyard Cutoff, Gulf Co., Fla., Mar. 13 (HS). On Apr. 4-11 in Ocean Springs and Bellefontaine Beach, three or more birds constituted the first **Black-whiskered Vireos** for Mississippi (JT, LGA, TGA, m.ob.). A Philadelphia Vireo in Wilton, Little River Co., Apr. 4 was eight days early for Arkansas (CMA) and a Warbling Vireo in Logtown, Miss., Mar. 19 was more than a month early locally (JT)

WARBLERS — The Prothonotary Warbler at Ocean Springs, Miss., Mar. 8 was early (JT, MHa, VPa). Swainson's Warbler was in good numbers in Mississippi and Alabama this spring; the earliest for Alabama at Auburn Mar. 19 (MB); max. of six, all singing, at Logtown Mar. 19 (JT). The species was more numerous than its should-be congeners, the waterthrushes; the writer saw and heard six Swainson's in three counties around Birmingham in May and first half of June; most knowledgeable observers found it in its habitat regularly around Birmingham; in fact, one observer (RR) has been greeted with the song each spring every morning on the way to work, this year Apr. 11 to May 16. At Hickory, Newton Co., Miss., up to three birds were seen Apr. 7-June 6 (JMc). In Mississippi, the Worm-eating Warbler was earliest by eight days on Mar. 19 at Logtown (JT), and on May 19 in Tishomingo S.P. 20 were listed singing (JT). The Golden-winged Warbler was seen Apr. 15 in Hancock County, Miss., where rare (JT) and on May 4 in Benton County, Ark. (CW) where also rare. Early N. Parulas were singing males in Alabama at Eufaula N.W.R., Mar. 12 (MB) and three at Wheeler N.W.R., Mar. 24 (MB); at least 50 were singing near Logtown Mar. 19 (JT). Two Cape May Warblers in Cameron Parish Apr. 24 (BO, PM) were quite far w. An "Audubon's" Warbler was detected on Grand I., Apr. 9 (DMu). An early Black-throated Green Warbler was at Wheeler N.W.R., Mar. 24 (MB, DC). A Prairie Warbler reported from St. Tammany Parish Jan. 31 (DHa) was probably the same one recorded there Dec. 18; nice to know that some of the half-hardy CBC rarities survive for several weeks or longer. Palm Warblers are such common migrants through Alabama that it is amazing to hear that a bird Apr. 25 near Pine Bluff, Ark provided a first record for the county (GHa, JSt), or one at Holla Bend N.W.R., May 1 was a rarity (BSa); or one in Cameron Parish May 8 was the latest for the state (DD).

The Connecticut Warbler, however, seems to be rare throughout the Region. Three were seen this year, at Ft. Morgan May 8 (MLM, CK), L. Purdy, Birmingham, May 13 (JJo), and Percy Warner P., Nashville May 15 (SS). Mourning Warblers were noted in Arkansas at Phillips County May 9 (H & MP), Hot Spring County May 14 (MP), and at Radnor L., Nashville May 16-26 (SRa, SS). Wilson's Warbler was reported from Jackson County, Miss., May 8 (JT, MC, CH), Nashville May 9 (SS, BSa, AH); and Hot Spring County, Ark., May 15 & 19 (H & MP, MLe) two birds. Canada Warblers were a bit more numerous, two and one May 11 & 29 at Fayetteville, Ark. (*CW, JN, BSa); five May 15 in Nashville (SS, LR); and seven May 20 in Tombigbee S.P., Itawamba Co., Miss. (JT). The Am. Redstart, reported "extremely low all spring" in coastal Mississippi (JT), was missing from many of its usual breeding places in c. Alabama (TI).

BLACKBIRDS AND TANAGERS — On Apr. 21, 50 Bobolinks near Belle Mina, Ala., were early (AM, HW) and on May 3, 600 on Blakely I., upper Mobile Bay, were a coastal plain max. (GJ). Twelve Rusty Blackbirds at Hurricane, Baldwin Co., Apr. 16 (MB, DC) were the latest ever for the coastal plain of Alabama; and a ♀ Brewer's Apr. 17 in a cattle feedlot at Marion where the species usually winters, (RR, m.ob.) was the latest for Alabama. Five Great-tailed Grackles near Ashdown, Ark., May 16-31 with good evidence of breeding, represented the first records since 1977 (CMA). On Mar. 13, 50 brown-eyed ♀ Boat-tailed Grackles were seen at Lacassine, as far inland as L. Charles, 15 mi w.; and 454 Great-taileds were seen earlier the same day 20 mi closer to the coast. At least 12 Bronzed Cowbirds have been located between New Orleans and Reserve this spring (RDP, CWa, GHa, MWe, MA). An imm. ♀ W. Tanager was identified May 8 at Bellefontaine Beach, Miss. (JT, MC, CR); and May 7 in Peveto Beach Woods, Cameron Par. a first-year ♂ **Hepatic Tanager** was collected (*L.S.U.M.Z.) for the first Louisiana record (SC).

FINCHES — The Rose-breasted Grosbeak was reported early, Mar. 25 on Dauphin I. (DP, CSP); and late; May 28 in Nashville (LR, SS); a probable sign of peak numbers this year which was this writer's impression. In Lonoke County, Ark., 40 Dickcissels were counted mostly in wheat fields May 27, and 40 more were tallied on the Arkansas R. levee near Gould (H & EH). Evening Grosbeaks came late to Alabama this year, and spent very little time at feeders. Apparently there was much natural food and many birds may have escaped detection. Few were seen until late March when some were noted in Birmingham ignoring a feeder loaded with sunflower seed and feeding on tulip-poplar buds. On Apr. 17 20+ birds at Marion in tall pines constituted the second latest record for the coastal plain (B.A.S.). A male in Birmingham not at a feeder May 8 (LT) marked the usual departure time for a flight year. So perhaps a good flight which usually takes place right under our noses at the feeder, went by with very little notice. Pine Siskins and Am. Goldfinches were present in n. Alabama and Mississippi in good numbers this spring. One siskin banded in Birmingham Feb. 11, 1978, was found near Cape May, N.J., Feb. 13 1982 (JoR), 800 mi farther n. on virtually the same date. It remained, though, for the Purple Finch to set a late record: one May 8 in Birmingham (IS, MLI, GA). The usually unpredictable Red Crossbill appeared near Pine City, Monroe Co., Ark., Mar. 13—a flock of eight (WS).

Le Conte's Sparrow was reported from Tyndall A.F.B., Panama City, Fla., Mar. 8 (SS, m.ob.) and Benton County, Ark. Mar. 11 (JN, CW). Henslow's Sparrow was flushed Mar. 9 & 19 near Buccanear S P., Miss. (JT). Bachman's Sparrow may be getting scarce in n. Alabama, but on the Mississippi coast 20 were counted in DeSoto N. F., May 1 (JT, CR) and 22 in Hot Spring County, Ark., Apr. 12-May 25 (MP). A Dark-eyed Junco Apr. 24 at Cape San Blas, Gulf Co., appears to be the latest ever for Florida (JMS); and a singing ♂ Harris' Sparrow, May 8 near Johnson's Bayou, Cameron Par., was a latest ever for Louisiana. Lincoln's Sparrow was identified Apr. 5 in Gulf Breeze (SDu) and Apr. 25 at Ft. Morgan, the latest for the Gulf Coast (GJ, DJ). A postscript on the longspur invasion reports 2000+ Laplands and a pair of Smith's Jan. 17 at Reserve, La. (DHa, m.ob.).

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PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

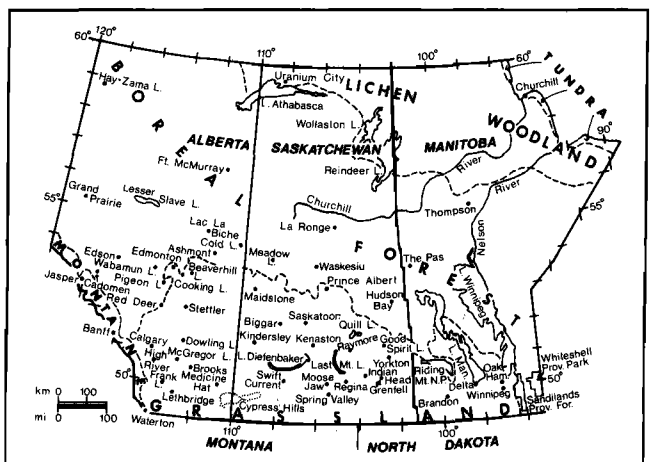
/Jim Wedgwood

Cold snaps characterized March and major storms swept the Region in April. A late snow storm hit the foothills and neighboring plains in early May and at May's end a four-day rain-snow gale smashed a 500-mile swath from southern Alberta to eastern central Saskatchewan. Generally, except in the southeast, it was a cool tardy spring with unseasonal storms and a freak blizzard.

Many species arrived a week or more late. A huge passerine migration hit the south on a 400-mile front May 17-20, producing at Winnipeg and Regina one of the best warbler waves in years (HC, RK); and at Nicolle's Flats, northwest of Moose Jaw, 101 species were logged in four hours (ML). Losses from the May 29 blizzard were considerable.

Ponds in the Region's prairie zone were estimated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (F.&W.S.) and Canadian Wildlife Service (C.W.S.) to number 3.1 million. This is up 150% from 1981's drought-shrunken pothole count but is under the ten-year average.

GREBES THROUGH BITTERNS — Grebes continued scarce, reported decreases outnumbering increases w. of Manitoba. Twelve pairs of Red-neckeds were near Irricana, Alta., cf. four last year (J&MS). Nicolle Marsh, Sask., hosted ten Pied-billeds (May 11, PK). Saskatchewan's Eared colonies held up with 375 birds on Rice L., May 30, 200 on Buffalo Pound L., May 19 and 100 on Last Mountain L., May 22 (JW; ML; WCH, SL). Unusual were 25 White Pelicans in an alfalfa field near Maple Creek, Sask., May 22 (BG); and 600 of this species were migrating near Valeport, Sask., Apr. 23 (BL). Double-crested Cormorants are becoming a common occurrence on Wabamun L. (GE) and good numbers were 60 at Moose Jaw May 20, and 125 on Last Mountain L., May 22 (ML; WCH, SL). As usual, Manitoba made egret news: five Great Egrets (RW *et al.*; m.ob.), and



a Snowy May 5 and a Cattle Egret May 24, both at Oak Hammock (TJ, JZo). Am. Bitterns remained scarce, yet Wildlife Reserve of Western Canada (W.R.W.C.), Alta., obtained its first record May 29 (v.ob., SJ).

WATERFOWL — Based on U.S.F.&W.S. — C.W.S. southern Prairie Provinces surveys breeding populations of Canada Geese declined 10% from 1981 and ducks increased 11%. On the 10-yr average Ruddy Ducks were the big gainers and mergansers dropped the most.

Huge spring stagings of Snow Geese, usual in s. Manitoba, are increasingly found in Saskatchewan (m.ob.). At Fillmore 80,000 concentrated May 9 and 24,000 total were at 6 other localities Apr. 12-May 11 (FB; PB, m.ob.). Rare in spring, Ross' Geese were at 4

Saskatchewan sites Apr 12-May 5, and more-than-usual numbers moved through Churchill May 12 (CE, m.ob., BCh). Wood Duck pairs were at Calgary, Beaverhill L. and Banff N.P. (DE; m.ob.). A Eur. Wigeon visited Carseland Dam, Alta., Apr. 18 and two were on Echo L., Sask., Apr. 25 (JT *et al.*; MC, JN). More Alberta rarities were 11 Barrow's Goldeneyes tarrying near Cardston May 27 and a singleton in Edmonton Apr. 20 (K&SS; PA). Six Harlequin Ducks were near L. Louise May 28 and a single was in Edmonton May 29 (GLH; ph., PA). Unusual numbers of Surf Scoters were spotted in the n.w., with 101 total counted in 6 sightings May 12-17 (KL, JG). Three Blacks were on Beaverhill L., May 19 and 22 (GE *et al.*). In Manitoba two Oldsquaws, seldom recorded in the s. in spring, were discovered at St. Ambrose May 18 (DRH, MGS).

RAPTORS THROUGH GROUSE — Accipiters had a good flight at Delta Apr. 24, with 54 Sharp-shinned and eight Cooper's Hawks (RFK *et al.*). At Regina Sharp-shinneds were outnumbered by Cooper's 4:8 and in c. Alberta Sharp-shinneds were down, Cooper's up (RK; AW). In modest waves 49 Red-taileds were counted by Regina observers and 39 by Saskatoonians Apr. 10. On Apr. 9, 23 Rough-leggeds were at Lumsden, Sask. (PB) and 32 were in Irricana environs Apr. 24 (J&MS). Both Red-tailed Hawk subspecies were identified, with 12 Harlan's around Regina and one Krider's at Saskatoon (TR, CA, BL; JW). Near Kindersley, Sask., 30 Swainson's Hawk nests were found and "the crop looks good" (JM). A Ferruginous Hawk's nest (4e) found near Cochrane, Alta., May 19, may possibly represent the w. breeding limit in Canada (CH; JP). Blue-listed Marsh Hawks were definitely up, good daily tallies of 20 or more being reported in 9 localities. Gyrfalcons scored were three in s. Manitoba in March (PT *et al.*), three late birds in Alberta May 19-20 (HP *et al.*) and three at Churchill, including one on a late May 27 (DM, TQ). Twenty-seven mainly scattered Peregrine Falcons were noted, but some concentrating occurred at Oak Hammock-Winnipeg where ten individuals staged in May (m.ob.).

Sage Grouse were reported from OneFour, Alta., Mar. 2 and 35 total were on two strutting grounds along the Frenchman R., Sask., May 1 (JZe; CH).

SHOREBIRDS — In s. Manitoba, only at Oak Hammock and on sewage lagoons did more than a handful of waders appear (HC). Migrant shorebirds were down in e. and c. Saskatchewan areas (B&JA; JBG). With much water Regina logged 30 species but, like Moose Jaw, detected no major waves or numbers (RK; EK). Edmonton findings were good (PA). A few Ruddy Turnstones appeared including a surprisingly early Apr. 23 find of ten at Nicolle Marsh (RW; GAZ). Whimbrels spied were one each at Kannata, Sask., and Beaverhill L. and two at Ft. McMurray, all May 18-23 (SC; PA, DC; JG), plus a record 34 at Pinawa, Man., May 18 (PT). A stunner was an **Eskimo Curlew** in a flock of Am. Golden Plovers near Monica Slough, s. of Regina where the bird was under a two-hour scrutiny May 14 (†RK. Details to be published.) Seventeen reports on 35 sightings of 61 Upland Sandpipers suggested a drop in the c. (WN, JBG), a rise in the s. and w. (DH, FB; J&MS, AW).

Flocks of peeps tarried in a few localities, although not in customary spring numbers. Examples were: 225 White-rumped, Saskatoon May 29 (*vide* JBG); 250 Bairds and 1425 Semipalmateds, Irricana May 8 (J & MS); and 1000 Least, Kutawagan L., Sask., May 22 (WCH, SL). Alberta's contention-prone accidental, the W. Sandpiper, was seen at Shepard May 2 (JS, GB). Two rare phalarope sightings occurred, a Wilson's witnessed at Churchill May 24 and a Red espied at Ft. McMurray June 3 (BCo; JG).

GULLS THROUGH TERNS — Five Glaucous Gulls at Winnipeg made an exceptional observation (SH). A Glaucous was at Carseland Dam, Alta., Apr. 17 and a first-year bird was in the Qu'Appelle Valley May 16 (DE; SC *et al.*). Churchill tallied five occasionally-seen Iceland Gulls starting with an adult May 14 (KA). A first-year bird was carefully studied at Seven Sisters, Man. (PT). An uncommon Thayer's Gull was an early May 18 arrival at Churchill and three recognized at Winnipeg and Seven Sisters were the first confirmed for s. Manitoba (BCh; PT, m.ob.). Three weakened **Mew Gulls** among other white-headed gulls on Cochrane L., May 7, became s. Alberta's first spring record—the prevailing blizzard conditions possibly resulting in their far s. appearance (†SJ). Farther n., Ft. McMurray tallied 50 Mews from May 11 (JG). In contrast, ubiquitous Franklin's Gulls appeared in numbers, 2000 estimated on the Rice L., Sask., breeding marshes May 30 and 1520 at Ft. McMurray (JW; JG). In Saskatche-

wan single Caspian Terns were at Qu'Appelle May 16, Ekapo L., May 17 (same bird?) and on Blackstrap Res., May 23 (SC; DFr, JBG). Black Terns were in good numbers starting with the first arrivals on a late May 8 (RK; FB). Peak count on Wascana Marsh, Regina, was 250 birds May 28 (PB). A lone Black penetrated the mountains for Banff N.P.'s third occurrence, May 30 (MM).

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — WCH and SL located 23 pairs of Great Horned Owls by night census. Short-eareds were still in a crash, reported decreases outnumbered increases 8:2 (v.ob.), but against the trend, six Short-eareds were seen around Ft. McMurray (JG). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds arrived one to two weeks late, but the noteworthy total was 25 (m.ob.). In the foothills on May 30 were a nesting Rufous and four Calliopes in Bow Valley P.P., seven Rufous and two Calliopes in Canmore, and on May 15 three Rufous at a feeder near Morley (DE; GLH; DA). Red-headed Woodpeckers presented observers with pleasant surprises in Winnipeg Apr. 23, in Moose Jaw May 21 and in Good Spirit P.P., May 24 (MA, PK; †B & JA). A fourth was collected (*vide* RK). Lewis' Woodpecker was sighted twice in Calgary May 20 & May 21-23 (same bird?) (JT; WHa) Hairies and Downies were down—"very few in the woods" (WN)

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS — A Dusky Flycatcher was seen in the Cypress Hills May 23 and eight were found near Cochrane (BG, KM; SJ *et al.*). An unprecedented 16 W. Wood Pewees insect-hawked from a fence in Regina May 24 (TR). Early Bank and Barn swallows were at Delta Apr. 24 migrating with Trees and a far-ranging Bank was at Churchill May 30 (RFK, m.ob.; JR). Swallows displayed spectacular behavior in Saskatchewan's May 28-29 freak blizzard. Hosts congregated, milling over water and lining foreshores. At least 1000 each of Trees, Banks and Barns and 500 Cliffs appeared at Wascana L., Regina (RK). These species were at Bradwell Res. in hundreds (JBG, MG). Mainly Barns and Cliffs were at Good Spirit L. (B & JA). Oddly, migration had evidently already occurred in usual waves Apr. 25, May 5, 19 & 23 at Saskatoon and Moose Jaw (JBG, EK).

A Com. Crow roost formed in a small Saskatoon park and peaked at 3400 birds Apr. 7 (JBG, MDG). Elusive Winter Wrens were spotted twice in the May 18-19 passerine wave, and once on May 29 at Regina, Raymore, Sask., and Iosegun L., Alta. (RK; WCH, SL; KL). One Wood Thrush wandered to Winnipeg May 27-29 and another at Regina conveniently visited birdwatcher Brazier's garden May 29-31 (GH, RFK; ph., m.ob.). The massive wave of May 18-19 dropped 1000 Swainson's Thrushes into City Park, Moose Jaw, and Saskatoon's May Count tallied an unprecedented 210 ten days later (ML, FR, m.ob.). Two Mountain Bluebirds arrived in Moose Jaw on a very early Mar. 1 (DEK). Unusually big for spring was a flock of 24 Mountains w. of Calgary Apr. 7 (AF). A **Wheatear**, providing the first record for s. Manitoba and the only one away from Churchill, wandered to Oak Hammock Apr. 14 (†LG, RM, KSt). Townsend's Solitaire singles were discovered at Regina Apr. 19, in Banff N.P., Mar. 24 (the first spring record), and in W.R.W.C., May 7 (HM, GLH; SJ). An unexpected four tarried in a Calgary park May 2 (JP) A Ruby-crowned Kinglet, rare for Churchill, was seen there May 17 (BCh). In the e. an above-average Water Pipit flock of 100 birds massed near Landmark, Man., May 8 (RFK). Around Calgary larger flocks occurred in waves: 125 and 500 birds Apr. 22 & 24 and 1000 and 350 birds May 8 & 9 (RB; v.ob.). Pipits were abundant near Sundre, Alta., and continued to be seen up to May 12 at Grande Prairie (FH, KL).

WARBLERS — The big warbler wave of May 17-19 produced extraordinary concentrations in three small areas (RK; EK). Wascana Centre in Regina yielded among others 35 Black-and-white Warblers, 200 Tennessees, 250 Yellows, 300 Yellow-rumped (Myrtles), 350 Blackpolls and 40 Yellowthroats (m.ob.). In Nicolle Marsh were 100s each of Tennessees, Yellows, Yellow-rumped and Blackpolls and dozens of Orange-crowned, Palms and Ovenbirds (ML) River Park, Moose Jaw, was an observer's dream, rich in variety, with 20 species being counted in 30 minutes (ML). A low pressure front stalled the birds and brought them down out of the trees and onto the lawns (RK). Conversely, around Edmonton numbers were down and species were absent (PA, GE). There were seven scattered rare Nashvilles, four in Saskatchewan, including two in Saskatoon May 27 & 30 (FR), and three in Alberta, and eight single Connecticut, similarly distributed, including one near Calgary May 30 (J & MS). In Calgary and the foothills, Blue-listed Yellow Warblers were

common (AW, J & MS). A real rarity for Winnipeg was a ♂ Black-throated Blue identified May 20 (LJ). A second and a third male were found in Regina May 23 & 27 (TB; †CC).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SNOW BUNTINGS — A Black-headed Grosbeak present May 19 represented the second record for Spring Valley (FB). A ♂ Lazuli Bunting was discovered in Regina May 23, with another sighting May 24 and two May 25 (two birds total?) (SC; CC, TR). A ♂ Dickcissel, accidental in Alberta, was reported from Cremona May 26 (NO, *vide* RB). Western Tanagers, common around Edmonton (PA), are rare in s. Saskatchewan and a male in full alternate plumage in Regina May 3 received careful study (TR, BL). Saskatoon's resident Cardinal was reported regularly throughout the period (JBG). Alberta noted unusual finches. A Cassin's was identified at Barrier L., May 3 (RZ). Calgary reported a ♀ House Finch frequenting a feeder Dec. 9-May 9 (RB) and a second female Apr. 19-24 (RB; JM). Canmore reported a third at a hummingbird feeder May 18 (GLH). Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were common with flocks of 430 at Wildcat Hills and 200 at Banff (JP, BCo; MM), all tacitly assumed to be the usual *tephrocotis* race. The first record of the Pacific race *littoralis* was reported from Banff, the sightings being one Mar. 27, three at a feeder in April and one May 6 (RL; SD; GLH). At Edmonton, redpoll banding showed a 10:1 ratio of Commons to Hoaries and among the 94 Commons a sex ratio of 1:2

males to females (GE). A ♂ Field Sparrow present at Seddon's Corner, Man., May 21-31 was presumably the same individual reported last year. It sang in exactly the same location (PT *et al.*).

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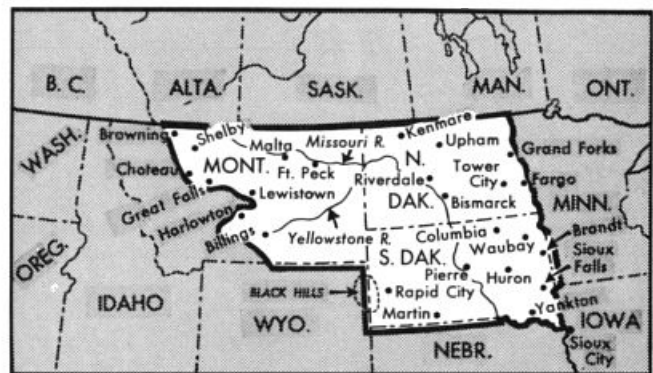
NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/Gordon B. Berkey

Spring developed fitfully, and the migration could best be described as erratic. In eastern Montana first arrival dates were described as normal, but in North Dakota they depended on the weather at the time that the species normally arrive. Most of March was a continuation of the cold winter, but a period of moderation about March 28 brought the first ducks to the north. The temperatures fell, water refroze, and an apparent reverse migration occurred, with some late March arrivals such as Mallard and Killdeer, not being seen again until mid-April. With waterfowl migration very far behind at this point, the next warming trend saw most ducks move through very quickly, with few large concentrations noted. Passerines, such as Hermit Thrush and Water Pipit, which normally move through the second half of April, were very difficult to find as they apparently flew over during the good weather. From May 5-20 a period of cold, wet weather brought fantastic concentrations of thrushes, warblers, and sparrows to the ground and held them for days at a time. Many species, for this season at least, moved up one to two notches in abundance categories. This report, hampered by the paucity of data turned in by most area editors, has attempted to describe the warbler migration with some detail.

Included in the report are the first North Dakota Curlew Sandpiper and the first South Dakota Red Phalarope.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS — Common Loons w. of the main migration in the Dakotas included singles in Fall River County, S.D., Apr. 17 (RCR, DJR) and in Divide County, N.D., May 18 (SWB). Western Grebes peaked at Ft. Peck, Mont., at 90 May 17, but of special interest was the single bird of the white-phase race which stayed for about a month (CMC). A heronry at Whitewood L., Kingsbury Co., S.D. appears to be growing. Numbers of adults present and apparently nesting included: Little Blue Heron, two; Cattle Egret, 75; Snowy Egret, 31; and White-faced Ibis, four (BKH, KHH, ERE). A Louisiana Heron w. of Kenmare provided the fourth state record for North Dakota (FB). Peak numbers of the Blue-listed Am. Bittern were five on May 16 in Burleigh County (m.ob.) and six in McHenry County May 23 (GBB, REM), both in North Dakota. A Trumpeter Swan survived the winter at the Tongue R. Res., Mont., and remained throughout the spring. A Ross' Goose at the Grand Forks sewage lagoons May 7-11 was carefully compared with Snow Geese also present (JFK). Among the less common ducks noted were a Black Duck in Williams County, n.w. N.D., May 30 (SWB), a Eur. Wigeon in e. North Dakota (CAF), 13 Greater Scaup at three sites in Ward County, N.D. May 23 (GBB), three Oldsquaw for a new record for the Hardin latilong in Montana (GK), a rare spring sighting of a



White-winged Scoter in Faulk County, S.D. May 19 (BKH), and at least ten different sightings of 1-3 Red-breasted Mergansers in the Dakotas.

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS — Late Cooper's Hawks in e. South Dakota indicated the best nesting potential ever. Sightings included Apr. 23 in Brookings County (NJH, DH) and Hartford Beach S.P. (DRS), May 7 at two locations in n. Roberts County (BKH), and May 11 at Waubay N.W.R. (LLW). A Red-shouldered Hawk Mar. 28 at Upper Souris N.W.R. represented the second record for w. North Dakota (GBB, REM). There had been ten records of Broad-winged Hawk in all of Montana prior to 1980, but the species has been increasing, as evidenced by the four spring reports from e. Montana this year (TCH, SJG, DMP, CMC). Ferruginous Hawks are also on the increase there; SJG reported a spring total of 26 and CMC found six in one quarter-section Mar. 21. An imm. light-phase Gyrfalcon was n. of Ft. Peck Apr. 20. Ten reports of Osprey and eight of Peregrine Falcon were distributed uniformly over the Region. Greater Prairie Chickens were down 60 percent from last year on surveys in Gregory County, S.D. (GLS). A total of 11 Whooping Cranes was seen at three locations in the Crosby Wetlands District in n.w. North Dakota Apr. 15-25 (SWB, TLF). Ten thousand Sandhill Cranes were in the Turtle L. area Apr. 14. This area is noted as a fall staging point for Sandhills (REM). The third North Dakota record for Common Gallinule was of one 10 mi w. of Carrington May 25-27 (PMK).

SHOREBIRDS — The Semipalmated Plover near Provo, S.D. Apr. 16 was the state's earliest ever by four days (RCR). Piping Plover arrived at Lostwood N.W.R., Apr. 28 (FB), and a pair was observed in courtship May 8 at Ft. Peck (CMC); migration reports

were of two at Grand Forks May 2-8 (JFK) and three at Minot May 9 (DNS). A poor Am. Golden Plover migration was reported from e. North Dakota, but 125 on May 15 at Minot (REM) and the 15 on May 16 at Bowdoin N.W.R., Mont., (PDS) were good numbers for those areas. American Woodcock were reported in courtship flight from three e. South Dakota counties, where it is a rare nester. A Long-billed Curlew was seen just w. of Upper Souris Apr. 25 (KL) and nests were reported from Perkins and Campbell Cos., S.D. (GBH). A Whimbrel along the Bighorn Res., Mont., May 16 furnished a new latilong record and about the fourteenth for the state (GK) Red Knots included one at Minot May 20 (REM) and three at Grand Forks May 30 (GSL). The shorebird of the season was the breeding-plumaged Curlew Sandpiper at the potato sludge fields in Grand Forks May 23-28 (JFK). This provided a first state record for North Dakota; the only other area record is from Montana. A large



First Curlew Sandpiper for North Dakota, second for Region, Grand Forks, May 23, 1982. Photo/ David O. Lambeth.

flock of 750 Dunlin was near Grand Forks May 30 (REM). An incredible 1000 Hudsonian Godwits were near Valley City in mid-May (CAF). A Black-necked Stilt was unusual near Malta, Mont., May 25 (DMP). A Red Phalarope n.e. of Madison, Lake Co., May 27 represented a first South Dakota record (HH).

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Two imm. Glaucous Gulls were at Ft. Peck Apr. 5 (CMC). The first known nesting colony of California Gulls in South Dakota, at Waubay L., increased from three nests in 1981 to 27 this year (BKH, KHH). The fourth state record of Sabine's Gull from North Dakota was of one at Minot Apr. 18 (GBB, REM). It was in the first spring plumage described by Bent. A Least Tern nest was found in Yankton County, S.D., May 28 (LJA). Caspian Terns were in all three states: one at Grand Forks May 8 (SOL) and seven on May 24 (JFK); 11 on May 28 in Yankton County (JEW); and a pair stayed through the end of May at Ft. Peck (CMC). Snowy Owls made a major movement through North Dakota in late March, with the largest number at 16 present in e. Grand Forks County, and an additional three found dead (JFK). On Apr. 19 four rather late ones were in n. Burleigh County (DMR). In Grand Forks photographs were taken of a Barred Owl Mar. 6 (DOL) and a Saw-whet Owl Apr. 14 (PHS). Searches for owl nests in the Hazen area in c. North Dakota found one Screech, two Great Horned, four territorial pairs of Burrowing, and one Long-eared (DNS). At Lostwood four Great Horned, five Long-eared, and seven Short-eared (FB) nests were found.

S. A.

The numerous and widespread Whip-poor-will reports this spring added spice to the efforts of North Dakota birders. The species is considered accidental in the West and casual to rare in the East. The three records in the West were one calling at Lostwood N.W.R., Apr. 28-30 (FB), and females at the Capitol Grounds in Bismarck May 20 (RLQ) and at Velva May 21 (REM). Whip-poor-wills were also observed at five different locations in e. North Dakota, including three at Grand Forks May 13-15 (SOL), one in s.-c. Grand Forks County May 15, one calling for several days near Kindred (LR) and calling birds near Valley City and Jamestown (CAF). Not to be outdone, South Dakota reported the earliest Whip-poor-will ever, in Yankton County Apr. 13 (JEW).

A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker near Glendive Apr. 21 was the first ever in an area encompassing several latilongs in n.e. Montana (SJG).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS — All Yellow-bellied Flycatcher reports came from North Dakota, with eight from Grand

Forks County, two from Minot, and one each from Hope (DLK) and Hazen. Many observers pass on all non-singing *Empidonax* flycatchers, but this one is not that difficult to identify and is more frequent than generally believed. About 25 Olive-sided Flycatchers were noted in e. South Dakota and e. and c. North Dakota. In the midst of many reports of late arrival dates, was an exceptionally early Tree Swallow at Ft. Peck Apr. 4, seen picking midges from the water in 20°F temperatures (CMC). Up to four Gray Jays, at the s. limit of their Black Hills range, regularly came to a feeder in s. Custer County (MJP). A fairly early House Wren Apr. 30 in Shannon County, S.D. contrasts with the very late first date of May 26 given by a Perkins County observer. At Minot, the species arrived May 12, about one week late. Single Winter Wrens were at Grand Forks Apr. 2-12, Fargo Apr. 4-5 (MBB, JAB), and a very late one was reported with no details May 11 in Brown County, S.D. At least three different Rock Wrens were seen Apr. 24-May 8 in Ward County, N.D., where this observer had seen none in the previous eight years.

MIMIDS THROUGH SHRIKES — Single Mockingbirds were in Hutchinson County, S.D., May 7 (LJA) and near Grand Forks A.F.B., May 19 (JFK). A Wood Thrush was at Grand Forks May 16-17 (JvR). In keeping with the trends mentioned in the introduction, Hermit Thrushes, which would normally come through in the last half of April, were very scarce, with the only w. North Dakota report of one May 9 in Bismarck (DMR). On the other hand, both Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, which migrate in May, were grounded in huge numbers during the cold rainy weather in mid-May with peaks of Swainson's May 16 at 100 in Bismarck in 15 minutes (RNR), and 300 Swainson's and 70 Gray-cheeked in several hours at Minot. Eastern Bluebird reports were encouraging, with 13 from e. South Dakota, five from e. North Dakota, and six from c. North Dakota. The pair observed Apr. 25 at the Cross Ranch, a recent Nature Conservancy purchase along the Missouri R., in Oliver County, portended the healthy nesting population found there later, as will be discussed in the nesting season report (GBB). An increase in Mountain Bluebirds was noted in the e. Dakotas, with six in Brown County Apr. 6 (ECM) and 19 from several locations in e. North Dakota. Migration was normal in w. North Dakota, with season totals approaching 100 (REM). A good peak of 65 Golden-crowned Kinglets was at Fargo Apr. 5 (CAS). Bohemian Waxwings seemed to move out about Apr. 24, but the 15 observed carefully (cinnamon undertail seen) at Upper Souris N.W.R. May 31 would seem to set a late date record for the entire Region by two weeks (KL). One must be particularly careful of shrike overlap in the spring; observers are asked to carefully document all shrikes during this period. The latest Northern, well seen, was at Minot Apr. 10 (GBB), while the earliest report of Loggerhead in North Dakota was Apr. 1. For South Dakota, the period of overlap would be somewhat earlier.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — A White-eyed Vireo banded May 20 in Minnehaha County provided the seventh South Dakota sighting (C & GR). The Solitary Vireo migration in c. North Dakota, was much heavier than normal, with peaks May 16 of six in Bismarck (RNR) and 15 in Ward County (REM). Philadelphia Vireos were reported from four e. South Dakota Cos., and five were seen during the period May 14-19 in the Minot area. For birders willing to brave the rain and cold, the warbler migration in the Dakotas was one of the best in memory. A total of 29 species was seen by South Dakota observers, and 24 by those in North Dakota. On the basis of incomplete data submitted by area editors, peak counts of some species were: Black-and-white 50 at Fargo May 10 (MAB); Tennessee 120 at Minot May 16; Orange-crowned 25 at Minot May 16; Nashville 20 at Grand Forks May 9 (RKC); Yellow 50 at Minot May 25; Magnolia 12 at Grand Forks May 15; Cape May six at Hazen May 5 (DNS); Yellow-rumped 300 at Fargo May 9 (CAS); Blackburnian up to 5 males per day at Grand Forks; Chestnut-sided 10 at Grand Forks May 24-25; Blackpoll 100 at Minot May 16; Palm up to 100 per day in the Red. R. Valley; Ovenbird 100 at Grand Forks May 16; N. Water-thrush 60 at Minot May 16; Mourning 6 at Minot May 29; Wilson's 10 at Minot May 18; Am. Redstart up to 100 per day in the Red. R. Valley. Among the rarer warbler species recorded were: Golden-winged at Grand Forks May 21 and at Fargo May 16; Blue-winged in Brookings County May 15 & 16 (NJH); N. Parula from four South Dakota Cos. and from Grand Forks May 21; a total of seven Black-throated Greens in Minot May 16-21; Single Bay-breasted from three

South Dakota Cos., from Lostwood (FB) and Minot, May 15; Connecticut from three South Dakota Cos. and a total of nine from Grand Forks, Fargo and Minot, a MacGillivray's at Loneman, Shannon Co., S.D., May 22, and eight Canadas from North Dakota May 18-30.

