

The Spring Migration

March 1-May 31, 1985

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

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For once, observers across this diverse Region reached near-unanimity: it was, with few exceptions, a remarkably unremarkable spring, characterized as much by what was *not* seen as by what was.

The lackluster migration reflected generally uneventful weather patterns. Across New England the season averaged warmer than normal with precipitation well below average, resulting in drought conditions in many areas by the end of the period. The situation farther north was very different. Newfoundland and the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon experienced a cold, nasty spring with snow into mid-May and severe pack-ice conditions along the west coast. Early arriving species in that province, particularly insectivores and ground feeders, suffered accordingly. However, the somewhat warmer conditions around the towns combined with the concentrating effects of feeders to produce an "oasis effect—the birding highlight of the season" (BM).

Storms of southerly origin occurred only twice, and early in the period, a fact reflected in the near-total absence of the typical April overshoots. A rare May northeaster on the 3rd generated northeasterly gales along southern coastal sections but inexplicably failed to produce the hoped-for pelagics.

Significant movements of migrants passed through southern portions during the periods March 27-29, April 19-21 & 25-27, and May 1 & 5-13, while northernmost sections seemed to have the best action May 16-17 & 21. Many of the typical mid-late April migrants (e.g., kinglets, sapsuckers, Hermit Thrushes, and some sparrows) were present in excellent numbers, in some cases the best in years, and the latter one-half of the month saw the arrival of a variety of early flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, and warblers. One of the largest spring hawk flights ever recorded in the Region passed through inland portions of southern New England April 21. At the Manomet Bird Observatory, the peak activity occurred from late April to early May rather than the more typical mid-May period (TL-E). However, the banding station at Rockport, Massachusetts, suffered the worst season in its eight-year history (RTN).



Many of the more southerly species that have made inroads into the Region over the last decade or two were sparsely reported again this spring and it seems that some (e.g., Chuck-will's-widow) may even have begun to decline.

Among the rarer species (some from winter) were: Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Greater White-fronted Goose, Garganey, Black Vulture, Sandhill Crane, Franklin's Gull, Ross' Gull, Jackdaw, Varied Thrush, Lark Bunting, and Golden-crowned Sparrow.

ABBREVIATIONS — G.B. = George's Bank; G.M.N.P. = Gros Morne Nat'l Park, Nfld.; M.B.O. = Manomet Bird Observatory, Mass.; M.V. = Martha's Vineyard; Nbpt. = Newburyport, Mass.; P.I. = Plum Island, Mass.

LOONS THROUGH SHEARWATERS— For the 4th consecutive year RLF monitored waterfowl movement past Pt. Judith, R.I., during 2 weekends: Apr. 27-28 and May 4-5. For the first

time, substantial numbers of Red-throated Loons were recorded with weekend totals of 265 Apr. 27-28 and 300 May 4-5. Common Loons were also moving in large numbers during the same period, with totals of 1193 and 1111, respectively (RLF). Elsewhere 400 Com. Loons were on Nantucket Mar. 27 (DH) and the species was said to have been numerous around St. Pierre & Miquelon (RE).

Pied-billed Grebes were again scarce in s. New England but were above average in New Hampshire (SAG). Horned Grebes also continued in depressed numbers, although 107 at Manomet, Mass., Mar. 29 (D. Evered) and 150+ in S. Dartmouth, Mass., Mar. 30 (*vide* RHS) were good counts. Late in the day Apr. 20, 28 Red-necked Grebes were seen migrating W with scoters past Pt. Judith (RLF) presumably heading for an overnight, overland flight to (or beyond) the Great Lakes. These birds likely originated from waters along the s. shores of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, as 75 were reported from the latter location Mar. 16 (*vide* RPE). Otherwise, Red-neckeds were scarce in New England but in exceptional numbers in Nova Scotia where 645+ were totaled for the period, including 200+ at Conrad Beach Apr. 19 and 150 at Cherry Hill Apr. 20 (*vide* CRKA). On St. Pierre & Miquelon, usually the species' main concentration spot in the Region, no observers were present during the peak migration period, but 200 grebes were there Apr. 25 and 166 May 3 (RE). Inland Red-neckeds included a rather typical 16 in New Hampshire (SAG) and 15 in w. Massachusetts (SK).

An Eared Grebe was found at Napatree Pt., R.I., Apr. 20 (*vide* DLE). Maine's wintering W. Grebe was last seen at Indian Pt., Mar. 30 (*vide* WCT) and one in S. Dartmouth, Mass., Mar. 24-Apr. 6 was found dead on the latter date (*vide* RHS), providing the first state (and Regional?) specimen. (No color morph was specified for either individual.)

The first Sooty Shearwater was on G.B., Apr. 24 (RSdE), but few were reported thereafter. Manx Shearwaters again returned to coastal Rhode Island, with one at Newport Mar. 20 (*vide* DLE) and two at Pt. Judith Apr. 20 and May 3-4 (RLF). The first Wilson's Storm-Petrel was also noted on G.B., Apr. 24 (RSdE).

CORMORANTS, HERONS — Several records of Double-crested Cormorants across s. portions of the Region during the first one-half of March, the northernmost on Grand Manan Mar. 11 (A. Hobbs), probably indicated successful overwintering. Numbers of migrant cormorants were not notable by recent (high) standards.

Hérons arrived across s. New England in late March but were in generally low numbers throughout the period. American Bitterns were well above average in New Hampshire, but apparently in normal numbers elsewhere. A total of 14+ Least Bitterns in Massachusetts (*vide* RHS) was somewhat discouraging; others were in Rhode Island (four) and Maine (one). Extralimital herons included two Great Egrets and a Green-backed Heron in Newfoundland (BMc), four Snowy Egrets, one Little Blue Heron and one to two Green-backed Herons in Nova Scotia (*vide* IAM), two Cattle Egrets, one Green-backed Heron and one Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in New Brunswick (*vide* BD), one Black-crowned Night-Heron on St. Pierre (*vide* RE), and one Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in New Hampshire (D. B. Kerwan). Inland Great Egrets totaled seven in w. Massachusetts and two in New Hampshire (SAG), while an inland Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Pittsfield, Mass., Apr. 29-May 1 was very rare (*vide* SK). A meager six Tricolored Herons were all in s. New England. Remarkable, if correct, was a report of a Green-backed Heron in Pittsfield, N.H., Mar. 1 (*vide* SAG).

One exception to the general paucity of s. waders was Glossy Ibis; they were numerous throughout coastal New England, particularly in April, with counts of up to 150 in Rhode Island (*vide* DLE), 56 in Massachusetts (*vide* RHS), and 145 in the Scarborough marshes of Maine (*vide* WCT). Farther n., 15+ in New Brunswick (*vide* BD) and 10+ in Nova Scotia (*vide* IAM) were exceptional totals for those provinces.

WATERFOWL — A single Tundra Swan on Nantucket Mar 1-7 (EFA) and one to two at Cross Hill Pond, R.I., Mar. 16-23 (*vide* DLE) had likely wintered in the Region. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** in Northampton, Mass., Mar. 12-19 (SK *et al*) provided a first record for w. Massachusetts. Snow Geese passed through the Region in impressive numbers. In s.w. Connecticut, 1163 were recorded in late March (*vide* TB); over 1800 in w. Massachusetts during the period included 1100 passing over Southwick Mar. 28 (SK) while at P.I., the peak was a rather average 425 (PWS). In New Hampshire, over 8000 were noted with a peak Apr. 5-6 (*vide* SAG), and in Maine, flocks of up to 450 birds were seen (*vide* WCT). Farther n., 63 Snow Geese were totaled in New Brunswick (*vide* BD), and up to 17 were in Stephenville Crossing, Nfld., in early May (*vide* BM). As would be expected with such numbers, a scattering of "Blue" Geese were noted also, the easternmost being one or two in Nova Scotia (*vide* CRKA) where, curiously, there were no "Snows" reported.

Brant numbers seemed up also with 3000+ in both Squantum and Plymouth, Mass., during March (*vide* RPE), and 1500+ in Castalia, N.B., Mar. 17 (A. Hobbs), while six in Stephenville Crossing, Nfld., in early May provided a rare sight in that province (*vide* BM). Last but not least among the goose parade, Canada Geese drew rave reviews from across the Region. "Huge flocks" (up to 3000) were in Rhode Island in March (*vide* DLE), an "impressive movement" was noted in New Hampshire Mar 27-29 (*vide* SAG), and "huge numbers" were in Nova Scotia where over 30,000 were totaled, including 9850 in the Martinique/Lawrencetown area Mar. 31, plus 4 other reports of 3000-6000 birds, with 6000 still at Morien Bay Apr. 27 (*vide* CRKA).

Single "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal in Massachusetts, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland was a below-normal total, while nine Eur. Wigeon (five in Massachusetts, two in New Brunswick, and one each in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland) was a more typical spring showing. A subad. ♂ **Garganey** at Plum Island, Mass., May 11-17+ (RHS *et al.*, +RAF) provided a 3rd state and Regional record. The bird's rather indistinct plumage (*e.g.*, a very pale supercilium) prompted at least one observer to suspect that it might have been a hybrid, but the consensus among most was that it was simply a first-year bird that had not attained full alternate plumage.

A Gadwall in St. John's Apr. 25-May 19 furnished only about the 3rd record for Newfoundland (BMc), and three N. Shovelers in the same province at Piccadilly May 27 (P. St. Croix) were also noteworthy. Lingering King Eiders were at Mt. Desert, Me., through May 12 (K. Jones), at Marion, Mass., May 13 (I C T Nisbet), and at the Elizabeth Is., Mass., May 27 (*vide* RPE). Oldsquaws flying to roost off Nantucket, their primary wintering ground, numbered a fairly typical, yet no-less-impressive, 50,000+ Mar. 16 (C. Jackson).