ICTERIDS THROUGH LONGSPURS — Few observers bother to report on the blackbird family, but Red-wingeds may have provided as good a measure as any of the severity of early spring with the first arrival dates of Mar. 28 for Minot and Mar. 29 for Bismarck. This is about two weeks late, and coincides with the normal period of peak migration for the species. Scarlet Tanagers were seen in Fargo May 18 (LLF) and May 19 (GEN) and two were in Grand Forks May 18 (RKC). A Summer Tanager was photographed at Pierre May 22 (BCC). A Black-headed Grosbeak was far to the e. in Lake County, S.D., May 9 (RDB), and a Lazuli Bunting was in Sanborn County May 21 (RGR). Evening Grosbeaks moved through the Red R. Valley May 13-15. Purple Finches could be heard all over Grand Forks in mid-April, and some stayed until May 21. Late redpoll dates after the major winter invasion were Apr. 10 for Hoary and Apr. 25 for Common, both at Fargo (CWC). Red Crossbills, which also staged an invasion, remained in Grand Forks and Minot until the last week in May, but no nesting or young were seen.

Sparrow migration during the May rains was also heavy. On May 9 peaks of 120 Harris', 60 White-crowned, 120 White-throated and 90 Lincoln's were noted in Minot (GGB). On the same date 100 White-crowns were in one yard in Perkins County, S.D. (GBH), while Grand Forks observers had peak daily totals of 20-30 the second week in May, compared to previous years' season totals in the vicinity of a dozen. Other sparrow sightings of interest include first arrival dates of

May 8 in McHenry County and at Lostwood for Baird's, a total of ten Swamp Sparrows May 9-17 in the Minot area, and the ninth Montana Sage Sparrow Apr. 13 near Billings, well described by Bill Roney. Eleven McCown's Longspurs in Fall River County were the first there for RCR in nine years of field work. A major movement of Lapland Longspurs peaked at 3000-4000 on Apr. 27 and May 7 at Grand Forks.

ADDENDUM—On May 29, 1981, a Chestnut-sided Warbler was found and photographed 14 mi s.w. of Malta, Mont., for the fourth state record (DMP). Thus the later record of PDS last fall was actually the fifth state record.

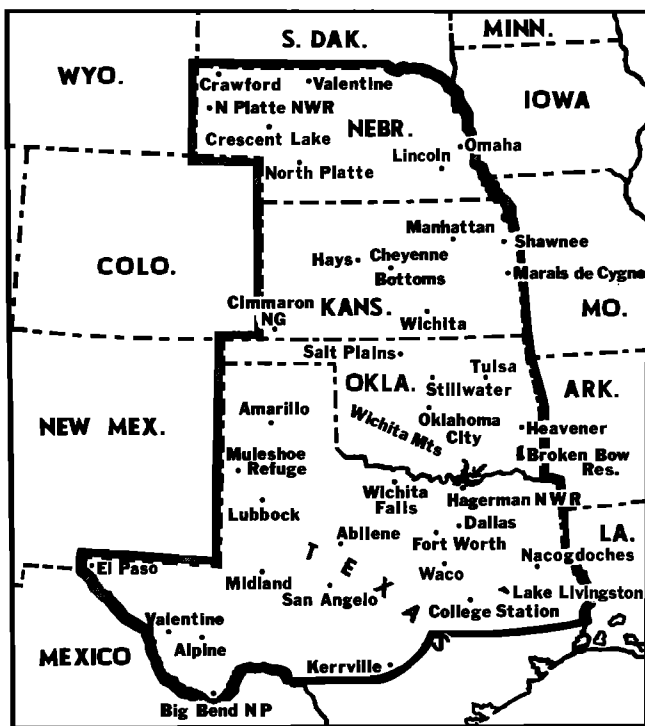
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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/Frances Williams

March was cold, dry and windy. April was dry in some areas, wet in others, but cold everywhere, and it snowed in northwestern Nebraska as late as April 26. The first few days of May were very warm, then the rains began—rain on all but five days of the month in much of the Region, with violent thunderstorms and torrential downpours. All this was not conducive to birders going into the field, and it also made trails and country roads impassable. Because of these conditions, it is uncertain whether this migration was indeed one of the worst in many years, or whether the birds passed through unseen. There were few rarities, and usually common migrants were present in low numbers, if at all. A few late-lingering winter residents may have been held back by the weather. Certainly, wind storms destroyed nests of many early breeders, and flooding was disastrous to ground nesters. With few "waves" discernible, R.L. Neill wrote from Fort Worth, "It looked more like a fall migration in spring plumage". But Ella Delap in Bartlesville spoke for many devotees of the hobby when she said, "Spring migration is never dull—even if it is mostly anticipation". [In the text following, place names in *italics* are counties.]

LOONS THROUGH ANHINGA — Common Loons moved N Apr. 3-17, with a peak of five in *Freestone*, Tex., Apr. 3. One at Midland May 7 was very late (RMS). At Oklahoma City Apr. 12, two Com. Loons drove off a Red-throated Loon (JN). A W. Grebe in *Kerr*, Tex., Apr. 24 constituted a first record there (E & KM). Of three W. Grebes in *Cimarron*, Okla., May 28, one was dark-phase (JAG), while all W. Grebes seen in n.w. Nebraska were dark-phase (RCR). Pied-billed Grebes with half-grown chicks were discovered in *Tarrant*, Tex., Apr. 18, a very early date (WP *et al.*). A flock of White Pelicans comprising 1500 birds sailed over Oklahoma City Apr. 10, and on the same date 2000 were present in *Linn*, Kans. At L. Meredith in the Texas Panhandle, 150 White Pelicans were counted Apr. 11, a large number for that area. At least 1400 Double-crested Cormorants congregated in *Collin*, Tex., Mar. 28 and 1000 assembled at Ft. Gibson, Okla., Apr. 8. An Olivaceous Cormorant in *Kerr* Apr. 26 constituted a first record (E & KM). An Anhinga in *Cowley*, Kans., May 8 represented one of the few state records of the species (DV *et al.*). One in Waco Apr. 27 was also noteworthy.



HERONS THROUGH SPOONBILLS — There were 80 active nests in a colony of Great Blue Herons at Keystone L., *Pawnee*, Okla., Mar. 13 (JH). A heronry at L. Arrowhead S.P., Tex., had 16 active Great Blue nests Apr. 24, in spite of dozens of boaters and fishermen nearby (FW). A flock of Cattle Egrets comprising 75 birds was present at El Paso throughout the period. One was seen at L. Meredith, where the species is unusual in the spring, Apr. 29 (FC). They were also reported from Big Bend N.P., Hays and Baldwin, Kans., and Omaha. Two Great Egrets at Lincoln May 5 provided an

unusual spring record (JDu). Louisiana Herons were found at Athens, Tex., Apr. 18 and Dallas Apr. 25. Black-crowned Night Herons were much more common in n.w. Nebraska than usual (RCR). Reports of Least Bitterns came from Lubbock, Oklahoma City, Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Lincoln and Valentine N.W.R., Neb. There were 59 White-faced Ibis in a flooded field e. of Hardesty, Okla., on the late date May 31 (JAG). An imm. White Ibis flew over Nacogdoches, Tex., Apr. 18 (DW). A Roseate Spoonbill visited Walker, Tex., Apr. 9 (RM).

WATERFOWL — Trumpeter Swans were nesting at Valentine N.W.R., May 29 (L & BP). A Whistling Swan graced a Tulsa lake Mar. 1-14. White-fronted Geese moved N Mar. 7-10 and again Apr. 10. Five in Washington, Okla., May 2 were very late. A Ross' Goose remained at Marais des Cygnes W.M.A., Kans., until Mar. 7 (m.ob.). A Black-bellied Whistling Duck provided a first record at Waco, Apr. 30 (JO). The Eur. Wigeon which wintered at El Paso was last sighted Mar. 21 (BZ). Cinnamon Teal were observed in Barton and Linn, Kans., in early April. A brood of nine young Wood Ducks in Woods, Okla., in late May may represent the westernmost breeding record for the state (FCs). Two broods of Redhead ducklings in Cimarron May 28 provided the first breeding record in recent times for Oklahoma (JAG, CSW). There were reports of Greater Scaup at El Paso, Lubbock, Tulsa, Wichita, Linn and Omaha. White-winged Scoters were found at Balmorhea L., Reeves, Tex., Mar. 7 (JSt), Fremont L. Rec. Area, Neb., Mar. 26 (fide TB), Lancaster, Neb., Apr. 11 (RG). At Wichita Mar. 3, a ♂ Hooded Merganser chased away all the ♂ Com. Goldeneyes from a ♀ goldeneye (DV). Hooded Mergansers were reported at eight localities, very late birds being noted at Hardesty May 31 (JAG) and Tulsa May 26 (m.ob.).

VULTURES THROUGH FALCONS — A Black Vulture nest with two eggs was discovered in Grimes, Tex., Apr. 17 (SC). Single White-tailed Kites delighted observers in Howard, Tex., Apr. 24 (GW *et al.*) and Washington, Tex., Apr. 29 (ARS). A Swallow-tailed Kite sailed over Cedar Hill, Dallas, Tex., Apr. 29 (RDC *et al.*). Very early Mississippi Kites appeared in Comanche, Okla., Mar. 1 (LP) and Lyon, Kans., Apr. 28 (MS). Arrival dates in the remainder of the Region were May 5-12. During the week of May 23-28, 30 Mississippi Kites daily flew around the American National Bank building in Amarillo, presumably feeding on the plentiful "miller moths" (KS). A Red-shouldered Hawk at Lubbock May 30 provided a first county record (ML, CS) and two at Midland May 9 & 16 constituted only the third record in 35 years (AW *et al.*). A few kettles of Broad-winged Hawks soared over Grimes and Montgomery, Tex., Apr. 3, and small groups, totalling 611 individuals, sailed over Nacogdoches all day Apr. 13. One Broad-winged was reported at Muleshoe N.W.R., Tex., Apr. 26, three at Lubbock, May 2-30, one at Amarillo, Apr. 20. The only flock of Swainson's Hawks comprising 50 or more birds was one seen in Washington, Okla., Apr. 13. Seven Swainson's Hawks were at Nacogdoches Apr. 21 (SL), where only one or two a season are expected. In late May, a Lubbock rancher reported two large dark-colored hawks. When local birders went to investigate, they were astounded to see one ad. Black Hawk and one subadult. Stogner photographed them to document the first appearance of this species in Texas away from the trans-Pecos and s. Texas. Black Hawks arrived



Black Hawk, Lubbock County, Tex., late May, 1982. Photo/ Cliff Stogner.

in the Davis Mts., Apr. 13 and at least one pair was feeding nestlings by May 31 (PE). This species is now seen regularly along the Rio Grande in Big Bend N.P., but no nests have been reported. A Gray Hawk was carefully identified in Big Bend May 1 (GW *et al.*) and May 30 (JR). Very early Ospreys were seen at Nowata, Okla., Feb. 28 and

Randall, Tex., Mar. 10. Caracaras were sighted in Bosque, Tex., Apr. 23-24. Prairie Falcons nesting at Hueco Tanks S.P., Tex., were feeding nestlings Apr. 18 (BZ *et al.*), while a nest in Cimarron contained five eggs May 9 (JDT). Only three Peregrine Falcons were reported.

PRAIRIE CHICKENS THROUGH RAILS — A Greater Prairie Chicken nest in Norton, Kans., contained three eggs May 26 (SS). A lek of Lesser Prairie Chickens in Ellis, Okla., normally comprising 15-18 birds had only eight males displaying Apr. 4 (JAG, CSW). There are few records of Wild Turkeys in Brewster, Tex., so the presence of a group of seven females on one ranch and a hen with chicks on another is newsworthy (RD). A King Rail called loudly in a Tulsa marsh May 13-20 (JH). In late May, a King Rail was found dead in Miami, Kans. (I & RR). Seven Virginia Rails were heard on a night trip in Sheridan, Neb., May 7 (RCR) and six waded into view at Quivera N.W.R., Kans., Apr. 25 (LM). The Com. Gallinule discovered at Balmorhea L., in December was still present Apr. 30 (PE). A Purple Gallinule walking down a busy Tulsa street Apr. 27 was caught and taken to the Tulsa Zoo. It was found to be badly dehydrated, and was fed and cared for until it could be released May 13. It was not seen again at the point of release, but a Purple Gallinule was seen May 16-31 at a point about 10 mi away. There was no unanimity of opinion as to whether it was the same bird (m.ob.).

SHOREBIRDS — Rains filled reservoirs to overflowing and eliminated mud flats, but also created wet, soaked fields which were ideal feeding areas for shorebirds. Piping Plovers were seen at Marais des Cygnes Apr. 10 (m.ob.), Washington, Neb., Apr. 22 (TB) and Quivera May 12 (SK). The population of Snowy Plovers was low at Cheyenne Bottoms because of high water, but numbers were normal at Quivera (RB). Two Mountain Plover nests with three eggs each were discovered at Ft. Davis, Tex., May 2 (BF). These eggs hatched May 17, while two other nests contained eggs May 31 (PE). There were observations of Mountain Plovers in Crosby, Lubbock and Dallas, Tex., Cimarron and Texas, Okla., Kimball, Neb. The latter provided the first Nebraska record in about six years (RCR). North of Tulsa, 297 Am. Golden Plovers fed in a recently burned field Apr. 11 (JH). Eight were in Hill, Tex., Apr. 10 (KN) and one in Lyon, Kans., Apr. 11 (MS). Ruddy Turnstone appeared at Waco May 13 (JO) and Stafford, Kans., May 28 (JS). In Osage, Okla., an Am. Woodcock nest which contained four eggs Apr. 1 was empty Apr. 12 (BG). Courtship flight of a woodcock was observed in Ottawa, Kans., May 12 (CAE). Long-billed Curlew chicks were seen in Cimarron and Texas May 31 (JAG, CSW). The species was also present in Beaver, Okla., where there are no recent breeding records. Three Whimbrels visited Waco Apr. 28 (JO) and single birds were seen at Quivera Apr. 17 (SS), Oklahoma City May 17 (JN) and El Paso May 7 (BJ, JDo). At Nacogdoches Apr. 20, 13 Solitary Sandpipers gathered in one puddle on a football field (DW). Willets were reported at eight localities, with a peak of nine at Ft. Worth Apr. 23. Nine Sanderlings scurried along a lake shore in Platte, Neb., May 11. Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers were observed in Stafford May 7 (SS) and six were in Cleveland, Okla., May 8 (JAG). Marbled Godwits were noted at seven localities, with a peak of 22 at Oklahoma City Apr. 20. Hudsonian Godwits appeared at eight localities, including 13 at Ft. Worth Apr. 23. A ♀ N. Phalarope in full breeding plumage was seen in Cimarron May 28, a record late date for spring migration (JAG). This species was also found in Sedgwick, Kans., May 17 (DV), Dawes, Neb., May 21 (L & BP) and Crescent Lake N.W.R., Neb., May 20 (RG).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — A Parasitic Jaeger was present in Stafford May 27 & 31 (JS, ES). At least eight lakes in the Region hosted Bonaparte's Gulls in April and May. The past three years, Least Terns have nested on a sandbar in the Arkansas R. near downtown Tulsa. This year heavy rains in early May put the sandbar underwater and the terns were scattered at lakes where no suitable nesting sites exist. Although Black Terns were scarce or absent in the w. third of the Region, they were reported in good numbers in the e., with a peak of 200 at Oklahoma City May 22.

DOVES THROUGH GOATSUCKERS — A Band-tailed Pigeon visited Hueco Tanks Mar. 20 (BZ). A White-winged Dove was seen at Dallas Apr. 18 (KSm). A Ground Dove was discovered near El Paso Mar. 21 (BZ, JDi) and two were at Bristol, Tex., Mar. 29 (JF). Black-billed Cuckoos were sighted at four sites in n.e. Oklahoma in late May, and in Linn, Kans., May 1. Two Screech Owls heard calling at

Hueco Tanks Apr 17 provided the first *El Paso* record in the last decade (AG). At least six Elf Owls were calling at once at Rio Grande Village, Big Bend N.P., May 15. Two active nests were found, both in telephone poles at the campground (BZ, JDo). A pair of Long-eared Owls in *Sheridan* successfully fledged three young by May 22 (RCR). Large numbers of Short-eared Owls hunted over wheat stubble fields in *Pawnee*, *Rush* and *Barton*, Kans., in March and April. In *Rush* Mar. 21, a Saw-whet Owl and an observer stared at each other at a distance of three feet; when the observer walked away 20 min later, the owl was still staring (DS). In *Douglas*, Kans., Church-will's-widows seem to be replacing Whip-poor-wills which have become scarce (RB). A Poorwill was seen at Oklahoma City Mar. 19.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH SWALLOWS — In Big Bend N.P., a ♀ Lucifer Hummingbird was gathering cobwebs for a nest Apr. 29. A Black-chinned Hummingbird visited *Comanche* Apr. 16 (JM), and a Broad-tailed Hummingbird was seen at Lubbock May 6-9 (RE). A Blue-throated Hummingbird came to a feeder in Ft. Davis the last week in March, and Rivoli's Hummingbird came Apr. 26 & May 7 (*vide* PE). A ♂ Golden-fronted Woodpecker which spent the winter in Big Bend N.P., was joined by a female in April, but no nest has been located (AB). A Lewis' Woodpecker was discovered in Wichita May 6 (SBd). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker remained in *Washington*, Okla., until the late date May 16 (MD). A flight of E. Kingbirds was noted in *Johnson*, Tex., Apr. 24, when 30 were perched on wires along one mi of road (CE). A pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers at Marfa, Tex., May 13, 27 was noteworthy (PE). The nest of a pair of Ash-throated Flycatchers contained five eggs May 16 in *Kingfisher*, Okla., e. of the normal breeding range of the species. An Olivaceous Flycatcher was discovered in the Chisos Mts., Big Bend N.P., May 2 (JA). In the Texas Panhandle, W. Wood Pewees and *Empidonax* flycatchers were very scarce until May 30, when 15 pewees and 17 *Empidonax*es were counted at Buffalo Lake N.W.R. (KS). A rare breeding record for Oklahoma was provided by a Vermilion Flycatcher nest containing three eggs May 8 in *Cimarron* (m.ob.). Both Bank and Rough-winged swallows were nesting in old piles of mine tailings at Picher, Okla., in late May (PWW).

MAGPIES THROUGH SHRIKES — Black-billed Magpies were present in Pratt Sandhills W.M.A., Kans., Mar. 20 (SK). Two Clark's Nutcrackers in *Sioux* May 23 were the first reported in n.w. Nebraska since 1973 (L & BP). Bushtits have become scarce in the Kerrville area; only six were seen this spring (E & KM). Red-breasted Nuthatches remained until the first week of May in Big Bend N.P., *Comanche*, and *Sarpy*, Neb., Short-billed Marsh Wrens were found in *Cleveland*, Okla., May 1-2 and *Ottawa*, Okla., May 16. Mockingbirds were sighted in *Phelps*, *Saunders*, *Douglas* and *Thomas*, Neb. (m.ob.). A Gray Catbird skulked in a thicket in Big Bend N.P., May 15-17 (BZ) and one was seen in *Comanche* May 17 (JM). Long-billed Thrashers sang vigorously at two widely-separated oases in Big Bend N.P., Apr. 29-May 31+ (m.ob.). Sage Thrashers remained at Midland until Apr. 26. Tulsa and Omaha observers agree that the Wood Thrush population is low and declining. A pair of E. Bluebirds nested at Chet Ager Nature Center, Lincoln, the first nesting there in many years (MO). A Townsend's Solitaire strayed to *Sarpy* Mar. 11 (BFi) and one remained in *Rush* until the late date Apr. 14 (SS). This species was unusually numerous in El Paso and remained until Apr. 24. Sprague's Pipits were found in *Cleveland* May 1, a record late date (JAG). By May 31, three groups of Loggerhead Shrike fledglings had been seen in *Washington*, Okla. This species was in very low numbers in w. Texas during the breeding season.

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS — Vireos were scarce everywhere except in Tulsa where seven species were seen May 16 (JH). In w. Texas, vireos were just beginning to dribble through May 31. Black-capped Vireos are becoming harder to find in the Kerrville, Tex., area. A White-eyed Vireo foraged in willows along the Rio Grande in Big Bend N.P., May 16 (BZ) and one visited *Comanche* Apr. 6-13 (JM). Bell's Vireos continue to decline—both loss of habitat and cowbird parasitism are blamed. Philadelphia Vireos appeared in *Pawnee*, Kans., May 20 (SS), *Sarpy* May 10 (L & BP), Omaha, May 19 (TB) and Tulsa May 16 (JH).

It is difficult to summarize warbler migration in such a diverse Region. In the e. half, 25 species are regular migrants, while in the w., only ten are expected. An eastern warbler as common as a Black-and-white is newsworthy at Hueco Tanks S.P., while a western one such as Black-throated-gray is exciting at Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A.

A Black-and-white Warbler foraged in willows at Hueco Tanks May 1 and one in Big Bend N.P., May 23 was very late. A Prothonotary Warbler graced Balmorhea L., May 2 (BF). A Swainson's Warbler was discovered in *Crosby*, Tex., in mid-April (ML). The usually rare Golden-winged Warbler was reported in *Sarpy*, *Johnson*, Kans., and Dallas. Blue-winged Warblers were observed in *Ottawa* and *Sedgwick*, Kans., and Washington, Okla. Tennessee Warblers strayed w. in Texas to Buffalo L., May 23, El Paso May 1 and Lubbock May 2-9. A Nashville Warbler in *Comanche* Mar. 18 was early (JM). Two Virginia's Warblers were seen at Buffalo L., May 9. Several N. Parulas visited El Paso Apr. 24-May 3 and one was at Buffalo L., May 23. Reports of Magnolia Warblers came from Big Bend N.P., Dallas, *Rogers*, *Lyon*, and *Omaha*. Black-throated Blue Warblers were found at Midland May 11 (PC) and Buffalo L., May 16 (KS). At El Paso, 12 Black-throated Gray Warblers were counted Apr. 24 (BZ). Single birds were also seen at Muleshoe N.W.R., Apr. 12 (SP) and Cheyenne Bottoms May 2 (m.ob.). Hermit Warblers appeared in the Davis Mts., Apr. 21 (PE) and Big Bend N.P., May 10 (AB). Blackburnian Warblers brightened *Ottawa*, Kans., and Omaha. A few years ago, the Yellow-throated Warbler was a "rare-bird-alert" species in the Omaha area. Now it has become an expected and almost certainly breeding bird (TB). One in Amarillo Apr. 26 was the first found there since 1971 (G & ME). A Grace's Warbler appeared in El Paso Apr. 24. There were nine reports of Chestnut-sided Warblers, including one in Big Bend N.P., May 16-17. In n.w. Nebraska, up to five Blackpoll Warblers were counted per day May 17-22 (RCR), while one was present at Del Rio, Tex., Apr. 22 (SHS). Palm Warblers were seen at Oklahoma City Apr. 25 (BM, NG) and Big Bend N.P., May 10 (BW). A pair of Louisiana Waterthrushes was nesting in Fontenelle Forest, *Sarpy* in late April. A Kentucky Warbler appeared at Buffalo L., May 16 (KS), and one was found in *Ottawa*, Kans. (CAE). Mourning Warblers were discovered in *Crosby*, *Rogers* and *Sedgwick* in late May. Hooded Warblers were observed at Borger, Tex., Apr. 22 (FC) and Hays, Kans., May 6 (CAE). Canada Warblers were reported in *Johnson*, Tex., May 6 and Tulsa May 18. Six pairs of Painted Redstarts were nesting in Big Bend N.P., Apr. 30 (BF) and had fledged young by May 13 (m.ob.).

ICTERIDS THROUGH TANAGERS — Bobolinks constituted new county records at Lubbock Apr. 3 (CS), *Randall*, Tex., May 9 (KS), *Ottawa*, Okla., May 4-June 1 (PWW). This species was common at Waco and *Cleveland*, and breeding colonies were observed in *Barton*, Kans. (DV) and *Stafford* (JS). Near Hueco Tanks, 12 E. Meadowlarks were singing May 31. Great-tailed Grackles were reported in Big Bend N.P., Davis Mts., *Johnson*, Kans., and Gibbon, Neb. Ten Bronzed Cowbirds in Rio Grande Village campground induced this statement from John Arvin: "If this trend continues, you can kiss the Orchard Orioles, chats, Bell's Vireos and Summer Tanagers good-bye just as we did in the Valley 20 years ago." A Scarlet Tanager at Ft. Worth Apr. 18 was rather early (WP, m.ob.) Several at Waco the first week of May were on schedule. Both Summer and W. Tanagers were scarce throughout w. Texas.

FRINGILLIDS — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks crossed the Region in numbers Apr. 23-May 8, and one very late female was at Buffalo L., May 30. Black-headed Grosbeaks strayed to Ft. Worth May 5, *Comanche*, Apr. 29, *Sedgwick* May 10 and *Cowley*, Kans., May 7. A Lazuli Bunting was also present at the latter locality May 7 (DV). A Painted Bunting in *Crosby* Apr. 4 was early (ML). A flock of Dickcissels in *Washington*, Tex., Apr. 27 comprised 5000 birds, predominantly males (SC, ARS), and a flock of 200 at Lubbock May 1 was the largest ever seen there. A single Evening Grosbeak came to an owl tape at Hagerman N.W.R., Tex., Mar. 20 (SB), one visited a feeder in *Sarpy* Mar. 10-Apr. 4 (AS) and one remained at Baldwin, Kans., until Apr. 26 (AJB). Cassin's Finches were observed at Hueco Tanks Apr. 18, 24 & May 3. At North Platte, Neb., 40 House Finches were coming to feeders Mar. 6 (BJR). Small flocks of Com. Redpolls remained at Omaha until Mar. 12. A Pine Siskin nest in *Johnson*, Kans., contained one young May 13. Several Pine Siskin nests were found at Hays, but no fledged young were ever seen. Pine Siskins remained until late May at Baldwin, Kenton, Okla., and Lincoln. Red Crossbills stayed at Omaha until Apr. 22 (AS) and Lincoln until May 21 (MO). The Baldwin, Kans., White-winged Crossbill noted in the winter season report was re-netted Mar. 23. It had lost about a third in weight, so it was caged and offered food, but it died two days later (* to Baker Univ.). A Green-tailed Towhee in *Cimarron* May 7 was late

(JST, JDT). Nine Lark Buntings appeared in *Comanche* Apr. 27 (DH). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was seen at Cheyenne Bottoms Apr. 10 (DV) and one visited an Omaha backyard Apr. 25 (JSc). Sage Sparrows visited *Lubbock* Apr. 13 (ML) and *Muleshoe N.W.R.*, Mar. 28 (LJ). A Gray-headed Junco flew against a window in Lincoln Apr. 13. It was cared for until it recovered, then was banded and released May 3 (MO). Lincoln's Sparrows and Swamp Sparrows remained until mid-May throughout the Region. A flock of 250 Smith's Longspurs fed in a corn stubble field at Olathe, Kans., Mar. 7-10 (m.ob.).

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SOUTH TEXAS REGION

/John C. Arvin

The spring of 1982 will go on record as one of the most active of the decade. Beginning in late March a series of strong cold fronts brought inclement weather periodically to coastal areas causing massive groundings of migrants through mid-May. Rainfall was deficient until May and ample to locally excessive thereafter.

MAJOR EVENTS—April 10-11 provided the first major spectacle of the season on the upper coast. Especially well represented were Prothonotary, Worm-eating, Tennessee, and Kentucky warblers and Ovenbird. Swainson's Warbler's were found by all parties. Working on Bolivar Peninsula, Gallucci banded nine Swainson's, 30 Worm-eating, 59 Hooded, and 70 Kentucky warblers. Feltner's party, working Galveston Island, estimated an aggregate of 2000 Indigo Buntings on Apr. 11.

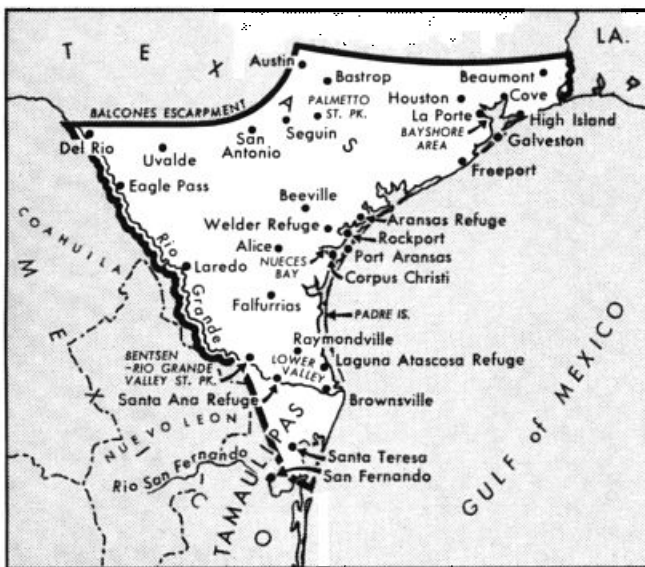
April 21-27 was dominated by a very strong cold front and persistent rain all along the coast. All coastal areas experienced a major grounding, particularly the central and lower sections where the concentrations were mind-boggling. Although characterized as only "good" by upper coast observers, April's third week is better seen in the light of Jim Morgan's totals for selected species for Apr. 25 at traditional "migrant traps". He reported Yellow-billed Cuckoo 120, Eastern Kingbird 350, Gray Catbird 525, brown thrushes 814 (400 Veeries), Scarlet Tanager 220, Rose-breasted Grosbeak 150, and Indigo Bunting 600.

On the central coast, this reporter found the best display of Black-billed Cuckoos, thrushes, catbirds, tanagers, orioles, and grosbeaks since 1968. Warblers were present in high variety but relatively low numbers. Immediately apparent was the state of utter desperation of recently arrived birds. Many could be hand-captured or stroked in the field. Exhausted Acadian Flycatchers and Eastern Wood Pewees accepted chilled insects from the hand. Massive mortality was reported all along the coast.

The final push came on May 7. Upper coast observers called it the best in years. Especially prominent were Magnolia Warblers. Feltner estimated 2400 on Galveston I., and Morgan counted 795 on Bolivar. Gallucci banded 195 and Eubanks banded 62 that day. American Redstarts (450), Gray Catbirds (650), and Eastern Wood Pewees (155) were also dominant species. Warblers ruled the day unlike the April grounding which was composed largely of medium-sized passerines.

Space limitations severely restrict adequate reporting of this spring season. Several times as much material as was presented here had to be left out. Let the reader be aware that veteran observers exhausted superlatives in their reports.

LOONS THROUGH FLAMINGOS—An Arctic Loon was found at Galveston Apr. 21-May 29. This sighting constituted the tenth area record (JH, FH, JM). An impressive aggregation of 3000 White Pelicans was reported from n. Hays County Apr. 14 (*vide* EK). The



annual gathering of non-breeding Brown Pelicans had begun to arrive in the Port Isabel, Cameron Co., area by Apr. 9 when two were present.

S.A.

A remarkable and unprecedented movement of Sulids occurred just off the upper coast in late March and early April. Counts of Gannets moving E just off the beach at Galveston I., were 1583 Mar. 20, 202 on Mar. 21 (W & JR) and 103 Apr. 3 (EM). Off nearby Bolivar Pen., 720 were counted Mar. 22 including more than 50 birds in one 'scope sweep. On the latter date six Blue-faced Boobies were found among the Gannets (TE, TG, BB). These sightings shatter all previous one-day counts for these species anywhere along the Texas coast by a considerable margin.

The lone Am. Flamingo which annually headquarters itself near S. Bird I., in the upper Laguna Madre was first reported Mar. 24 (BW) and sporadically thereafter through the period (m.ob.). This individual is thought to be a post-breeding dispersal from one of the large colonies on the n. coast of the Yucatan Pen., some 550 airline mi s.e. of the c. Texas coast.

WATERFOWL—A Black-bellied Whistling Duck was found near Beaumont Apr. 24 for an apparent second record for Jefferson County (WG). A flock of 100+ Fulvous Whistling Ducks was noted near Rockport Apr. 25 (CK). Clark observed a large movement of

assorted ducks into a strong N wind at Port Aransas Apr. 3. A ♂ Cinnamon Teal at Aransas N.W.R., Apr. 13 (JB) was rare there.

RAPTORS — Hook-billed Kites continue to be reported from most of the remaining riparian tracts along the Rio Grande. The species tends to form family groups through the winter. One such group of five at Bentsen S.P., Hidalgo Co., was sighted through most of March (JS *et al.*). A pair was repeatedly seen at the Anzalduas Unit of the Rio Grande Valley N.W.R. (JA, TP). A female was found just below Falcon Dam Apr. 26 and a male and two females were at Rancho Santa Margarita, Starr Co., Apr. 27 (JA, RS). A pair was defending a nest at the latter site May 18 (JA). Swallow-tailed Kites were not reported in the large numbers of 1981, especially in lower South Texas. The southernmost apparently was one near Skidmore, Bee Co., Apr. 17 (SW). An aggregate of 8-10 sightings were reported from the upper coast (JM), possibly including two at High I., Apr. 26 (DWO, RAR). Some observers mentioned a scarcity of Mississippi Kites, but apparently seeing that species was largely a matter of being at the right place at the right time. Five hundred were seen near Beeville Apr. 17 (DW) and Wolf noted the following totals, 196 at Kingsville May 1, 100+ at Bentsen May 3, 228 at Falcon Dam May 4, and 137 in Starr County May 5.

S.A.

A radar and simultaneous visual observation of hawk migration was carried out at Santa Ana N.W.R., Mar. 25-Apr. 16. The data showed three days (Mar. 25, Apr. 1 & Apr. 5) with totals for all species in excess of 10,000 birds. The one day high count was 20,296 on Apr. 5. Of these 20,114 were Broad-winged Hawks. The period total for Broad-winged was 84,545, accounting for 95% of the total of 89,292 birds. Swainson's Hawks, predictably, came in a distant second with 3724 for the period. We are deeply indebted to Paul Kerlinger and Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Jr., for permission to summarize the results of their study.

Elsewhere no really large aggregations of Broad-winged Hawks were reported. Seven hundred fifty Swainson's Hawks were noted near San Ygnacio, Zapata Co., Mar. 18 (JW). An imm. Ferruginous Hawk in Kenedy County May 2 (DWO, RAR) was very late. Single ad. Gray Hawks were reported from Anzalduas [Hidalgo] Co. P., Mar. 2 (JS) and Rancho Santa Margarita Mar. 12 (CC) and Apr. 15 (KR). A pair of adults was seen periodically in March and April at Santa Ana N.W.R. (TP). Ten Caracaras were counted along a linear Breeding Bird Survey route in Zapata County May 27 (JA). This is encouraging evidence that the species' mild comeback in deep South Texas continues.

GROUSE THROUGH RALLIDS — The well-known lek of Greater (Attwater's) Prairie Chickens near Tivoli, Refugio Co., was apparently deserted this spring (m.ob.), however, a new lek of three males was established on a prescribed burn site at nearby Aransas N.W.R. The total refuge population of this endangered race was estimated to be only 18 birds (SL).

The wintering Whooping Crane population at Aransas N.W.R. dropped from 69 Mar. 29 to five by Apr. 28. All birds had departed by May 5. Two immatures fitted with radio transmitters left with their parents about Apr. 10. Canadian biologists reported receiving both signals in the vicinity of the parents' old nest site May 29 (SL).

Several coots exhibiting characteristics attributed to the Caribbean Coot *Fulica caribea* (extensively white frontal shields, in at least one instance with a sulphury-yellow bloom) were discovered Mar. 15 at Santa Ana N.W.R. (JP, AMcK) and were seen by many thereafter. Hopefully the conservative view that frontal shield color is a highly variable character in Am. Coots and that individuals exhibiting greater amounts of white on the frontal shield are likely to occur in any population will prevail. Any other hypothesis strains credulity.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH LARIDS — Snowy Plovers were obviously on the move by Feb. 18 when 30 were counted at Boca Chica Beach, Cameron Co. (BW). Whitney also noted a very early Am. Golden Plover there. The Semipalmated Sandpiper migration seemed scant this spring. A peak count of only 12 was recorded in the Rockport area Apr. 7 (CC). A noteworthy concentration of 600 Hudsonian Godwits was found in a Chambers County ricefield May 7 (JM). A ♂ N. Phalarope was closely studied near High I., May 1 (WG).

The Glaucous Gull which wintered at Galveston was still present May 20 (JM). The bird described by many as a **Great Black-backed Gull** remained at Kemah, Galveston Co., until Apr. 28. While details are the most convincing of any sighting known to this reporter, and photos are said to have been confirmed by experts, observers are reminded that no such details nor photos have been submitted to the Texas Records Committee. Despite almost annual reports, no accepted state record exists for *Larus marinus*. Hopefully this oversight will be speedily corrected. An imm. Black-legged Kittiwake lingered at Port Aransas until Mar. 26 (CC). Black Terns were notable for their absence throughout the Region.

DOVES THROUGH OWLS — Many observers commented on the relative abundance of Red-billed Pigeons in the L.R.G.V., in March and April. Sightings were scattered across most riparian tracts in Hidalgo and Starr Cos. Eight individuals were counted below Falcon Dam Apr. 26. Nest building was observed there Apr. 11 (JA).

Red-crowned Parrots annually appear in one or more small flocks in the L.R.G.V., usually in the Brownsville area, in fall. These remain in the area until March. No Red-crowns are usually seen between April and August—the breeding period in Tamaulipas. This writer considers flocks of wintering Red-crowns to be genuine post-breeding wanderers from breeding areas in Mexico, some of which are within 100 airline mi. of the border, there being no real evidence to the contrary. Five which wintered in Brownsville were last reported there Mar. 8 (JS). Two calling Red-crowns seen at Santa Ana N.W.R., Apr. 14 (GR *et al.*) fall outside the pattern described above.

The (last?) pair of Ferruginous Pygmy Owls which has for several years clung to a territory below Falcon Dam failed to return this spring. However, one was heard calling from the Mexican bank of the Rio Grande farther downstream Apr. 26 (RS).

GOATSUCKERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Poorwill on two eggs Apr. 11 appears to provide a Zapata County breeding record, although the species is known to be common there (JW).



What animal is this? Small section of the roost of Chimney Swifts on a tree trunk at Sarita, Kenedy Co., Tex., Mar. 27, 1982. Photo by Kay McCracken.

A remarkable gathering of Chimney Swifts took place at Sarita, Kenedy Co., Mar. 27-28. Thousands of swifts came to roost on the lee side of a large ash trunk at the L.H. Lytton, Jr., residence Mar. 27. Inclement weather prevented them from departing Mar. 28 and that evening they were joined by approximately twice the original number. Photos clearly show a swarm-like ribbon of swifts the length of the trunk (*vide* KM).

A Pileated Woodpecker was reported at the extreme s.w. edge of the species' range along the lower Guadalupe R., Mar. 20 (*vide* CK).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES — With recognition of Couch's Kingbird *Tyrannus couchii* now official (and long overdue) South Texans are confronted with a new and very difficult identification problem. Clark reported a "Tropical" Kingbird Mar. 2, from Tivoli. Extralimital records such as this will require careful study now that the true relationships of this species complex are known.

All 109 *Empidonax* flycatchers netted in the banding operation on Bolivar Pen. proved to be Acadians (TG, GL). In contrast, Lasley caught a variety of species inland in Hays County. The first Least Flycatcher was taken Apr. 4 and the species remained the most common until late in the month when a few Acadian and "Traill-types" began to appear. The latter species complex dominated during May. A White-necked Raven was observed by many on Bolivar Pen., Apr. 21-22. It provided the eighth record for the upper coast. Two Brown Jay nests were found May 18 at Rancho Santa Margarita (JA). One was under construction and the other contained two eggs. The latter was guarded by five birds.

Gray Catbirds were unusually abundant all along the coast. Some idea of the magnitude of the flight may be obtained from Lasley's record of 1500-2000 individuals moving through a 2-acre wood on Bolivar Apr. 27. A Clay-colored Robin which wintered at Bentsen S P was last reported there Mar. 13 (JS). Wood, Swainson's, and Gray-cheeked thrushes and Veery were abundant all along the coast during the Apr. 21-27 grounding. On n. Padre I., in an area two by four city blocks, 15 Wood, 85 Swainson's, 50 Gray-cheekeds, and 60 Veeries were counted Apr. 23 (JA, RS).

PIPITS THROUGH WARBLERS — Seven Sprague's Pipits were still present at Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R., Colorado Co., May 1 (DWO, RAR). The season's first Black-capped Vireo was found near Austin Apr. 9 (BR). Seventy-five Red-eyed Vireos were found in a small area on n. Padre I., Apr. 23 (JA, RS). A bird described as a **Black-whiskered Vireo** was seen in direct comparison with Red-eyes at Crystal Beach, Bolivar Pen., April 10 (DF). If accepted by the checklist committee this would represent the third record for the upper coast and for the state. A new early record for the Warbling Vireo was set Apr. 5 on Bolivar Pen. (GL).

Many observers commented on the magnitude and duration of the Prothonotary Warbler migration along the coast. The uncommon Golden-winged Warbler was reported in good numbers. Fourteen were banded on Bolivar Pen. (TG) and eight were counted near Brownsville Apr. 24 (JA, RS). Blue-wingeds were also numerous. TG and GL banded 55 at Bolivar. No doubt Golden-winged x Blue-winged hybrids were relatively numerous for the same reasons their parents were. Both "Lawrence's-type" and "Brewster's-type" hybrids were reported. "Brewster's" seemed to occur mostly along the coast with two Apr. 18, one Apr. 23, and two Apr. 24 at Corpus Christi (CC, JL, KM) and one from Aransas N.W.R. (undated). One was reported from Galveston May 7 (*vide* JM). Two "Lawrence's" were seen on the upper coast. One Apr. 24 at Galveston (†BR) and one in April near Sabine Pass, Jefferson Co. (†TE, JM). At least one pair of Tropical Parulas was on territory at Sarita and another at Bentsen S.P. This reporter has learned belatedly that as many as four males of this species were seen along the Frio R., near Concan, Uvalde Co., in 1981. Not only does this represent a range extension of nearly 200 mi but it also brings the Tropical Parula into sympatry with the N. Parula, albeit in very low densities (JR). Cape May Warblers, always scarce, were reported at High I. (two) Apr. 24 (CE) and Rockport Apr. 26 (AS). A Black-throated Blue Warbler was seen at Corpus Christi Apr. 29-30 (KM). Townsend's Warblers made news at High I, where one was seen and photographed Apr. 3 (DR) and at Corpus where one was found Apr. 21 & 23 (CC). Many observers commented on the relative scarcity of Bay-breasted Warblers in a season when virtually every other species was superabundant. A Palm Warbler was at Port Aransas Apr. 4 (LT). A total of six Connecticut Warblers were reported without details and by anonymous observers in the Corpus area during April. With only two documented records and a handful of careful sight records for the entire state one would wish for more documentation for this scarce and difficult species. A Connecticut Warbler was reported at High I. Apr. 20 (†JE) where it will become the sixth record for the upper coast, if accepted. MacGillivray's Warblers were found at Bolivar (banded) Apr. 15 (TG, TP) and Galveston Apr. 21-22 (m.ob.). Another was banded and photographed in Hays County May 14 (GL).

ICTERIDS THROUGH FINCHES — Bobolinks were present all along the coast in record numbers. Morgan reported an aggregate of 236 from the upper coast on Apr. 24. Thirty were found on the same date in the Corpus area (JS). A ♂ W. Tanager was seen in the Rockport area Apr. 24 (DW). Everyone commented on the abundance of Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks during the Apr. 21-26 period. Swartz counted 180 tanagers and 2000 grosbeaks in the Corpus area Apr. 24. A Lazuli Bunting was found at Corpus Apr. 24 (JS) and two were near Austin May 10 (*vide* EK). A ♂ Varied Bunting was mistnetted, banded, and photographed in e. Bandera Co., Apr. 11 (DFe). Clark witnessed flocks of 100-800 Dickcissels moving in from the Gulf at Rockport (date?) for some 5½ hrs. He estimated that 10,000 birds must have passed inland. GL found 60-80 Grasshopper Sparrows on the state capital grounds at Austin following storms Apr. 20. A **Gray-headed Junco** was carefully described from a roadside rest area in Kenedy Co., Mar. 6 (†DD). Apparently this same bird was seen around mid-April (EW). The form, now considered part of the *J. hyemalis* complex, has never before been reported.

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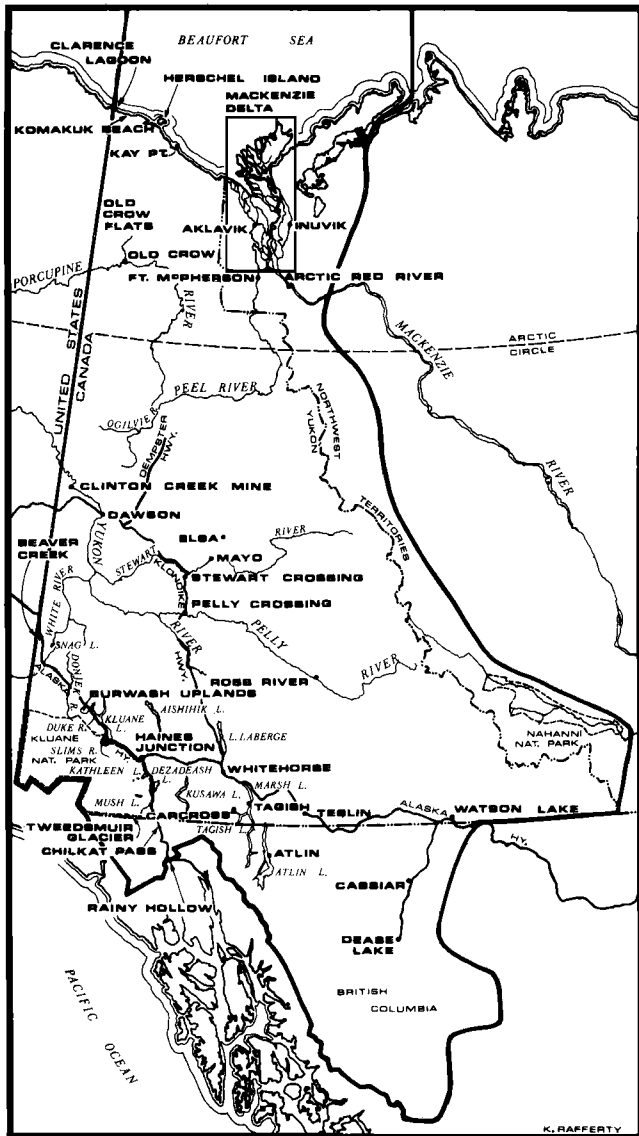
NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION **/Helmut Grünberg**

For this fifth report from the extended Region (covering the Yukon, parts of the Northwest Territories and northern British Columbia south to Fort St. John) at least 211 species were reported by observers, the highest number ever recorded in a single season.

It was a strange but interesting season. Prolonged winter conditions in March, April and in some areas even May caused many birds to arrive one to three weeks late in their staging and breeding areas. Only the traditionally late migrants were mostly about "on time". Consequently, a great deal of migration was observed in May. Some species did not arrive until early June.

LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS — A rare Yukon inland observation of one or two Yellow-billed Loons was made at Gravel L., km 626 Klondike Hwy., May 24 (HG, DP). The sighting of a **Red-throated Loon** on Charlie L., near Ft. St. John, May 23 apparently provided the first record for the Peace R. area, B.C. (CS). Six White Pelicans were seen in Ft. Smith Apr. 27 (JB). Seven were observed s. of Ft. Smith May 3 (PG, EK). The arrival of Trumpeter and Whistling swans in the s. Yukon at their staging areas was slightly later than usual. On April 26, an estimated 1000 swans (majority Whistlers) were gathered at McClintock Bay, Marsh L. (HG, WH). Twelve "Black" Brant were seen at Carcross, Yukon, May 3 (DL). Observations of Snow Geese in small numbers were reported from seven different areas (m.ob.).

A pair of **Black Ducks** was noted on a pond near Cecil L., May 4 (CS). This represented the first record of the Peace R. area, B.C. A ♂ **Gadwall** was associated with what appeared to be a ♀ Mallard at a lake near Pelly Crossing, Yukon, May 29 (HG, WH). The Gadwall seemed to be larger than the "probable" Mallard. The second and third records for the Yukon of a **Cinnamon Teal** were obtained when one male was observed at the s.w. end of L. Laberge May 27 (HG, GJ, TM *et al.*) and one male at Marsh L., May 30 (WH). The second and third records of this species for the Peace R. area, B.C., were



observations at Cecil L., May 11 (GS) & May 13 (GS, CS) as well as reports from Charlie L., May 20 (GS) & May 26 (GS, CS). A ♂ and a ♀ Redhead were noted at Schwatka L., near Whitehorse (hereafter, Whse.) and one male at Marsh L., s.e. of Whse., May 7 (HG). An unspecified number was reported from the Teslin area, s. Yukon, during spring migration (D & PD). A ♀ Hooded Merganser was seen near Whse., May 26 representing the third Yukon record (WH).

In the Ft. St. John area, two Broad-winged Hawks were seen May 13 (GS) and one May 27 (CS). A Swainson's Hawk was noted at Dawson May 4 (RF). An Osprey was observed in Whse., Apr. 24 (WH), and, for the first time in six years, one individual was sighted in the Peace R. area, B.C., May 4 (CS), confirmed May 9 (JJ, GS, CS). CS was thrilled by his first **Peregrine Falcon** observation in the Peace R. area, seen at Cecil L., May 5. Gyrfalcon observations were scarce in the north this spring (MBe; RF, HG, WH *et al.*)

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — At least one Blue Grouse observation was reported from South Fork Intake, Dempster Hwy., in early May (GB, *vide* RF). The previously very common Spruce Grouse continued to be present in low numbers, as indicated by very few reports from contributors. Seven pairs of Whooping Cranes were observed in Wood Buffalo N.P., Apr. 28 and nine nests were found May 7 (EK).

Four Black-bellied Plovers were seen at Kluane L., Apr. 27 (SC) and 8-10 at Ft. Smith airport Apr. 30 (EK). One showed up at Charlie L., May 23 (JJ, CS). Two Surf-birds were observed at their known breeding location in the s. Ogilvie Mts., May 23 (RF, HG, WH *et al.*). A Ruddy Turnstone was noted near Inuvik May 28 (MBe). Six Greater Yellowlegs and four Lesser Yellowlegs were reported for the Carcross area May 3 (DL). The former species was also noted at

Teslin (D & PD), and two Greater Yellowlegs were associated with at least 150 Lesser Yellowlegs at Cecil L., near Ft. St. John May 5 (CS). Baird's Sandpipers, like many other shorebird species, were much reduced in numbers at Charlie L., probably because of habitat destruction and disturbances (CS). Fourteen Baird's Sandpipers were observed at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whse., May 16 (HG, WH). In the s. Ogilvie Mts., up to five individuals were seen, two of which were encountered in their breeding habitat near snowfields May 22-23 (RF, HG, WH *et al.*). On May 25, two were noted near the s. end of the Dempster Hwy. (RF) and the first one for the season at Inuvik (MBe). At Charlie L., one Dunlin was observed May 20 (GS) and two Short-billed Dowitchers May 18 (CS). One Short-billed Dowitcher was noted at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whse., May 15 (HG, WH). Two Stilt Sandpipers were reported from Inuvik May 26 (MBe). A rare Buff-breasted Sandpiper was observed and photographed at Swan L., May 15 (HG, WH), and one was reported for the s. Ogilvie Mts., May 23 (RF). One Hudsonian Godwit was observed at Charlie L., May 17 (CS). Around the same time, one was seen at Marsh L. (GJ). One allowed its viewers many close-up looks (and photos) in the s. Ogilvie Mts. (RF, HG, WH *et al.*). Two individuals stayed for three days at the Inuvik sewage pond May 28+ (MBe). Wilson's Phalaropes continue to occur at Swan L., as three were observed here May 15-16 (HG, WH). Three were also seen at Marsh L., May 30 (WH).

GULLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — One Ring-billed Gull was seen in Ft. Smith Apr. 28 (EK), and up to six appeared in Ft. St. John May 18-28 (CS). Three hundred ad. Franklin's Gulls were gathered at Charlie L., May 27 (CS). Six ad. **Sabine's Gulls** ventured to the interior and were seen at Charlie L., May 27 (JJ, CS). This furnished the first record since 1938 for the Peace R. area, B.C., and C. Siddle's personal choice for the "bird of the season".

A few Snowy Owls were noted throughout March to the third week of April in the Ogilvie Mts. (NB *et al.*, *vide* RF). One individual was observed near Inuvik May 2 (MBe). Snowy Owls were also seen in the Ft. St. John area early in the season until Apr. 18 (CS *et al.*). A "possible" Banded Owl was heard near Ft. St. John May 29 (CS). A "probable" Great Gray Owl was hooting at km 250 Dempster Hwy., Mar. 25 (RF). The second documented observation of this species in the Peace R. area was made Apr. 4 & 6 (CS). A Saw-whet Owl was calling near Telegraph Cr., n.w. British Columbia, Apr. 9-10 (HG, WH, PM, CO) at the same spot as in 1981. A pair of Rufous Hummingbirds was observed at Graham Inlet, n. British Columbia, May 15+, almost two weeks later than usual (MBr). One Rufous Hummer was seen near Haines Jct., Yukon, at the end of May (RCm).

PERCHING BIRDS — Horned Larks, not seen in the Peace R. area, B.C., since 1938, were reported by GS as follows: two March 29, four Apr. 15 and at least 20 on Apr. 20. A record high number of Blue Jays, 1-4 Apr. 9-May 11, was observed this spring in the Ft. St. John area. Two to three Mountain Chickadees were reported from a feeder in Whse. (D & LS). They were also seen at a feeder in Tagish, Yukon, early in the season (B & GM).

Black-and-white Warblers were observed in the Ft. St. John area three times, May 20 (GS), May 22 & 23 (CS) while Magnolia Warbler was only recorded once here, May 29 (CS). Black-throated Green Warblers were maintaining a healthy population in the Peace R. area. Up to four individuals were noted May 15+ (JJ, CS). One Mourning Warbler was seen near Ft. St. John May 29 (CS), and four Canada Warblers were located here May 31 (CS).

Three Le Conte's Sparrows were observed at Boundary L., Ft. St. John area, May 16 (JJ, CS). A Harris' Sparrow was seen at Ft. Smith airport May 7 (EK). This species was "numerous" near Yellowknife May 19 (KS), and four individuals were observed near Inuvik May 23 (MBe). These three observations seem to describe the favored northern migration route quite clearly.

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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

Spring in the Region was, in general, late, in some areas as much as two or three weeks, the result of deep snow packs in the mountains and cold, wet weather. Although May was very dry in most areas, runoff from the mountains kept moisture conditions good and water levels high.

Many observers commented that spring arrivals were late. Some migrants piled up in the lowlands waiting for favorable conditions before moving north or into the mountains and some winter visitors, notably redpolls, lingered much later than usual.

LOONS AND GREBES — A Red-throated Loon, no details supplied, was seen repeatedly near Moscow, Ida., in May (GW). A Red-necked Grebe in early May near Nampa, Ida., was apparently the first ever for that area (MC). About 4400 Eared Grebes were on Stinking L., Malheur N.W.R. (hereafter, Malheur), Burns, Ore., Apr. 21. Western Grebes arrived early at Malheur and at least 50 died, apparently because they arrived in poor condition and high water had dispersed their carp food, making it hard to get. A single light-phase bird, quite rare there, was seen May 16 (TC).

PELICANS AND CORMORANTS — A flock of ten White Pelicans near La Grande, Ore., Apr. 15 was extremely unusual (J & MM) and a Double-crested Cormorant there Apr. 24-25 was noteworthy (JE *et al.*).

HERONS THROUGH IBISES — Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets showed a substantial increase at Malheur, about 1000 of the former nesting, but Snowy Egret numbers were down. Four Cattle Egrets arrived at Pocatello, Ida., May 4 and remained (CHT). Snowy Egret numbers there remained low, with no more than five birds (CHT). A single Snowy at Joseph Apr. 15-22 furnished n.e. Oregon's second record (FC, RA *et al.*). Of 130 Black-crowned Night Herons banded in s. Idaho this spring most were over three years old, signifying trouble there (CHT). The species continued to show lower numbers at Malheur. Lewiston, Ida., had a Black-crowned at Hells Gate P. May 1 (C.B.). The call of a Least Bittern was taped at Malheur at the end of May (TC, JG, HN *et al.*). A White-faced Ibis near Boardman, Ore. May 20-26 was a first for that area (RK) and Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont. had a rare sighting of one May 13 (RRS).

WATERFOWL — Whistling Swan numbers looked very good. The highest count was 11,380 at Malheur. Unusually large counts for their localities were 1500 at Ennis L., Ennis, Mont. and 500 in the Colville Valley, Wash. Trumpeter Swan pairs at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. stood at 71, down from last year's 81 but their numbers were up at Malheur. The birds were still hanging on at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash. with 4-5 birds.

Peak goose numbers at Malheur were: Canada, 14,505; White-fronted, 4420; Snow, 113,000, and Ross', 4675. Canadas that wintered at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash. had a peak of 8000. The breeding population of Canadas at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., was up 25% over 1981. A Brant was on the Snake R., near Clarkston, Wash., Apr. 4-5 (RN, LLaV, MK). Carty Res., Boardman, had 25 White-fronted Mar. 23 (RK); four stayed at Swan L., Vernon, B.C. Apr. 21-May 8 (MCo) and one was at Tranquille, B.C. Mar. 6-7 (RH). The species peaked at 1500 on Conley L. s. of Union, Ore. Over 10,000 Snow Geese were at Summer L., Lake Co., Ore. and Ross' peaked in the Klamath L., Ore. area at 10,000-12,000. A few more than usual Ross' were reported out of their normal migration pathway: one near Lewiston (C.B.); up to four at Reardan, Wash. (JA, BW); one at Creston, Wash. (BW); one at Market L., Roberts, Ida. (EC), two at Malheur (DT), and "several" at Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont. (*vide* CP).

The highest Pintail count was 183,000 at Malheur. Gadwall at Turnbull N.W.R. reached 1000+. Blue-winged Teal numbers were low at Malheur, indicating favorable habitat e. of Oregon. In drought years they continue NW from the Great Plains and boost numbers in e. Oregon (CDL). A duck believed to be a ♂ Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal was sighted at Alkali L., Bonanza, Ore., Apr. 28 (SS). A very few Eur. Wigeon appeared in every state and province except Mon-



tana. A ♂ Wood Duck at Market L. was notable (EC). Canvasback at Malheur reached 3065; Turnbull N.W.R. had nearly 400, and Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., 150. Up to 60 were counted on a Pocatello pond.

Three Barrow's Goldeneye at La Grande in April were quite unusual—the species does not breed or even summer in the mountains of n.e. Oregon (JE, JC). A pair of Harlequin Ducks, extremely rare in e. Oregon, was sighted near La Grande in May (J & MM) and a pair on the Snake R. near Shelley, Ida. was apparently the first for that locality (EC, SR, KS). The only White-winged Scoters reported were in British Columbia: 65 on Chapperon L., s.e. of Kamloops (RH) and one in Kootenay N.P. (MP). Salmon Arm, B.C., had 12 Surf Scoters May 9 (RH). Ruddy Ducks at Malheur reached a count of 16,275, the highest in recent years. Red-breasted Mergansers on L. Roosevelt n. of Kettle Falls, Wash., furnished the first sighting of the species in that area (SZ). Two sightings were made in the Lewiston vicinity (RN).

VULTURES AND HAWKS — A Turkey Vulture was spotted over the Snake R. at Rogersburg, Wash., where the species is rare (AM). White-tailed Kites were observed at least once a week from late April on from Harper, Ore., to Parma, Ida., mostly over desert but also in fertile valleys (JH). A Broad-winged Hawk appeared at Massacre Rock S.P., Power Co., Ida., May 1 (RKO, CHT). A Swainson's Hawk at Fortine, Mont. was noteworthy (WW) and one near Kettle Falls was Nisbet's second for the county. One observer was convinced that Ferruginous Hawks are in serious trouble in e. Oregon, with very few sighted (TC). Nesting success for Golden Eagles at Malheur was only 35% for traditional nesting sites, believed the result of very low black-tailed jackrabbit numbers (CDL). A massive migration of Golden and Bald eagles occurred in the Shields R. valley, Park Co., Mont., Mar. 30. On the wing were 21 Golden and 70 Balds, plus more on the ground including a roost of 23 Balds. A large number of Bald Eagles was reported feeding on ground squirrels at Cascade, Mont., at about the same time (AH). A pair of Bald Eagles appeared to be nesting an Ennis L., Ennis, Mont. (PDS) and a pair hatched one young at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. There were apparently up to three active nests of the species on Kootenai N.F., n.w. Montana (CW). Three Bald Eagles, one perched by a nest, were near Fairmont Hot Springs, B.C., May 8 (P & RB) and two active nests were on Wilmer Nat'l Wildlife Area, Brisco, B.C., Mar. 16 (LH). A pair of Ospreys was apparently nesting inside the Bend, Ore., city limits for the first time in many years (TC). Ospreys were attempting to nest on a light pole at Lemhi County, Ida. fairgrounds (HR). A pair of this species was nesting at Brisco, B.C. (LH). Four Gyrfalcon and two Peregrine Falcon sightings were reported.

S.A.

A carefully-described **Hobby** (*Falco subbuteo*) was observed in the Nicola Valley n.e. of Merritt, B.C., May 22. It wore no jesses. Colin Trefry, Reifel Refuge warden, and Jim Burbridge, Kelowna, B.C., asserted "there are no Hobbies kept in captivity anywhere in British Columbia or adjacent states and provinces" and that it was probably wild. Richard Ryan, New Jersey zoo director, who monitors wild bird imports, found no record of falconers with Hobbies. He noted that it might be an illegal bird but commented "it is more probable that the bird is of wild origin." It would make North America's second record (BK).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS — Up to 35 Sage Grouse were on the lek s. of Creston, Wash. (BW) and Douglas County, Wash. reported 14 males and two females (LW *et al.*). The lek near Baker, Ore., peaked at about 65 birds (JE *et al.*). A total of 24 Sharp-tailed Grouse was sighted e. of Creston (BW). In the Pocatello area one traditional site had no birds and another had 30 males, down from the previous 50 (CHT). Three tom and four hen Turkeys were seen n.w. of Ovando, Mont. (SF, JB) and birds with young were observed near Trout Creek and Heron, Mont. (CW). Two were flushed in Ladd Canyon s.e. of La Grande (DM).

CRANES THROUGH GALLINULES — About 2000 Sandhill Cranes spent February-April near Othello, Wash. (JR) and up to 1500 rested at the traditional St. Andrews, Wash., site in early April (RF, BW). Lesser Sandhill Cranes built up to an unusual peak of 9815 at Malheur when inclement weather delayed their departure. About nine Sandhills returned to their breeding area near La Grande (JE) and the species returned to the nesting site in Pleasant Valley, Flathead Co., Mont. (CW). A **Yellow Rail** was reported for Columbia N.W.R., Othello for apparently e. Washington's second record (JEr). A **Common Gallinule** was again seen and photographed at Malheur May 12 (ST, BE, TC), providing a third record for e. Oregon.

SHOREBIRDS — A meager sprinkling of Semipalmated Plovers was noted migrating through Idaho, Oregon and British Columbia, the largest number, eight, at Springfield, Ida. (DT). The species is becoming a regular migrant at Malheur (CDL). The only Black-bellied Plovers noted were one near Lowden, Wash. (DL, SW, SM); three at Malheur, and one at Cormana L., w. of Harrington, Wash. (JHi). Two Whimbrel were sighted near Merrill, Ore., Apr. 27 and 13 were with Long-billed Curlews at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Apr. 29 (SS). At least eight Upland Sandpipers were on the nesting grounds in the Spokane Valley May 16 (BW). Single Solitary Sandpipers, scarce spring migrants in n. Idaho, were seen at Cougar Bay, Coeur d' Alene L. (SGS) and Hauser L. (JA). Lower Klamath N.W.R. had a remarkable 175 Greater Yellowlegs on the Oregon side and over 200 in the California portion Mar. 27 (SS). In Kootenai County, Ida., where both yellowlegs species are rare migrants, two Greater and up to eight Lesser were found (SGS). The only Red Knot was one in breeding plumage s. of Nampa May 4 (MC). A Dunlin and a Semipalmated Sandpiper near Nampa May 4 were noteworthy (MC). Two Short-billed Dowitchers were at White L., Lower Klamath N.W.R., for the only report (SS). An unusually large flock of 200+ Long-billed Dowitchers was at Tranquille, B.C. (RR). Highly notable were 14 Marbled Godwits at Joseph, Ore., Apr. 28 (FC) and nine near Lowden the same day (MD *et al.*). A Sanderling at Malheur May 5 was the only one reported (SC, SLi). Four Am. Avocets at Black L. May 2 made only the second Kootenai Co., Ida. sighting since 1914 (SGS). "Good numbers" of Black-necked Stilts were reported in the Columbia Basin of c. Washington (WD).

PHALAROPES THROUGH TERNS — A Wilson's Phalarope at Black L. was noteworthy (SGS). The only reports of N. Phalaropes were of eight at Malheur and two at Tumalo Res., Ore. (SG). A **Pomarine Jaeger** was photographed at Banks L., Grant Co., Wash. May 29 (SHA). A Glaucous Gull was at Lower Granite Dam, Whitman Co., Wash., Apr. 18 (RSc) and two at Fortine, Mont., May 19 made Weydemeyer's third spring record there. Six Herring Gulls near Kimberley, B.C., Mar. 27 were noteworthy (MW) and 2-4 were at Lewiston (MK, PP, MS). A first-year Thayer's Gull was photographed at Lower Granite Apr. 24 (JW). Five Bonaparte's Gulls near Colville, Wash., may be the first for that latilong (SZ). A **Black-legged Kittiwake** was identified at Magic Res., s. of Hailey, Ida., May 14

(MC), apparently a new species for Idaho. A Forster's Tern was at La Grande for the fourth or fifth county record (JE, SC) and a Caspian was at Joseph (FC). The first Com. Tern for n.e. Oregon was one at Thief Valley Res., s. of Union May 13 (JE). Malheur's third and fourth sightings occurred May 11 (DS) and May 28 (GO).

PIGEONS THROUGH OWLS — A Band-tailed Pigeon appeared May 30 s. of Boise (MC) and at Bend, Ore., May 13 (TC). A flock of 12+ was sighted at Cache Cr., B.C., Apr. 17 (TH) and one at Salmo, B.C. May 3-4 may be the first for that area (DB). Two Flammulated Owls were heard near last year's nest site near Kamloops, B.C. (RH) and the species was heard at the 1981 nest site near Penticton, B.C. (SRC). Several pairs of Burrowing Owls survived the severe winter at Malheur and were nesting. The sighting of one near Enterprise was very unusual (FC). One was resident at Douglas L. in the s. Okanagan Mar. 12-May 9 (RH). The species is now very rare in British Columbia. Barred Owls were reported nesting again at Doak L. and Granite Cr., near Libby, Mont. (CW) and one was heard near St. Regis, Mont., Apr. 22 (DA). A pair brought off a brood at the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont. (RW) and one appeared at Asotin, Wash. (SCk). Spotted Owls were located at three places in the Klamath Basin (SS). A Great Gray Owl was seen several times near Kamloops, one at Chase, B.C. was a traffic casualty (RH), and one stayed at Kimberley for a month (MW). A pair was seen regularly for a month near Invermere, B.C. (LH). The only Boreal Owl reported was one heard near Invermere Mar. 11 (LH). Saw-whet Owls were found near Wenatchee (WD); Chewelah (JN); in the Wenas Cr. area, Yakima Co., Wash. (Y.A.S.); at Malheur (one dead), and at Bozeman, Mont. (K & SB, CVD). Their numbers were up in Kootenai N.F. (CW)

POORWILLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — The only Poorwill records were of one near Frenchglen, Ore., May 31 and one near Yakima May 11. Common Nighthawk numbers in e. Oregon appeared down, continuing a trend of several years (TC). An unusual concentration of 75 Black Swifts was over Swan L., near Vernon May 29 (PMcA). Up to 1500 Vaux's Swifts were at Walla Walla for two weeks in May (B.M.A.S.). White-throated Swifts returned to their nesting site at Smith Rocks S.P., Redmond, Ore., May 8 (TC, SG). The species was also found in the Steens Mts., near Roaring Springs Ranch, Ore. May 29-30 (TC). Five over the Snake R., near Clarkston, Wash. were the first for that area (PS, A & NS). Hummingbird numbers in general appeared to be up. Black-chinned Hummingbirds were considered becoming regular in s.e. Oregon; they were seen three times at Malheur and one was s. of Fields May 29 (TC, JG *et al.*). A male at Bozeman made only the second sighting for the latilong (RAH & ETH). The species was also noted at Lincoln, Mont., and one was reported at Blue R. in Okanagan, far n. of the species' normal range (CR). Anna's were reported as the most common species at La Pine, Ore. Single Broad-tailed Hummingbirds appeared at Bend and La Grande (TC, JE).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — White-headed Woodpeckers were reported for a new locality—Heron, Mont., and the nearby Bull R. (CW). A Least Flycatcher was sighted May 29 at Lavington, B.C. (JGr) and Oregon's fourth for the species was photographed at Roaring Springs Ranch on the same date (TC, JG, OS). A **Purple Martin** at Malheur Mar. 15 made the third record there (DSe).

JAYS THROUGH WRENS — The Blue Jay that wintered at Edgewood, B.C., lingered at a feeder until mid-May (GD) and one was sighted in mid-May at Boise (MC). Seventeen of the 55 bluebird boxes along the Old Ellensburg Road to Yakima had nesting House Wrens (Y.A.S.). Bewick's Wrens were not found at the usual spots near Yakima but one was sighted at Lewis & Clark S.P., near Dayton, Wash., Mar. 27-28 (MK, PP, LLaV) & May 26 (Y.A.S.). The species was increasing at Walla Walla (SM).