The Pt. Judith seawatch recorded impressive numbers of Surf Scoters on 3 dates: 3500 Apr. 20, 23,000 Apr. 27, and 5000 Apr. 28, all migrating W (RLF). Paltry by comparison were counts of 714 White-winged Scoters Apr. 20, 257 Apr. 27, and 220 May 5, all flying E (RLF). Apparently few, if any, Black Scoters were involved in these movements, but farther n., 2500+ were at Waterside Bay, N.B., Apr. 7 (BD). Three Buffleheads on St. Pierre Apr. 30-May 18 were considered very unusual, particularly since one was a male, reportedly the first of that sex on the island since 1967 (RE)!

RAPTORS — Single Black Vultures were in Essex, Mass., Apr. 24 (+RAF) and Eastham, Mass., May 20 (C. Goodrich) Turkey Vultures continued on the upswing; 18 in Alton Mar. 3 was a record count for Rhode Island (*vide* DLE) and they were "too numerous to list" in Maine (WCT). A total of 132 Ospreys at 4 sites in w. Massachusetts (*vide* SK) and 27 at Peaked Hill, N.H. (SAG), Apr. 21 was indicative not only of the magnitude of the day's hawk flight, but of that species' continuing increase in the Region. Sharp-shinned Hawks numbered 161 at the same 4 Massachusetts sites Apr. 21 (*vide* SK) and 36 at Peaked Hill the same day (SAG).

As expected, Broad-winged Hawks constituted the bulk of the Apr. 21 flight. The day's totals of 733 in Granville, 998 at Mt. Tom, and 1111 at Mt. Holyoke, Mass. (*vide* SK), far exceeded any previous spring reports in the Region. Curiously, not far to the n.e., the best day at Mt. Wachusett, Mass., was apparently Apr. 28 when a modest 170 Broad-winged passed (although it is not known whether that site was manned on the 21st), while at Peaked Hill the flight was dispersed over 3 days: 188 Apr. 21, 165 Apr. 22, and 241 Apr. 23 (SAG). Unfortunately, no reports were received from lookouts in Connecticut or Maine. Along the coast, hawks apparently trickled through in low numbers this spring.

In Pawtucket, R.I., a pair of Red-tailed Hawks was discovered nesting on the fire escape of a factory building (R. Enser). Golden Eagles were reported from Massachusetts (three), Rhode Island (one), and Maine (one). A total of 46 + Merlins Regionwide was about average for the little fireball. Peregrine Falcons are again a routine sight along the coast; 43 + across the Region (over half in Massachusetts) far exceeded any spring total in memory. Wintering Gyrfalcons were present through Mar. 18 on Monomoy I., Mass. (BN *et al.*) and Mar. 9 at Prand Pré, N.S. (*vide* IAM), and a gray bird was at W. Pubnico, N.S., Apr. 20 (*vide* IAM).

TURKEY THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Wild Turkeys were said to be doing so well in Maine that a hunting season was being proposed for 1986 (*vide* WCT). Rails drew little comment except in New Hampshire where a total of 16 Virginia Rails was considered "exceptional" (SAG). Purple Gallinules were conspicuous by their complete absence this spring. American Coots remained scarce, although one in Great Brehat, Nfld., in late May was noteworthy (*vide* BM), that individual's prospects for survival considerably enhanced when the locals were convinced that it would not be good to eat! The two wintering Sandhill Cranes in Rhode Island were last seen Apr. 15 (*vide* DLE).

In Nbpt., 2500 Black-bellied Plovers May 23 (RAF) were indicative of that area's importance as a spring staging ground for the species. The season's six Lesser Golden-Plovers were two on Monomoy I., Apr. 26 (BN), and singles at Ninigret Pond, R.I., May 13 (*vide* DLE), Squantum, Mass., May 12 (S. Higginbotham), Nbpt., May 12-25 (RHS *et al.*), and Ipswich, Mass., May 18 (GWG). A total of only 20 Piping Plovers in Nova Scotia (FS) was considered discouraging, while a maximum of 35 on Monomoy I., Apr. 15 (RCH), though far exceeding any other counts in the Region, was lackluster by historical standards. Populations of this popular shorebird are reaching dangerously low levels and it is hoped that the species will soon be federally listed.

Two early Am. Oystercatchers were in Chatham, Mass., Mar. 11 (P. Trull). A count of 450 Greater Yellowlegs in Nbpt., May 9 was considered well above average (RAF) and Lesser Yellowlegs were early at P.I., Mar. 18 (J. Grugan) and Yarmouthport Mar. 22 (J. Aylward). A remarkable count of 62 not-so-Solitary Sandpipers was made at the sewer beds in Millis, Mass., Apr. 15 (B. Cassie), and a total of four in Nova Scotia was the most there since 1976 (*vide* FS). In New Hampshire, however, they were reportedly scarce and late (SAG).

Whimbrels were scarce with only four in Massachusetts and one each in Maine and Nova Scotia. A single Hudsonian Godwit was at P.I., May 12-18 (SS *et al.*) and a Marbled Godwit at Tatamagouche, N.S., May 17-26 (D. MacDougall *et al.*) furnished only the 2nd spring record for that province. White-rumped Sandpipers appeared in large, though not unprecedented, numbers in May. Up to 30 +/day were in Connecticut (*vide* DV); in Massachusetts, up to 25/day were recorded at both Monomoy I. (BN) and Nbpt. (RAF). An early White-rumped was on Monomoy I., Apr. 29 (BN). Only a few Pectoral Sandpipers were reported, although two at Cherry Hill Mar. 31 were the earliest ever in Nova Scotia (*vide* FS) and one at Portugal Cove May 18 (BMc *et al.*) made a first spring occurrence in Newfoundland.

Inland Dunlins surprised observers at Concord, Mass., Apr. 6 (RAF) and Turners Falls, Mass., where there were two Apr. 12 (SS). A Curlew Sandpiper photographed on Miquelon May 26 (A. Desbrosse) was unique this season, as was a single Stilt Sandpiper at P.I., May 22-23 (H. Parker *et al.*). Four Ruffs were reported from Massachusetts and singles were in Rhode Island, Maine, and Newfoundland. A Short-billed Dowitcher was early in Plymouth, Mass., Apr. 13 (PWS), and a rare spring Long-billed Dowitcher was carefully identified in Nbpt., Apr. 24 (RAF). A total of seven Wilson's Phalaropes Regionwide, four in Massachusetts and singles in Rhode Island, Maine, and New Brunswick, was far below recent springs (vs. 15, 15, & 26 + the 3 previous years). Although small flocks of Red-necked Phalaropes are routinely encountered in the waters around Monhegan I., Me., in late May, estimates of up to 5000 there May 24-26 (SS *et al.*) were exceptional, as was a very early individual reported from Hartlen's Pt., N.S., Apr. 8 (D. McNeill, *vide* RGBB).

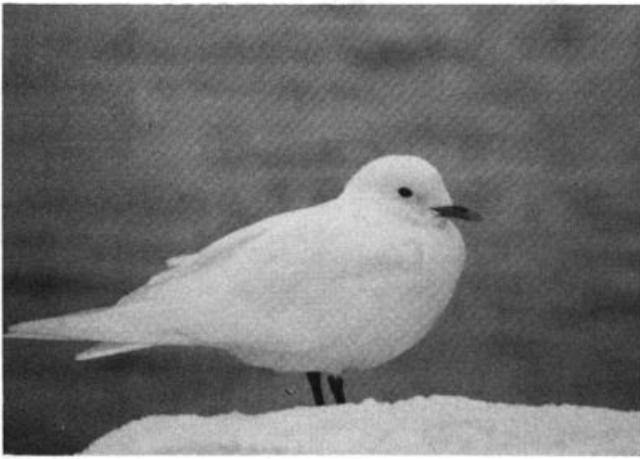
JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Very few jaegers were reported this spring, although two ad. Long-tailed Jaegers photographed on St. Pierre May 23 (*vide* RE) were of interest.

The season's northernmost Laughing Gull was at Brier I., N.S., May 11 (H. Hall). An ad. Franklin's Gull at Bay Bulls, Nfld., May 5-6 (CB *et al.*, ph.) provided a 5th provincial record (but the 3rd in the last year) and another adult was at Sprague Neck, Me., May 22 (C. Duncan). Little Gulls were again scarce, the season's six evenly split between Connecticut (all in March) and Massachusetts (all in May). The wintering flock of 60 Com. Black-headed Gulls in St. John's, Nfld., had declined to 12 by Apr. 21 and only one by May 31 (BMc), while in New England 26+ individuals were reported during the period. On Monomoy I., apparently only one Black-headed returned this year and last year's nesting was not repeated. Counts of 500 Bonaparte's Gulls in Nbpt. and 175 in Lynn, Mass., both May 23 (RAF), were well above normal, while one on St. Pierre Apr. 23 was only the 2nd recorded for that island (RE) and three in Newfoundland were considered unusual (BMc).



Adult Franklin's Gull at Bay Bulls, Nfld., May 6, 1985. Fifth provincial record. Photo/Bruce Mactavish.