MIMIC THRUSHES THROUGH SHRIKES — Single Mockingbird sightings were at Bend May 16-17 for the first Deschutes County record (FVH) and in La Grande Mar. 25-Apr. 29, n.e. Oregon's first (C & KC, JE, RS). A Loggerhead Shrike was at White L., near Penticton, B.C., May 8 (JO). The species is very rare in British Columbia.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — A rare occasion was the sighting of a **Hutton's Vireo** at Malheur May 16 (TC). Single Black-and-white

Warblers appeared at Malheur and Fields, Ore. (HN, TC, JG, SG). A singing male, the second for the Montana part of the Region, was near Bozeman May 13 (DS, PDS, SCo). Tennessee Warblers were becoming regular though uncommon migrants in the Malheur-Frenchglen-Steens Mt. area (TC, HN, SL). Kootenay N.P. had five May 19 (MP) and one was in Bend May 8 (JC, SG). A ♂ **Black-throated Green Warbler**, e. Oregon's fourth, was photographed May 21 at Pike Cr., Steens Mt., Harney Co., Ore. (SH). A breeding-plumaged ♂ Blackpoll Warbler was at Rupert, Ida., May 22 (WHS). An **Ovenbird** visited Malheur May 29 (SG *et al.*) and a N. Waterthrush was at Alvord Ranch, Ore. the same day (TC, HN, JG, OS). A **Connecticut Warbler** at Bend May 20 was Oregon's first (TC). A migrating Com. Yellowthroat, Woodley's first at Richland since 1970, was sighted May 23. A ♂ Am. Redstart at Hart Mt., n. of Adel, Ore., was noteworthy (SH).

BLACKBIRDS — At least 15 Bobolinks had returned to Toppenish N.W.R., Wash. by late May. The species has been nesting at Fortine for at least the last sixty years (WW). Good numbers were in the Cusick-Usk-Calispell L., Wash., area but the species was scarce at Chewelah (JN, JHi). Two males were sighted at Boise May 29 (JI). Two pairs of Com. Grackles, apparently nesting, were seen at Salmon, Ida., May 23 (HR). A pair appeared at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. (RRS) and one was at Walla Walla May 18 (SM *et al.*), all first records for their areas.

FINCHES — A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared at Malheur May 27 (MB) and a female appeared at Hart Mt., May 29 (SH). A singing ♂ Blue Grosbeak was at Boise May 31 and a singing ♂ Indigo Bunting was sighted there May 8 (MC). An Indigo x Lazuli Bunting was found May 21 at Pike's Cr., Steens Mt., near where an ad. male was on territory in 1976 (SH) and another supposed hybrid, banded at Pocatello last year, returned (JJ). Two Hoary Redpolls were in a flock of Com. Redpolls at Rayleigh, B.C., Mar. 21 (RH). A few Hoaries were noted in the Windermere, B.C. vicinity (MP) and one was seen at Chewelah (JN). The only Lesser Goldfinch reported was a male at Page Springs C.G., near Malheur May 28 (DT). A **Lawrence's Goldfinch**, Washington's first, was positively identified at Roosevelt Apr. 17 (Y.A.S.). A pair of Red Crossbills at Richland May 6 was Woodley's first ever there. The Grasshopper Sparrow colony near Pilot Rock, Ore. was occupied again this year (CCo, REW). A Sage Sparrow near Enterprise Mar. 18 was noteworthy (FC). A Lark Sparrow was at Nakusp, B.C., May 19 (BS) and one at Kamloops May 15 was near the n. limit of its range (RH). A Harris' Sparrow at Helena lingered into early May (CB). Single White-throated Sparrows were sighted twice at Malheur (TC, JE); at Wapato, Wash. (HD); at Walla Walla (RFI *et al.*) and at Lewis & Clark S.P.

(B.M.A.S.). Livingston, Mont. had one May 8 (CL); Libby, Mont. one Apr. 28 (CW) and one was with Golden-crowned Sparrows at Smith Rocks S.P. May 9 (SG). The Davenport, Wash., cemetery had two Golden-crowned May 3 and Spokane had one May 8-9 (JA). Three ad. males and one female Lapland Longspurs in breeding plumage were found near St. Andrews Apr. 16 (JA). An unusually large flock of 125+ birds of this species was near Kamloops Apr. 4 (RH). Flocks of Snow Buntings were still in Douglas County, Wash., Apr. 6 (RF).

ADDENDUM — The remains of a Barn Owl were found at Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, Mont., Feb. 16 for the first certain record w. of the Continental Divide in Montana (FT).

OBSERVERS CITED — James Acton, Ralph Anderson, Deborah Anson, Myra Barnes, Chuck Beveridge, Blue Mt. Audubon Society (B.M.A.S.), Keith & Sally Boggs, Jim Brown, Phyllis & Roger Burwell, David Bush, Steve R. Cannings, Canyon Birders (C.B.), Jim Carlson, Eddie Chew, Cilla & Kent Coe, Mark Cblie, Mary Collins (MCo), Frank Conley, Steve Cook (SCK), Craig Corder (CCo), Sharon Cotterell (SCo), Thomas Crabtree, Stuart Croghan, Gary Davidson, C.V. Davis, Mike Denny, Wayne Doane, Helen Doornink, Brad Ehlers, Jim Erkman (JEr), Joe Evanich, Ruth Flanagan (RFI), Ron Friesz, Sid Frissell, Jeff Gilligan, James Grant (JGr), Steve Gordon, John Haas, Scott Hall (SHa), Al Harmata, Larry Halverson, R.A. & E.T. Hays, Steve Herman, Jerry Hickman (JHi), Rick Howie, Terry Hurst, Jim Irwin, Joe Jeppson, Brian Kautesk, Ronald Klein, Rolf Koford (RKO), Merlene Koliner, Louise LaVoie (LLaV), Steve Layman, Susan Lindstedt (SLi), Don Lee, C.D. Littlefield, Cary Lund, Pat McAllister (PMcA), Joann & Mike Mahoney, Alice Montag, Doug Moser, Shirley Muse, Harry Nehls, Ron Neu, Jack Nisbet, Ginny Oesterla, John Olmstead, Peggy Pedigo, Marian Porter, Colleen Powell, James Rees, Sylvia Reichel, Clara & Ralph Ritcey, Hadley Roberts, Reed Sanderson, Rusty Scaff (RSc), Millie Schmidt, Owen Schmidt, Brian Scott, Dan Severson (DSc), W.H. Shillington, Richard R. Sjoström, Don & P.D. Skaar, Arthur & Nancy Stabler, Kit Struthers, Shirley G. Sturts, Paul Sullivan, Steve Summers, Dan Taylor, Steven Thompson, Fred Tilley, C.H. Trost, Faye VanHise, Larry Wadkins, Griff Walker, John Weber, Ron Weeks, Winton Weydemeyer, Bart Whelton, Mildred White, Susan Wierenga, Carl Wolf, R.E. Woodley, Yakima Audubon Society (Y.A.S.), Steve Zender. James Rees reported for Columbia N.W.R., Larry Napier for Kootenai N.W.R., and Jack Hagan for Turnbull N.W.R. Carroll D. Littlefield's report for Malheur N.W.R. included observations by Larry Ditto and Dave Paullin in addition to those cited.—**THOMAS H. ROGERS, E. 10820 Maxwell, Spokane, WA 99206.**

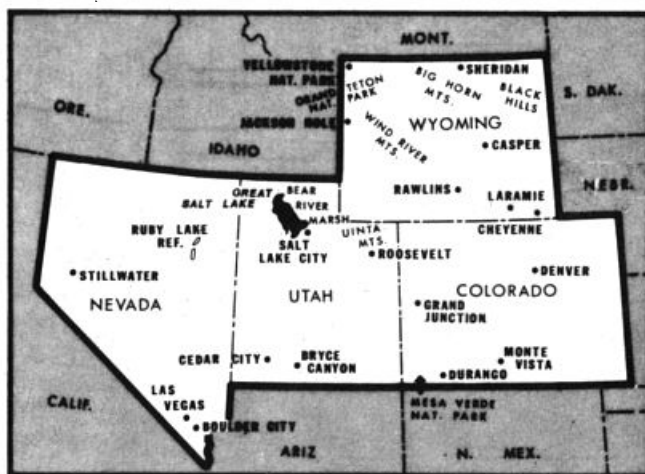
MOUNTAIN WEST /Hugh E. Kingery

This spring's weather impacted directly on the migration. Breaking the long siege of above-average temperatures, spring brought cooler weather which delayed the leafing and blossoming of plants and the arrival of birds. Typifying the Region, Botany Professor Shaw of Utah State University observed that "the flowering phenology of herbaceous plants was retarded at least ten days," hampering his plant taxonomy class accordingly (KLD). Bird arrivals reflected the delayed leafing out: e.g. at Delta, Colorado, one-third arrived on time, two-thirds arrived late by one-two weeks (MJ).

Spring Counts on May 15-16 came at the migratory peak, probably while some early birds stayed late and others arrived close to normal. Five Colorado and one Wyoming Spring Counts all had 20-30 more species than average, and the Colorado ones had substantially more individuals.

ABBREVIATIONS — L/L/B/L: Longmont/Lyons/Berthoud/Loveland area, Colorado; †: written description on file with state records committee; #: no written description.

LOONS TO IBISES — Red-necked Grebes stopped at Colorado



Spgs., Apr. 10 (†RB) and Newcastle, Wyo., May 21 (†RCR). Migrating Horned Grebes increased: 136, cf. 68 last year at L/L/B/L, 60-100 Apr. 6-10 at Colorado Spgs., and Zion's first Apr. 10 (†JG). Eared

Grebes peaked at 40,000 at Bear River N W R and 2905 at Antelope I., Great Salt L., May 1 (U.F.O.). Widespread flocks of W. Grebes included light-phase birds reported from Colorado Spgs., Ft. Collins, Denver, Las Vegas, Minersville, Utah, and Evanston, Wyo. (RB, RCR, KH, VM, CK, BH). White Pelicans increased at Riverside Res., near Ft. Morgan, Colo.: on May 7 an aerial count tallied 680 nests, a record (RAR). Another aerial foray discovered 100 at Logan Mar. 12, an early date. Cattle Egrets continue their increase; Wyoming had its third report, with two on May 28 at Sheridan (E & RSc, JD). They have not yet nested in Wyoming. A Great Egret added Dubois to its Wyoming locales, with one May 1 for the state's sixth record, all in the last 3 years (†PA). Observers reported at least twice as many White-faced Ibis this year (3000+) as last (1100±), and 3 times as many as in 1980 (800±). Bear R. had 1000 by May 31. A flock of 245 Apr. 25 at Antero Res., near Fairplay, Colo., was the year's largest migratory flock (RB). Spring Counts had 245 on 4 counts—last year, Spring Counts reported one.

WATERFOWL — Utah's waterfowl migration peaked on Mar. 15, 2 weeks later than last year, with the peak of 259,958 only 77% of last year. April numbers ran 35-40% over 1981 (U.D.W.R.). Alamosa and Monte Vista N.W.R.s, Colo., reported greater numbers, with 30,000 ducks and 2500 geese at the peak, and with nesting densities up 14% according to May transects (JK). Trumpeter Swans may be pioneering new nesting areas near Ruby Lakes N.W.R., Nev., where one regular site has dried up. Bouffard mentions nesting reports from the Marys R., n. of the refuge and summer sightings to the s.w. The Trumpeter Swan Society reported an apparently nesting pair near Upton, Wyo., and ten swans near Sundance, Wyo., last year; probably they spread from the South Dakota population. Bear R. produced 1076 Canada goslings (RV). Observers reported Ross' Geese at 5 locations: four at Minersville, Utah Mar. 17 (†BH), three at Alamo, Nev., Mar. 21 (J & EM#), one at Durango, Colo., Apr. 9-25 (EF, RS#), one at Colorado Spgs., Apr. 10-18 (†RB, RW), and one at Reno Apr. 15 (IH#). A White-fronted Goose stayed with Canadas Mar. 3-10 at Nephii, Utah (DS). Logan, Utah observers found a Eur. Wigeon Mar. 12-13 and Apr. 10-13, apparently wild; they speculated that it might have been the bird which wintered at St. George (†AG, MT, m.ob.). Observers reported Greater Scaups from Denver, Broomfield, and Loveland, Colo., and Logan and Bear R., Utah. The White-winged Scoter Apr. 4 provided Sheridan's first spring record (LN, PW, m.ob.).

HAWKS, EAGLES — U.F.O. conducted a spring hawk watch at 3 locations; at Rockport they tallied the most: 248 raptors in 23.2 hours, 10.6/hour, in 6 days Mar. 21-Apr. 17. At Alamo, Nev., Mar. 21, a Mississippi Kite performed graceful corkscrew aerobatics for 5 min, for Nevada's second record (†VM, †EM). Observers found nesting Cooper's Hawks at Zion, Sheridan, Colorado Spgs., and Denver. We saw more Broad-winged Hawks than ever—14 in Colorado where they occur regularly, 6-7 in Wyoming in May—Sheridan, Casper (†JH), Lander (†SF), Laramie (3-4 birds—†DI, †KD, †DM), and one reported from Dinosaur, Utah (†JB, †MW). An 80-mi stretch of highway in s.w. Colorado produced over 100 migrating Swainson's Hawks Apr. 27 (AB, BL). At Sheridan one followed a tractor as close as 5 ft to catch mice (PW), and 11 flocked above a tractor in n.e. Utah (CK). Bald Eagle nesting this year started inauspiciously with one of two reported sites in Colorado unoccupied, all 4 pairs failing in Grand Teton N.P., Wyo., a poor prognosis for Yellowstone N.P., but with 7 of 10 pairs starting incubation in n.w. Wyoming outside the national parks (BO).

CRANES, COOTS — Monte Vista reports the lowest number of Whooping Cranes, 13, since 1979. One remained through May 31, possibly to summer (JK). Several appeared in w. Wyoming, as far n. as Jackson. Sandhills peaked at 17,000 in the San Luis Valley Mar. 22 (JK). They had produced young at Ruby L. by May 20 (SB). A pair with chick at Sheridan gave e. Wyoming its first nesting record (HD). At Ridgway, Colo., "six coots appeared and soon began to dominate [my beaver pond], continually harassing all the ducks, soras, snipes, ibis, etc. When the first Mallard ducklings appeared (early, on May 13), the coots began to torment them relentlessly, scattering the brood all over the pond and then attacking the ducklings they found unprotected. I saw one duckling being pecked to death, and a second one escaped when I threw a rock at the coot, but I doubt if it survived. Within a week, the 9 ducklings had been reduced to 2 . . ." (JRG).

SHOREBIRDS — Zion reported 19 species of shorebirds from its new sewage ponds and Spring Counts all had more species and more individuals than usual, suggesting a delayed migration. The most striking Spring Count reports involved Wilson's Phalaropes, with an average of 618 (last 2 years they averaged 77); L/L/B/L had 23 species of shorebirds and 2456 individuals, the high count. A Piping Plover stopped at Fontanelle, Wyo., May 2 (†JR). A Mountain Plover was reported from Hayden, Colo., Apr. 11 (CA). Two flocks totaling 24 Am. Golden Plovers flew over observers at Sheridan May 16, for the first record for n. Wyoming (†HD). Flocks of Black-bellied Plovers included 200 at Kaysville, Utah Apr. 8 (E & RS), 103 at Antelope I., May 1, (U.F.O.), and 100 at Ordway, Colo., in late May (VT). More Whimbrels visited the Region, with 27 at 6 locations in e. Colorado, one at Logan and 3 in Wyoming, plus 86 probables on the Sheridan Spring Count. The 6 reports of Red Knots almost equalled the total number of reports for the past 10 springs. Most remarkably, U.F.O. found 349 at Antelope I., May 1; they occurred in 6 flocks on 0.75 mi of shoreline (†ML, †BH). Subsequent field work will reveal whether this was a fluke or a newly-discovered migratory route. Other Red Knots were seven at Logan May 15 (†MT), two at Las Vegas Apr. 12 (VM), two at Loveland May 15 (†AM, CC, IA), and one at Pueblo in late May (*vide* RB). Single Dunlins appeared at Las Vegas Apr. 23-24 (VM, J & MC) and Loveland May 15 (†AM, CC, IA), while the Great Salt L. sported 50-75 on Apr. 10 (MW, DS#). Logan had a Short-billed Dowitcher Apr. 18, identified by plumage and voice, a Stilt Sandpiper May 26 (†MT *et al.*) and four Semipalmated Sandpipers May 16-17. Las Vegas reported five Semipalmateds Apr. 12-15 (VM, J & MC). In May Bear R. had several thousand Marbled Godwits (RV). Hudsonian Godwits stopped at Ordway, Colo., May 1 (†RB, †RW) and at Randlett, Utah May 15 (†MW, U.F.O.), the third Utah record (from the same place as the second one last spring). By May 31 at Bear R., 10,000 Am. Avocets and 5000 Black-necked Stilts had arrived to nest (RV). Sizable flocks of N. Phalaropes included 600 May 21 at Newcastle, Wyo. (RCR), 97 at Laramie May 24 (DM), thousands May 22 at Rock Spgs., Wyo (FL), 300-400 at Logan May 9 (KA), and several hundred at Ft Morgan in early May (GMi).

GULLS TO DOVES — Glaucous Gulls occurred at Farmington, Utah, Mar. 13 (†SH), Casper, Wyo., May 1, (OKS), and Sterling, Colo.—two on Mar. 18 (KK). A gull at Denver Apr. 11 generated an unresolved controversy over its identity: Glaucous or Iceland (WF, DSc, †RB). Herring Gulls were at Ordway and Sheridan in May (VT, MC). A rare Laughing Gull was at Denver May 16 (†FJ). Franklin's Gulls arrived very early in Wyoming—Mar. 24 at Sheridan and Mar. 29 at Jackson, Utah, w. Colorado, and w. Wyoming had more Bonaparte's Gulls. Largest counts were 25-30 at Great Salt L., Apr. 7 and 23, 28 at Fish Springs N.W.R., May 8, and 30 at Overton, Nev., Apr. 24 (E & RS, MBr, VM, J & MC), plus 26 reports of less than a dozen. U.F.O. found 3-5 Com. Terns at Randlett May 15 (†MW, DS), Overton, Nev. had 45 on Apr. 24, and 3 observers reported them in Colorado in May. Although reports of migrating Caspian Terns increased in Utah, the 27 nesting pairs at Bear R. represented only 60% of previous years' populations (RV).

A Ground Dove reportedly strayed to Crook, Colo., Dec. 17 (GB), for a possible first documented state record. Las Vegas had its first Ground Dove since 1976, on May 29 (VM, J & MC). Although Jackson had "a remarkable bunch" of over 100 Mourning Doves May 5, on Sheridan's roadside surveys they have dropped in half over the past 6-8 years (22 *cf.* 50—HD *et al.*). Las Vegas recorded the first Nevada Inca Dove nest; found Mar. 9, it blew down after a severe windstorm; the doves disappeared soon after Apr. 11 (VM, J & MC).

OWLS TO WOODPECKERS — A noteworthy five Barn Owls were seen in Baca County, Colo., Apr. 27 (AB, BL). U.D.W.R. banded 74 Barn Owls in c. Utah, half of last year's effort. "Winter starvation losses were heavy. Over 100 dead Barn Owls were picked up along the Wasatch Front." (DS). The discovery of 5 Flammulated Owls in the mountains e. of Salt Lake City suggests that the population band across c. Colorado may extend into Utah (BB). A Boreal Owl was found dead at Jackson Apr. 7 (BR, ph.). Colorado Spgs. had its second Whip-poor-will in as many years with one May 13 (†RW). A ♂ Rufous Hummingbird at Logan May 4-6 dominated a feeder, the only previous spring record was in 1962 (KLD). Red-headed Woodpeckers strayed into the mountains at Eldora, Colo. (DBr) and to Myton, Utah, May 14 (U.F.O.#), in the section of n.e. Utah where it probably, but rarely, breeds.

FLYCATCHERS TO DIPPER — Kingbirds appeared on early dates: an Eastern at Sheridan Mar. 28 (†MR) and Westerns at Logan Apr. 6 (MT), Eureka, Nev., Apr. 7 (JE), Las Vegas Apr. 10 (normal), and Dubois, Wyo., Apr. 15 (PA). Kingbirds arrived in much of Nevada, Utah, and Colorado in late April, but Sheridan saw no more Easterns until May 14. The **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** at Laramie May 30 had an abbreviated (for that species) tail, only as long as the body, not longer (†DM, †DI, †KD, ph.). It becomes Wyoming's second report, the first authenticated by description or photograph. Another report came from Denver May 16 (JBr#). Colorado observers saw three Vermilion Flycatchers: one Apr. 9 at Comanche Nat'l Grassland, Baca Co. (DB, DF#), one Apr. 25 at Hasty (†MJS), and one May 2-3 at Alamosa (†JK). The two s.e. Colorado observations tie in with last year's discovery of a nesting pair (which did not return this year) in n.e. Colorado. Solid evidence of the delayed phenology of 1982 comes through a study of magpie nests at Logan, which quantified an average 10-15 days' delay in breeding (KLD). "Mean date of the first egg in 24 nests was Apr. 6. In 1981 the last date of first egg in 12 nests was Apr. 6. Those that had not commenced laying before Apr. 1 deferred their laying until after Apr. 10. The first 10 days of April were characterized by rain and snow." (KLD). Piñon Jays made forays onto the Colorado plains for much of the spring. Reports came from Colorado Spgs. to Loveland, with L/L/B/L reporting 728 for the season, none last year (SC). A Black-capped Chickadee which wintered at Jarbidge, Nev., stayed until about Mar. 1; the species rarely occurs in Nevada (EB). Boulder had high counts of Mountain Chickadees, and they occurred throughout the spring on the plains. One pair even nested in a Colorado Spgs. park (RB).

— S.A. —

Dogged field work at Lyons, Colo., has revealed a breeding population of Bushtits (to match frequent winter observations for 30 years) 90 mi n. of its previously-known northernmost Front Range nesting site. The observers found 30 birds at 9 locations and nests in four locations: the first nest Feb. 27, apparently unsuccessful, one May 22 with adults feeding young, and 2 more in June. They can predict nest sites by an ecological association: north-facing foothill slopes between 5600 ft and 6200 ft, on which ponderosa pine, Rocky Mountain juniper, and mountain mahogany grow (MF, DA, NL).

After very high numbers in Colorado and s. Wyoming in the winter and early spring, Red-breasted Nuthatches began to decline. Despite the drop, a pair nested on the plains at Colorado Spgs. (RB). Dippers nested on the plains near Pueblo, at an elevation of 5000 ft (VT). Intensive study of Dippers on the 3 forks of the St. Vrain R., from Lyons into Rocky Mountain N.P. (about 100 mi of stream) located 39 nests, and an estimated 125 birds. A short section of Boulder Cr., had about one-fourth as many nests as did a comparable section of the St. Vrain (MF, NL, DA).

THRASHERS TO VIREOS — Although less evident in their northeasterly limits at Fountain, Colo., and Pueblo, Curve-billed Thrashers seemed normal in s.e. Colorado. Varied Thrushes strayed to Sheridan Mar. 16 (†WG) and Loveland May 15 (†AM, †CC *et al.*), and Wood Thrushes to Beulah, Colo., Apr. 2-3 (†WS) and Casper May 24 (JH#). Few thrushes were counted at all until May 31 at Fountain when 15 Swainson's joined 25 Veeries in an unprecedented wave (RW). Two ♂ E. Bluebirds stopped in Colorado Spgs., Mar. 17 (RB). Spring Counts had more Ruby-crowned Kinglets than usual, an average of 11 *cf.* 4; for the spring, L/L/B/L reported 33 this year and only four last year. Bohemian Waxwings continued to roam the Region through April, with flocks of 10-200 reported. They ranged S to Durango until Apr. 21, Carson City, Nev., until Apr. 27, Cedar City, Utah until May 1, Boulder to May 7, and Vernon, Utah until May 8. Illogically as usual, reports from the s. states outlasted those from Wyoming (last date Apr. 22 at Cody).

The first Bell's Vireo seen at Zion since 1979 sang at a former nesting site (JG) and another was seen nearby at Santa Clara, Utah May 31 (MW). Warbling Vireos arrived late—at Logan a week late but coinciding with the emergence of foliage on cottonwood trees (KLD).

WARBLERS — Colorado Spring Counts produced more warblers of more species than ever; the 333 individuals per count doubled the average of the last 2 years, with a peak of 712 of 14 species in Colorado

Spgs. During the spring Boulder had an impressive 29 species of warblers (MM, PO); regionally we saw only 4 additional species.

Among the common species, the Orange-crowned recovered from last year's dearth. Yellows increased on one of Sheridan's riparian surveys, but ran average on another. Observers in the Colorado foothills noted a distinct migratory movement of Yellow-rumped the last week in May (WWB, HS-W); perhaps the larger numbers on Spring Counts indicated a delayed movement into the breeding grounds.

Observers reported the following rarities, all in May unless otherwise indicated and none documented except as noted: 3-4 Black-and-whites in Dyer, Nev., and one in Las Vegas (PL, JL, JLu, VM), one at Casper (†JH), and 11 in Colorado; three Worm-eatings, all at Boulder (MM, PO, PC); three Golden-wingeds at Boulder (MM, PO, PC) and one at Lakewood, Colo. (J & JC); two Blue-winged at Boulder (CH, KH); 23 Tennessees in Colorado, two at Lander, Wyo. (SF), two at Casper (†JH, LR), and one at Dinosaur, Utah (†ML *et al.*); eight Nashvilles in Colorado, three in Wyoming (†LR, SF, JH), and one at Ruby L. (†SB); five Virginia's in Wyoming including a first latilong at Seedskadee N.W.R. (†FL); seven N. Parulas in Colorado including two April birds; five Colorado Magnolias, two of them in Boulder (m.ob.), six Wyoming Magnolias (†JH, MB, AK, DI), and one at Dyer (PL); five Black-throated Blues in Colorado and one at Casper (OKS, LR); a Blackburnian at Boulder (MM *et al.*); three Chestnut-sideds in Colorado and one at Casper (†VH); a Bay-breasted at Boulder May 29 (SL, BK); nine Blackpolls in Colorado and 2-3 in Wyoming (†JH *et al.*); a Pine at Boulder Mar. 7 (CCa, BKe); three Palms in Colorado; an Ovenbird at Dyer (PL, GM *et al.*); a possible Mourning at Boulder (SL, MM, PO *et al.*); Hoodeds at Boulder (MM, PO) and Aurora (banded—MOS) and two at Dyer (†PL, †GM); a Canada at Boulder (SL); and two Painted Redstarts in Colorado (RAR, †PB).

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS — The Hooded Oriole feeding from a hummingbird feeder at Ruby L., provided the Region's most northerly record (†SB, m.ob., ph.). Six Scott's Orioles were found in 3 different places near Grand Junction in May (C.F.O., BT *et al.*). An ad. male visited Colorado Spgs., May 12-17 (DWi, ph.). Established in the s. part of the Region, Great-tailed Grackles have moved N to Ruby L. (three males during May in 3 different places—SB†) and Fountain, Colo. (a pair arrived May 13—†RW, †RB). Common Grackles occurred at Evanston, Fontanelle, and Jackson, Wyo. (CK, Br *et al.*). In late May W. Tanagers arrived in good numbers—fewer on most Spring Counts but high in Colorado Spgs. (52). At Jackson at the end of May, "all at once a prolonged low pressure cell brought a bunch of W. Tanagers down to the ground, the first about May 21. By May 26 there were thousands. (We) had 30 at one time on our suet feeder and everywhere the same." (BR). Sheridan had large numbers also, with many telephone calls to local birders for identification. The only Scarlet Tanager occurred at Wheat Ridge, Colo., May 21 (DN). Observers reported Hepatic Tanagers at Las Vegas May 7 (VM) and Bonny Res., Colo. May 15 (†† D & JW). Unusual Summer Tanagers stopped at Aurora May 15 (banded—MOS) and Ft. Morgan, Colo., May 17 (JCR) and Casper May 28 (LP#).



Scott's Oriole, Colorado Springs, Colo., May 15, 1982. Photo/ Alice Dennis.

FINCHES — Although one Lazuli Bunting arrived early on Apr. 23 at Logan (KLD), its migration lagged, with the peak at Ogden, Utah on May 15. In his Ogden yard, Killpack banded 200 in May (1981: 140) with at least as many not banded. The females arrived in Ogden 20 days after the males, mostly in the last week of May. Observers reported possible Purple Finches at Provo, Utah May 5 (†MW, DS) and Las Vegas (†VM). A Com. Redpoll visited Logan Mar. 17-19 (AS, ph.). Loveland Mar. 4, and stayed into May at Jackson and Sheridan. Spring found flocks of Pine Siskins abundant throughout the Region; Spring Counts averaged 392 *cf.* 194 last year. Largest flock was 800 flushed by a Prairie Falcon at Ridgway, Colo., May 12 (JRG). In May Colorado's large numbers of Red Crossbills started to drop in the ponderosa pine forests as they completed nesting; as young began to fly (including one at Boulder begging for food from a White-breasted Nuthatch—AC, SW) flocks began to form and roam, *e.g.* 50-80 seen in piñon/juniper at Radium, Colo. (DJ). Wyoming had 5 reports (peak 25 at Cody Mar. 29) and Utah one (two Apr. 8 at Provo). With the Provo Red Crossbills was one ♂ White-winged, feeding on spruce cones and seeds (MW). Cody reported a White-winged Mar. 24 (KB) and Boulder County had 2 observations (DH, MF).

SPARROWS — Baird's Sparrows staged a surprising incursion; careful inspection of sparrows in sparsely vegetated habitats might turn them up regularly. Reports included one May 1 at Antelope I., feeding with Vespers (†ML, †BH), one May 3 in the foothills near Golden, Colo. (†PH), one May 15 at Longmont (DB, †DF), five at Loveland May 15 feeding with Chipping Sparrows (†AM, CC), two at Sheridan May 22 (†JD), and one at Dubois May 30 (MB#). A Black-throated Sparrow was reported from Boulder Apr. 18 (PO). A Lincoln's Sparrow visited a Logan feeder on Apr. 6, obviously early: "I hope this bird flew S, for 3 in. of snow blanketed the ground the next morning." (KLD). Jackson puzzled over a mystery bird which most closely resembles a McKay's Bunting, visiting at a feeder with Cassin's Finches May 24 (†BR, P & WK ph. *et al.*).

CORRIGENDA — Re: Fall 1981 account, AB 36:202 (Spotted Sandpiper)—considering the way local heronries are succumbing to

sand and gravel mines, perhaps Grand Junction *should* change its name to Gravel Junction. On the same page, the hand holding the Ancient Murrelet belongs to Bert Raynes; Bill Bigler took the photograph.

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SOUTHWEST REGION ARIZONA

/Janet Witzeman

Spring is the name we give to that time of year when four noteworthy phenomena occur simultaneously: late staying winter visitors, "early" (pre-June) breeders, regular transients more common in fall



than spring and, of course, the rare and accidental migrants that provide the excitement of the season. In the report that follows there are all of the above, but because of Arizona's geographical location and climate, a large percentage of the records fall into the first two categories—the winter visitors, already here, are reluctant to leave, and many of the lowland breeders prefer to nest before onset of the heat of summer.

This spring there were more than usual late staying higher elevation species in the lowlands of southeastern Arizona. The southeast did not receive the rains that fell in the central part of the state during the period, so the mountains were quite dry there.

For excitement there was an Arctic Tern in Tucson, a Black-legged Kittiwake in Phoenix, Broad-winged Hawks in Prescott and the Lower Colorado River, and a Yellow-throated Warbler in Patagonia; plus surprises of a local nature in each of the state's diverse regions.

GREBES THROUGH HERONS — Two Horned Grebes, sparse migrants in spring, were on L. Havasu Apr. 4 (RH, CH). Dark-phase W. Grebes on L. Havasu decreased steadily during March, but nine remained to the late date of May 18. The light-phase birds, remaining to breed, increased to a total of 433 there during the period (MK *et al.*). One W. Grebe was seen May 8 at Tuzigoot N.M., in n. Arizona where the species is uncommon (RF). An Olivaceous Cormorant was at Nogales Apr. 27; and one observed all period at Patagonia L. was not unexpected (DDe, SG, RS *et al.*).

A Little Blue Heron at Canoa May 15 (GP) represented about the 15th record for the state, most of which have occurred in spring. More unusual was a Louisiana Heron at Nogales Apr. 13 (†B. Harrington-Tweit, †G. Walter). Of the 15 or so previous records, only three have

been in spring Twenty Black-crowned Night Herons May 5 were at St. Johns Res., n.e. Arizona where the species is seldom recorded (BHe). A group of 30 Cattle Egrets was seen near Yuma Apr. 16 (RF); one near Sedona May 7 (T. Hager, *vide* AG) was one of only a few recorded for n. Arizona.

WATERFOWL — One Whistling Swan remaining from the winter's invasion was at a pond near Portal Mar. 6 (PN). On Mar. 20 a third White-fronted Goose joined the two that wintered in Tucson (GP *et al.*). More Black-bellied Whistling Ducks moved into the Tucson area during the period—18 were counted at three locations (BK, EB, GG); two were farther s.e. at Benson the latter half of April (SG) and two were at Picacho Res., Apr. 22 (TGa). A pair of Mallards found on a nest with 12 eggs, and later young, at Cibola N.W.R. represented the first recent record of the species' breeding on the Lower Colorado R. (hereafter, L.C.R.) (*vide* MK). Two Eur. Wigeons were reported—one at Tucson during March (LJ, E. Stewart), and one on Black Mesa Mar. 5 (CL) was the second for n.e. Arizona. One of four Wood Ducks near Nogales remained until at least May 23 (SE *et al.*); nine were near Flagstaff Mar. 6 (JC, L. Metelman); one was still at Prescott May 15 (CT); and two May 12 in the Bill Williams Delta (hereafter, B.W. Delta) were suspected of attempting to breed (RH, MK).

Six Greater Scaup were counted on n. L. Havasu Mar. 9 and two on the B.W. Delta Mar. 20 (MK). An imm. Barrow's Goldeneye was at Parker Mar. 2 (JJ, CH) and three below Parker Dam remained until at least Mar. 19 (RH, CH, JJ). A ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye at Phoenix provided a first local record and one of three away from the L.C.R. during the winter. Two ♀ Com. Goldeneyes were below Parker Dam on the late date of May 17 (CR, MK). The ♂ Surf Scoter below Parker Dam remained until Mar. 19 (MK).

Four ad. and four young Com. Mergansers were found on Burro Cr., 40 mi e. of the L.C.R., near Alamo Dam May 20 (HW, *vide* CH). Previously the species was known to breed only in e. Arizona—below the Mogollon Rim and in the White Mts.

RAPTORS — A White-tailed Kite in s.e. Arizona along the New Mexico border Apr. 5 added to the growing number of records of this species in the state in recent years. Seven of the ten previous records have been from the s.e. part of the state also. A Goshawk in the foothills of the Tucson Mts., Mar. 28-31 was at an unusual lowland locality (SL, *vide* GM). Two individual Broad-winged Hawks were from areas of the state where the species has not been recorded previously: at Prescott Apr. 10-14 (RF, H & AG *et al.*) and at Cibola N.W.R., Apr. 21 (†HW, CH). Most of the dozen or so records have come from the southeast. A pair of Zone-tailed Hawks was found at a nest in a new area—in remote Pine Canyon in the Atascosa Mts., w. of Nogales May 22 (BH, RBa). The desert-nesting Bald Eagles enjoyed another successful year, thanks in part to the biologists who transferred two of the young from abandoned to active nests. Thirteen young fledged from seven nests along the Salt and Verde Rivers (*vide* RW).