Mew/Common Gulls were in Nbpt., Mar. 2-Apr. 7 (H.C. Floyd *et al.*), Quincy, Mass., Mar. 16 & 21 (R. Abrams *et al.*), Eastern Passage, N.S., May 5-17 (IAM), and St. John's, Nfld., Apr. 3-5 (BMc). Herring Gulls are among those ubiquitous species which are rarely given any attention, despite their rather pronounced migratory movements. It was thus of note that 2500 were counted flying E past Pt. Judith Apr. 27 (RLF). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were represented by five birds in Newfoundland, two in Nova Scotia, one in Maine, and three in Massachusetts. While watching a movement of seabirds at Trepassey, Nfld., 2 observers stationed 200 yds. apart independently identified a Ross' Gull in first-summer plumage flying past with a small flock of kittiwakes (CB, J. Wells, *vide* BMC,+).



Adult Ivory Gull at St. John's, Nfld., Apr. 4, 1985. Photo/Bruce Mactavish.

Ivory Gulls are thought to be regular visitors at sea off Newfoundland, but are generally quite pelagic and seen only along the extreme n. coast of the province following stormy weather (BMc). However, this year, following a period of strong N winds and fog, they made an appearance in St. John's Harbor where up to 18 were present Apr. 3-6 (BMc) and at Petty Harbor where two were seen Apr. 5-6 (J. Maunder).

A Gull-billed Tern was unique this season at Cape Sable I., N.S., May 20 (FLL *et al.*) as was a Royal Tern at Port Clyde, Me., May 2 (W. S. Cook), a subad. Forster's Tern on Monomoy I., May 26 (BN) and two Black Skimmers on Monomoy I., May 11 (RCH). Migrant Caspian Terns were noted only in Rhode Island (one) and Massachusetts (11). Black Terns were again very scarce and were also found only in Rhode Island (one) and Massachusetts (three).

Spring alcid reports are generally few and far between and this season was no exception; the only report of any consequence would more accurately be considered a late-winter concentration: 137 Razorbills at Shark's Ledge off Rhode Island Mar. 9 (*vide* DLE).

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Due in large part to a nest box program initiated by Gus Ben-David and the Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, the breeding population of Com. Barn-Owls on Martha's Vineyard has increased dramatically to 9 pairs, while in Nova Scotia, B. L. Forsythe's nest boxes now house 11 pairs of Barred Owls. Late Snowy Owls were on P.I., Apr. 18 (MM) and at Moncton, N.B., May 8 (*vide* DSC). A N. Saw-whet Owl at St. Catherine's, Nfld., in late May (BMc *et al.*) established only the 3rd or 4th provincial record, although the species' status there is still uncertain.

The expansion of Chuck-will's-widow into s. portions of the Region over the last 2 decades seems to have been reversed as the species was reported only once this season, a bird calling in Westhampton, Mass., May 20 (C. Horn *et al.*), and was apparently absent again on Martha's Vineyard. Early Chimney (presumably) Swifts were in Provincetown, Mass., Apr. 7 (H. Stabins, BN) and Chatham, Mass., Apr. 9 (DH).

Twenty-two reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers was above average and included singles in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, as well as a bird that landed on a fishing boat on G.B., May 1 (RSdE). The northernmost Red-bellied Woodpeckers were two in New Hampshire (SAG), while farther s., eight were in Massachusetts and three in Rhode Island. Three March reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Rhode Island and one in Massachusetts may have been of successful winterers, but one in E. Jordan, N.S., Apr. 3 was probably an early migrant (*vide* IAM). Sapsuckers appeared in good numbers in s. New England in April. Black-backed Woodpeckers seem to have a strange pro-

clivity for showing up in coastal locations during late spring, this season's wanderers being a female on Brier I., Apr. 30 (ELM *et al.*) and two individuals in Eastham, Mass., a male May 7 (C. Goodrich) and a female May 18 (*vide* D. Reynolds). Northern Flickers were noted in large numbers on Cape Cod Apr. 20 (D. Arvidson) and up to 75/day were on Seal I., N.S., Apr. 29-May 2 (ELM *et al.*)

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GNATCATCHERS — *Empidonax* flycatchers were present in large numbers on Seal I., May 20-25 when 50-100/day were seen (*vide* JSC). Acadian Flycatchers were scarce again this spring, two in Rhode Island and five in Massachusetts being the only ones reported. Least Flycatchers were early at Goffstown, N.H., Apr. 26 (HWP, *vide* SAG) and Seal I., May 2 (ELM *et al.*). Single E. Kingbirds were even more remarkable at Nantucket Mar. 29 (D. Beattie, *vide* EFA) and at E. Wolfboro, N.H., Apr. 6 (D. L. Raddin), while on Seal I., 50-100/day were present May 20-25 (*vide* JSC).

Early swallows included a Tree Swallow in Medfield, Mass., Mar. 2 (W. Regan), two Barn Swallows in Pittsfield, N.H., Mar. 28 (A. E. Robbins), and N. Rough-winged Swallows at Holyoke, Mass., Mar. 31 (R. Stone) and White Brook, N.H., where there were three Apr. 3 (*vide* SAG). Several Rough-wingeds were also present on Seal I. in May (ELM *et al.*).

Apparently the only movement of Blue Jays noted was at Fundy N.P., N.S., May 15 when 500+ were estimated (*vide* BD). Fish Crows made significant inroads at the n. edge of their range. At least eight were in w. Massachusetts, and in e. Massachusetts they were reported in May from several coastal locations (*i.e.* Provincetown, Gloucester, & P.I.) where they have always been inexplicably rare. In New Hampshire, at least two were at Kingston S.P., Mar. 24 (M. J. Murray) and in Maine, they were being seen daily in Falmouth (*vide* WCT), two were at Brunswick Apr. 28 (JW, PDV), and singles were at Kennebunk May 21, Wells May 23, and Scarborough May 30 (JW). In Brunswick, nesting was apparently confirmed, constituting a first for Maine (*vide* JW & WCT). Common Ravens continued to increase in s. New England; they were "abundant" in s. New Hampshire (SAG), were nesting in at least 4 locations in w. Massachusetts (*vide* SK), and were seen in 4 locations in e. Massachusetts. If current trends continue, many areas in the Region may eventually be inhabited by 3 *Corvus* species. Meanwhile, the Region's 4th and newest *Corvus* continued to be reported, a single Jackdaw being present on Nantucket through the period (*vide* EFA) and two to three or more on Miquelon (*vide* RE).

Black-capped Chickadees were thought to be scarce in many areas, impressions supported by banding totals at M.B.O., where only 10 were netted (TL-E), and at Rockport where only four were caught (RTN). Brown Creepers passed through e. Massachusetts and Brier I. in good numbers. The northernmost House Wrens were two on Brier I. in May (*vide* JSC). Ruby-crowned Kinglets were numerous with up to 65/day reported from e. Massachusetts and a seasonal total of 124 at M.B.O. far exceeded their previous high of 88 (TL-E). They were abundant in Nova Scotia as well, as indicated by a maximum of 200 on Seal I., Apr. 30 (ELM *et al.*). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were also numerous in e. Massachusetts and were recorded as far n. as New Brunswick (one) and Nova Scotia (four).

THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS — Reports of unseasonable *Catharus* thrushes are always problematical due to confusion with the more likely Hermit Thrush. With that caveat in mind, this season's reports included an early Veery at Keene, N.H., Apr. 21 (J. H. Ward, *vide* SAG) and two Swainson's Thrushes at Hampton, N.H., Apr. 21 (D. B. Kerward, *vide* SAG). Otherwise, those 2 species were very scarce. Hermit Thrushes, on the other hand, appeared in large numbers throughout the Region. A total of 76 banded at M.B.O. (TL-E) was well above average and a count of 300 was made in w. Newfoundland May 14 (BM). Early Wood Thrushes were in Goffstown, N.H., Apr. 14 (HWP), Portsmouth, N.H., Apr. 19 (R. W. Stevenson), and Waltham, Mass., Apr. 26 (LT). Fourteen Am. Robins at Terra Nova N.P., Nfld.,

Apr 8 were considered early (KHD) and in that province huge concentrations were found around open ground in early May, such as counts at G.M.N.P. of 9000 May 2 and 14,000 May 12 (BM) A Varied Thrush was present in E. Washington, N.H., Mar 7-26 (*vide* SAG) and a remarkably late individual was photographed at Sable I., N.S., May 25 (T. Locke, *vide* JSC).

A Bohemian Waxwing was in Ipswich, Mass., Mar. 17-21 (JB *et al.*) as was a late bird in New Horton, N.B., Apr. 20 (*vide* BD). In Nova Scotia a total of 155 Bohemians was reported Mar. 3-Apr 6 (JSC) and up to 21 were present in Traytown, Nfld., in late March (*vide* KHD). Northern Shrikes were predictably scarce throughout the Region following their paucity over the winter. Once again, no Loggerhead Shrikes were reported, although an unidentified shrike on Martha's Vineyard Apr. 23 (G. Ben-David) was, by virtue of the date, most likely of that species.

An early White-eyed Vireo was on P.I., Apr. 16 (MM) and extralimital individuals were on Seal I., N.S., May 8 (SIT) and found dead in Shelburne, N.S., May 10 (EPS, SIT). Early Solitary Vireos were in Granville, Mass., Apr. 6 (*vide* SK) and Durham, N.H., Apr. 8 (W. Tremblay). Three Warbling Vireos in Nova Scotia (*vide* JSC) was a typical showing and migrant Philadelphia Vireos numbered 13 Regionwide.