RAILS, SHOREBIRDS — Thirteen Clapper Rails counted May 19-23 at a new (but previously unchecked) area—Arlington, w. of Phoenix—represented the highest number ever found away from the L.C.R. (R. Todd *et al.*).

A Ruddy Turnstone was at Willcox May 2-8 (SG, B. Crider, S. Heath). All but three of the previous dozen or so records have occurred in fall. A Whimbrel at Nogales Apr. 27 (PN) represented the third spring record from that area and the only one reported during the period. Spring records of Solitary Sandpiper and Dunlin are scarce on the L.C.R., so one of each at Cibola N.W.R., Apr. 22 was of interest (MD, MK); another Dunlin was at Mammoth May 12 (J. Bates). Marbled Godwit (uncommon in spring) was recorded in two areas—one at Picacho Res., Apr. 21 (R. Henry) and three s. of Phoenix Apr. 23 (RW). Unusual were the large flocks of Willets in the southeast—50 were counted s.e. of Portal Apr. 30, May 1 (W & SS, B & MS), 25 were near McNeal Apr. 26 (AM) and 26 were at St. David May 1 (AM, DDa).

Usually uncommon in spring, N. Phalarope was recorded in four areas of the state: seven at L. Havasu May 17 provided only the second spring record for the L.C.R. (RH, HW), two treated for injuries (K. Ingram) from rocks having been thrown into a flock e. of Phoenix May 20, two at Willcox May 29 (JS) and in the northeast: individuals at Ganado I. and Many Farms L., June 3 (KK, JW, SD, HL).

GULLS, TERNS — A second-winter Herring Gull, a sparse transient, was seen with five Ring-billed Gulls w. of Holbrook May 5 (JC, SE, TM). Individual California Gulls, uncommon migrants away from the L.C.R., were at Tucson Apr. 2 (JS), at Benson Apr. 11 (SG), and a second-year bird at Tucson May 26 (KK, GM). Six ad. Franklin's Gulls on L. Havasu Apr. 26 doubled the previous spring records for the L.C.R. More than usual reports of ad. Franklin's Gulls came from other parts of the state as well: one s. of Phoenix Mar. 7 (RF), one at Benson Apr. 6 (SG), one at Glen Canyon Dam Apr. 2 (JD), two s.e. of Flagstaff Apr. 27 (JC, TM) and two at Prescott May 15 (CT). The only reports of Bonaparte's Gull came from the L.C.R.

A temporary pond, created by winter rains on the Salt R., e. of Phoenix, attracted a Black-legged Kittiwake Mar. 17-18 (MA, TGa). This was three weeks later than previous "spring" records, and only the second of the dozen state records away from the L.C.R. or Painted Rock Dam.

An Arctic Tern, found at Tucson May 18 (†KK *et al.*), was only the third or fourth for the state and the first in spring. Small numbers go through the Salton Sea in late May-early June.

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Band-tailed Pigeon was still at a low elevation in Nogales on the late date of May 31 (BH). Two individual Ground Doves wandered to Portal (where they are rarely recorded) May 13 & 16 (RM, B & MS). A pair of Long-eared Owls nested again for the third consecutive year near Sasabe, w. of Nogales (RBo)—another locality for this spring nesting bird. A Saw-whet Owl was found calling along the Hitchcock Trail above Bear Cr., Santa Catalina Mts., Mar. 8 (ph. A.B. van den Berg). The species is sparse and erratic in the state, especially in the thoroughly-studied Santa Catalinas, where there has been only one previous record: a pair was found in the same area in October, 1958.

An ad. ♂ Costa's Hummingbird at feeders in Portal during six days Mar. 27-Apr. 19 (W & SS, RM) represented only the second record and first in spring for the Chiricahua Mts. An Anna's Hummingbird, also uncommon in the Chiricahuas, was at a Portal feeder Mar. 31 (SS). Individual Rufous Hummingbirds were recorded in three areas of s.e. Arizona where it is uncommon in spring: Madera Canyon Mar. 1 (R. Perzley), Ramsey Canyon Mar. 8 (T & DC) and Portal Mar. 22 + (SS). Farther n. where it is even more uncommon in spring, a male was seen at Prescott Mar. 15 (TGO). Individual Calliope Hummingbirds, sparse spring migrants, were at feeders in Ramsey Canyon Mar. 23-Apr. 28 (T & DC) and at Portal Apr. 4 (W & SS).

Coppery-tailed Trogons (three pairs and one male!) were discovered in a new area—in Pine Canyon, Atascosa Mts., May 21, 22 (BH, RBa).

The winter's invasion of Lewis' Woodpeckers into middle elevations around Prescott continued into early May (CT); reports were also received from Sedona (AG), Payson (SD), and a few at lower elevation sites in c. and s. Arizona (m.ob.). The winter's invasion of Williamson's Sapsuckers in Prescott also continued into spring with high numbers still present May 12 (CT).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CORVIDS — This spring's Scissor-tailed Flycatcher report came from the Nogales sewage ponds—one was there Apr. 25 (BH). A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher near Nogales May 31 represented one of only a handful of lowland records in the Santa Cruz R. drainage (BH). There was one E. Phoebe reported—at Patagonia Mar. 20 (TGO, RBr, M. Eubanks). Individual late W. Wood Pewees were at Quitobaquito Springs May 29 and at Puerto Peñasco, Son., Mex., May 31 (SB, RW).

Arizona's only Cave Swallow returned to Tucson for the fourth consecutive summer Apr. 12 (DS).

Six Clark's Nutcrackers s. of Rustler Park in the Chiricahua Mts (where the species has not been known to breed) May 22 was surprising, especially since there were no sightings there during the winter (C. McMoran).

CREEPERS THROUGH VIREOS—Individual Brown Creepers were still at three lowland spots on the L.C.R. the third week in March (JJ, CR, RH, MK). Individual Winter Wrens were found at Patagonia (BK), Huachuca Canyon (SG), Sheelite Canyon (JS) and B.W. Delta (JJ, CH) between mid-March and early April. A Bewick's Wren was carrying nesting material at Cibola N.W.R., May 1 (HW). The species has been found nesting only once on the L.C.R., s. of Topock.

A Rufous-backed Robin (with a large flock of Am. Robins) in

Arivaipa Canyon Mar 7 (SG) was only the fourth to be recorded during the past five winters. Individual Townsend's Solitaires lingered into March at three areas on the L.C.R. (MK, RH); two to three were in Arivaipa Canyon at least to Apr. 18 (SG) and one was at Burro Cr. as late as May 21 (HW).

One pair of **Black-capped Gnatcatchers** had returned to Chino Canyon, Santa Rita Mts., by Mar. 5 (WD *et al.*), and *three pairs* were observed there Mar. 20 (BH). In addition, a male was found on May 30 at the spot on Sonoita Cr. where the first individuals of this species in the U.S. were discovered in 1971 (BH)!

Two of the Golden-crowned Kinglets in the B.W. Delta lingered until Apr. 5 (RH). Noteworthy was a N. Shrike in the White Mts. on the very late date of May 14 (GM, R. Stringer).

Many Bell's Vireos singing in the honey mesquite habitat along Burro Cr., May 20 were of interest, since the species is uncommon just 40 mi w. on the L.C.R. (HW). During May up to six were singing at Cibola N.W.R., and two were at B.W. Delta May 28 (RH).

WARBLERS — A **Yellow-throated Warbler** found at Patagonia Mar. 15 remained until at least Mar. 28 (J.R. Riddell, GM *et al.*, ph. B. Drew). The date was earlier by a month than the previous seven state records, and raises the question of whether it might have wintered nearby. An ad. ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler along Sycamore Cr., n.e. of Phoenix Apr. 24 (TGo) furnished about the tenth state record. A Palm Warbler was seen near Eager, n.e. Arizona May 15 (J. Woolfenden). Only three of the state's 20 or so previous records have been in spring.

Again (as was the case during the previous spring and fall) multiple sightings of Worm-eating Warbler added another three individuals to the 17 or so previous records: in Cave Cr. Canyon Apr. 14, 15 (RM *et al.*), at Spring Cr., Flagstaff Apr. 15 (SE, JC, BC) and at Saguaro N.M., Tucson May 14 (†P. Willburn *et al.*). Hooded Warbler has also become more regular. One was near Portal May 12 (RM). An Ovenbird was at Portal May 26 (RS).

Numbers of usually more common regular "eastern" migrants were lower than usual. No Am. Redstarts were reported, only one each of Black-and-white and Tennessee warblers and five N. Waterthrushes, including one in the n.e. at Zion Dam, Little Colorado R., May 16 (GM, BHe). Three individual N. Parulas were recorded at Patagonia, B.W. Delta and e. of Phoenix.

The wintering Chestnut-sided Warbler at Tucson remained to Mar. 21 (GG). An ad. ♂ Olive Warbler at Walnut Canyon in mid-April was in a new location and at the n. limit of its range (M. Guntert). A Red-faced Warbler in a mesquite bosque s. of Tucson May 5, put in one of only a few lowland appearances of this species (D. Taylor, *vide* TGA).

The most interesting warbler of the season was a singing **Fan-tailed Warbler** found May 22 in Arroyo Cajon Bonito, n.e. Sonora, Mex.—just 5 mi s. of the Arizona border (S.M. Russell). A week later a second individual was found at the same place (DDA, GM *et al.*). Fan-tailed Warbler has been recorded in Arizona (and the U.S.) once—21 years ago.

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS — A ♀ Orchard Oriole in Cave Cr. Canyon May 24, 25 (†RS) added to the growing numbers of this scarce migrant. The ♂ Streak-backed Oriole that wintered in Tucson remained until Mar. 16 (M. Chalif). Two Great-tailed Grackles at Lakeside and one at McNary May 13 (GM) provided further evidence of this species' expansion into the White Mts. In Flagstaff where the species has become very common in recent years, there were numerous nests found around the lakes of Anderson Mesa s. e. of town (JC).

A ♂ Scarlet Tanager in Arivaipa Canyon Primitive Area May 18 (R. Smith, *vide* SG) was the 11th for the state. Several Summer Tanagers in Burro Cr. Canyon May 20 were interesting considering the scarcity of the species just 40 mi w. on the L.C.R. (HW).

FRINGILLIDS — Indigo Buntings were reported from most of the riparian areas of the southeast (*vide* SG), but only two were reported from the Portal area where they were abundant last year (SS). A possible hybrid Indigo x Lazuli Bunting was observed at Patagonia May 23 (TGA, M. Jakle) and two in Arivaipa Canyon May 1 (SG). Nine reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks came from s.e. Arizona during the period.

Additional Evening Grosbeak reports from the winter's invasion came from the Sierra Ancha Mts.—20 on Apr. 24 (RF), along Wet Beaver Cr., and at feeders around Sedona in May (*vide* AG). The large concentrations around Skull Valley, w. of Prescott were still present the end of May (CT). Lingering Cassin's Finches were reported

during March and April from Huachuca Canyon—40, Arivaipa Canyon—10 (SG), Sycamore Cr.—two pairs with a pair of Purple Finches (PB), and at Portal two remained at feeders until May 6 (SS). Pine Siskins were common to abundant during the period and widely reported from near Ehrenberg to May 23 (MK), Sycamore Cr. (RF, PB), Arivaipa Canyon (SG), Portal to May 19 (SS), Onion Saddle, Chiricahua Mts.—85 on May 31 (S.G. Williams *et al.*), Globe (BJ) and St. Johns (BHe). American Goldfinches in small numbers were also widespread: on the L.C.R. Arivaipa Canyon, Tuzigoot N.M., Phoenix, Portal; and at Patagonia one remained until May 23 (T.R. Oliver). Lawrence's Goldfinches from the winter's invasion remained at several areas in s. Arizona and the L.C.R. into mid-April, 175+ were counted s.w. of Prescott and large numbers near Wickenburg Mar. 14 (CT); one seen n. of Ehrenberg May 7 may have bred in the area (JJ).

Rufous-winged Sparrow nested in a Tucson yard—two adults with two grown immatures were observed there May 11 (GM). A Yellow-eyed Junco found near Mt. Union, the highest peak in Yavapai County May 14 (CT) was considerably farther n. than the species has been recorded previously.

CORRIGENDA — AB 36:205. The dates of the Hooded Warbler at Prescott were Aug. 4 to Oct. 4. The Magnolia Warbler was recorded at Wickenburg (not Prescott). The Pyrrhuloxia at Globe did not represent the second record there. Individuals have been recorded almost every year since the early 1970s. The first record there was in 1955.

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NEW MEXICO /John P. Hubbard

PELICANS THROUGH CORMORANTS — The White Pelican is rare in the middle Rio Grande Valley (hereafter, M.R.G.V.), so notable were six at Cochiti L., May 12 (JH) and two at Corrales May 15 (D & SH). Double-crested Cormorants were recorded northward in more-than-normal numbers, including two at Maxwell N.W.R., Apr. 2 (JH, J. Vaught), one at Las Vegas Apr. 17 (WHa), and 18 in the M.R.G.V., Apr. 16-May 21 (WHO *et al.*). Of 19 birds in breeding plumage at Elephant Butte L., Mar. 29-30, almost 80% were white-plumed (JH *et al.*)—further indication that the *albociliatus* subspecies is the nesting form there. Olivaceous Cormorant numbers continue to build in the Rio Grand Valley; besides many in the usual breeding area on upper Elephant Butte L., Mar. 29-30, there were 26 at Caballo Dam Mar. 26 and 17+ at Truth or Consequences (hereafter, T or C) Apr. 21 (JH *et al.*). More northerly reports probably of this species were three near Belen Apr. 21 and one n. of Bernalillo May 21 (WHO *et al.*), the latter representing the northernmost record for the state.

HERONS — A new breeding area for Great Blues was discovered near Cliff, with two active nests there May 15 (RF *et al.*); the species was again breeding near Alma, with 12+ active nests Apr. 9-10 (JH). Green Heron occurrences off the beaten track were singles at Bluewater L., Apr. 3 (AM) and Bell L., May 26 (JS). The only noteworthy Cattle Egrets were two on the Zuni Reservation May 1 (AM), while a Great Egret at Juan's L., San Juan Co., May 27 (H. Lesperance) was out of place. Rare in the Gila Valley, an Am Bittern was near Cliff May 8 (H. Williams *et al.*); one at Isleta May 23-24 (WHO) was also notable.

WATERFOWL — A Mute Swan at Bitter Lake N W R , Apr 17 (ph. D & SH) & May 26 (JS) provided the first record in the wild for the state. A "Mexican" type duck was seen n. of Bernalillo May 4 (WHO); this form is now very rare in the M.R.G.V. The only M.R.G.V. report of Red-breasted Merganser was of a female at San Ildefonso May 6 (VH).

RAPTORS — White-tailed Kites are still rare in the state (one verified record), so notable were single birds n. of Rodeo Apr. 5 (J. and S. Levy) and at Hobbs May 2 (C. Levine, R. Russell). Mississippi Kites returned to the M.R.G.V., with one near Isleta May 17 and two at Los Lunas May 25 (RM *et al.*); a northerly report was of an immature near San Juan Pueblo May 29 (AB, R. Olcott). Broad-winged Hawks straggled W to the M.R.G.V., with an adult Apr. 16 and single imm. birds Apr. 25 & May 11 (WHO *et al.*). Osprey numbers were higher than normal, with at least 23 birds reported in the period Mar. 29-May 1 (v.o.). A ♂ Merlin banded at Albuquerque Apr. 10 (ph. CH *et al.*) supplied the latest verified spring record for the state; the same bird presumably was also seen there Apr. 14.

GALLIFORMS THROUGH SANDPIPERS — A Bobwhite was seen May 28 at Los Alamos, where this introduced species may now have become established (BL). A Snowy Plover at Cochiti L., May 2 (BL) was at a new locality for the species. Three Whimbrels, rare in New Mexico, were at Alamogordo May 3 (RH). West of normal areas were two Semipalmated Sandpipers reported at Bosque del Apache N.W.R. (hereafter, Bosque N.W.R.) May 10 (D & SH).

GULLS — A definite Thayer's Gull at Elephant Butte L., Mar. 30 (JH *et al.*) provided the third state specimen, all immatures and all from the same area. California Gulls at new localities included three at Juan's L., May 8 (AN), five at Chicosa L., Harding Co., May 18 (JH), and two near Bernalillo Apr. 13 (WHO); also noteworthy were 13 in the Farmington area Apr. 10 & 24 (AN) and six at Cochiti L. May 12 (JH). A Bonaparte's at Juan's L., May 8 (AN) was at a new locality.

DOVES — A new high of four pairs of White-winged Doves was at Socorro by May 5 (PB), and two birds were at n. limits at Three Rivers, Otero Co., Apr. 28 (RH). A Ground Dove near Pinyon, Otero Co., Apr. 28 (M. Hakkila) was in a new locality. An Inca at Socorro since November, 1981 remained there until May 18 (PB); also noteworthy was one at T or C May 26 (DM).

OWLS THROUGH NIGHTJARS — More than usual numbers of breeding Long-eareds Owls were reported, including nests and/or young at Corrales May 15 (D & SH), Ft. Bayard May 9 (RF *et al.*), and Mimbres Valley, Luna Co., May 25 (WB). Interesting, single low-pitched hoots by this species at Cottonwood Gulch Mar. 22 were at first thought to be uttered by a Flammulated Owl (AM); could this source of confusion be responsible for some out-of-season reports of the latter species? A Whip-poor-will calling near El Porvenir, San Miguel Co., May 22-23 (T. Johnson) was well n. of the usual range, and one at Waterfall Canyon, Sandia Mts., May 21 (HS) was also extra-northerly. Ten Lesser Nighthawks at Three Rivers Apr. 28 (RH) were at n. range limits.

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Several pairs of White-throated Swifts entering crevices in cliffs at Mills Canyon, Harding Co., May 18-19 (JH) provided the easternmost evidence of breeding by the species for the state. A ♂ Costa's Hummingbird was reported at T or C Apr. 14 (DM), for the northeasternmost record for New Mexico. Three pairs of Downy Woodpeckers at Cherry Cr. Canyon Apr. 25 (RF) constitute the highest count ever for the Pinos Altos Mts., at the s. breeding limits of the species in the state. A pair of Ladder-backed was present in the spring at San Rafael (*vide* AM), in a region where the species is rare and local.

FLYCATCHERS — West of the usual range were a single E. Kingbird near Tularosa May 17 (RH) and a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Bosque N.W.R., May 5 (RT). Eastern and Black phoebes again shared the upper Pecos Valley near El Pueblo, with three of the latter and five of the former Apr. 29 (JH). In seeming suitable breeding habitat in Mills Canyon, only one of this group—an Eastern May 5—was observed in spring (JH). In the w., Black Phoebes again returned to the Zuni Mt. area, with two on the Zuni Reservation May 1 (AM); a nest was found on the Jemez R., near Holman's

May 20 (C Hubbard, JH) *Empidonax* migration in the M R G V , based on careful field observations, suggests that almost 90% of 282 birds were Dusksies, not counting a bird of the latter species wintering at Isleta and that began to sing Mar. 8 (WHO *et al.*). The other birds included 18 purported Willows, seven Grays, three each of Hammond's and Westerns, and a Least (plus two possibles)—the last a singing bird at Isleta Apr. 25. A ♀ Vermilion Flycatcher at Bloomfield Apr. 26 (J. Rees) was well n. of the usual range.

SWALLOWS THROUGH CORVIDS — Two pairs of Barn Swallows nesting near Rodeo May 22 (RF) were in an area where the species breeds very locally. Noteworthy lowland migrant Purple Martins were two at Bosque N.W.R., May 10 (D & SH) and three at Otero Mesa, Otero Co., Apr. 22 (RH). A Blue Jay at Rattlesnake Springs Apr. 10 & May 1, (SW) was s. of the usual range, whereas three Steller's on the Santa Ana Reservation Apr. 29 (K. McClymonds *et al.*) were lowland stragglers. White-necked Ravens in the M.R.G.V. were confined to the Belen-Bernardo area (WHO *et al.*) which continues to be the n. limit for the species along the Rio Grande. Two near Abbott May 6 (JH) were at n.w. limits in the e plains in New Mexico. Two Com. Crows in Mills Canyon May 18-19 (JH) may be the first local report; the last high count in the M.R.G.V. was 175 birds Mar. 25 (WHO *et al.*), perhaps signalling the end of the winter influx.

CHICKADEES THROUGH DIPPER — Black-capped and Mountain chickadees again shared the M.R.G.V., s. to the Bernardo area. The former species was more numerous northward and the latter to the s.; however, overlap was extensive. Out-of-normal range were two Dippers at Bluewater L., Apr. 3 (AM) and one near Bent, Otero Co., Apr. 26 (RH). Very early—perhaps birds from winter—were single House Wrens in the Isleta-Los Lunas area Mar. 7 & 10 (JD, WHO).

THRASHERS THROUGH PHAINOPEPLA — Three Bendire's Thrashers near Animas May 22 (RF, D. Zimmerman) were in an area where the species is quite local. A Crissal Thrasher on the Santa Ana Reservation Mar. 19 (RM) was n. of the usual range. The last of the wintering influx E. Bluebirds in the M.R.G.V. were three near Belen Mar. 4 (WHO, RM), whereas S straggling Mountains included one at Bosque N.W.R., Apr. 10 (D & SH) and three at Aguirre Springs, Organ Mts., Apr. 3 (B. Zimmer). A Golden-crowned Kinglet at Isleta Apr. 20-21 (RM) constituted the only M.R.G.V. report. Northerly records of Phainopepla were of one in the Socorro area May 17 (PB) and two May 24 (WB, JH).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS — A singing Bell's Vireo at Bell L., Lea Co., May 15 (SW) was out-of-range. A **Philadelphia Vireo** reported near Santa Fe May 6-11 (AB) represented only the second spring record for the state. Some two dozen species of warblers were recorded in the M.R.G.V. in the period, with the most abundant species being (in decreasing order) Yellow-rumped (Audubon's), Wilson's, MacGillivray's, Yellow, Virginia's, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle), Orange-crowned, and apparently Com. Yellowthroat and Yellow-breasted Chat (WHO *et al.*). Northern Waterthrush Black-throated Gray and Tennessee warblers were uncommon, whereas the other species were rare—including Black-and-white. Prothonotary, Nashville, N. Parula, Townsend's, Grace's, Palm, Ovenbird, and Am. Redstart. Worm-eating Warbler records continue to accumulate in spring, with singles in the period Apr. 18-May 29 at near Taos (B McLeod), Cochiti L. (BL), Socorro (PB), Three Rivers (RH), and Bitter Lake N.W.R. (D & SH). Very rare in New Mexico is the **Blue-winged Warbler**, of which a single bird was reported at Cochiti L. May 14 (BL) and a probable one at Corrales May 6 (E. Hayes) A report of a Nashville near Santa Fe Mar. 29 (AB) was very early, whereas n. of the usual range were single Lucy's Warblers in Albuquerque May 13 (RM), Bent May 27 (RH), and probably Three Rivers May 18 (B. Hayes). An Olive Warbler nest in the Pinos Altos Mts., May 29 & 31 (RF) was perhaps the second for the state. Westerly-straggling Kentucky Warblers were one at Socorro Apr. 28 (ph. PB), and a probable one at Corrales May 14 (VH). Up to two Red-faced Warblers were present in the Cañocito area, Sandia Mts., Apr. 18-May 21 (G. Parker, HS), well n. of the usual range. Also northerly were single Painted Redstarts in Nutria Canyon, Zuni Mts., May 1 (AM), Corrales in mid-April (R. Bradley), Isleta Apr. 7 (JD), and Belen Apr. 9 (WHO).

ICTERIDS THROUGH TANAGERS — An ad. ♂ Orchard Oriole in the lower Mimbres Valley May 25 (JH) was out-of-range; a possible female was also present (JH), while an imm. male probably of this species was at Albuquerque May 4 (RM). North of the usual range was a Hooded Oriole at T or C Apr. 28 (DM). Southerly records of Com. Grackles included two at La Joya State Game Refuge Apr. 20 (WHO) and one or more present at Bosque N.W.R., Apr. 10 (D & SH). Three territorial Great-tailed Grackles were north of the usual range near Ojo Caliente, Rio Arriba Co., May 14 (JH). The Hepatic Tanager continues to occur at Mills Canyon, with several there May 6 and 18-19; a Summer Tanager there May 19 (JH) was n. of the usual range.

FRINGILLIDS — A ♂ Cardinal at Albuquerque May 26 (WHO) was well outside the normal range in New Mexico. The number of Rose-breasted Grosbeak reports was above normal, except that none came from the M.R.G.V. study (WHO). Single apparent Indigo x Lazuli buntings were seen at Isleta May 17 & 27 (WHO, RM). A ♂ probable Varied Bunting was seen near Bent (RH), well n. of the usual range. A pair of Evening Grosbeaks was building a nest near Tree Spring Trail, Sandia Mt., May 30 (CH); lowland records were of

46 birds near San Ildefonso May 5-7 and singles at Albuquerque May 4 and Isleta Apr. 29 (WHO *et al.*). Pine Siskins, typically thought of as montane breeders, nested in Albuquerque in late spring (WHO, RM). A Cassin's Finch 40 mi e. of Roswell Apr. 18 (D & SH) was e. of the normal range. Fledgling Red Crossbills were seen at San Cristobal, Taos Co., Apr. 29 (WHa) and at Bandelier Nat'l Mon., May 8 (W. Stone). On May 18-19 three Rufous-crowned Sparrows were in Mills Canyon (JH), which is in the n.w. part of the species' New Mexico range. A Field Sparrow 40 mi e. of Roswell Apr. 18 (D & SH) was at n. limits. More than the usual number of Golden-crowned Sparrows were reported, including singles in the Sandia Mts., Apr. 27 (HS), Bosque N.W.R., May 8 (AB), and at Gila Apr. 28 (J. Durrie *et al.*).

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ALASKA REGION

/D.D. Gibson

In most of Alaska spring 1982 was cold and late. Waterfowl and raptors were generally on time. But many passerines that arrive *via* continental North American migration routes and that normally arrive in the last two weeks of April were late, the bulk of them arriving concurrently with those species that normally arrive in early or mid-May, which were on time (thus, for example, spring arrived conspicuously at Juneau May 9-11). Most trans-Pacific migrants both from Asia and from the South or central Pacific were on time or were slightly later than normal. Spring migration in the western Aleutian Islands, which is always interesting, was spectacular this year (*e.g.*, passage of a storm May 14-16 resulted in May 16 arrival dates at Attu Island for 18 species, a new species for Alaska and North America was observed, and a new Alaska and U.S. breeding record was established).



HERONS, WATERFOWL — An Am. Bittern at the Stikine R. mouth May 6 (DR, PH) provided the earliest-ever Alaska record. Unusual locality records for Snow Geese included Kodiak I. (one, Apr. 27, RALM) and Attu I. (two, May 20-21, TGT *et al.*). Nearctic ducks were not displaced N from the prairies this spring, as they were in 1977, 1980, and 1981. Numbers of surface-feeding ducks, Canvasbacks, and Redheads were down markedly from recent years, but, since numbers have been inflated in the recent past by record influx from the prairies, 1982's population may be about normal (JGK, BC). Asiatic ducks occurred in good numbers this spring, particularly at Attu (*e.g.*, maxima of 44 Eur. Wigeon, five Falcated Teal, seven Com. Pochards, 33+ Tufted Ducks). Cinnamon Teal were recorded this spring at the Stikine R. mouth (male, May 6, DR, PH) and at Juneau (male, May 29, RJG). Shovelers from Asia were more numerous in the w. Aleutians than in previous years—the species was present at Attu Apr. 30-June 2, maximum 10+ on May 26 (TGT).

EAGLES — **White-tailed Eagle** was confirmed as a breeding bird in Alaska this spring by the discovery in late May of an active nest at Attu. A pair of adults was photographed on and near a cliff nest above the Temnac R., and one young was being fed in this nest in early June (LGB & TGT *et al.*). Details of this event will be published elsewhere. Distribution of eagles in the w. part of the Aleutian-Commander axis is curious. Bald Eagle occurred all the way to the Commander Is. as recently as 1884, when its numbers were declining there. It has retreated for unknown reasons and now breeds commonly no farther



White-tailed Eagle, Attu I., Alas., May 1982. Photo/ Edward Greaves.

w. than the Rat Is. group of the Aleutians, in very small numbers as far west as Buldir I. It now occurs in the Near Is., the westernmost group of the Aleutians, only as a casual visitant. That the closely related White-tailed Eagle has moved in from the w. to fill this hiatus in *Haliaeetus* distribution is most interesting.

SHOREBIRDS — Golden plovers were late across the State, with the exceptions of one record-early bird at Kodiak Apr. 17 (RAM) and a few at Kachemak Bay Apr. 21 (SK). Elsewhere, arrivals (involving birds from several widely-separated wintering areas) were May 5 at the Stikine R. mouth (DR, PH); May 8 at Juneau (RJG); May 10 at Seward (DWS), Anchorage (DFD), and Fairbanks (DRo, AR); and May 11 at Attu (TGT). Ringed Plovers at Attu (one May 16 & 18, †TGT *et al.*; one May 25-26, DWF *et al.*) and at Shemya (at least two May 23-24, †DWS) were most unusual. There are only two prior Aleutian records. In Alaska this species is annual only at St. Lawrence I., which area these birds normally reach from the west, not from the south. Mongolian Plovers arrived in the w. Aleutians in the usual small numbers, but late.

Whimbrels (*hudsonicus*) arrived on time at Kachemak Bay (May 4, SK), Kodiak (May 5, RAM), Anchorage (May 8, DFD), Valdez (May 8, GJT), and Fairbanks (May 11, PDM), and there was an excellent flight at Juneau in mid-May (RJG). Whimbrels (*variegatus*) were late and scarce in the w. Aleutians (earliest, one May 27, Attu, TGT). Upland Sandpiper was late, arriving Fairbanks May 20 (CM, PDM). Hudsonian Godwits were seen at Anchorage, Kachemak Bay, and Valdez on time, first on May 2 (RLA, DWS), May 4 (SK), & May 5 (GJT), respectively. Since this bird is regarded as quite rare in Southeastern, it is of interest that it was recorded at Eagle Beach, Juneau, May 11-14 (up to three, DDG, RJG); at Skagway May 14 (one, DDG); and at the Stikine R. mouth May 16 (DR, PH). Earliest at Fairbanks was one on May 10 (DRo, AR). Marbled Godwits were reported only at Kodiak (earliest, 20 on May 1, RAM) and Craig (one on May 3, TEK).

Both Spotted Redshank and Greenshank put in brief appearances in the w. Aleutians. Wood Sandpipers arrived there May 16, slightly late. They were present through June 3+, maximum 63+ on May 18-19 at Attu (TGT *et al.*). At least three displaying birds were present at Attu May 25+. At the other end of the Bering Sea, up to three Wood Sandpipers were seen at Gambell each day June 2-7 (JLD *et al.*). Single Green Sandpipers were observed at both Attu (May 18, DWF, NSP *et al.*) and at Gambell (June 5-7, JLD *et al.*), for the third and fourth Alaska records of the species. Most *Calidris* sandpipers arrived on time. The rare Temminck's Stint, an exception, was recorded early (May 17, Attu, TGT). Two Curlew Sandpipers at Attu May 30 (LGB, TGT *et al.*) provided the second Aleutian record, first in spring. Buff-breasted Sandpiper arrived on time at Fairbanks May 24 (DDG, RHD), but it was scarce. Up to four Buff-breasted at Galena, 275 mi w. of Fairbanks May 26-30 (TOO, DDG, BK) provided the first record in the w. Interior. A ♂ Ruff at Eagle Beach, Juneau, May 14 (†RJG) constituted the first record on file of this species in Southeastern; few Ruffs were seen in the w. Aleutians this spring, earliest one on May 18 at Attu—late.

TERNs — A pair of Caspian Terns at Farm I., Stikine R. mouth, May 13, and up to two birds there and at nearby Sergief I. at intervals through 18th (†DR, PH) were followed by one bird at Mendenhall L., Juneau, June 8 (BAW, RJG). This species was new to Alaska in 1981 (see AB 35:853,970). One Com. Tern (*longipennis*) at Gambell June 3-5 (JLD) provided the only Regional report this season. Aleutian Terns at Gambell—two June 4 and five on June 5 (JLD *et al.*)—provided a noteworthy first record for St. Lawrence I. This species is pelagic away from its breeding stations and seems to avoid those Bering Sea islands at which it does not breed (e.g., I do not believe there has ever been a record in the long-studied Pribilofs).

DOVES THROUGH TYRANT FLYCATCHERS — Unusual in spring, a Mourning Dove was observed at Juneau May 26 (RJG). A White-rumped Swift at Shemya May 24 (†DWS) provided the earliest ever of the eight Alaska records now on file. Hammond's Flycatcher was late, arriving Fairbanks May 8 (MAR, BEL, DJH). It was first seen at Juneau May 11 (DDG, SOM).

THRUSHES, OLD-WORLD FLYCATCHERS — Three ♂ Siberian Rubythroats arrived at Attu on time June 1, and maximum was seven there on 3rd (TGT *et al.*). A Rubythroat reported June 10 at Gambell (GFW, TR, MN) provided the third record for St. Lawrence

I. and the n. Bering Sea. As is often the case, the only spring migrant Bluethroats reported were seen at Gambell, the earliest one on June 2 (JLD *et al.*). Most exciting was a ♀ Red-flanked Bluetail (*Tarsiger cyanurus*) that was observed at close range and at length at Attu June 5 (†TGT, †PWS, TLS *et al.*)—a first record for Alaska. This small thrush is common in Japan and breeds as far north as Kamchatka. It is regarded as a regular spring straggler in the Commander Is.

Normally a late April arrival in c. Alaska, the scarce (in Alaska) Mountain Bluebird was weeks late—six through-migrants were seen at Skagway May 15-16 (DDG, SOM, DPP), one was seen at Juneau May 16 (RJG), and eight were seen at Juneau May 18 (RBW). Four Eye-browed Thrushes arrived at Attu May 18 (TGT *et al.*), on schedule, maximum was at least 12 (including a flock of five) May 19, and the last one there was May 28; up to three were seen at Shemya May 20-24 (DWS); and at least two were present at Agattu May 20-31 (CFZ, JEH, DJF, CJA). A Fieldfare studied June 9 at Gambell (†GFW, TR, MN) provided only the second Alaska record. As different from the regularly-occurring Asiatics and even from most of the vagrants in the w. Aleutians, this n. Palearctic thrush does not breed in e. Asia, so its occurrence at Gambell is truly extraordinary! Three Red-breasted Flycatchers were observed at Attu: a female June 1 (GFW) and a male (NSP) and a female (TGT *et al.*) June 4. The only prior Alaska records are from early June 1977, at Shemya and at Gambell. Another casual spring visitant at Attu was Gray-spotted Flycatcher. Up to six birds were seen June 1-5 (m.ob.).

WAGTAILS AND PIPITS — Yellow Wagtail arrived at Attu May 16, slightly late but in numbers (15+); it was last seen there June 5. Small numbers were seen at Agattu and Shemya during that period as well. Exotic were three different ♂ Gray Wagtails at Attu May 16-June 4 (†TGT *et al.*). There are now almost a dozen Alaska records of this bird. White Wagtail (*lugens*) arrived on time May 4 at Attu. Maximum was seven+ May 17, and latest one May 30. A few were seen at Agattu and Shemya. Indian Tree Pipits were recorded in unparalleled numbers at Attu (May 16-June 5, max. 15+ on May 18, TGT *et al.*), Agattu (16+ on May 20-21, CFZ, JEH), and Shemya (up to three/day, May 21-26, DWS). One bird was seen June 4-7 at Gambell (JLD *et al.*). Red-throated and Water pipits also arrived in the w. Aleutians May 16, a few days late but in numbers. Three Pechora Pipits were studied at Attu—singles on May 19 and 21 and June 1 (†TGT, †PWS *et al.*). There are only four prior Alaska records, all singles at either Attu or Gambell.