WARBLERS — A spate of early warblers included a Tennessee in Longmeadow, Mass., Apr. 26 (*vide* SK), a N. Parula in Orono, Me., Apr. 15 (N. Famous), a Cape May in Middleboro, Mass., Apr. 28 (D. Briggs), a dead Black-throated Blue on Monomoy I., Apr. 23 (RCH), a Black-throated Green at the Eppley Wildlife Sanctuary, R.I., Apr. 20 (*vide* DLE), a Pine in Dartmouth, N.S., Mar. 9 (J. Taylor) that may have wintered, a Prairie in Northampton, Mass., Apr. 23 (*vide* SK), a Cerulean at Touisset, R.I., Apr. 28 (*vide* DLE), two Black-and-whites on P.I., Apr. 13 (R. McHale) and two in Goffstown, N.H., Apr. 15 (HWP), Am. Redstarts at the Eppley Wildlife Sanctuary, R.I., Apr. 24 (*vide* DLE) and Middleboro, Mass., Apr. 26 (D. Briggs), and an Ovenbird at the Eppley W.S., Apr. 20 (*vide* DLE). At Brier I., a Golden-winged Warbler May 17 was notable (EPS). Orange-crowned Warblers were seen in Massachusetts (three) and Nova Scotia (one), and extralimital "southern" warblers included Yellowthroateds in Rhode Island (one), Massachusetts (six), and Maine (one), Prothonotary Warblers in Rhode Island (one), Massachusetts (four), and New Hampshire (two), Kentucky Warblers in Massachusetts (eight) and Maine (one), Hooded Warblers in Massachusetts (eight), and Yellow-breasted Chats in Rhode Island (one) and Massachusetts (four).

A Worm-eating Warbler was a good find on Brier I., May 17 (EPS), and one photographed in Durham May 24 (S. Mirrick *et al.*) was, surprisingly, the first ever documented in New Hampshire (SAG). Early on the morning of May 1 an "uncountable wave" of warblers passed through Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, Mass.; of the estimated 2500+ birds, 95+ % were Yellow-rumped Warblers (JS). At M.B.O., seasonal totals of 15 Blackpoll Warblers and 65 Black-and-white Warblers were substantially below normal. Mourning Warblers, on the other hand, staged a "major movement" through Connecticut May 26-30 (DV), and 25+ seen in Massachusetts May 22-31 suggested a similar showing there. However, 15 banded at M.B.O. (through June 15) was only average (TL-E).

TANAGERS THROUGH SPARROWS — Ten Summer Tanagers Regionwide, the northernmost on Seal I., N.S., May 24 (SJF), was a meager showing (vs. 19, 21, & 24 the last 3 years). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were well above average in both Nova Scotia (*vide* JSC) and Newfoundland (BM), but farther s. their numbers were unremarkable. Blue Grosbeak numbers plummed this spring with only eight reported (vs. six, 70+, & 48+ the last 3 years). Indigo Buntings followed suit, and the expected April overshoots were virtually absent.

Dickcissels included a wintering bird in Stonington, Me., present until Apr. 12 (M. Hundley), one in Manchester, Mass., Mar 3-Apr. 6 (H. Weissberg *et al.*), and one in Orleans, Apr. 20

(M. Lynch) A Rufous-sided Towhee of a w "spotted" race was identified at Cape Sable, N.S., May 11 (W. McCormick, *vide* IAM). Clay-colored Sparrows are now being reported regularly in spring and this year a wintering bird was present in Northampton, Mass., through Mar. 24 (*vide* SK), and others were in Marblehead, Mass., May 13 (JS *et al.*) and on Monhegan I., May 25-27 (W. Russell *et al.*). A wintering Lark Sparrow was last seen in Squantum, Mass., Apr. 3 (D. Brown), and a Lark Bunting was unique this season at Brier I., May 17 (EPS, SIT).

Savannah Sparrows passed through in excellent numbers throughout the Region, especially at G.M.N.P., where 2000 were estimated May 12 (BM). Three Grasshopper Sparrows were found in Nova Scotia (*vide* JSC) and inland Sharp-tailed Sparrows were unexpected at Great Meadows N.W.R., Mass., May 5 (R. Walton) and in N. Sandwich, N.H., May 12 (D. Os-good). The wintering Lincoln's Sparrow in St. John's, Nfld., was last seen Apr. 6 (BMc). Swamp Sparrows were much in evidence in s. portions, and a total of 92 banded at M.B.O. far exceeded their previous spring high of 70 (TL-E). Leading the sparrow charge across the Region was the White-throated Sparrow, which was in "exceptional numbers" in Rhode Island (DLE), while in Massachusetts several counts in the 25-400+ range were recorded during the period May 5-14 (*vide* LT). At M.B.O., a total of 392 was just 17 below their spring record (TL-E). Farther n., White-throateds were numerous, though in less impressive numbers, except on Seal I., N.S., where a peak of 1000 was reported May 1 (ELM) and on St. Pierre and Miquelon, where "hundreds" arrived May 16 (RE). White-crowned Sparrows also made one of their best spring showings ever with large numbers recorded throughout New England in early May At Rockport, Mass., 32 were banded (RTN), by far the highest spring total in that station's 8-year history. In Nova Scotia, at least 45+ birds included single *gambelii* on Bon Portage I (EPS, SIT) and Brier I. (J. McLaren). Dark-eyed Juncos were abundant across n. portions of the Region and an "Oregon" Junco was present at Bass River, N.S., Mar. 5-Apr. 14 (*vide* PRD)

SNOW BUNTING THROUGH FINCHES — Lingering Snow Buntings were one on Monomoy I., May 5 (BN), two in Goshen, N.H., May 7 (B. Janeway), and two on St. Pierre May 16 (*vide* RE). Four Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported during the period Mar. 15-Apr. 24, one each in Connecticut and Massachusetts and two in Nova Scotia. The Rusty Blackbird flight in e Massachusetts was termed "excellent" (RAF) but elsewhere the species drew little comment. Orchard Orioles were in good numbers across s. New England but were scarcer than usual farther n.

House Finches continue to expand slowly in n. sections, as evidenced by birds reported as far n. as Columbia, N.H. (D Killam) and the Bangor/Brewer area of Maine (*vide* WCT), and eight birds in 6 locations in New Brunswick (*vide* BD). As usual, the winter finch situation varied widely across the Region. Both crossbills were numerous in n. New England and Nova Scotia throughout the period and there were several reports of Red Crossbills nesting in New Hampshire (*vide* SAG). In a non-flight year, a Com. Redpoll on Nantucket Mar. 11-16 (EFA) was anomalous. Pine Siskins were also numerous across n. New England with birds lingering into late May as far s. as Massachusetts. In Newfoundland, siskins became common around St John's in May (BMc) but, curiously, were said to have been scarce in Nova Scotia (PRD). American Goldfinches also drew many comments from n. sections, including Nova Scotia, where in a 5-minute period at Risser's Beach, an incredible 1500+ were estimated to have passed (JSC *et al.*)! Evening Grosbeaks were apparently scarce, although there was an influx at Moncton, N.B., May 18 (BD) and an albino was seen there May 26 (E. Swinamer).

EXOTICA — A colony of Monk Parakeets in Warwick, R.I., numbered 23 individuals with 11 nests in March (*vide* DLE), and a single bird was seen in Maine (*vide* WCT). Red-crested (Brazilian) Cardinals, first noted in New Hampshire in August

1984, were visiting feeders at 4 locations in that state (*vide* SAG). European Goldfinches continue to be sporadically reported from New Hampshire, and this season one bird was seen in Hollis Apr. 12 [J. Graney].

UNCONFIRMED REPORTS — A tantalizing description of a "Great White" Heron at Three Fathom Harbor, N.S., May 20-23 was received from observers familiar with the species in Florida. A bird identified as a Com. Ringed Plover was photographed on St. Pierre May 26 (but no photos or documentation were received by this editor). On the same island, a bird photographed June 4, 1983 has reportedly only recently been identified as a Greater Golden-Plover (but again I have not seen the photos). Up to 10 W. Sandpipers in Rhode Island was without precedent in the Region and requires substantiation; the species is decidedly rare anywhere in the northeast in spring. A

single observer briefly saw a bird in Glovertown, Nfld., May 21 that most closely resembled a Ring Ouzel from Europe.

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QUEBEC REGION

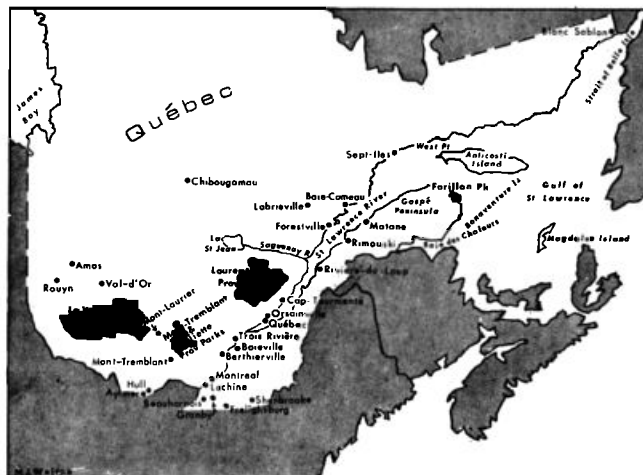
Richard Yank and Yves Aubry

March temperatures averaged near normal, with precipitation generally above average. April and May were quite cool throughout the province, but precipitation levels varied greatly during this period. In April, precipitation was above the norm in the west and below average in the east. Most areas returned to normal levels in May, but central portions of the province were quite wet.