FINCHES AND BUNTINGS — Two ♂ Bramblings arrived on time at Attu May 16, and a few were present through 20th (TGT *et al.*), the species was seen daily May 20-25 at Shemya, maximum 33 birds on 24th (DWS); and one bird was recorded at Agattu May 21 (CFZ, JEH). Two Bramblings June 4 and one June 6 at Gambell (JLD *et al.*) number among few records for the n. Bering Sea. Exotic finches included an Oriental Greenfinch at Attu May 29 (RAC) and three there the following day (TGT *et al.*); up to two ♀ Com. Rosefinches at Attu May 31-June 3; and Hawfinches at both Attu (up to three, May 18-June 3, TGT *et al.*) and Shemya (two, May 24-25, †DWS).

A rare annual spring and fall migrant in the w. Aleutians, Rustic Bunting occurred in unparalleled numbers in spring 1982. At Attu the species was present daily from its arrival May 16 (eight+ birds) through June 6—maximum 64+, in flocks of 6-10, May 18...40 were seen on 17th and 51 on 19th (TGT *et al.*). At least 20 were seen at Agattu May 20-31 (CFZ, JEH, DJF, CJA), and up to 17/day were observed at Shemya May 20-27 (DWS). In such a season it is not too surprising that the species was recorded as far e. as St. Lawrence I., where found in the past only in 1973 and 1976. This year up to four/day were seen June 2-10 at Gambell (JLD *et al.*, GFW *et al.*)

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NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Philip W. Mattocks, Jr. and Eugene S. Hunn

After normal weather throughout the Region during March and April, May was distinctly dry. Rainfall that month totalled 28% of normal at the Medford, Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver weather stations. The season was marked by the occurrence of many species normally found south and east of the Region. Several observers who were in the field almost daily indicated that particularly large influxes of migratory passerines occurred in the Willamette Valley of Oregon March 19 and April 9, on the Washington coast and in Puget Sound April 21-22, and throughout western Oregon April 24-27.

ABBREVIATIONS — S.J.C.R.: South Jetty, Columbia River; V.I.: Vancouver Island, B.C.; Van.: Vancouver, B.C.; †: written description on file.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — The only Yellow-billed Loons reported were singles in winter plumage found Mar. 14 off French Beach, Renfrew Land District, V.I. (KT), and Apr. 24-May 2 on Netarts Bay, Oreg. (JG *et al.*, R&JK). A Laysan Albatross was seen about 70 mi n.n.w. of Cape Blanco, Oreg., Mar. 31 (Geof Partington, *vide* VG). An early boat trip off Westport, Wash., Mar. 28 located about 26 Black-footed Albatrosses, 21 N. Fulmars, and 400 Sooty Shearwaters (TW *et al.*). The 3-400 N. Fulmars encountered Apr. 25 off Newport, Oreg., was a high count (DA, JG *et al.*). About 25 Pink-footed Shearwaters were off Newport Apr. 25, and 72 were off Westport May 9 (TW *et al.*). A single Flesh-footed Shearwater was seen off Westport May 9 (TW *et al.*). A Manx-type shearwater seen at close range off Newport on the unusual date of Mar. 28 was thought to be *opisthomelas* (Mark Smith *et al.*). Nine Mottled Petrels were seen Mar. 31, 1981, 60 mi off Waldport, Oreg. († Robert Pitman, *Oreg. Birds* 7:98, 1981).

An extremely early ad. Brown Pelican seen Apr. 15 on Sooke Basin, e. of Sooke, V.I. (Robbie Eddy, *vide* MG) provided only the fourth record for British Columbia since 1940. Single imm. Brown Pelicans were also early Apr. 12+ at the North Spit, Coos Bay, Oreg. (Ruth Jacob) and Apr. 14+ on Yaquina Bay, Oreg. (Gary Hettman, Steve Jones *et al.*). Ten Brown Pelicans, both adults and immatures, were near Goat I., Curry Co., Oreg. by May 16 (Mike Graybill). This species usually arrives in s. Oregon by early July. Eight White Pelicans were at Horsfall Beach, Oreg., Apr. 18 for only the second Coos County record (AMc). A Pelagic Cormorant was identified 25 mi offshore from Westport May 9 (TW). This cormorant is not actually "pelagic" and is rarely seen any distance offshore.

Five Great Blue Heron nests with young were found Apr. 17 on Price I., near Skamakowa, Wash. (AR, AMu). The greatest number of Green Herons ever noted in Whatcom County, Wash., were seen this spring, with "breeding pairs on almost every creek" (TW). The Snowy Egrets that wintered at Pony Slough, Coos Bay, were last seen Apr. 21 (AMc). An ad. Black-crowned Night Heron flew along the Willamette R. in Eugene, Oreg., Mar. 10 (SG). The last of the wintering group of Black-crowns at Olympia, Wash., was seen Mar. 25 (BHT). An ad. White-faced Ibis found May 24 at Quick's Bottom, Saanich, V.I. (KT *et al.*, †RS) provided the second record for coastal British Columbia. This bird was seen off and on all day by many observers, and it or another individual was seen that day about 6 mi away in Oak Bay (Yorke Edwards).

WATERFOWL — Four Emperor Geese stopped at the s. jetty of Newport Bay Mar. 2 (Bob Olson). Three stayed about a week, and two were last seen there Mar. 18 (DFa). The adult at Ocean Shores was last seen there Mar. 21 (HC, LK). A late flock of 60 Snow Geese flew N over Seattle May 19 (ER, Karin Gochoel), and a single straggler was at Sea I., near Van., until May 27 (MD, DK). A Ross' Goose seen May 12 on the Bayocean flats at Tillamook represented one of very few coastal Oregon records (HN). Nesting Mallards were widely reported to be more abundant than usual. There were eight records of ♂ "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal. Singles were in Seattle until Apr. 20 (ER *et al.*), in Saanich, V.I., until Apr. 28 (RS *et al.*), and at Beach Grove, on Boundary Bay, V.I., until May 2 (Jean-Pierre Savard). Cinnamon Teal arrived on schedule in mid- to late March in Oregon, and by early April elsewhere. Blue-winged Teal arrived in late April. Numbers of both species were back to more normal levels following last year's concentrations. Two pairs of Wood Ducks were seen 2 mi n. of Campbell River, V.I., from Apr. 1-May 18 for the "first



clearly identified spring record" at this location (HT). The species was widely reported elsewhere and was considered to be present in good numbers.

The 300 Canvasback Mar. 31 at Iona I., near Van. (WW), and the 200 Oldsquaw Apr. 26 on Boundary Bay (WW), were the high counts reported. A ♀ Tufted Duck was seen Mar. 13-24 at the Ocean Shores sewage ponds (†BHT, EH, G & WHO *et al.*). A ♂ Tufted Duck, with a female believed to be a Tufted, was present on Loomis L., near Long Beach, Wash., Apr. 26-28 (Cindy Wilmes, *vide* RWi) for the latest spring record for Washington.

VULTURES THROUGH GALLINULES — Single Turkey Vultures arrived at Metchosin, V.I., Mar. 5 (LD, Margaret Jeal) and Van., Mar. 18 (BK). At least five pairs of White-tailed Kites were found in Oregon this season. One pair, seen repeatedly at Platt Res., near Sutherlin, was observed mating Apr. 20 (MSa *et al.*). Other pairs were seen in April at Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene (SG), and near Medford (MjM), and in March on the Nehalem meadows and at the S.J.C.R. (*vide* HN). AMc reported "normal numbers" from the Coquille R. valley during March. There were reports of White-tailed Kites from four locations in Washington as well. Single birds were on Leadbetter Pen., Mar. 21 & Apr. 29 (HC, LK, RWi), at Napavine near Chehalis May 1 (†George Walter), and at the Mt. St. Helens Interpretive Center s.e. of Chehalis May 21 (†Rosemary Gaymer). The farthest n. record to date for this species was of one seen Apr. 3 on the Skagit flats near Mt. Vernon (†Sally & Jan Van Niel).

A pair of Cooper's Hawks nested in Beacon Hill P., Victoria, V.I. (RW, Harvey Anderson). Late Rough-legged Hawks were reported Apr. 23 & May 1 in Delta, near Van. (DW, Madelon Schouten). A pair of Bald Eagles fledged one young from a nest on L. Washington for the first verified King County, Wash., nesting record (Bonnie Robbins *et al.*). A pair of Marsh Hawks was nestbuilding Apr. 21 at Leadbetter Pt., but the nest and one broken egg were found abandoned May 13 (RWi). About 16 Osprey nests were reported, and many of these were being regularly checked. A very dark Gyrfalcon was s. to Tillamook County, Oreg., Mar. 7-14 (ph. †Owen Schmidt *et al.*). Another Gyrfalcon was in Grays Harbor County, Wash., Mar. 13 (†BHT, †EH *et al.*). A gray Gyrfalcon that apparently wintered in C. Saanich, V.I., was last seen Mar. 14 (MS, M & RW). The latest Gyrfalcon sighting was of one near Van., Apr. 12 (DK, Rick Howie). A pair of Merlins, seen repeatedly in N. Vancouver, was observed mating there Mar. 9 (KB). Nesting records of this falcon in our Region are extremely scarce.

Several of the Sandhill Cranes, banded and released in April, 1981 at Pitt Meadows, B.C., had returned there by Mar 18 (Wilma Robinson). Other banded cranes were seen in Langley and Delta, B.C., in late March (Trudy & Mary Pastrick, WW). Three Sandhill Cranes flew N past Tofino, V.I., Apr. 14 (MS), and eleven stopped at the mouth of the Waatch R. near Cape Flattery, Wash., May 1 (MC). A **Common Gallinule** was reported May 30 on the Denman Game Ref., near Medford (Dave Hofmann, *vide* MjM) for possibly the second record for w. Oregon. The bird could not be relocated later. The first record of a Common Gallinule for Oregon was one found May 5, 1976, on Garrison L., Port Orford (ph.-Lois Brooks, Nancy Jokela, *Oreg. Birds* 7:76, 1981).

SHOREBIRDS — A Semipalmated Plover at Roberts Bank, Delta, B.C., Apr. 4 was about two weeks early (BK). A brood of four freshly hatched Killdeer was on West Pt., Seattle, on the very early date of Apr. 10 (Mike Moore). The largest concentration of Black-bellied Plovers reported was the 1000 at Beach Grove, Boundary Bay, Apr. 26 (WW). Single Am. Golden Plovers, rare in spring, were found May 2 along Boundary Bay in Delta, B.C. (MP, PY) and May 17 at Iona I., B.C. (RP). Twenty Long-billed Curlews were with a few Whimbrel at Westport, Mar. 27 (TB, Mary Cooper). Ten other Long-billeds were reported from Van. to Coos Bay, Oreg. Twenty Whimbrel on Lulu I., B.C., Apr. 19 were 10 days ahead of the 9-year avg. arrival date for the Vancouver area (Craig Runyan). On May 1 near the tip of Leadbetter Pt., †RWi saw and heard a bird considered to be the rare **Bristle-thighed Curlew**. The light buff tail and the plover-like call were well noted.

Single Lesser Yellowlegs at Iona I. (Bruce Macdonald) and at Reifel I. (BK) Apr. 4 were 14 days ahead of the average arrival date for the Vancouver area. There were six reports of Semipalmated Sandpipers from Iona I., May 1-17 (MP, MF, BK *et al.*), and one from Seattle May 8 (†ER). An estimated 60,000 W. Sandpipers were at Roberts Bank, B.C., Apr. 25 (Dave Aldcroft) and 165,000 were at Bowerman Basin, Hoquiam, and Ocean Shores, Wash., Apr. 26 (DP, CM). Four Baird's Sandpipers May 1 in a flooded field near Reedsport, Oreg. (SG, MSa), and one at Iona I., May 1 (BK) were the only ones reported. The high count of Short-billed Dowitchers was 4000 around Grays Harbor, Wash., Apr. 26 (DP, CM). The only concentration of Marbled Godwits reported was 35 between Tokeland and the mouth of the North R., on the n. shores of Willapa Bay, Wash., Apr. 23 (G & WHO). Wilson's Phalaropes were scattered in the Region during May. A pair was observed mating at Finley N.W.R., Oreg., in late May (E & EE). Northern Phalaropes hit the Oregon coast in mid-April (AMc) with 200 on Yaquina Bay Apr. 14+ (DFa, R & JK). The influx was noted May 1+ at Leadbetter Pt. (RWi). By May 12-14 there were 1000 at the Ocean Shores sewage ponds (G & WHO) and 600 on the n. Oregon beaches (HN). There were one or two at Iona I., May 11-15 (RP, BK), and coastal numbers dropped off rapidly in late May. Fifty Red Phalaropes were also on Yaquina Bay Apr. 14-18 (*vide* HN), 45 at the S.J.C.R., Apr. 19 (HN), and two inland at Finley N.W.R., May 6 (D & ME).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Single Parasitic Jaegers were seen May 17-28 at Leadbetter Pt. (RWi) and on Bellingham Bay, Wash. (TW), and at Iona I. (DJ *et al.*). A single Pomarine Jaeger was seen off Westport, on the early date of Mar. 28 (TW *et al.*). Two Pomarines were seen off Newport, Oreg., Apr. 25 (DA *et al.*). Singles were off Westport May 9 (TW *et al.*) and seen from Gonzales Pt., Oak Bay, V.I., May 27 (†RS).

Reports were received of 13 Glaucous Gulls scattered throughout the Region, which is more than in the past few Spring seasons. A late Herring Gull was on Roberts Bank, B.C., May 16 (WW). Sightings of later-than-usual Thayer's Gulls were made May 16 at Pt. Roberts, Wash. (DK) and May 31 in Seattle (†ER). Bonaparte's Gulls returned to the Victoria, V.I., area Mar. 27 (MS) and to Boundary Bay and Iona I., Apr. 4 (BK, MMc). A concentration of 2500-3000 was in Active Pass, V.I., Apr. 16-17 (W & HHe, Diane & John Cooper). An ad. Little Gull was with a small flock of Bonaparte's on Green L., Seattle, Apr. 3 (†EH) for only the fifth Regional spring record. Of the several hundred Black-legged Kittiwakes reported for which age was specified, only 2% were adults.

Two Arctic Terns were seen off Newport Apr. 24 (JG *et al.*), three off Westport May 9 (TW *et al.*), and one standing adjacent to Com. Terns on the beach near Long Beach, Wash., May 17 (†RWi). Caspian Terns arrived on schedule in Oregon in early April. Singles

Apr 18 & 22 in and near Seattle (EH, PM *et al.*), and Apr 19 on Esquimalt Lagoon, w. of Victoria (Leila Roberts) were early for those localities. One was n. to Salmon Pt., near Campbell River, V.I., May 6 (R. Ketchpole, *vide* HT). A Black Tern was seen flying up the Fraser R. from Reifel I., B.C., May 23 (WW), and another was at the sewage ponds in Kent, Wash., May 24 (†Paul Cozens).

A breeding-plumaged Ancient Murrelet was on Cox Bay, near Tofino, V.I., Apr. 11 (MS), where there have been no previous records between February and July (D. Hatler *et al.*, *Birds of Pacific Rim N.P.*, 1978). Three ad. Tufted Puffins Apr. 20 were back early to Cleland I., V.I. (MS). Breeding puffins returned to nesting rocks along the Oregon coast on schedule in late April.

OWLS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — The last Snowy Owls of the season were seen Mar. 8 in Richmond, B.C. (Ruth Jones), and Apr. 11 on Quadra I., near Campbell River (J. Ingles, *vide* HT). The Hawk Owl which wintered on Boundary Bay was last seen Mar. 12 in Beach Grove (Bob Odear). One of the wintering Burrowing Owls stayed near Peoria, s. of Corvallis, Oreg., until Apr. 3 (D & ME). A Barred Owl was heard repeatedly Mar. 14-Apr. 9 in Saanich, V I (T & MS). Other Barred Owls were found near Sultan, Wash. (Brian Wood), in Discovery P., Seattle (Bob Mindick), and in the Umpqua R. valley near Glide, Oreg. (MSa *et al.*).

Four **Calliope Hummingbirds** in the Van., area Apr. 23-May 3 were the first sightings there since 1975 (†Rex Kenner *et al.*, †MD, KB, Colin Butt). There were several Calliopes at feeders in Eugene, Oreg., in late April (*vide* SG) and in Ashland through May (MjM). A Rufous Hummingbird sighted Mar. 12 in Van. (MP) was the earliest ever for that area by three days. Widespread arrival was noted in the Puget Sound area Mar. 20-21.

Several migrant "Red-naped" Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found in Oregon in mid-April; one brought in injured Apr. 12 to E & EE in Corvallis, one seen Apr. 16 on Skinner Butte, Eugene (†SG), one near Hillsboro Apr. 17 (Colin Page), and one at Yaquina Bay Apr. 25 (DFa). Single Lewis' Woodpeckers were noted May 12-14 at Westham I., B.C. (WW, Sharon Trefry) and May 15 on Nisqually N.W.R., Wash. (†TB *et al.*).

Contrary to statement in this column last spring the W. Kingbird nests regularly n. in Oregon to at least around Eugene (Clarice Watson, DFi, JG). There were eight individuals sighted in w. Washington and s.w. British Columbia during May, which is just under the average count in those areas for the preceding three years. Single Say's Phoebes were found Mar. 24 at the s. jetty of Coos Bay, Oreg (Mark & Mari Dembrow), Mar. 5 at North Head, near Ilwaco, Wash (RWi), Mar. 9 at Rockport, Wash. (Jim Shifflett), Mar. 28 in Seattle (Charles Evans), Apr. 4 in Portland (HN), and Apr. 4-5 in Stanley P., Van. (Bob Morford, MP, †WW). This species is rare but regular at this season in w. Washington, but the Vancouver bird was only the second record there in the last eight years.

Single Hammond's Flycatchers Apr. 22 at Tatlow P., Van. (DK) and in Seattle (SA) were a few days early at both locations. The first W. Flycatcher was noted Apr. 19 in Eugene (SG). The species was reported from numerous Oregon localities Apr. 24-25, and had arrived in Seattle Apr. 25 (Dave Hutchinson), and in N. Vancouver, B.C., Apr. 26 (MD). A **Gray Flycatcher** was observed May 1 at the Whinchuck R. mouth, s.w. Oreg. (†Dick Erickson) for only the second w. Oregon record. The first W. Wood Pewee and Olive-sided Flycatcher were noted at Pitt Meadows, B.C., Apr. 24 (MF). Otherwise pewees arrived in s. Oregon Apr. 27-28 (E & EE, AMc, SG) and the first reported from Washington was in Seattle May 3 (ER). Olive-sided Flycatchers arrived in Oregon Apr. 26-27 (AMc, Don Watson, Roy Woodall) and the first Washington report was May 8 in Wilkeson, e. of Tacoma (Karl Lundberg, Betsy Rogers).

SWALLOWS THROUGH SHRIKES — Single Rough-winged Swallows were back slightly early to Saanich Mar. 26 (R & JS) and to Grays River, w. of Kelso, Wash., Mar. 30 (AR, AMu). Barn and Cliff swallows arrived on schedule in early April. A single Mountain Chickadee stayed at a feeder in Van. until Mar. 17 (JI). The Red-breasted Nuthatch was considered to be more scarce than usual in the Campbell River and s. V.I. areas (HT, VG), Whatcom County, Wash (TW), and Coos Bay, Oreg. (AMc). This follows reports of low numbers last spring on s. V.I. and in the Coos Bay areas. But not, as last spring's column stated, in the Ashland area, where populations were normal (MjM).

A Rock Wren was closely observed May 28 in Moran S.P., Orcas

I, Wash (W & HHe) for one of only a few spring records for w Washington. A Sage Thrasher found May 16-18 at Iona I. (Dorothy & †Jack Williams, †BK, m.ob.) furnished the first record for the Vancouver area and the second for coastal British Columbia. Single Sage Thrashers were at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., Apr. 4 (DFa), and at the mouth of the Waatch R., Cape Flattery, Wash., May 1 (MC). A Mockingbird was discovered Apr. 9+ in Medford very near to the location of one present last year (Roger Schnoes, m.ob.). Another Mockingbird was in Bellingham, Wash., May 6-9 (Joan Beardsley). A ♀ W Bluebird in Van., Apr. 26 provided the first record there since October 1971 (J & TI, DK). Several pairs of W. Bluebirds nested in boxes in Metchoshin, V.I. (M & VG, LD, RW *et al.*), and a pair apparently nested in a dead tree near the summit of Mt. Finlayson, V I (KT). Nine active bluebird nests, all in nestboxes, were noted in the Ft. Lewis-Tacoma, Wash. "prairies" (Georgia Ramsey, TB *et al.*) and ten pairs nested in a 200-box trail near Eugene (Al Prigge). Others were reported in the Ashland area (MjM).

A black-backed ♂ White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba lugens*) was sighted along the banks of the Capilano R., W. Vancouver, B.C., Apr 18 (†Glen Thomson, †Allen Poynter). This marks the first record of this form for both British Columbia and Canada. For the only previous White Wagtail record, see *Can. Field-Naturalist* 89:318-319, 1975.

Flocks of 10-50 Bohemian Waxwings were seen during March in Vancouver, B.C., Bellingham, Seattle, and Buckley, Wash. The latest were ten in W. Seattle Mar. 21 (EH), and 14 near Newberg, Oreg., Mar. 22 (JG). Northern Shrikes stayed later than usual at several locations. Singles were at Hyak, Wash., Apr. 12 (PM), in C. Saanich Apr. 19 (Bruce Whittington), and at Ladner, B.C., Apr. 28 (Marj McFeat *et al.*).

VIREOS THROUGH GRACKLES — A Warbling Vireo arrived early in N. Vancouver Apr. 22 (MD). Otherwise first arrivals were noted in Eugene, Corvallis, and Seattle Apr. 24-26 with more widespread and numerous sightings in early May. A Red-eyed Vireo in N. Vancouver, B.C., May 22 was several days earlier than usual (MD).

A Tennessee Warbler was seen May 18 in Burnaby, B.C. (†MMc) for the second record for the Van. area. (Two other reports are pending review by the Van. Bird Record Committee). Another Tennessee Warbler was found May 20 in Victoria (†J & RS) for about the fourth record for that area. There were several other reports of Tennessees in late April and early May without details, and a few descriptions that were clearly of Warbling Vireos. First reports of Black-throated Gray Warblers were Apr. 17-22 in w. Oregon, and Apr 22-23 in w. Washington, s. V.I. and s.w. British Columbia. Hermit Warblers arrived at Oregon coast and Coast Range locations Apr 22-25 (Tom Mickel, MSa, AMc). Two were n. to L. Crescent, Wash., May 16 (SA) and another was near Sequim, Wash., May 23 (Dory Smith). A Palm Warbler photographed May 4 at Yachats, Oreg was the latest ever of very few spring records (Brian Prescott). First arrivals of Wilson's Warblers were Apr. 19-22 at Coos Bay and Corvallis, Oreg., and Leadbetter Pt. and Grays River, Wash., and Apr 25-27 for Seattle, Wash., and Saanich and Van.

A ♂ Bobolink sighted May 24 at Jericho P., Van., represented the eighth record for the area (†Syd Cannings, DJ, Dale Wilkie). A Common Grackle was seen Mar. 26-Apr. 3 on Quadra I., near Campbell River, V.I. (ph.-†HT *et al.*) for the second record for coastal British Columbia, and only the fourth for the entire Region. The first British Columbia bird was also in the spring, in Van., May 6-9, 1968 (*Murrelet* 50:38, 1969).

FINCHES AND SPARROWS — There were two reports of Black-headed Grosbeaks in Oregon by late April, but widespread arrival in c Oregon was May 1-2 (SG, AMc, E & EE). Similarly, there was one Seattle report May 1 (EH), with first arrivals elsewhere in Puget Sound, s. V.I., and the Van., area May 8-11. Two Lazuli Buntings at Philomath, Oreg., Apr. 22 were the earliest ever for the Corvallis area (David Irons). A vagrant Lazuli Bunting was at L. Ozette, near Cape Flattery, Wash., May 15 (SA). The Brambling present this winter along L. Sammamish, Wash., was last seen Mar. 22 (Art & Nancy Lang). Large flocks of Evening Grosbeaks arrived at Bellingham, Wash., in mid-April (TW), Portland in late April (DA), and were ten days late at Seattle in early May (EH *et al.*). An influx of Purple Finches was noted at Sauvie I., Oreg., Mar. 7-13 (HN, JG, Tom Crabtree) and in Seattle during early March (EH). A "Hepburn's" Gray-crowned Rosy Finch was seen at Willow Pt., s. of Campbell

River May 1 (†Kay & Jack Conway) The last sightings of the Com Redpoll invasion this winter were two Apr. 21 in Van. (MF), and 35 at Dungeness, Wash.; Apr. 24 (Karl Gruebel). Large flocks of Pine Siskins were widely noted through April, and in some areas through May. Fledged young were found May 20 in Tacoma, Wash. (Helen Engle). Numerous small flocks of Red Crossbills were found after late March on s. V. I. (*vide* VG) and n. Oregon (*vide* HN), and from late April through May in Van. (WW, DK) and Bellingham and Seattle (TW, EH). A few were seen throughout the period at Coos Bay (AMc). Forty White-winged Crossbills were near Mt. Baker, Wash., Mar. 6 (Jim Duemmel) and 20 were in Cypress Bowl P.P., W Vancouver, B.C., Mar. 31 (WW). -

Vesper Sparrows were widely reported from w. Oregon, but were noted in w. Washington only at their usual location s. of Tacoma (TB, BHT). Two were seen May 21 near Cobble Hill village, Shownigan Land District, V.I. (M & VG). A Sage Sparrow found Apr. 27 at Pitt Meadows, B.C., furnished the second Vancouver area record and only the third for British Columbia and Canada (†DW, †Ken Summers). Sightings of Chipping Sparrows continue to decrease in s.w mainland British Columbia and w. Washington. There were numerous reports, however, from s. V.I. and w. Oregon. A Tree Sparrow was very late departing Glenedon Beach, n. of Newport, Apr. 2 (ph.-Jim Mackie, *vide* HN). A Brewer's Sparrow was found May 15 along the Rogue R., in Whitehorse County P., Oreg. (†Steve Summers, Jim Carlson), for the fourth lowland record for w. Oregon. There were reports of 13 White-throated Sparrows. Males at Ocean Park, Wash (RWi) and in Eugene (SG), were singing in mid-April. The latest were birds in Roseburg, Oreg., May 6 (Alice & Fred Parker), Ashland, Oreg., May 7 (MjM), and in Vancouver, B.C., May 19 (BK). Three different Swamp Sparrows were located on Sauvie I. during March and until Apr. 9 (†HN, Verta Teale, JG *et al.*). Three Lapland Longspurs in Delta, B.C., May 30 were very late (PY, MP).

CORRIGENDA — The Stilt Sandpiper seen May 27-29, 1978, in Saanich, V.I. (*Am. Birds* 32:1047) represented actually the third spring record for British Columbia, not the first (*vide* WW). The Buff-breasted Sandpiper found Apr. 12, 1981 (*Am. Birds* 35:855) was in a field near Tillamook, Oreg. Please delete the reference to a new Black Phoebe nesting location near Central Pt., Oreg. (*Am. Birds* 35:856) The Lark Sparrow is not rare w. of the Cascades in s. Oregon (*Am Birds* 35:856).

INITIALED OBSERVERS and ABBREVIATIONS, with Sub-Regional Editors in boldface. David Anderson, Scott Atkinson, Kevin Bell, Thais Bock, Mike Carmody, Herbert Curl, Mark Daly, Lyndis Davis, Elsie & Elzy Eltzroth, Don & Marie Emehiser, Darrell Faxon (DFa), David Fix (DFi), Mike Force, Jeff Gilligan, Margaret & Vic Goodwill, Steve Gordon, Bill Harrington-Tweit (BHT), Werner & Hilde Hesse (W & HHe), Glen & Wanda Hoge (G & WHO), John & Teresa Ireland, Dale Jensen, Brian Kautesk, Lois Killewich, Rick & Jan Krabbe, Doug Kragh, Alan McGie (AMc), Mike McGrenere (MMc), Carol McMillen, Marjorie Moore (MjM), Ann Musche (AMu), Harry Nehls, Dennis Paulson, Roy Phillips, Michael Price, Ellen Ratoosh, Alan Richards, Joy & Ron Satterfield, Martha Sawyer (MSa), Teresa & Michael Shepard (T & MS), Keith Taylor, Howard Telosky, Terry Wahl, Wayne Weber, Ralph Widrig (RWi), Margaret & Ray Williams, Doug Wilson, Paul Yorke.—**PHILIP W. MATTOCKS, JR.**, Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Washington, Seattle, Wash. 98195, and **EUGENE S. HUNN**, 1816 N. 57th St., Seattle, Wash. 98103.



MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Jules Evens and Ron LeValley

This winter's rainy trend continued unabated into March and April. Observers from throughout the Region termed those months "wetter and colder" than normal. Another violent storm passed through March 30-April 2, dumping up to four feet of snow at some mountainous locations and disrupting the efforts of such early nesters as Bald Eagles and Canada Geese. Some parts of the Sierra Nevadas had more than twice the normal snowpack, insuring good water supplies for wildlife and people alike this summer. May reversed the trend dramatically, bringing near record heat to most of the Region.

Passerines remained generally late in the lowlands. Migratory timing in the mountains is a mystery, owing to the paucity of observer coverage, however, it is probably safe to assume that most species arrived late because of inclement weather.

Ocean temperatures followed near normal patterns with a stable March, a slight warming trend in April, then a distinct cooling along the coast in May associated with intensive upwellings. April sea surface temperatures were 11.5°C near Cape Mendocino and 12.5°C near San Francisco with both areas being a half degree cooler in March and one degree cooler in May. The May cooling dropped temperatures to slightly below the 20-year average.

All observations from the Farallon Islands (hereafter, F.I.) and Palomarin should be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory (hereafter, P.R.B.O.). A dagger (†) means that documentation is on file with the editors.

LOONS THROUGH STORM-PETRELS — A few migrant Com. Loons were reported from inland localities as usual but the only other inland loons were a probable Red-throated on Millerton L., Madera Co., Apr. 19 (*fide* KH) and an unidentified loon racing a rainstorm over Fresno Mar. 29 (KH). A late Yellow-billed Loon was at Moss Landing Apr. 10 (*fide* DRo).

The first influx of Sooty Shearwaters was in early April; by May 7 there were 1-2000 in Monterey Bay coincident with the opening of the commercial squid season (AB). Large numbers were around the F.I., May 28 when salmon fishermen were reporting euphausiids in salmon stomachs (P.R.B.O.). A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel was off Pacific Grove, Monterey Co., May 10 during strong NW winds, typical conditions for spring sightings (AB). For the second consecutive year, Leach's Storm-Petrels were heard calling from Pt. St. George, Del Norte Co., with a peak of 5+ birds May 14 (GL, RAE).

PELICANS THROUGH HERONS — Seven White Pelicans on L. Earl, Del Norte Co., May 5-6 (RAE+) were unusual as they are rare along the coast n. of Sonoma County. A few Brown Pelicans lingered around Monterey through the spring (AB) and then returned to the n. coast a bit early with small numbers in Humboldt and Del Norte cos., in late April. Double-crested Cormorants were well-reported inland with peaks of 110 May 15 at Colusa (WA) and 94 at the Stockton Sewage Ponds Mar. 11 (DY). There were also two Apr. 16 at the Creighton Ranch Preserve, Tulare Co., in the San Joaquin Valley where they continue to be seen in small numbers (RH).

Single Green Herons May 1 and 14 in Willow Creek Valley, Lassen Co. (BSt) were in an area from which there are few records. The Little Blue Heron that wintered at L. Earl was last seen Mar. 30 (BED). An ad. Little Blue Heron at Tulelake N.W.R., May 13 was photographed (*fide* SS). Only a Washington State record is from a more northerly locality. Great Egrets had mostly departed the lowlands n. of Crescent City by May 7 (RAE). Undoubtedly these birds moved S for breeding as there are no known nesting concentrations in Oregon. Least Bitterns were first noted at breeding areas of Lava Lakes Nature Center, Siskiyou Co., May 11 (RE, MR) and Gray Lodge W.A., May 14 (BED). One at Merced N.W.R., May 10 (RJB) was thought to be a migrant.

Two Flamingoes surprised a boatload of birdwatchers 5 mi offshore in Monterey Bay Apr. 5 (SFB+). The source of these birds is unknown but it is of note that one or more Flamingoes have been resident at the Moss Landing Salt Works, Monterey Co., since at least 1968!

WATERFOWL — The Mar. 30-Apr. 2 storm appeared to have greatly reduced production of young Canada Geese at L. Almanor, Plumas Co.; the first brood was not detected until May 6 compared to



Apr. 21 last year (DAA). Three "blue" Snow Geese were w. of Tulelake in Modoc County Mar. 10 (CSt) but even more unusual was a "mostly blue" Snow Goose with Aleutian Canada Geese at L. Talawa, Del Norte Co., Mar. 24-27 that established only the second n. coast record (*fide* RAE).

Two Fulvous Whistling Ducks were in Fresno Slough, Kings Co., May 1 (HM, *fide* RH, KH). There are no recent breeding records of this species in our Region. Mallards seem to be benefiting from the abundance of water in the Central Valley (hereafter, C.V.): 18 broods at Gray Lodge W.A. by May 10 (BED) and 20-25 broods at the Stockton Sewage Ponds during the period (DY) were considered high numbers. Two ♂ Eur. Green-winged Teals were detected, one at Sacramento N.W.R., Mar. 28 (RS) and one near Arcata, Humboldt Co., Apr. 15 (RAE). Sacramento N.W.R. also hosted a notable 1500 Green-winged Teal Mar. 28 (RS). On Apr. 29 a group of birders from Lane Community College in Oregon discovered a ♂ Garganey at Lower Klamath N.W.R. (*fide* SS). It was involved in courtship displays with Cinnamon Teal and was also seen and identified by assistant refuge manager Jeff Fleischer†. This establishes the first Regional record and the third for California and fits into the spring migration pattern of other Garganey occurrences s. of Alaska. Wood Ducks were more common than usual e. of the Sierra Nevadas including a pair at Honey Lake W.A., May 21-30 (RAE, GL, BSt), two males at Mt. Meadows Res., Lassen Co. (DAA) and three near Westwood, Lassen Co., May 29 (DAA).

Up to four Lesser Scaup remained at the Creighton Ranch Preserve, Tulare Co., through May 31+ (RH). Two pairs of Barrow's Goldeneye at Eagle L., Plumas Co., and another pair in Willow Creek Valley, Lassen Co., Apr. 18 (BSt) are about as late as this species has been found in our Region recently. It has been many years since they have nested in California. Two Oldsquaws were still present at the end of the period, one at Pt. Reyes (JE, DSc) and one in Bodega Bay (NTC). These and three from Del Norte County this spring combined to exceed this winter's reports. A large N migration of Surf and White-winged scoters was noted from the F.I. (P.R.B.O.) and Sea Ranch, Mendocino Co. (AB) during the third week of April.