Local weather patterns had a marked influence on how observers viewed this spring migration. In southwestern Quebec it was considered uneventful, while areas of central Quebec that were hit by major storm systems, like the Saguenay and the Lower St. Lawrence, reported substantial groundings. As might be expected, these areas also produced several outstanding rarities.

GREBES THROUGH WATERFOWL — Quebec's first **Eared Grebe** appeared briefly at Pointe-au-Père May 3 (YG); although this sighting involved only one observer, a good description of a bird in breeding plumage was submitted. Few s. herons were found this spring: in addition to six Great Egrets again found at Dundee May 19 (PBa, YA) and one seen at Kateville Apr. 23 (PBo, LH, JD), these included a Snowy Egret at Cap Tourmente May 17 (YH), a Little Blue Heron on I. des Soeurs Apr. 24 (RG), and single Cattle Egrets observed at Baie-du-Febvre (formerly Baieville—PBa *et al.*), Rimouski (LB, YL), and Hauterive (SMn, DM) during May. Glossy Ibises made a slightly better showing: a group of nine was seen in flight near Rimouski Apr. 7 (RSL), two visited Baie-du-Febvre Apr. 21-26 (DJ), one strayed to La-Croche May 12-17 (ML), and another reached Métabetchouan May 19 (NB, ClC, JG *et al.*)—a first for L. Saint-Jean. Two banded Greater Flamingos, downed by strong winds near Sainte-Pétronille May 12 (SMd *et al.*), were likely among the four birds later found to have escaped from the Quebec City zoo.

Lone Tundra Swans stopped near Valleyfield (DG, m.ob.), Berthierville (CM), and Quebec City (DB, RL, CV) in April, and three were observed near Amos in May (AB). Reports of Greater White-fronted Geese have increased over the past few years; this spring saw three at Baie-du-Febvre (DJ *et al.*), one each at Masson (RS), Berthier-sur-Mer (JL, GGa), and Sainte-Pétronille (RL, CV), three at Pointe-Label (GB, SMn)—for the first N. Shore sighting—and seven at Plaisance (DSH *et al.*). Most of these birds were adults of the Greenland race. A flock estimated to contain 45,000+ Snow Geese at Isle-Verte Apr. 28 (TAR) was unprecedented so far e., but was consistent with the recent



trend shown by this species. Brant also appear to be migrating through w. Quebec in increasing numbers; 1000+ were flying N over Montreal May 21 (RYa).

Single **Barnacle Geese** were among flocks of Snow and Canada geese that staged at Pike-River Apr. 5 (GM) and Masson May 10-11 (MGo *et al.*). While it is irrefutable that these birds may have been of captive origin, it would seem equally true that genuine vagrancy cannot be ruled out for such a highly migratory species without some evidence of captivity. Although such records of long-lived and mobile birds place some listers before a dilemma, they are nonetheless worthy of publication since, whatever their origin, these birds become as much a part of our avifauna as undisputed vagrants. Noteworthy ducks included a record-early pair of Gadwalls at Hull Mar. 11 (BD) and ♂ Eur. Wigeons at Berthier-sur-Mer (JL), Sainte-Pétronille (two—FG, CV *et al.*), Baie-du-Febvre (FB, DJ), and Saint-Fulgence (JG, ClC *et al.*). A pair of Canvasbacks was at the latter site Apr. 10-22 (LG, NB *et al.*), three were at nearby LaBaie Apr. 30-May 5 (JL, NB, ClC), and one was seen at Saint-Pascal Apr. 25 (CA, CM). Also notable were three Ruddy Ducks at Sainte-Foy Apr. 30 (AGa, GD).

VULTURES THROUGH TERNS — A **Black Vulture** was feeding on a roadkill near Brossard May 13 (JLD); 4 previous records exist for the Region. A Ring-necked Pheasant was heard at Deauville May 13 (GGR, VL).

Re-introduction programs in the adjacent United States appear to be resulting in a spill-over of **Wild Turkeys** into s. Quebec. In the E. Townships, for several years there have been unconfirmed reports from the Sutton area, where a definite sighting occurred in 1976 (AB 30:932). This spring single birds were observed at 4 different sites within a 6 km radius of Georgeville, on the e. shore of L. Memphrémagog, Apr. 2-June 4 (*fide* PL), and one was seen in flight near Stanstead May 6 (*fide* AC). There were unconfirmed reports of several sightings in Bury Twp. last fall (*fide* MGo) and of one near Weedon in April. Last spring, a female was repeatedly observed on a nest in Sherbrooke, which apparently hatched successfully (*fide* AC). Release programs in Vermont are the most likely source of these birds.

Even greater numbers of turkeys have been found near the New York border, n.w. of L. Champlain. A few have been seen regularly near Lacolle since 1981, including a pair at Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle in December 1982 (*fide* MF). In the Hemmingford area, hunters shot three birds out of a group of 20± in September 1983 and a local farmer saw a flock of 35± in his fields a couple of months later. Single birds were killed near Saint-Chrysostome and Hemmingford last fall, while this spring, at the latter locale, four were spotted in March and a female with three young was observed in late May (*fide* GSe). One was seen at Covey-Hill twice in early May (PN).

There are no known cases of accidental or intentional release in this area of the province. According to Mike Peterson (pers. comm.), however, recent re-introduction programs in New York state have been quite successful; the species is breeding in Franklin County as far n. as Malone, and is also found in n.e. Clinton County, just s. of the Hemmingford area. The Wild Turkey was never a native species in Quebec and is offered no protection under existing game laws. It remains to be seen whether or not these birds can establish a sustainable population in our present habitat and climate.

A Com. Moorhen returned to the Saint-Gédéon marsh May 22-24 (RBo *et al.*), where the species was first seen last year. The shorebird migration was generally unremarkable. Willets were located at Pointe-au-Père (YG) and Trois-Pistoles (GB) May 19 & 26, respectively, and Ruffs were identified at Maskinongé Apr. 28 (SLe, GCh), Pointe-au-Père May 10-11 (TAR *et al.*), Pointe-Label May 15 (GB, CT), and Métabetchouan May 20 (CIC, JG, NB, JM), following the complete absence of the species in 1984. In late May, Wilson's Phalaropes ranged to Métabetchouan (pair—CIC, NB, JG *et al.*), Saint-Gédéon (LG, CIC, NB *et al.*), and Pointe-Label (SMn), while several birds were found in the Rimouski area.

Vagrant gulls, though regular, are always of interest. A Laughing Gull was not unexpected at Pointe-au-Père May 25 (YG, TAR), while the Saguenay had its first Little Gull May 5-13 and 2nd Com. Black-headed Gull May 4, both at LaBaie (HS, GSa *et al.*) The latter species also turned up unprecedentedly early at Rimouski Mar. 30 (TAR) and a Lesser Black-backed Gull was spotted at Trois-Pistoles Apr. 30 by the same observer. A record-early Caspian Tern was found at Saint-Paul-de-l'île-aux-Noix Apr. 25 (JH), while the bird of the season, an ad. **White-winged Tern**, arrived at Saint-Gédéon May 30 (CG, m.ob.) to provide our first Regional record and the first Canadian sighting outside of New Brunswick.

OWLS THROUGH WAXWINGS — An elusive Com Barn-Owl was flushed from I. des Soeurs Apr. 27 (MA, DA), but could not be relocated. The discovery of a Boreal Owl nest containing 5 eggs at Pointe-Label May 20 (CT) added to our knowledge of the species' breeding distribution at the s. edge of its range; at least seven individuals were censused on the Manicouagan Peninsula. The Whip-poor-will appears to be well-established on the n. shore of L. Saint-Jean, where it has been found each year since 1982; two were calling at Sainte-Marguerite-Marie May 24 (MSi). A ♂ Red-bellied Woodpecker appeared at Ancienne-Lorette Apr. 18 (GD). An E. Phoebe, very rare on the N Shore, was at Hauterive May 20-21 (SMn, GC). A Carolina Wren was discovered at Senneville Apr. 12 (RYo, JB). Earliest ever was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher seen at Westmount Apr. 26 (RG), while a pair nested at Brossard (*fide* PBa)—a new location for this rare breeder in Quebec. A pair was also found in Hull May 13-25 (DD).

The status of the E. Bluebird continues to improve at the n edge of its range: a pair was observed at Pointe-Label May 9 (CT). While the species bred along the N. Shore in the past, this represents the first report from there in many years. A Veery was noted at Westmount on the record-early date of Apr. 23 (JH). The Region's 2nd **Fieldfare** was well-described from Pointe-au-Père, where it was briefly observed Apr. 6 (YG *et al.*), and a Varied Thrush was sighted at Sillery Mar. 22 (NC, RC) Two Gray Catbirds at Ancienne-Lorette Apr. 7 (AGa) beat the previous early arrival date by 9 days. A flock of 2000± Bohemian Waxwings at Rimouski Apr. 14 (YG) was surprising, as the species was considered "generally scarce" this past winter.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES — Additional sightings of Golden-winged Warbler were made in the E. Townships: a male returned May 25 to Stoke (AV), where it was found last year, another was seen at Kingsbury the same day (JS, FS, PF), and a ♂ "Brewster's" Warbler was found at Sherbrooke May 11 (YM, MP). Elsewhere, a Golden-winged was heard near Mayo May 20 (RYa). Returning warblers set a number of record early arrival dates. These included a Nashville Warbler at Sherbrooke Apr. 26 (YM) and another at Westmount the following day (MA); a N Parula, a Chestnut-sided Warbler, and an Am. Redstart at Sainte-Foy Apr. 20 (AGa) which all shattered previous records by 10 days; and Palm Warblers at Montreal Apr. 8 (GP) and I des Soeurs Apr. 16 (PH). A **Kentucky Warbler** at Saint-Augustin, Portneuf Co., May 22 (RBA), constituting approximately the 7th provincial record, was particularly rare away from extreme s.w. Quebec. The Region's 6th **Summer Tanager** brightened Cap Tourmente May 26 & 28 (AGu, SG *et al.*) and provided the first record since 1973. A ♂ Scarlet Tanager at Stoke May 3 (AV) was record-early by one day.