HAWKS THROUGH RAILS — Two Goshawks seen near Bodega, Sonoma Co., Mar. 27 (KVV, KC) provided only the second record for the county. A Red-tailed Hawk at the F.I., Apr. 15 (P.R.B.O.) was only the second recent spring sighting. One Bald Eagle nest at L. Almanor was abandoned after being covered with a foot of snow Mar. 30-Apr. 2 while another nest remained active through May 17 (DAA). A ♀ Marsh Hawk on the F.I., Apr. 6 established the first spring record for that locality since 1886 (P.R.B.O.). Most of our Peregrine Falcon reports are from the coast and this spring was no exception. Two adults and one immature on

the F.I., Mar 1-Apr 21 were the largest numbers reported (P.R.B.O.).

Ruffed Grouse were again detected in Del Norte County at Dry L., Mar. 27 (*vide* RAE) and Howland Hill Apr. 18-May 11 (BRI, RAE, GL). Although this species is widely distributed throughout n.w. California, nowhere is it common enough to provide a "stakeout" location for birders. Introduced White-tailed Ptarmigan continue to be seen in the Hall Natural Area, Mono Co., at the crest of the Sierra Nevada; six + were present Apr. 25 (*vide* DDeS). The Sage Grouse lek near Mt. Schaeffer comprised ten males and two females Mar. 20-21 (BSt, DAA), essentially stable numbers for the last three years. Common Gallinules are rare e. of the Sierran crest so two at Little Alkali L., Mono Co., Apr. 17 (RH, CP) and one at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Siskiyou Co., May 26 (CSt) were notable.

SHOREBIRDS — Shorebird migration in the San Joaquin Valley was closely monitored this season thanks to the efforts of David Yee at the Stockton Sewage Ponds, Robby Bacon at Merced N.W.R., and Rob Hansen at the Creighton Ranch Preserve, Tulare Co. Lack of space prevents us from reporting much of those data, but much useful information on more common species is now in the Regional notebooks.

An Am. Avocet at Shields Marsh, Tomales Bay May 22 was very late and in an unusual location (JE). The last migrant Am. Golden Plovers included one along Fresno Slough, Kings Co., May 4 (HM, *vide* RH, KH), one near Davis, Yolo Co., May 10 (TB), and three at Pt. St. George, Del Norte Co., May 13 (GL). For the second consecutive year Solitary Sandpipers made an impressive showing, especially in Del Norte and Humboldt cos., where at least 36 and as many as 50 individuals moved through Apr. 17-May 7 (RAE, GL *et al.*). Single Ruddy Turnstones appeared at Hatfield State Rec. Area, Merced Co., May 10 (KFC) and the Stockton Sewage Ponds Apr. 27 (DY) but nine at the Merced N.W.R., May 10 (RJB) were surprising as they are quite rare inland. Single Red Knots were observed at Merced N.W.R., May 9 (KFC) and at the Stockton Sewage Ponds May 14-17 (DY). There are very few records from the San Joaquin Valley. Baird's Sandpipers, extremely rare in the spring, were detected as follows: four at Pinnacles N.M., San Benitos Co., Apr. 18 (Pat Jacobsen†); six at Abbott's Lagoon, Pt. Reyes Apr. 21 (DS); two at Capay, Glenn Co., Apr. 24 (SAL, IT); and two at the Stockton Sewage Ponds Apr. 27 (DY). The spring status of this species is clouded by the fact that most observers are unfamiliar with the ad. spring plumage which is substantially different from the juv. fall plumage and many records lack sufficient details. Single Pectoral Sandpipers, also very rare in spring, were discovered at L. Talawa, Del Norte Co., Apr. 8 (BED) and at the Bodega Bay Sewage Plant May 21-22 (NTC). The Region's first spring Ruffs were found at Moss Landing, Monterey Co., Apr. 21 (DRo) and at Merced N.W.R., May 6 (RJB). This Eurasian shorebird seems to be increasing along the West Coast. [There are now breeding records for Alaska.—Ed.]

LARIDS THROUGH ALCIDS — Seven Glaucous Gulls lingered along the coast with the last one recorded Apr. 30-May 2 in Monterey (DRo). An ad. Mew Gull at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Mar. 21 (RE, MR) was notable. The Stockton Sewage Pond's Black-headed Gull was last seen Apr. 8 (DY). Single Franklin's Gulls were at Moss Landing Apr. 23 (DSc) and May 2 (*vide* DRo) and another was at Hartson Res., Lassen Co., May 30 (RAE, GL). The Little Gull saga continues. After this winter's Monterey County sighting, thought to be the same individual as the one at the Stockton Sewage Ponds previously, an adult occurred in Monterey Apr. 3-12 (†AB *et al.*) then the Stockton Sewage Pond bird returned Apr. 28 (DY) and even more astonishingly was joined by a second adult Apr. 30-May 9 (DY)! Elsewhere an immature was in Crescent City Harbor May 19 (†RAE, †GL). A Black-legged Kittiwake photographed at Tulelake N.W.R., Apr. 29 (Sara Brown, *vide* SS) established the first Siskiyou County record. A concentration of 150+ ad. Sabine's Gulls in Crescent City Harbor on a windy May 25 was notable both for its size and for its onshore locality (RAE, GL). An Arctic Tern 7 mi s.w. of the F.I., May 15 was unusual, since they are rather scarce in the spring (JLu). Two Black Skimmers at Alameda South Shore Apr. 24-27 were apparently banded (*vide The Gull*)! Someone should be able to tell us where these birds came from! Two were also roosting with Caspian Terns at Moss Landing May 1 (DSc).

A Xantus' Murrelet was offshore in Monterey Bay Apr. 5 (SFB, CSt).

LANDBIRD ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DATES *Arrival dates* (exceptionally early dates in italics). Lesser Nighthawk Apr 11 Tulare Co. (*vide* RH), Vaux's Swift Mar. 22 Alamo (JRI), Black-chinned Hummingbird Apr. 16 Auburn (BBa), W. Kingbird Mar. 22 s.e. Monterey Co. (RR), Ash-throated Flycatcher Apr. 2 Auburn (MA) and Apr. 5 Monterey (*vide* SFB), Willow Flycatcher May 10 Siskiyou Co. (RE), Hammond's Flycatcher Apr. 17 Siskiyou Co. (RE), Dusky Flycatcher Apr. 11 Siskiyou Co. (MR), W. Flycatcher Apr. 4 (late) Lafayette (LF), W. Wood Pewee Apr. 20 F.I., Olive-sided Flycatcher Apr. 6 Sonoma Co. (DB, PC), Bank Swallow Apr. 3 S.F. (DM), Rough-winged Swallow Mar. 2 Bolinas (DS), Barn Swallow Feb. 28 Bolinas (*vide* JE), Swainson's Thrush Apr. 24 Marin & Humboldt cos. (P.R.B.O., SJ), Solitary Vireo Mar. 24 F.I. and Contra Costa Co. (DSc), Warbling Vireo Mar. 21 Marin Co. (DS, SC), Yellow Warbler Apr. 12 Marin Co. (DS), Black-throated Gray Warbler Apr. 9 F.I., Yellow-breasted Chat Apr. 21 Palomarin, Wilson's Warbler Mar. 22 Marin Co. (DS), N. Oriole Mar. 3 Petaluma (KVV), W. Tanager Apr. 20 Lafayette (LF), Black-headed Grosbeak Apr. 4 Lafayette (LF), Blue Grosbeak Apr. 29 Tulare Co. (RH), Lazuli Bunting Apr. 21 F.I., Grasshopper Sparrow Apr. 13 Marin Co. (JE), Chipping Sparrow Mar. 24 s.e. Monterey Co. (RR).

Departure dates (from non-breeding grounds): Brown Creeper Apr 14 Colusa (WA), Varied Thrush May 6 Marin Co. (DS), Ruby-crowned Kinglet May 5 Sutter Buttes (WA), Water Pipit May 9 Merced Co. (RJB), "Myrtle" Warbler May 28 F.I., "Audubon's" Warbler May 16 F.I., Townsend's Warbler June 1 San Joaquin Co. (DY), Savannah Sparrow May 9 Merced Co. (KFC) and Sutter Buttes (WA), Fox Sparrow Apr. 30 Pt. Saint George (RAE), Lincoln's Sparrow May 10 Merced Co. (RJB).

PIGEONS THROUGH NIGHTHAWKS — Band-tailed Pigeons arrived Mar. 2-6 along the n. coast (JS, GL). High numbers were in the Chico area and along the Colusa-Lake co. line in early March (BED), in the Shasta area throughout the period (BED, CSt), and at Palomarin and S.F. from early April-May 31+ (P.R.B.O., DM). A flock of 100+ over the ocean off Pacific Grove in late March may have been avoiding storms in the coast range (AB).

Judging from the dearth of reports and the general impressions of several observers (DDeS, JE, P.R.B.O.), microtine-dependent owls were very scarce this spring. The high rainfall this winter and spring and the subsequent high productivity of grasses and forbs would seemingly promote a rodent bloom, however the evidence suggests that the opposite occurred. Could the potential parent population have suffered severe mortality this winter/spring and failed to exploit an abundant resource? Exceptions to the dearth of reports follow: Barn Owls "nested in good numbers" at Livermore (AE). Ten ± Flammulated Owls were e. of Lassics Peak, Trinity Co., May 29 (RLeV, LD). A Pygmy Owl in Fresno May 12 (KH) furnished one of few San Joaquin Valley floor records. Eight-ten were on the s.w. slope of Mt. Saint Helena, Napa Co., Apr. 27 (JE). A **Barred Owl** in Redwood N.P., near Crescent City Mar. 12-May 31+ (†RAE, m.ob.) provided the first California record of a species that has extended its range impressively in recent years. The Long-eared Owl at Coyote Hills, Alameda Co., was last reported Apr. 4 (JM) and the roost near Colusa remained until Apr. 8 (WA). Nesting was confirmed in Tehama County (IT, PE, SAL).

A Poorwill calling at Black Lassics Peak May 29 (RLeV, LD) was probably within breeding range, however the status in the n.w. counties is poorly defined. Occurrence at Palomarin coincided interestingly with a large passerine wave Apr. 20-22. A vagrant Lesser Nighthawk reached the F.I., May 26-27.

SWIFTS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — The only Black Swift reported was a single migrant over Kentfield, Marin Co., May 14 (SC). Interesting in light of the recent article AB 36:139-141 (and intrinsically!) was the discovery of a **White-collared Swift** May 21 foraging with swallows over the grassy headlands of Pt. St. George, Del Norte Co. (†RAE, †GL, GS, RT, LB). Viewed for up to 40 minutes under ideal conditions, the description indicates that the bird was *Streptoprocne zonaris* "probably an immature and probably *S. z. mexicana*" (*vide* J.V. Remsen.). Exhaustive details will be published elsewhere (*vide* RAE). Despite one early record (see arrival date above), Vaux's Swift arrived on schedule Apr. 11-17 (m.ob.). Rufous Hummingbird migration spanned Mar. 25-Apr. 24 at F.I. One male at Palomarin Mar. 25 was quite late for a migrant. Though long suspected, Anna's Hummingbird was confirmed as a breeder in Del

Norte Co., at Klamath Glen Apr 16 (RAE). A vagrant ♂ Costa's Hummingbird reached F.I., Apr 27 and a ♀ Calliope there May 6 fell within the expected span of coastal vagrant records.

WOODPECKERS—Concern continues to be expressed about the scarcity of Lewis' Woodpeckers along Mines Rd., Alameda Co. (m.ob.); although several can still be found in San Antonio Valley, Santa Clara Co. (JRI, AE) there are also fewer there (WB). A coastal vagrant was near the Big Sur R. mouth Apr. 23 (DRo). A "Red-breasted" Sapsucker (*S.v. daggetti*) near Inverness May 9 (DS) and another in Pt. Reyes Sta., May 23 (*vide* JE) were late unless breeding locally. An ad. ♂ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*S.v. varius*) in Ferndale, Humboldt Co., Mar. 19 (ph. REW *et al.*) was present at least until Mar. 29 (B & CY), as late as this race has been recorded in California (excepting a single June vagrant). A Williamson's Sapsucker at Sunol Reg. Park, May 6 (*vide* SFB) was exceptionally late for a lowland sighting. Single ♂ Hairy Woodpeckers near Thomes Creek Mar. 8 & 31 and William's Butte Apr. 4 (IT, PE) were at locations in Tehama County where the species is quite rare. A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker at Antelope Mt., e. of Susanville Mar. 14 was near the e. limit of the range there (DAA). One White-headed Woodpecker at Gasquet, Del Norte Co., May 3 was unusually low in elevation (GL).

FLYCATCHERS—Western Kingbird was particularly abundant around Stockton this spring (DY). At Merced N.W.R., a migration that began Mar. 26 peaked May 17 when 30 birds were present (RJB). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher on the coast at Ft. Dick bottoms May 1 (R. Tedsen, *vide* RAE, GL) was as early as the species occurs. Late spring records are few, so *two* E. Phoeebes were remarkable; May 24 at Samoa, Humboldt Co. (JS, †RAE, †RLeV, GL) and F.I., May 26-27. Say's Phoebe staged an impressive showing on the n. coast where considered rare; six+ were on the immediate coast between Crescent City and the Smith R., Mar. 6-Apr. 15 (m.ob.). A pair of Say's Phoeebes was suspected of breeding in s. Tehama County (PE, IT) far n. of the closest known breeding. Gray Flycatcher migration was slightly early; notable dates and/or locations included Trinidad, Humboldt Co., Apr. 21+ (SJ, JS), Bear Harbor, Mendocino Co., Apr. 24 (†DEL), Mt. Loma Prieta, Santa Cruz Co., May 1 (†TC) and Pt. Reyes Lighthouse May 27 (DDeS). Unlike the other flycatchers, Westerns arrived slightly late and in low numbers (P.R.B.O., MR). The pitfalls of comparing local records is illustrated by the fact that Palomarin's first W. Flycatcher Apr. 8 was the latest ever while the first at F.I., Apr. 20 just 20 mi away, was the earliest island record! Western Wood Pewee movement spanned Apr. 20-June 3 (normal) but peaked differentially; Sutter Buttes May 2-16 (WA), F.I., May 25-31. Like W. Flycatcher, W. Wood Pewee was generally late and in low numbers (P.R.B.O.). The arrival at Palomarin May 4 was the latest ever; the arrival at F.I., Apr. 20 was the earliest ever.

LARKS THROUGH SWALLOWS—Horned Larks (five+) were displaying on the Sierran crest above Tioga Pass at 11,500 ft Apr. 24-25 (B. Engstrom, *vide* DDeS).

After a very cold period in early April, large numbers of swallows died in the C.V. At Gray Lodge, of over 500 dead swallows, 90% were Cliffs, the remainder Violet-green, Tree and Barn (BED). A Cliff Swallow at Bolinas Mar. 2 (DS) was exceptionally early on the immediate coast. Purple Martins were reported nesting at Chew's Ridge, Monterey Co. (DRo), San Antonio Valley, Santa Clara Co. (TG, JRI) and Bartlett Springs, Lake Co. (JE) as well as the usual locations.

CORVIDS THROUGH MIMIDS—Spring movement of Scrub Jays outside of breeding areas was again documented at L. Almanor and around Indian Valley, Plumas Co., Apr. 30-May 3 (DAA, G Rotta), normal dates. A Com. Raven was observed catching and eating a White-throated Swift at Pine Flat Dam on King's R. (where the swifts were roosting) Apr. 6, the ultimate "fast food" (*vide* KH). Clark's Nutcracker remained down to 4500 ft around Chester, Plumas Co., through the period, "presumably the result of heavy snows and a good yellow pine cone crop" (DAA). Low numbers of Mountain Chickadees along the n. fork of the American R., Placer Co. (TB) and of Chestnut-backed Chickadees on the coast at Palomarin were probably attributable to winter storm mortality. The presence of fledgling Chestnut-backed Chickadees at Yosemite Valley May 27+ (KH) confirmed breeding there. Spring records of transient White-

breasted Nuthatch are few, one was at Creighton Ranch Preserve, Tulare Co., Mar 25 (T Griggs, *vide* RH) on the valley floor. The population of Pygmy Nuthatch near Palomarin was "decimated" by winter/spring storms and none was recorded there. A pair nesting at Jasper Ridge, Santa Clara Co., May 21 (TC) was at a new location in an interrupted and scattered distribution pattern. House Wrens are rare in the n.w. coast belt; one was at Crescent City May 1 (RAE, GS). Single wandering Rock Wrens were at Creighton Ranch Preserve Apr. 21 (RH) and Gold Bluffs Beach, Humboldt Co., May 24 (GS). Migrant Mockingbirds were noted along the coast Apr. 9-May 26 (m.ob.). The only Sage Thrasher reported was at Pt. St. George May 13, providing a Del Norte County record. Coastal vagrants occur every spring.

THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS—After a large winter influx, Am. Robin was very common, at least on the coast and inner coast ranges (DDeS, AB). Swainson's Thrush numbers were high at Palomarin; post-drought banding totals there (with equivalent net hours) compare as follows: 1979 (14), 1980 (19), 1981 (24), 1982 (36) suggesting recovery (P.R.B.O., DDeS). A Mountain Bluebird at Mines Rd., Apr. 28 (RSc, *vide* WB) was late in the lowlands. After this winter's impressive showing of Townsend's Solitaire in the lowlands, spring records abounded. Twenty-six individuals from 20 lowland locations were reported, fairly evenly distributed between the coast and interior Mar. 1-Apr. 22. The last coastal sighting was at Tomales Pt., Marin Co., Apr. 20 (DS) and the last interior one at Thomes Cr Gorge, Tehama Co., Apr. 22 (PE, IT). Two waves of Ruby-crowned Kinglets at F.I., occurred Mar. 24-26 (peak of 150 on 24th) and Apr 20-27 (peak of 40 on 20th). Five+ Water Pipits were displaying at 11,500 ft on the Sierran crest above Tioga Pass Apr. 24-25 (B. Engstrom, *vide* DDeS). The only Bohemian Waxwing was at Susanville Mar. 13 (DAA). Cedar Waxwings were present in the lowlands through the period with exceptional numbers in the C.V. (DY) and good numbers on the coast (DDeS, DM). A Phainopepla that arrived in Colusa (rare on the valley floor) Feb. 16 remained until Mar 16 (WA). A Phainopepla at Yosemite Valley May 30 (KH) represented the first spring occurrence; there are only two other records there, both in fall. Of eight N. Shrikes, six were on the n. coast (GL, LB, GS+), two at Honey L. One at Pt. St. George Apr. 15 (GL) marked the Region's latest record. A singing Bell's Vireo at Pinnacles N.M., May 21-23 (D.S. Starks) was only the fourth occurrence within its former breeding range in over 20 years. No evidence of nesting could be found. Two Hutton's Vireos were in the Sutter Buttes May 9 (WA) where the species is rarely encountered. On the coast, numbers of Hutton's Vireo seemed much reduced (DDeS, JE, RS), another victim of weather-related mortality. Solitary Vireo arrived early and in good numbers; nesting was confirmed at Briones Reg. Park (JM) and on Morgan Territory Rd. (AE), both in Contra Costa County. A Warbling Vireo at Oak Grove P., San Joaquin Co., June 1 (DY) was a late migrant for the valley floor.

WARBLERS—Nine Black-and-white Warblers on the coast from S.F. to Pt. St. George May 5+ was average. Of 12+ Tennessee Warblers May 5-May 31, ten were on F.I., May 26 and two were at Pt. Reyes Lighthouse May 27 (*vide* DDeS). Orange-crowned Warbler migration peaked at F.I., Apr. 21; data elsewhere is unavailable. Nashville migration spanned Apr. 16-May 6 in the interior lowlands, Apr. 20-May 9 on the coast. One ♀ N. Parula at Pt. Reyes Lighthouse May 27-29 (DDeS *et al.*) was the only one reported. Yellow Warbler movement peaked May 13-16 in the interior, May 24-26 coastally. A ♂ Magnolia Warbler at Caswell S.P., San Joaquin Co., May 26 (DY) provided the Region's first interior spring record; a female was at F.I. May 30-31 where over 75% of spring records have originated. Yellow-rumped Warbler movement peaked at F.I., Apr. 21, but spanned the period. Two Black-throated Grays in the C.V. in March apparently wintered (DY, KH); movement spanned Apr. 9-30. A singing ♂ Black-throated Green Warbler at Lincoln P., S.F., May 22 (†PU, †KHb) was one of few spring mainland occurrences. Hermit Warbler migration spanned Apr. 18-May 15. A singing ♂ Yellow-throated Warbler at Somoa, Humboldt Co., May 24 (†RAE) could not be assigned to race; the only other mainland spring record was of a *D.d. albilora*, but the yellow-lored form has occurred at F.I. in spring as well as fall (see *Western Birds* 3:17-18).

Two Bay-breasted Warblers were at Pt. Reyes: a male May 26-27 (KFC, DDeS), a female May 29 (JM). Two Blackpolls, May 6 & 16, were at F.I. Six Palm Warblers were on the n. coast: three in March

probably wintered, migrants were at Crescent City Apr 24-25 (RAE, GL, SS *et al.*) and Orick May 25 (GS). Single Ovenbirds were at outer Pt Reyes May 29 (RS, JE *et al.*) and F.I., May 30. One N. Waterthrush at Bolinas Lagoon Mar. 10-16 (R. DeCarlo, BY) conceivably wintered. A Com. Yellowthroat at F.I., Mar. 24 was the island's earliest and migrants arrived at Tulare Valley Mar. 25 (RH) and Orick Mar. 26 (RAE). One at Mono L., Apr. 17 was early there (RH) and one of few spring records for the Mono Basin. Seven Yellow-breasted Chats were at unusual coastal locations Apr. 21-May 24 (four in Marin, two in Humboldt and one in San Mateo). A ♂ Hooded Warbler at Lincoln P., S.F., May 18 (A. Hopkins, *vide* SFB) was within the cluster of spring dates. Wilson's Warbler migration peaked at F.I., May 5 and in the C.V., May 13-17 (RJB, RH, DY). A distinctively marked individual at Pt. Reyes May 29 was probably the eastern race (*W p. pusilla*), a form recorded in other w. states but not properly documented in California (RS, JM, JE). An Am. Redstart that wintered was last seen at Santa Cruz Apr. 4 (BLaB). Potential breeders returned to Klamath May 23 (GL) and single migrants were at S.F., May 23 (D. Dittman) and Antelope L., Plumas Co., May 27; spring interior records are most unusual.

ICTERIDS THROUGH TANAGERS — One ♂ Bobolink at Bolinas May 24 (B. Heneman, *ph.* BY) was about the average spring quota. Return dates to breeding locales for Yellow-headed Blackbirds were Mar. 28 in the Tulare Valley (RH) and Apr. 17 (or earlier) in the Mono Basin (RH); vagrants reached the coast with three males at Zmudowski S.P., Monterey Co., Apr. 21 (DRo), one female at F.I., May 5-6, one male and 13 females in Del Norte County, May 5-7 and one female in Humboldt County May 25-June 6 (GS, RAE). Tricolored Blackbird was not well-reported, however a male at Terwer Valley May 13 was only the second Del Norte County occurrence (RAE): after one returned to Creighton Ranch Preserve Mar. 28, the number reached 100+ by Apr. 7 (RH). An Orchard Oriole that apparently wintered in Arcata (?) was "still present" Mar. 10 (*vide* R.R.A.S.). Hooded Orioles returned to breeding sites from the Bay Area south Mar. 9-27, and to the n. coast at Arcata Apr. 29 (*vide* R.R.A.S.). Extraordinary was a singing ♂ **Scott's Oriole** at Drake's Beach, P.R.N.S., May 28 (†RS) providing the seventh Regional record, at least four of which were also spring males (see *Western Birds* 8:157-158 for a discussion of extralimital records). A ♂ "Baltimore" Oriole was at F.I., May 26. A ♀ Rusty Blackbird at F.I., Apr. 22 (†P.R.B.O.) was extratemporal providing only the second Regional record between April and September (see *Western Birds* 2 55-68). Movement of W. Tanager was concentrated Apr. 20-May 16. A second-year. ♂ Summer Tanager was at F.I., May 26.

FRINGILLIDS — Five (four male, one female) Rose-breasted Grosbeaks Mar. 9-Apr. 10 were coastal and unusually early or previously undetected winterers. Single ♂ Blue Grosbeaks wandered to the coast at S.F., May 12 (A. Hopkins, *vide* SFB) and Arcata May 13 (J. Bland, RAE, JS); the latter provided a first spring (second overall) record for the n. coast. Of five Indigo Buntings May 7-26, four were at F.I., one was near Lake Mt., Trinity Co., May 15 (K. Irwin, *vide* R.R.A.S.). Lazuli Bunting arrived in high numbers (RJB, JE, DY) providing earliest arrival dates at F.I., Apr. 21 and Siskiyou County Apr. 23 (MR). A ♂ Dickcissel at F.I., May 26-27 was the only one reported of this very rare spring vagrant. Predictably, due to the inclement mountain weather, Evening Grosbeaks were abundant into May at lower elevations in Shasta County (BKl, CSt) and sightings in the C.V. continued through late April into early May (WA, DY). Six Cassin's Finches were at Mt. Lassics May 30 where its status is sporadic (RLeV, LD). A ♂ Pine Grosbeak at Whitmore, Shasta Co.,

Apr 22 (BKl) was at the exceptionally low elevation of 2800 ft Lawrence's Goldfinch was "exceptionally numerous" along Mines Rd. in May (DDeS) and found in "unprecedented numbers" around Fresno (KH). Up to eight remained in the Sutter Buttes through the period (WA) and the farthest n. sighting in the inner coast range was at Mt. Saint Helena, Napa Co., Apr. 27 (JE). A Green-tailed Towhee at Sanger Peak, Del Norte Co., on territory May 7 (RAE) was n. of the documented breeding distribution in the n. coast ranges. A singing ♂ Lark Bunting at L. Millerton, Madera Co., Apr. 20 (KH) and 2-3 males across the lake in Fresno County May 6 (*vide* KH) complement several other spring records in the C.V. and invite speculation about the possibility of breeding.

Vesper Sparrows were well reported. One at Killgore Hills near Yreka Mar. 23 was about two weeks early there (RE) and one at Creighton Ranch Preserve May 15 was late on the valley floor (RH *et al.*). Rufous-crowned Sparrow was found at three new locations: one 4 mi s.w. of Paskenta, Tehama Co. (IT, SAL), a pair carrying food at Salt Cr., n. Glenn Co., May 13 (PE) and two pairs 5 mi s. of Jenner, coastal Sonoma Co., May 27 (DEI). Sage Sparrows were present on breeding grounds in the Santa Cruz Mts. in May (WB, TC); three vagrants reached F.I., Mar. 24, Apr. 5-7 & 22 and 1-2 were at Palomarin Apr. 20-21. A Clay-colored Sparrow at Gold Bluffs Beach, Humboldt Co., May 2 & 4 (GS) established the first mainland spring record; one was at F.I., May 26-28 where the species occurs annually. The only Brewer's Sparrow report, of a single at Klamath, Del Norte Co., June 5-6 (RAE, GS *et al.*), was a county record. Single Harris' Sparrows were at Ferndale Mar. 7 (K. Rosenberg *et al.*) and Salmon Creek, Sonoma Co., May 23 (NTC). Wintering birds have remained through April, however May records are very scarce; the few we do have are from the immediate coast. Regarding White-crowned Sparrow at Palomarin: seven *gambelii* (rare in spring) were recorded Apr 21-22; the small number of wintering *pugetensis* remained until Apr 14 with one staying until Apr. 21; the resident population (*nuttalli*), depleted by winter mortality, began breeding late. Twenty-five ± White-throated Sparrows were at 11 locations through May 20. Single Swamp Sparrows at Moffett Field, Santa Clara Co., Apr. 9 (WB) and Stone Lagoon, Humboldt Co., Apr. 22 (RAE) were the only ones reported.

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION /Guy McCaskie

The mild weather of the winter continued on into the spring with only a few fronts from the north during March and April. Migrants appeared either on time or a little late and no large concentrations of migrant landbirds were encountered along the coast or at desert oases.

ABBREVIATIONS — F.C.R. = Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley National Monument; L.A.C.M. = Los Angeles County Museum; N.E.S.S. = north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co., S.B.M.N.H. = Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, S.D.N.H.M. = San Diego Natural History Museum; S.E.S.S. = south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial County. As virtually all rarities found in s. California are now seen by numerous observers only the observer initially identifying the bird is listed. Documentation is on file for all rarities listed in the report.

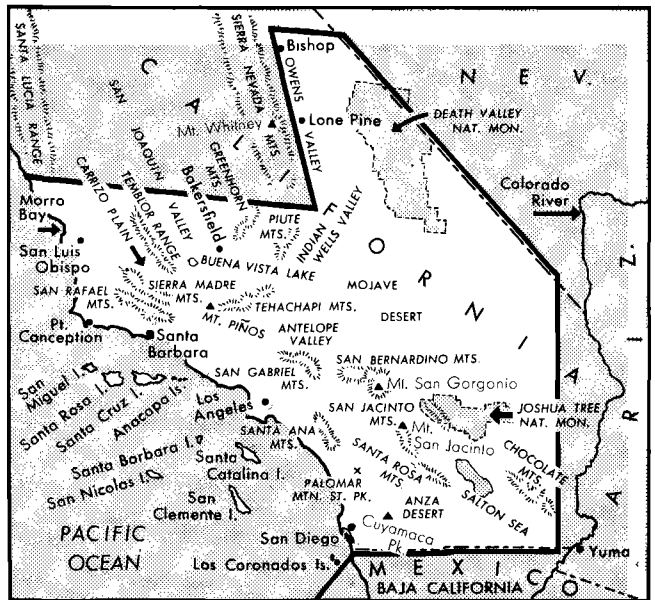
The early arrival dates for some of our key migrants were Wilson's Phalarope Apr 2, Salton Sea, N Phalarope Apr 19, Salton Sea, Com. Tern Apr. 14, San Diego; Least Tern Apr. 12, Los Angeles; Elegant Tern Mar. 3, San Diego; Black Tern Apr. 17, Salton Sea; Lesser Nighthawk Mar. 25, near Blythe; Vaux's Swift Apr. 6, near Palm Springs; Black-chinned Hummingbird Mar. 21, near Blythe; W. Kingbird Mar. 6, Anza Borrego Desert S.P.; Ash-throated Flycatcher Mar. 28, Salton Sea; Willow Flycatcher May 6, San Diego; Hammond's Flycatcher Apr. 1, Coachella Valley; W. Flycatcher Mar. 2, Topanga; W. Wood Pewee Apr. 10, Orange Co.; Olive-sided Flycatcher Apr. 11, Santa Barbara; Swainson's Thrush Apr. 17, Morongo Valley; Bell's Vireo Mar. 21, Riverside; Solitary Vireo Mar. 17, Whitewater Canyon; Warbling Vireo Mar. 5, Santa Barbara; Nashville Warbler Mar. 31, Santa Barbara; Yellow Warbler Apr. 4, San Diego; Black-throated Gray Warbler Mar. 22, Orange Co.; Hermit Warbler Apr. 12, Orange Co.; MacGillivray's Warbler Mar. 23, Salton Sea; Yellow-breasted Chat Apr. 4, San Diego; Wilson's Warbler Mar. 5, Orange Co.; Hooded Oriole Mar. 3, near Blythe; N. (Bullock's) Oriole Mar. 5, near San Diego; W. Tanager Apr. 15, Orange Co.; Black-headed Grosbeak Mar. 23, Orange Co.; Blue Grosbeak Apr. 20, Orange Co.; Lazuli Bunting Apr. 1, Coachella Valley; Black-chinned Sparrow Mar. 24, Morongo Valley.

LOONS, GREBES — A few Com. Loons were found inland during April and May as expected but a flock of nine seen flying over the summit of Pine Mt. (elev. 7500 ft), Ventura Co., Apr. 15 (JMG) was at a most unusual locality. The Yellow-billed Loon found in Goleta, Santa Barbara Co., Feb. 23 remained to Apr. 12 when it was found dying on the beach (PEL, *S.B.M.N.H.). An Arctic Loon, a casual stray inland, was near Seeley, Imperial Co., May 15 (REW). A Red-necked Grebe at Bolsa Chica, Orange Co., Apr. 24 (DRW, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) was only the third ever found s. of Los Angeles County and was exceptionally late for anywhere in this Region.

ALBATROSSES, SHEARWATERS — A Laysan Albatross found dead (bird judged to have been dead 1-2 weeks) at the s. end of Blaire Valley in Anza Borrego Desert S.P., San Diego Co., May 28 (JE) was the third to have occurred in this general area in May (Dunn and Unitt, *W. Birds* 8:27-28, 1977 and *Am. Birds* 35:850, 1981); another Laysan Albatross found on a freeway in Long Beach Apr. 13 (Long Beach Press-Telegram, Apr. 16, ph. L.A.C.M.) was at an equally unlikely spot for such a bird. One hundred Manx (Black-vented) Shearwaters off Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co., Mar. 21 (PEL) and 60 off Pt. Dume, Los Angeles Co., Mar. 27 (KLG) were large numbers for this latitude at this time of the year.

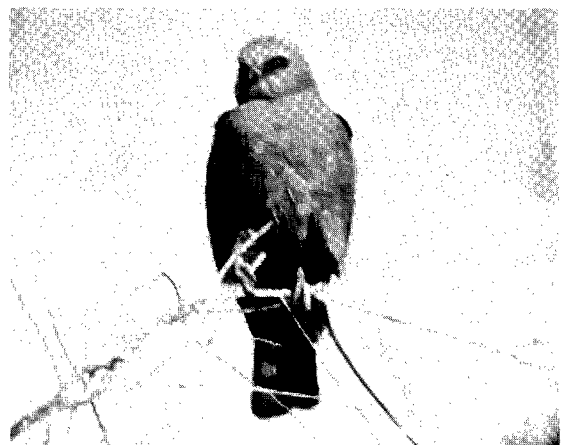
PELICANS, HERONS, STORKS — Two Brown Pelicans at N.E.S.S., May 8 (REW) were exceptionally early for this inland location. The ad. Little Blue Heron that wintered on Mission Bay in San Diego was present through Apr. 20 (DMacK). A Cattle Egret near Lancaster May 20 (JLD) and another at F.C.R., May 28 (JML) were both at unusual localities for this time of the year. At least one of the Louisiana Herons present around San Diego throughout the winter was still present near Imperial Beach on the somewhat late date of May 26 (JO); one at Pt. Mugu Apr. 10 (LB) was one of very few ever found n. of Los Angeles. An ad. Yellow-crowned Night Heron at San Eljo Lagoon, San Diego Co., May 30+ (TeM) may well have been the same bird present here last fall and early winter. A Least Bittern well out in the desert at Zzyzx, San Bernardino Co., May 23-24 (KLG) and two at F.C.R., May 23 (REW) are best treated as migrants, although nesting could occur at either location. Two Wood Storks at S.E.S.S. May 15 (REW) were earlier than expected.