The Emberizinae provided a number of interesting reports this spring, including 3 boldfaced species. Extralimital Rufous-sided Towhees reached Saint-Fabien Apr. 16-27 (YG *et al.*) and Métabetchouan May 5 (MSa, CG *et al.*), and a Clay-colored Sparrow at Valleyfield May 12 (CL, DG) was worthy of mention Quebec's 9th **Lark Sparrow** was seen at Saint-Fabien-de-Panet May 14 (JL, MGe) and an ad. **Lark Bunting** was an excellent find at Jonquière May 13 (CHC *et al.*); 2 of our 3 previous sightings were also in May. A Song Sparrow at Baie-Comeau Dec. 18-Apr. 1 (CF) represented a 2nd local overwintering record, and a **Harris' Sparrow**, the Region's 6th, appeared briefly at Rimouski May 10 (DR).

An E. Meadowlark at Saint-Paul-du-Nord Apr. 26 (JLB) was n. of its known breeding range. A N. Oriole at Hauterive May 28 (DM) furnished only the 2nd sighting from the N. Shore. The House Finch is proving to be a very early nester in the Region a nest contained 5 eggs at Hampstead Apr. 7 (JN) and a female was incubating in Sherbrooke Apr. 11 (VL). Saint-Benjamin (SL *et al.*) and Gatineau (GH) were added to the localities where this expanding species has been recorded. Good numbers of Red Crossbills were found in s. Quebec, with 20 at Charlesbourg Apr. 3 (PC, LM), 16+ at Sherbrooke May 17-23 (EL, YA *et al.*), and 60+ near Lachute May 26 (PBa). Pine Siskins again nested

in extreme s Quebec with nest-building noted at Huntington Mar. 30 (PBa) and Hampstead Apr. 6 (*vide* PBa).

EXOTICS— A Eur. Goldfinch frequented a Montreal feeder Mar. 31+ (DC) for the 2nd consecutive year.

CORRIGENDUM— The Peregrine Falcon reported at Bergeronnes Feb. 27 (see winter 1984-1985) was in fact a Gyrfalcon.

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HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

William J. Boyle, Jr., Robert O. Paxton,
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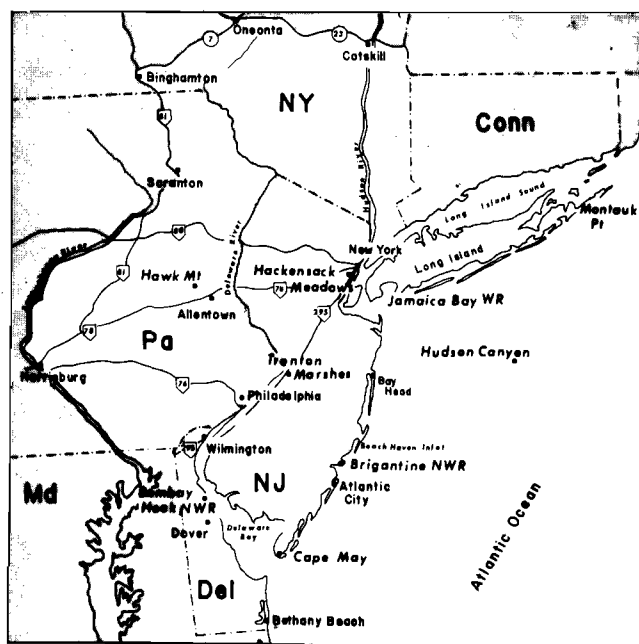
The unusually mild, dry weather that began in the fall of 1984 persisted through most of the spring of 1985. March and April were much warmer than normal, and April was the driest on record throughout the Region. This eight-month drought was finally broken in May, when rainfall was well above average over much of the Region, although the heavy precipitation missed the reservoirs in the Catskills that provide most of New York City's water. One consequence of the warm weather was the advanced development of the spring foliage, which was at least two weeks ahead of schedule.

Most observers commented that the spring migration of songbirds was the worst in many years. This was partly owing to the fact that the few big flights occurred during mid-week (with the exception of an early wave in late April), but mainly owing to the mild weather and lack of cold fronts that prevailed throughout most of May and failed to produce any major grounding of migrants. The more noteworthy rarities were mainly holdovers from the winter season.

ABBREVIATIONS— Bombay Hook = Bombay Hook N.W.R., near Smyrna, Del.; Brig. = Brigantine Unit, Edwin B. Forsythe N.W.R., Atlantic Co., N.J.; J.B.W.R. = Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York City; Little Creek = Little Creek Wildlife Area, near Dover, Del.; N.Y.S.A.R.C. = New York State Avian Rarities Committee. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS— A late Red-throated Loon at Muddy Run, Lancaster, Pa., was noteworthy for this inland location (B & FH, JG), but there were fewer than normal lingering along the coast this year. Common Loons put on a good showing with a spectacular 300 on Culvers L., Sussex, N.J., Apr. 3 (FT), and many singles at scattered inland sites in May. A good flight of Horned Grebes brought 43 to Culvers L., Mar. 29 (FT), and 24 to Beltzville L., Carbon, Pa., the same day (RWi). There were only 3 reports of Red-necked Grebe from New Jersey, all from the coast in March, but an unprecedentedly large showing at Rye, Westchester, N.Y., numbered well over 100, with 65 in sight at one time (TWB *et al.*). The Eared Grebe reported from Caven Pier, Jersey City, was last seen Apr. 6, while the W. Grebe first seen at Ditch Plains, Montauk, in January was relocated there Mar. 23 (J. Coe).

The annual Delaware Valley Ornithological Club/Urner Club pelagic trip off Barnegat Light, N.J., May 25 produced the usual assortment of shearwaters—Sooty, Greater, a few Cory's, and a single Manx, plus several N. Fulmars and many Wilson's



Storm-Petrels. Large numbers of N. Gannets were seen in Delaware Bay off Cumberland, N.J., in April (DKu), and a single at Pickering Beach, Del., May 5 was unusually far up the bay. An ad. Am. White Pelican cruised the beach from Wildwood to Cape May Pt., May 9-16 (m.ob.), while a Brown Pelican at Cape May Pt., May 14 was the harbinger of the now-annual summer influx (KS).

Great Cormorants are not only becoming increasingly common winter visitors, they are lingering much later as well. One was at Indian R. Inlet, Del., Apr. 13 (WWF), while small numbers remained at Sandy Hook and Jersey City through the end of the period. Most remarkable was a flock of six adults in breeding plumage flying over the Delaware R. near Trenton May 16 (JSt). The ever-increasing Double-crested Cormorant was noted in migration at many inland locations, and flocks remained to summer all along the coast. Others were noted during the season at spots along or near the Hudson R., including L. DeForest, Rockland, N.Y., a potential breeding site (BW).

Great Blue Herons seem to be making a strong comeback after some lean years in the early 1980s; several new nesting colonies were reported from Delaware, New Jersey, and New York, and the species was widely reported throughout the Region. Inland Little Blue Herons were noted at Allendale Celery Farm, Ber-

gen, N J , May 15 (ST) and at Trenton Marsh, Apr 18 (RJB) A Cattle Egret at Jacobsburg S.P., Northampton, Pa., May 15 was far from any known heronry (T. & G. Master).

WATERFOWL — A yearling Tundra Swan on the Susquehanna R. near Harrisburg May 27 was an unusual straggler (CJ), but a Greater White-fronted Goose at Amenia, Dutchess, N.Y., Mar 8 was back for the 3rd year in a row (MY). On the evenings of May 9 & 14, Weissman noted large flocks of Brant migrating up the Hudson R. opposite Tarrytown. This movement is probably an annual, but seldom-observed, event.

A Green-winged Teal of the Eurasian subspecies at Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon, N.J., Mar. 23 provided one of the few recent records for this race in the state (JDo). The season's five Eurasian Wigeons were all in New York, including four on Long Island, where they are regular, and one at Larchmont, Westchester, Feb. 25-Mar. 24 (TWB). Ring-necked Ducks were reported in excellent numbers from many inland locations, while coastal observers, especially, noted unusually large concentrations of Lesser Scaup (APE, DKu *et al.*).

A Com. Eider and a King Eider were at Barnegat Light Apr. 13 (GMC), but a King Eider off Fortescue, Cumberland, N.J., May 20-22 (DKu, C. Phillips) and three at Cape Henlopen, Del., May 25 were unexpected (JRu, HC). Four Harlequin Ducks were at Pt Lookout, Long Island, Mar. 2-17 (JRu *et al.*), another was at Montauk in March, and the eight that wintered at Barnegat Light, N.J., were last seen Apr. 13 (GMC).

White-winged Scoters were noted from several locations in e. Pennsylvania during late March and early April, with a maximum of six at Leaser L., Lehigh, Apr. 1 (BLM, S. Smith); two were at L. Kiamasha in the Sullivan, N.Y., Catskills Mar. 24 (Sullivan Co. Audubon Soc.). Three reports of Hooded Merganser nestings included a female with a brood at Great Swamp N W R., Morris, N.J., May 18 (T. Parker, KKa *et al.*), another hen with a brood in Essex, N.J., in May (*vide* RR), and a 3rd female at a nest tree in Warren, N.J. (F. Tilly). The spring flight of Com. Mergansers brought an extraordinary flock of 1800 to Budd L., Morris, N.J., Mar. 4 (C. Kelly).

VULTURES THROUGH CRANES — Black Vultures continue to increase at the edges of their ranges in Pennsylvania and in n and s.e. New Jersey. Two records from Orange, N.Y., in March represented possible scouts; one was at Goshen and another at Mt. Peter for the 2nd spring in a row. A Black Vulture at Forest P., Queens, May 11 furnished one of the few records for New York City (I. Cantor).

The only Am. Swallow-tailed Kite of the season appeared briefly Apr. 23 at Cape May Pt., where they are annual (D. Johnson). Mississippi Kites were more widely distributed than usual, although all reports were from New Jersey. In addition to the regular one-half dozen or so around Cape May from mid-May to early June, there were singles at Lebanon S.F., Burlington, May 14 (H. Boyce), near Seaville, Cape May, May 18 (R. Odear, KKa *et al.*), and Bass River S.F., Burlington, May 19 (*vide* PD), two were at Oradell Res., Bergen, May 29 (D & JC). There were numerous scattered reports of Bald Eagle with the biggest numbers coming, as usual, from the Sullivan, N.Y., reservoirs, where two immatures were still present in late May. Unfortunately, the pair that built a nest in Salem, N.J., last year did not return to it, although an adult was seen in the area in April (*vide* JKM)

The only regularly manned hawk watch was at Sandy Hook, which was monitored daily Mar. 1-May 15. This, the 7th year of the count, tallied a record 10,136 raptors of 15 species. Especially noteworthy were new highs for Cooper's Hawk (350 vs. previous 165) and Merlin (461). The biggest one-day flights of Broad-winged Hawks were Apr. 20 at Morgan Hill, Northampton, Pa. (1270, DD), and Hardwick, Warren, N.J. (1400, FW), and Apr 21 in Dutchess, N.Y. (2000+, MVW *et al.*). Golden Eagle reports came from Hawk Mountain (one in March, one in April); from Barryville, Sullivan, N.Y. (WLM, S. Brubaker); and from Kent, Del., May 3 (C. Sample). The Gyrfalcon that win-

tered at Jones Beach, Long Island, was last seen Mar 20 (m ob)

One of the more remarkable finds of the season was a **Black Rail** heard and seen at a small marsh in Lancaster, Pa., May 16 (T. Amico, D. Heathcote, KKa, RMS, E. Witmer). Perhaps the only authentic record for e. Pennsylvania, the bird was still present in early June. Other reports of Black Rail came from more usual places, such as Turkey Pt., Cumberland, N.J., and 3 locations in Delaware, including Broadkill Beach, where they have been absent for several years (MVB, JRu, SS). King Rails were widely reported from the Delaware Bayshore marshes of Delaware and New Jersey, while one of the few inland records was from the Allendale, N.J., Celery Farm (B. & F. Johnson).

This spring's Purple Gallinules were found at Prospect P., Brooklyn, May 11 (B. Wade); at Swimming River Res., Monmouth, N.J., May 14 (*vide* RDi); and at Cape May Point S.P., where one or two have been seen almost annually since 1979, May 14 into June (m.ob.). The species is suspected of nesting at the latter site, but its secretive nature makes this difficult to prove. A Sandhill Crane was seen a few times in May near Oldwick, Hunterdon, N.J. (A. Rennie).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS — Lesser Golden-Plovers were reported from a number of places in Delaware and New Jersey during April and May, with the biggest concentrations at Pedricktown, Salem, N.J., where up to 12 were present Apr. 21 (WT *et al.*). A Wilson's Plover was found Mar. 23 in S. Cape May, where one spent a week in March 1983 (PD, LM). Several Black-necked Stilts were noted away from their Little Creek stronghold: one was at J.B.W.R., May 5 (S. Walter *et al.*); a pair was in S. Cape May, May 6 (PS); two others were at Brig., May 26-27 (m.ob.); and a single was at Manahawkin W.M.A., Ocean, N.J., May 12 (*vide* PD).

A flock of 40 Marbled Godwits at Little Creek May 22 was an unprecedented spring concentration for a species that is uncommon at any season (APE). The annual spring gathering of migrant shorebirds along the Delaware Bayshore to feed on horseshoe crab eggs peaked a bit earlier than normal this year, highest counts were obtained May 22 on the Delaware side, with the usual mix of Ruddy Turnstones, Red Knots, Semipalmated Sandpipers, and Sanderlings. Among the thousands of Semipalmated Sandpipers at Moores Beach, Cumberland, N.J., May 27, for the 2nd year in a row, was a breeding-plumaged Curlew Sandpiper (WJB). Other Curlew Sandpipers included one at Pickering Beach, Del., May 20 (C. Perry, DAC) and up to three in one day at Brig. during May (m.ob.). The Brig. total probably represented about five birds.

Pedricktown was once again the Regional hotspot for Ruffs, based on photographs and descriptions, Meritt estimated that at least nine males and three females were present between Mar 24 and Apr. 27 (GMC, JKM, m.ob.). A ♂ Ruff was at Little Creek Apr. 11 (AM), and at least two were present there from Apr. 21 into May (MO, m.ob.). Another Ruff inland at Hyper Humus, Sussex, N.J., Apr. 6 was an excellent find (JZ). A Long-billed Dowitcher in fresh breeding plumage was impeccably described from Bombay Hook May 4 (MO *et al.*). Among the numerous reports of Wilson's Phalaropes, three at Wurtsboro, Sullivan, N.J., were most noteworthy (E. A. Mearns Bird Club).

Birders on the DVOC/Urner Club pelagic trip May 25 had an excellent opportunity to study the 15 ± Pomarine Jaegers seen during the day. The single Parasitic Jaeger also provided a close look, but no Long-tailed or skuas were seen. Little Gulls continued to be scarce, with no reports from Delaware, where they were formerly regular visitors. Up to five were at Shinnecock Inlet, Long Island, during March; two were at Rye in April (TWB); and a single adult was at Caven Cove, Jersey City, in May (DR). Common Black-headed Gulls were also in short supply: one was at Cape May Mar. 5 (PD, LM), another was at Caven Cove during March (KKn *et al.*), and singles were at Shinnecock Inlet and Jones Beach, also during March (m.ob.). Most of the Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous gulls reported were holdovers from the winter season, but an ad. Lesser Black-



Arctic Tern, evidently subadult, about 40 miles east of Barnegat Light, N.J., May 25, 1985. The typical underwing pattern has a rather sharply defined black trailing edge to most of the outer primaries. Photo/Alan Brady.

backed Gull at Hatfield, Montgomery, Pa., Mar. 20 was a local first (GLF, GAF).

The Gull-billed Terns that nest in New Jersey and New York tend to bypass Delaware, so one at Cape Henlopen Mar. 4 was noteworthy (DAC). Various May sightings of Royal Tern along the coast were not unexpected in view of recent trends, but two Sandwich Terns at Cape Henlopen Mar. 25 were well ahead of schedule and unusual in Delaware (JRu, HC, WWF). Two Roseate Terns were at Assawoman Wildlife Area, Del., May 4 (SS, ESp, BR) and another was at S. Cape May in early May (PD). One of the highlights of the May 25 pelagic trip was the "portlandica" plumaged Arctic Tern that allowed close study about 40 mi e. of Barnegat Light (m.ob., ph. AB). The top tern of the season, however, was an ad. Bridled Tern that spent the morning at Shinnecock Inlet May 29 (P. Bernath).

Black Tern went almost unreported; the only records submitted were from Round Valley Res., Hunterdon (JDe, JDo, GH, JZ) and from the Allendale Celery Farm (B. Johnson, ST), both May 18. Riders aboard a fishing boat out of Cape May Mar. 9 & 10 found a good assortment of alcids about 25 mi offshore. Those identified Mar. 9 were six to eight Thick-billed Murres, 12 Razorbills, and two Atlantic Puffins (B & NM).

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Again this spring observers commented on the scarcity of tent caterpillars, which allowed for an abundant growth of their favorite vegetation, but contributed to the dearth of cuckoos. It was a good year for Great Horned Owls; Heck found 9 occupied nests in a few square miles in Hunterdon, N.J., and other observers reported many other pairs. Several Snowy Owls remained from the winter influx. The Camden, N.J., bird remained to at least Mar. 20; another was at Port Newark Mar. 8 & 12 (m.ob.); and at least three were on Long Island during March.

Two calling Long-eared Owls at Troy Meadows, Morris, N.J., May 18 were possible breeders (WW *et al.*), and another nested successfully in nearby Livingston (*vide* RR). A N. Saw-whet Owl seen in a wooded swamp near Gibbsboro, Camden, N.J., May 13 was also a potential nester (JSt); this species was again found at Chatsworth, Ocean, N.J., in May at a traditional nesting location (AB *et al.*). Pileated Woodpeckers have historically been absent as breeding birds on the coastal plain of New Jersey, but an increasing number of recent sightings from Cape May County and adjacent parts of Atlantic County, mainly by Clay & Pat Sutton, suggest that the first nesting record may be

near at hand. The Corbin City unit of McNamara Wildlife Management Area seems to be the prime spot at present.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES — Most flycatcher species seemed late this spring, but Alder Flycatchers were more widespread than usual in n. New Jersey in late May, although they were scarce in s. New York (JPT). The only rarity of the season in this category was the one (or perhaps two) Scissor-tailed Flycatcher(s) at Cape May, May 22 & 28 (D. Phillips, J. Forest, KB). A very early (but see the winter season report) Purple Martin was at Cape May Mar. 4 (GH), one day ahead of an even more surprising Cliff Swallow (PD). As Cliff Swallows slowly recover from Regional lows of the late 1970s, they are being found in new locations. A group of 5 nests on a barn at Wassaic, Dutchess, N.Y., May 27 established the first confirmed nesting for the county in 15 years (SL, BW).