GEESE, DUCKS — As usual, Brant were found inland during March and April, with 42 on L. Henshaw in the mountains of San Diego County Mar. 28 (RH) and another near Lancaster, Los Angeles Co., the same day (GMcG) being the most interesting sightings; this is the time of year birds wintering in the Gulf of California evidently move N, crossing s. California to reach the coast. Two White-fronted Geese on San Jacinto L., near Lakeview, Riverside Co., Apr. 24 (EAC) were late. Two Fulvous Whistling Ducks were at Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo Co., May 26 (PS); this species formerly occurred as an accidental straggler to the coast of c. and n. California but with the numbers held in captivity today, most encountered along the coast are considered escapees. A ♂ Eur. Green-winged Teal in Goleta Apr. 4 (LRB) was believed to be a different individual than the one present there through the winter. A



♂ Eur. Wigeon on San Jacinto L., Apr. 25 (TMt) was exceptionally late. A flock of 50± Greater Scaup on L. Matthews, Riverside Co., Mar. 6 (EAC) was an exceptional concentration and, along with four on L. Cachuma, Santa Barbara Co., Apr. 8-11 (REW), were inland. The two Oldsquaws found inland at S.E.S.S., Feb. 13 remained through Apr. 17 with three present Apr. 3 (JO). A White-winged Scoter, casual inland, was on L. Henshaw Apr. 2 (RH) and another was at N.E.S.S., May 8 (REW). Some 216 Surf Scoters on L. Henshaw Apr. 2 (RH) was an exceptional concentration; one there Mar. 27 (REW) and another in Valley Center, San Diego Co., Mar. 1-24 (AF) were the only others found inland this spring. Two Hooded Mergansers in Goleta Mar. 13-Apr. 10 (JMG) were a little late. Five Red-breasted Mergansers on L. Henshaw Apr. 16 (RH) were at an unusual locality.

HAWKS — A Mississippi Kite at F.C.R., May 28-29 (DHO, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) was the sixth to have been found at this location in late May and early June and another at Olancho, Inyo Co., May 30 (JW) was the first for the Owens Valley. A Sharp-shinned Hawk on Pt Loma, San Diego Co., Apr. 28 (REW) was somewhat late for a coastal location. Three Broad-winged Hawks were encountered with one at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co., Apr. 24 (JW), another at Oasis, Mono Co., May 24 (GMcC) and the third at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley N.M., May 30 (EAC); very few are recorded in spring. As expected, very few Swainson's Hawks were reported, but one over Goleta May 23 (JLD) and another near Ventura Apr. 19 (JMG) were along the coast where unexpected and thirteen settling to roost in Reseda, Los Angeles Co., Mar. 18 (RB) was a large concentration



Mississippi Kite present at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley, May 28-29, 1982. Photo/ Don Hoehlin.

for today The ad Zone-tailed Hawk that appeared on Mt Palomar, San Diego Co., Feb. 28 was seen sporadically through Mar. 25 (RH) and another was at Corn Springs, Riverside Co., Apr. 23 (HC). A Rough-legged Hawk near L. Henshaw Mar. 27 (REW) and another near Delano, Kern Co., Apr. 25 (MOC) were both somewhat late for this far s. A Peregrine Falcon at N.E.S.S. Apr. 10-17 (GMcC) was the only one reported away from known nesting localities. A Merlin near Twenty-nine Palms, San Bernardino Co., Apr. 16 (CGE) was late.

SHOREBIRDS — A Black Oystercatcher at Imperial Beach May 1 (EAC) was far from any rocky coastline or man-made jetty, and in an area where few have been recorded. Wintering Am. Golden Plovers remained into April with two still present near Santa Maria, Santa Barbara Co., May 18 (JLD); one at N.E.S.S., Apr. 10 (GMcC), another there Apr. 24-May 1 (GMcC) and two more there May 15 (REW) were the only spring migrants found. A flock of 100+ Black-bellied Plovers near Lancaster Mar. 28 (HMCG) was an exceptional concentration for an inland location away from the Salton Sea and 30± in flight over Mt. Palomar Apr. 16 (RH) were at an unusual locality. About 1000 Whimbrel near Lancaster Apr. 24-May 2 (JLD) indicate just how numerous this species can be in the Antelope Valley in spring; sixty-five in the Cuyama Valley, Ventura Co., Apr. 14 (JMG) were at an interesting locality. Seven Solitary Sandpipers found Apr. 6-May 1 were more than normally encountered in spring. Two Wandering Tattlers, casual stragglers to the interior, were at Salton City on the Salton Sea May 15 (REW); 50+ on the Long Beach breakwater May 2 (NBB) was an exceptional concentration. Ruddy Turnstones were found on the Salton Sea May 1-8 with an amazing 75 together at N.E.S.S., May 8 (REW). A Surf-bird near Lancaster May 8 (REW) established the fourth occurrence of this species inland, and the first away from the Salton Sea. Red Knots were continuously present inland on the Salton Sea Apr. 3-May 15, with a peak of 90 Apr. 17 (GMcC). The only Sanderlings found inland away from the Salton Sea were seven seen around Lancaster May 8-28 (REW, DRW). As now expected, a few Semipalmated Sandpipers were found among the migrant W. Sandpipers with single birds at N.E.S.S., Apr. 24 (GMcC) & May 8 (REW), three there May 15 (REW) and another near Santa Maria May 9-10 (LB). A Baird's Sandpiper, rare in spring, was at Salton City May 8 (RH). Totally unexpected was a **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** near Lancaster May 5-9 (JLD), this being the first found anywhere along the West Coast s. of Alaska in spring. A Pectoral Sandpiper, exceedingly rare in spring, was near Santa Maria Apr. 24 (PEL). A Red Phalarope at Harper Dry L., San Bernardino Co., May 28 (ASE) was inland but occurred at the same time small numbers were being found along the coast. Nine hundred N. Phalaropes near Lancaster May 12 (JLD) was a large concentration for an inland location away from the Salton Sea.

SKUAS, GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMER — An early S. Polar Skua near Catalina I., May 5 (EAC) was the only one reported. Three different Glaucous-winged Gulls were found at various locations around the Salton Sea during April and a fourth was at N.E.S.S., May 1+ (GMcC); this species is rare inland. A first-winter Herring Gull near Lancaster Mar. 26 (JLD) was one of fewer than half a dozen found in the interior away from the Salton Sea and Colorado R. Valley. A first-winter Thayer's Gull was inland at N.E.S.S., Apr. 3 (REW). An ad. Laughing Gull at N.E.S.S., Apr. 17 (GMcC) was unexpected, this species being unrecorded on the Salton Sea in recent years before mid-May; two near Lancaster May 13 (NLS) established the second occurrence of this species inland away from the Salton Sea. Fifteen Franklin's Gulls were found during April and May including six at Weldon, Kern Co., Apr. 24-25 (MOC) and a group of five together near Lancaster Apr. 24 (JLD); this species continues to be a rare transient through California. A flock of 400+ Bonaparte's Gulls on L. Henshaw Apr. 2 (RH) was a large concentration for an inland location away from the Salton Sea. An imm. Little Gull in Goleta May 10 (PEL) was the latest of nine recorded to date in s. California. A Sabine's Gull was found on shore near Pt. Mugu May 23 (LB). A Com. Tern on L. Palmdale in the Antelope Valley May 12 (JLD) was the first found inland away from the Salton Sea in spring. An elusive **Sandwich Tern** around San Diego May 15+ (FAH) was only the second found in California but could well be the same bird present two years ago (*Am. Birds* 34:816, 1980). A Black Skimmer in Goleta May 20 (TW) was exceptionally far n.

ALCIDS — Two breeding-plumaged Pigeon Guillemots at Pt.

Dume were s. of the species' normal range along the coast. A Marbled Murrelet at Pt. Mugu May 8 (LB) was well to the s. of the species' range. Two Ancient Murrelets at Pt. Mugu May 30 (LB) were unexpected, there being fewer than ten occurrences between Apr. 30 and Oct. 1 in s. California waters.

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Band-tailed Pigeons wandered widely as indicated by reports of nine individuals along the coast of Los Angeles and San Diego Cos., along with reports of four more individuals from the high desert area of e. California during May. A White-winged Dove at Deep Springs, Inyo Co., May 22-29 (GMcC) was n. of the species' normal range, and single birds at Piedras Blancas, San Luis Obispo Co., May 24+ (RJ), in Goleta May 16-17 (WA) and at Pt. Mugu May 23 (LB), along with four seen on Pt. Loma Apr. 30-May 24 (REW, DPA) were along the coast w. of the species' range. A Lesser Nighthawk in West Los Angeles Mar. 8 (JLD) had probably wintered locally, the date being some two weeks earlier than when the first migrants could be expected in s.e. California. A Black Swift near Cambria, San Luis Obispo Co., Apr. 30 (GPS) was quite early; six seen in the Mt. Palomar/L. Henshaw area May 3 (RH), two over Snow Creek Village, Riverside Co., May 11 (TG) and one at Cajon Pass, San Bernardino Co., May 24 (DHo) were inland and away from known nesting localities. Calliope Hummingbirds appeared to be more numerous along the coast than normal during April and early May with 20+ found around San Diego alone; a male near Imperial Beach May 24 (TMx) was exceptionally late. A ♂ Broad-billed Hummingbird, a casual straggler to California, was at Agua Caliente Springs, San Diego Co., Mar. 15-21 (DD). An Acorn Woodpecker at Whitewater, Riverside Co., Apr. 28 (DHa) and another at Barker Dam in Joshua Tree N.M., Apr. 23-27 (SFB) had strayed into the desert, and single birds on Pt. Loma May 4 (REW) & 21 (REW) were w. of the species' range. Five Lewis' Woodpeckers on Mt. Palomar May 3 (RH) were a little late for this far s. A wintering Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*S.v. varius*) in Silverado Canyon, Orange Co., remained through Mar. 15 (DRW). A Yellow-bellied (Red-breasted) Sapsucker in Santa Barbara Apr. 15 (TW) and another on Pt. Loma May 5 (REW) were both late for along the coast.

FLYCATCHERS — An E. Kingbird at Oasis, Mono Co., May 25 (JML) was the only one found this spring. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a casual stray to California, was at Pt. Piedras Blancas May 3-10 (FRT) and what could have been the same bird was seen at nearby Hearst's Castle May 18 (GPS). A Wied's Crested Flycatcher at F.C.R., May 29-30 (JSR) and another at nearby Panamint Springs May 31 (HC) were n.w. of the species' range, being only the second and third ever found in Inyo County. A Least Flycatcher, a rare but regular vagrant to California, was at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley N.M., May 23 (GMcC) and another was along Cottonwood Creek, adjacent to Oasis, May 29 (JLD). Single Dusky Flycatchers, very rare along the coast in spring, were seen on Pt. Loma Apr. 22 (REW) & May 3 (REW). Seven Gray Flycatchers found along the coast between Apr. 18 and May 13 would appear about average for spring.

JAYS THROUGH SOLITAIRES — A Steller's Jay at Pt. Fermin, Los Angeles Co., May 27 (JAJ) and another in Hollywood May 30 (RL) were both in the coastal lowlands where rare at any time of the year. Two Com. Ravens in Goleta Mar. 30 (WA) and two more there May 18 (PEL) were in an area where only one has been recorded in recent years; the ranges of the Com. Raven and Com. Crow along the coast of California appear complex and deserve study, the one species replacing the other at various points with no apparent change in habitat. A Gray Catbird near Santa Maria Apr. 25 (JD) was appreciably earlier than any of the previous eight spring occurrences indicating it may have wintered locally; and was the first found along the coast at this season; one at Deep Springs May 14-15 (J. Mawby, *vide* DR) was in keeping with previous spring records. A Brown Thrasher in Santa Barbara Mar. 10 (JLe) had probably wintered locally but one at F.C.R., May 21 (JL) was one of very few ever found during the traditional period for eastern vagrants—late May to early June. A Bendire's Thrasher in San Luis Obispo May 1 (FRT) would appear to be the second ever found along the coast in spring. A Varied Thrush in Sierra Madre, Los Angeles Co., May 27 (B & EG) was exceptionally late. A Townsend's Solitaire on Pt. Loma Apr. 18 (REW) was unexpected, as very few are found along the immediate coast in spring.

VIREOS, WOOD WARBLERS — A White-eyed Vireo was in Goleta May 18+ (PEL) and another was on Pt. Loma Jun. 7 (REW) to establish the fourth and fifth records for the Region. A Yellow-throated Vireo, a casual straggler to California, was at Los Osos, San Luis Obispo Co., Apr. 22-24 (DS) and another was at Turtle Rock Nature Center near Irvine, Orange Co., May 19 (DRW). The only Red-eyed Vireos found this spring were one on Pt. Loma May 18 (EC) and another at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley N.M., May 24 (MD). Three Philadelphia Vireos were found, with one along the coast at Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo Co., May 22 (PS), another on Pt. Loma May 29-31 (NBB) and the third inland at Oasis May 29-30 (JML); there are no previous spring records for the coast.



Adult ♂ White-eyed Vireo, Goleta, Santa Barbara County, May 20, 1982. Photo by Jim Greaves.

All the normally occurring w. species of wood warblers, along with an average number of the regularly occurring vagrants—Black-and-white Warbler (15), Tennessee Warbler (22), N. Waterthrush (8) and Am. Redstart (25)—were reported during April and May. A ♂ Prothonotary Warbler, a casual straggler to California, was on Santa Barbara I., May 24-25 (CD) and another was in Goleta June. 2-3 (KB). A Worm-eating Warbler in Goleta May 29 (MD) was only the fifth ever found in spring. A ♀ Golden-winged Warbler at Oasis May 22-23 (JML) was the eighth found in this area of California during late May and early June. A Tennessee Warbler in Goleta Apr. 11 (TW) is presumed to have wintered locally, the date being too early for a spring vagrant. A ♂ Lucy's Warbler on Pt. Loma June 2 (REW) was unexpected, there being no previous spring record for the coast. As usual a few N. Parulas appeared with 12 found Apr. 24-Jun. 4, seven of which were along the coast. Two Magnolia Warblers were found with one at Deep Springs May 28 (JSt) and the other at Mesquite Springs in Death Valley N.M., May 29-30 (JL); two or three are found in this area of California each spring. A ♂ Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler at Oasis May 28 (BD) was late. A ♂ Yellow-throated Warbler, a casual straggler to California, was in Morongo Valley Apr. 23-24 (R & MW, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) and another was in Upper Tujunga Canyon of the San Gabriel Mts., May 10 (H. Penfold, *vide* GSS). The only Chestnut-sided Warblers found this spring were a male at Oasis May 29 (BLaB) and another at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley N.M. the same day (JSt).

The Bay-breasted Warbler found wintering in Long Beach was still present Apr. 9 (JAJ); a female in Goleta Apr. 10 (EVG) was nearly six weeks earlier than the earliest spring vagrant previously recorded in California, suggesting it had wintered out of range along the Pacific Coast and was moving with the regularly occurring w. migrants. A male in San Pedro, Los Angeles Co., May 27 (JAJ), a female at Deep Springs May 29 (SA) and another male at S.E.S.S., June 11 (CGE) occurred during the late May-early June period in which all previous spring vagrants have been found. A Blackpoll Warbler, an exceptionally rare vagrant in spring, was on Pt. Loma May 13 (REW). A Palm Warbler in Huntington Beach, Orange Co., Apr. 14 (DRW) is believed to have wintered locally, but another on Pt. Loma May 7 (REW) was clearly a migrant. Nine Ovenbirds May 4-June 9 were more than normally encountered at this time of the year. A Kentucky Warbler at Deep Springs May 27 (JLD) was the tenth found in California. Four Hooded Warblers were found with one along the coast on Pt. Loma May 7 (REW), and single birds inland at F.C.R., May 21 (JL), Deep Springs May 27-31 (JLD) and at Oasis May 24 (JML); small numbers reach California each spring. A Canada Warbler at Oasis May 29 (DW) was only the fifth ever found in spring. A

Painted Redstart, an exceptionally rare straggler to California, was at Ft. Piute in e. San Bernardino Co., Apr. 7 (MKe) and another was nearby in Carathers' Canyon of the New York Mts., Apr. 12 (RR). A total of 32 species of wood warblers was recorded during the period.

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS — The only Bobolinks reported were two at F.C.R., May 21-22 (JL), three there May 25 (JML), one at Deep Springs May 22 (REW) and another at Oasis the same day (JO). An Orchard Oriole, a regular straggler to California, was in Goleta Apr. 18 (LB) and another was found in Morongo Valley Apr. 23 (R & MW). As expected, a few N. (Baltimore) Orioles strayed into the Region with one on Santa Barbara I., May 25 (CD), three found in the Goleta/Santa Barbara area bn May 1-22, one near Weldon May 22 (RHa) and four in the n.e. portion of the Region May 25-30. A small number of Great-tailed Grackles were widely scattered through the n.e. portion of the Region in late May with one at Oasis May 29 (JML) being the northernmost; one in Goleta Apr. 23 (RP) and another at Montana de Oro, San Luis Obispo Co., May 2 (BA, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) were both along the coast where the species is still considered casual. As usual, a few vagrant Summer Tanagers appeared at desert oases in late May (six found in Inyo/Mono Cos., May 22-June 8), but one in Goleta June 3 (LB) was the only one seen along the coast; these birds are believed to be of the e. form *rubra* rather than the form *cooperi* which breeds in s.e. California.

FINCHES, SPARROWS — A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak on Pt. Loma Apr. 11-21 (JO) was unusually early for a vagrant; virtually all spring birds are found during May. The ♂ Indigo Bunting found wintering in Santa Barbara was last seen Apr. 4 (NC); five reported during May were fewer than usual. Five Evening Grosbeaks in Santa Fe Springs, Los Angeles Co., Mar. 8-11 (BW) were in the coastal lowlands where rare and two on Figueroa Mt., near Santa Barbara May 15-16 (PEL) and another on Mt. Palomar May 17 (RH) were late for these areas. A singing Lark Bunting, rare anywhere in California in spring, was in Ballinger Canyon of extreme n.e. Santa Barbara Co., May 9 (TW). A Vesper Sparrow in Goleta May 25-26 (GF) was exceptionally late for along the coast. A Black-throated Sparrow in Arcadia, Los Angeles Co., Apr. 17 (B. Cohen, *vide* GSS) was w. of the desert. Wintering White-throated Sparrows lingered to early May, with one in Glendale, Los Angeles Co., Apr. 22-25 (HC) and another near Santa Barbara Mar. 23-May 2 (G & JH) being the latest; a migrant at Oasis May 22-24 (JO) was exceptionally late. A McCown's Longspur near Twenty-nine Palms Apr. 16 (CGE) was the first to have been found in California during April.

CORRIGENDUM — AB 36 (March 1982) erroneously credits Jerry Oldenettel for all three photographs accompanying the Southern Pacific Coast Region report; the Bar-tailed Godwit in flight was photographed by Don Hoehchlin and the Baird's Sparrow was photographed by Joseph R. Jehl, Jr.

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HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

/Robert L. Pyle

The wet winter season continued through March (20% above normal rainfall at Honolulu), then reverted back to drier conditions in April and to barely 15% of average rainfall in May. But the winter rains produced greener hillsides lasting longer into spring than in any recent year, and should be sufficient to keep vegetation healthy through the dry months of summer and early fall.

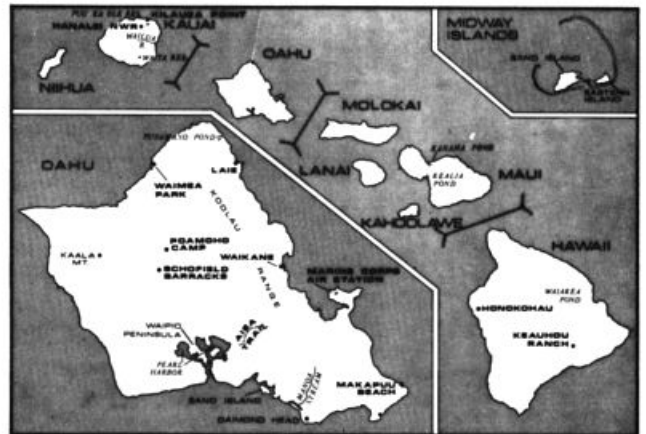
ISLAND ABBREVIATIONS — H.: Hawaii I., K.: Kauai I., M.: Maui I., O.: Oahu I.

ALBATROSSES — Laysan Albatross tried again this year to nest on Kauai I., but with disappointing results. By mid-January at least 18 adults had returned to the Pacific Missile Range Facility in n.w. Kauai, and 6 nests with eggs under incubation were located (TT). On Jan. 26 stray dogs killed 5 adults, including one that was incubating an egg. Two chicks hatched in mid-February, but soon developed a bad poxvirus infection. State wildlife personnel treated both chicks in mid-March, but one was found dead Apr. 13. The other chick seemed to respond to treatment, and by late May was developing well with the pox infection continuing to improve. Adults also returned to the other nesting site near Kilauea Lighthouse in n.e. Kauai, but no successful nesting attempts were noted. Here, too, stray dogs were the problem (TT).

HERONS AND EGRETS — These continued to make news in the state. A Great Blue Heron observed Apr. 13-27 at Hanapepe Salt Pond in s.w. Kauai (TT *et al.*) follows a sighting of one on the Wailua R. in e. Kauai last Nov. 26 (HF). Considering the one observed on Oahu during October and the one on Hawaii I. in September and the preceding July, we have a steady NW progression of what may well have been the same bird island-hopping through the state over a year's period. Great Blues have been reported in Hawaii only twice before: single sightings in 1963 and 1970.

The Great Egret at Kealia Pond, M. last season was joined by a second bird in April, but neither could be found in May when the observer returned twice with camera (CK). A single sighting in 1944 is the only prior record of Great Egret in the state. A Little Blue Heron at Waipio, O., May 25 (PD) was in the expected place but not in the expected season. All previous records of this straggler have been near Waipio, but nearly always between August and February. A Cattle Egret at Hulopoe Bay, Lanai I., Apr. 24 (PeC) demonstrates how this adaptable introduced species has spread throughout the main Hawaiian Is., even to the s. coast of the smallest and driest of the populated islands.

HAWKS THROUGH CHUKAR — Visitors at a popular lookout overlooking 420 ft Akaka Falls near Hilo, H., had another thrilling spectacle for a few minutes Mar. 20. An immature 'Io (Hawaiian Hawk) perched in plain view at eye level in the top of a small tree 20 m from the lookout. This Endangered Species is seldom seen near populated spots or at eye level in open areas. The state's renowned Golden Eagle, resident on Kauai since about 1967, was reported near Princeville Mar. 19 by visitors (RG *et al.*) familiar with the species in North America but previously unaware of its presence here. At least four Gray Francolins were heard calling in a ravine at the Kaimuki end of Diamond Head (Na Laau) Trail, O., May 8 (PD, RLP). Although a common introduced gamebird on other islands, this species was unknown in the wild on Oahu until one and two individuals were heard in this same area on the last 2 Honolulu CBCs. Numerous Black Francolins were heard in Puukohala Nat'l Historic Site near Kawaihae, H., Mar. 22 (RLP), and at least 15 Chukars were



seen and heard along the trail through the n.w. portion of Haleakala Crater, M., Apr. 23 (RLP *et al.*).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH GULLS — The spring movement of shorebirds was unexciting this year. A Ruff (Mar. 26), a Lesser Yellowlegs (Apr. 25) and a W. Sandpiper (Apr. 25) were reported at Waipio (PD). A Ruff also was at Tern I., French Frigate Shoals May 16-20 (JA, *vide* SF). The Long-billed Dowitcher wintering at Aimakapa Pond, H., had come into fine breeding plumage when last seen Apr. 14 (PP). The Pectoral and Least sandpipers wintering with it were last seen Mar. 21 (PP). An imm. Laughing or Franklin's Gull was being mobbed by 8 Hawaiian Stilts (Endangered) as it flew over their nesting area at Waiawa N.W.R., O., Apr. 24 (PD). A strange bird that flew aboard a pleasure boat moored at a dock in Kaneohe Bay, O., Mar. 5 was emaciated and died by the time it reached the Bishop Museum. There, it was identified (AZ) as a **Black-legged Kittiwake** (BBM #158928), one of very few records for the state and apparently the first for the main Hawaiian Is.

TERNs — A Caspian Tern found Apr. 24 at Anaehoomalu Bay, H. (AT, *vide* PP) had apparently been seen by residents in the area for more than a month. This could well be the same bird seen in December about 25 km down the coast near Aimakapa Pond (and erroneously mentioned in last season's Report as being across the island near Hilo). A Com. Tern, a straggler to Hawaii, was seen at Bellows Air Force Sta., O., Apr. 24 & 26 (PB) and also at nearby Lanikai Beach on the 24th (RC). It was first thought that this might be the same bird that wintered at Kii Pond in James Campbell N.W.R., some 45 km up the coast. But on May 6, two Common Terns were at Kii (RC), and remained together there through the end of May. Black Noddies are year-round residents at locally favored spots along coasts of most of the main Hawaiian Is., but their nesting activities are seldom observed and reported. Thus, it is significant that more than 100 nests, some with eggs and some with young, were found May 8 on tiny Mokolea Rock (RP). This islet is about 2 km offshore from Kaluapuhi Pond at Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Sta., O., which has been a favored foraging area for Black Noddies.

PASSERINES — Indian Hill Mynas, originally released in the early 1960s in upper Manoa Valley, O., gradually dwindled to only two birds seen occasionally in and near Lyon Arboretum in recent years. Unexpectedly, eight were found there together on the Honolulu CBC (LP) and 8-10 were seen together Feb. 23 & Mar. 2-3 (RH, *vide* LP). Several times in April up to four of these mynas visited a yard 2 km from the arboretum (PC). Since no evidence of nesting has ever been observed, the reason for their sudden increase remains unclear.

A helicopter-camping expedition was undertaken Apr. 19-23 (CK, MSc *et al.*) into the heart of the small known range of the Po'o Uli in the wet rain forest on the slope of Haleakala Mt., M. In 4 full days of field work by 7 observers, Po'o Uli were seen only twice: a pair for 5 minutes Apr. 19 by 2 observers, and probably the same pair watched for an hour Apr. 21 by 2 other observers. This unique Hawaiian forest bird, of a monotypic genus, was first discovered and described in 1973, and remains a little-known, seldom-observed species with poorly understood taxonomic position in the endemic Hawaiian avifauna. Another Endangered Species of very limited distribution on Haleakala Mt., the Maui Parrotbill, was seen daily, including one adult observed feeding a fully grown immature. 'Apapane, 'Amakihi, 'I'iwi and Crested Honeycreepers were commonly seen, and Maui Creepers were abundant. This area is one of the rare, choice spots in Hawaii, very difficult to reach, where the flora and fauna are still almost entirely endemic. Only the sign of wild pig, a few insects and an occasional sight or call of Japanese White-eye or Red-billed Leiothrix served notice that the time was 1982 and not hundreds of years ago.

Common Waxbill, newly recognized as the waxbill established in areas on Oahu other than Diamond Head, is doing well near Honolulu N.W.R. Several dozen were seen there Mar. 26 and more than 100 Apr. 24 (PD). Several Orange-cheeked Waxbills, rarely reported in recent years, were seen near the Kaimuki end of Diamond Head Trail May 8 (PD, RLP). A Yellow-billed Cardinal well seen Mar. 22 near Kiholu Bay, H. (RLP) was a bit n. of its main range. Ten ad. Java Sparrows with three immatures found May 22 at the same feeder in Kailua-Kona, H., where five were seen last February (PP) confirm that this potentially destructive species may be newly established and breeding on Hawaii I.

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WEST INDIES REGION

/Robert L. Norton

Precipitation in the eastern Caribbean during the period progressed from 57% below average in March to 25% below average in April. In the last four Mays there has been a trend of more than 100% increase in rainfall with this May totalling 106%. The dry period, however, permitted early nesting attempts at pond edges for resident Charadriids and localized concentrations of migrant Scolopacids at large, productive ponds.

The land bird migration in the northeastern Caribbean was remarkable. From April 20 to May 12, several new records or reports of rare occurrences highlight the spring report. Many of the rare sightings can be noted in a capsule of dates from Apr. 23 to May 10. Marine or water-oriented species indicate a shift or re-establishment of distributions.

New records are reported from Grand Turk, B.W.I. (hereafter, G T), Providenciales, Caicos, B.W.I. (hereafter, C.), St. Croix, U S V.I. (hereafter, St. C), St. John, U.S.V.I. (hereafter, St. J.), St. Maartin, Netherlands Antilles (hereafter, St. M.) and Saba, Netherlands Antilles. Puerto Rico is hereafter, P.R. and Mahogany Run Golf & Tennis Club is hereafter M.R.G.&T.C. Reports from G.T. are those of DS, and C. are those of BA. Unitial reports are those of the R E

GREBES THROUGH FALCONS — A Least Grebe was seen Mar 20 at G.T., where Audubon's Shearwaters began to mass in May suggesting to DS that breeding is in the vicinity. The species continues to nest in small numbers at Frenchcap Cay, St. Thomas (hereafter, St. T.), where a chick was noted Apr. 28. At Mata Redonda Pond, P.R., 100+ Brown Pelicans died from March to May. Eight pelicans are recovering at Mayaguez Zoo, P.R. Laboratory results are as yet inconclusive, but may suggest a combination of agents including herbicides or insecticides leaching into the pond from an intensely maintained golf course (*vide* RB). Two Olivaceous Cormorants appeared at salinas on G.T., May 1. As many as five Glossy Ibises were seen at G.T. until May 22, probably wandering from e. Cuba or Hispaniola. A Roseate Spoonbill was reported Apr. 2, perhaps wandering from Great Inagua. On Apr. 20 a ♀ Ring-necked Duck was seen at Vessup Bay, St. T., which appeared to be the same ♂ individual that wintered at M.R.G.&T.C., St. T., now providing a late date for this area. A Marsh Hawk, considered uncommon, seen Feb 28 at G.T., and subsequently noted Mar. 4 at C., was probably the same individual, although no plumage notes are available. Sightings of Peregrine Falcon bear repeating not because they are noticed, but noticed with increasing regularity. Four reports are listed here; Mar 17 at St. T., Mar. 23 at St. T. (same?), possibly two at Antigua

Mar. 28 (LP) and Saba, N.A., Apr. 25 which extends the late date for the e. Caribbean.

COOTS THROUGH TERNS — A coot sp., seen Apr. 9 at Francis Bay, St. J., could have been either *Fulica americana* or *caribaea*, but was most definitely a breeder. St. John N.P., records indicate that coots bred at this pond in 1961 although Robertson (1962) did not find any coots during a February-March survey there in 1957 which would have been appropriate timing for St. J., the type locality for *caribaea* (Ridgway, 1884). Caribbean Coots appear to be declining in P.R. (AM) where they were once considered common.

All are coots breeding in the West Indies necessarily *caribaea*? On Apr. 22 at Fresh Pond, St. M., 14 coots were observed, including three immatures (new breeding record). Nine of the coots had a typically narrow, short frontal plate tipped with a brownish knob near the crest as in *americana* while the remaining three adult-plumaged coots in close attendance to the imm. coots had what has been characterized as the wider, longer frontal plate extending to the crest tipped with sulfur yellow as in *caribaea*. On May 11 at Francis Bay pond, ten coots including five immatures were carefully checked for similar characteristics. Two adults were of the type described as *caribaea* while the remaining three adults were less distinguishable as either *americana* or possibly hybrid forms. Attempts to capture the birds were unsuccessful. Clearly, some research is needed to determine if the two forms are conspecific or simply capable of opportunistic hybridization where migrant *americana* may linger in spring and disperse with mates to suitable habitat.

One of the rarer migrants to the West Indies is the Piping Plover, which was seen at G.T., Mar. 18. At Mangrove Lagoon, St. T., a Wilson's Plover nest was found Mar. 23, presumably in response to the dry spell allowing suitable habitat at a very early date. Four Killdeer behaved as though nesting was under way May 14 at the same location. A Whimbrel was reported at G.T., Apr. 29 & May 5 (probably inclusive). A Solitary Sandpiper seen May 14 at Mangrove Lagoon was late for this area. Four Willets were observed at St. C., May 3 giving typical alarm and distraction behavior suggesting that nesting may be underway. No conclusive evidence on the nesting status of the species has been found in recent decades, although Willets are present throughout the year. On Mar. 25, 23 Red Knots were observed at Krause Lagoon, St. C. (FS) and 12 remained there to May 3 (RN). A Pectoral Sandpiper, rare in spring, was noted at G.T., May 2. Dunlin, scarce any time of the year in the Caribbean, was also reported from G.T., in early April. North temperate zone

Larids were apparently absent this spring with the exception of 10+ Ring-billed Gulls noted at G.T., until Apr. 11. A Com. Tern was present at C., Mar. 6, and three Caspian Terns at G.T., Apr. 20.

DOVES THROUGH STARLING — The first occurrence of **White-winged Dove** on St. J., May 2 represents the most easterly report on the P.R. Bank. A Com. Nighthawk was seen at St. J., Mar. 30 and was present at C., Apr. 29 overlapping the arrival period of **West Indian Nighthawk** which was reported at G.T., May 2. A **Chimney Swift** seen May 12 at G.T. represented a very uncommon occurrence there and a **Black Swift** observed at Saba, N.A., provided a new record for that island, probably wandering from St. Kitts, 55km s.e. **Stolid Flycatchers** (three Mar. 18) continue to be fairly common on the s. coast of St. J. Five **Rough-winged Swallows** were noted at C., Apr. 7 which is e. of their normal migration route. The **Pearly-eyed Thrasher**, rather abundant s.e. of P.R., but rare on G.T., is slowly expanding its range in the n. limits of its distribution. The thrasher's presence there Mar. 6 and May 1 (probably inclusive) may indicate future status change. A **Gray Catbird** reported at C., Apr. 21 is quite rare e. of Cuba. Another rarity e. of the Greater Antilles was an **Am. Robin** seen Apr. 30 at C. Three **Starlings** were seen near industrialized Krause Lagoon, St. C., Apr. 1-2 (FS) where many tankers and cargo ships call. The last record of the species in this area was December, 1972, in P.R. This represents the first record from the Virgin Islands.

VIREOS THROUGH BUNTINGS — A **White-eyed Vireo** reported at C., Apr. 30 and thought to be increasing in recent years, extends the late date. The occurrences of *Vermivora* species in the e. Greater Antilles appear to be increasing as well. A **Blue-winged Warbler** was seen Mar. 6 at C., and a third record of **Blue-winged** at St. J., Mar. 18 indicates some shifting patterns, perhaps weather-related. The rarely observed **Tennessee Warbler** was noted at C.,

Apr. 28, and BA also reports the first **Nashville Warbler** from C., Apr. 25, which according to Bond (1971) would be an unprecedented spring record. **Blackburnian Warbler** was reported from C., May 3 and (TD, m.ob.) reported a **Blackburnian** from St. J., Mar. 19-23 underscoring an extraordinary warbler migration in the n.e. Caribbean. Further, a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was seen (TD, m.ob.) Mar. 26 at St. J. A **Kentucky Warbler** at C., Apr. 27 rounds out an impressive list of **Parulids** from the s. Bahama banks. A **N. Oriole** was reported from C., Apr. 23; three Apr. 25 at Saba; one May 3 at G.T., and one singing at St. J., May 10-11. Geographically, this illustrates the capsule dates of spring migration during a 19-year period over a distance of nearly 1100 km from the n. Lesser Antilles, n.w. to the V.I. and the T. and C. islands. A **Scarlet Tanager** was also noted at Saba Apr. 25 (DVC), one was seen Apr. 22 at C. and probably another Apr. 29 at G.T. Three **Blue Grosbeaks** seen May 2 at C. exceeded the expected number there during the period (BA). **Indigo Buntings** at Coral Bay St. J. were late for this area when 12 were noted May 15 (GT).

ADDENDA — DW reports that the Cahow nesting program was very successful this season with an increase in pairs and fledged chicks. A **Herring Gull** was seen at C., Jan. 31 representing a rare though not unexpected occurrence of this wanderer. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** which also appears to be increasing its winter and spring occurrences farther e. and s. as indicated by a Feb. 6 sighting at C., is rather rare e. of Cuba. A **Connecticut Warbler** was also noted at C., Feb. 27.

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