A nest of Com. Raven with young in Dauphin, Pa., was the southernmost yet found in the Region (ESw). Not far to the n.e., a pair was resident at Hawk Mountain and considered probable breeders (LG, J. Olmes). Brown-headed Nuthatches were present again in May at Redden S.F., Sussex, Del. (WJW *et al.*), and at their traditional Henlopen Acres nesting site (DAC). Two singing ♂ Sedge Wrens were found May 18 at Turkey Pt., Cumberland, N.J., site of the last attempted nesting in the state in 1977 (RBA, JDu *et al.*). Unfortunately, the birds could not be relocated thereafter. Up to three Sedge Wrens, probable migrants, were at Bombay Hook May 8-9 (RWe, WJW, N. Padalino).

The burgeoning Regional population of E. Bluebirds is now so widespread that no local numbers merit citation. Contrary to the report in the winter season summary, the ♂ Mountain Bluebird found at Beltzville L., Carbon, Pa., in mid-December remained in the area until mid-March, and was last seen by the original discoverer Mar. 22 (RWi). The N. Shrike that wintered at Cape May Pt. was last reported Mar. 24 (GMc).

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES — Like most of the migrant songbirds, vireos staged an unspectacular migration, but all were back in their usual breeding areas in normal numbers by the end of May. The warbler migration was unusually poor, especially on weekends, as the bulk of the migrants bypassed our Region but put on excellent shows farther n. Four Golden-winged Warblers, seldom reported in Delaware, were found in the Wilmington area on the Delaware Ornithological Society spring roundup May 4 (JRu, K. Gordon). A "Lawrence's Warbler" hybrid was trapped and banded at Hopewell, N.J., May 19 (H. Suthers), and there were numerous reports of "Brewster's Warbler" hybrids, including two found singing perfect Golden-winged songs in May in Orange, N.Y., by Wiessman, who wisely recommends that this declining species should not be identified by song alone.

An Orange-crowned Warbler was at Garrett Mt., Passaic, N.J., Apr. 20 (D & KKn, DC), and up to five were in the New York City area during March and April, including one that apparently wintered at the Brooklyn Botanical Garden (*vide* TWB). A possible ♀ Black-throated Gray Warbler was described in detail from Forest P., Queens, May 19 (R. Lewis, S. Wernert); the record has been referred to N.Y.S.A.R.C. Three Yellow-throated Warblers in the New York City area in mid-April were about average for this species n. of its c. New Jersey breeding limit. A Swainson's Warbler was seen briefly at Muddy Run, Lancaster, Pa., May 15, but could not be relocated (H. Morrin). Mourning Warblers were about average, with a couple of dozen reported.

Ten reports of Summer Tanager n. of its breeding range were received, but we suspect many go unreported. At least seven were in the New York City area in May, two in n. New Jersey, and one in Philadelphia (KR). Wandering Blue Grosbeaks included a male at Geigertown, Berks, Pa., May 12, far from any current breeding areas (R. Cook, M. Spence). A ♀ or first spring ♂ Painted Bunting visited Staten Island May 17-19, arriving the morning after strong S winds (AM *et al.*, ph. H. Fischer). This was the 2nd Staten Island record in 3 years (referred to N.Y.S.A.R.C.).

The Dickcissel that wintered at a Freehold, N.J., feeder was last seen Mar. 28 (RD1). A pair was at the Somerset Co. Outdoor Education Center May 19, but not thereafter (J. Rickey), while a singing male was on territory in *Cumberland*, N.J., from May 20 into June (RBA). One of the top rarities of the season was a **Green-tailed Towhee** discovered at a feeder in Pennington, Mercer, N.J., Mar. 20 (H. & J. Pedersen). Last seen Apr. 12, the bird had probably wintered at the feeder, which had been maintained in the owners' absence.

A Clay-colored Sparrow was photographed at Beltzville L., Pa., May 9, but had departed by evening and was not seen again (RW1). There are only a few records for e. Pennsylvania. Another Clay-colored Sparrow was seen at Sandy Hook May 18 for the 2nd spring in a row (FN *et al.*). A Seaside Sparrow at the Hackensack Meadowlands Environmental Center, Lyndhurst, N.J., May 16, was well away from any known nesting area (RK). The Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco that has wintered at a Blairs-town, N.J., feeder for the past few years remained until Apr. 16 (D Jensen). Two Lapland Longspurs in breeding plumage in Chester, Pa., May 11 were remarkably late (PH).

A ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Riis Park, New York City, Mar. 20 (B. & W. Bowman, D. Riepe), while the one that wintered at Cape May was present to at least Apr. 21 (GMc). A ♂ Red Crossbill was relocated Mar. 16 at Willowemoc, Sullivan, N.Y., where a pair had been present in February, but the bird was later found run over by a car (SL, BW). Two widely separated pairs of White-winged Crossbills were also found in the Catskills in March, but could not be relocated (*fide* BW).

EXOTICS—A Chilean Flamingo frequented the marshes and tidal flats of coastal Delaware from Bombay Hook to Cape Henlopen during March and April, and was last seen May 8 (m.ob.). Several Ringed Turtle-Doves were reported from Delaware and Pennsylvania, where they seem to be flourishing, and an Eared Dove visited a *Rockland*, N.Y., feeder Mar. 7 (RFD). Individual Eur. Goldfinches were at Oradell Res., N.J., Mar. 29-30 (D & JC), and in Washington, Warren, N.J., Apr. 10 (L. Latteman). A Com. Greenfinch came to a Berlin, N.J., feeder Mar. 28 only (G. & R. Shimrak, ph.).

CORRIGENDUM—The 3 pairs of Red-headed Woodpeckers reported as nesting in Forest P., Queens, in the spring 1984 report apparently did not do so. Although the males were territorial and birds were seen investigating nest holes through mid-May, the woodpeckers suddenly disappeared by early June and were not seen again. Thus, it is unlikely that nesting actually occurred (GT).

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MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

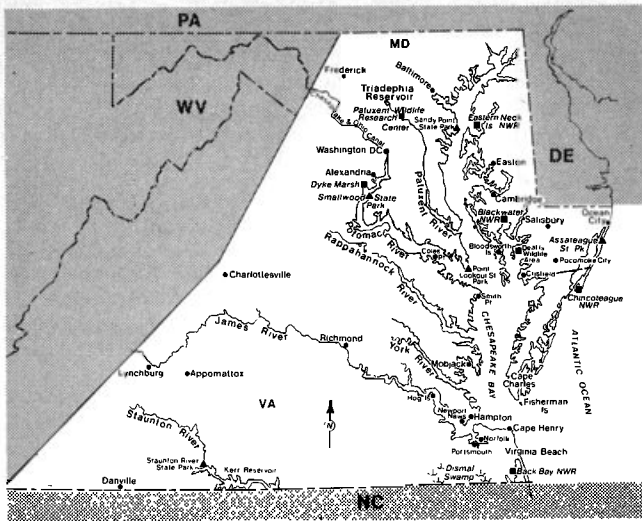
Henry T. Armistead

Spring was decidedly warmer than usual and continued the dry trend which had persisted since last summer. A pronounced lack of weather fronts resulted in few waves of migrant landbirds. In the observers' own words: no major waves (JKS), weak (PN), terrible (WS), very slow (RMS), no waves (SHD), poor spring (DM), spread out and dull (JG), uneventful (PB), started early, numbers down (FRS), no good fronts or fallouts (DC), extremely low numbers (TK), forgettable (DFA), mild, dry, dull (RFR), variety good, numbers down (KHB), poor (TRW). Deviation from normal of temperature: March +2.9°F, April +4.1°, May +1.9°; of precipitation: March -1.66 in., April -2.33 in., May +1.04 in. A number of species which normally arrive in March were earlier than usual, but arrivals and departures were more on schedule as spring advanced; numbers of many species were depressed even though variety was good, but

rarities were almost nonexistent. Most observers felt the warbler, thrush, and swallow flights were very poor, and active banders confirmed this. As happens with some autumns the weather fronts just did not materialize.

ABBREVIATIONS — Balt. = Baltimore, Md.; the Bay = Chesapeake Bay; Black. = Blackwater Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Md.; C.B.B.T. = Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Va.; Chinc. = Chincoteague Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Va.; Craney I. = Craney Island Disposal Area, Portsmouth, Va.; D.C. = Washington, D.C. Italicized dates indicate birds were banded; italicized place names are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Notable reports of loons included 210 Red-throateds in Virginia at C.B.B.T., Apr. 4 (DFA) and 336 Commons in the Eastern Neck N.W.R. area in Maryland Apr. 15 (JG). East of Balt., 52 Common Loons at Black Marsh was a good total for this area (RFR). South of D.C., Huntley



Meadows County P. in Fairfax, Va., continues to offer premier birding, especially in its freshwater marshes. Complete with beaver pond, this 1260-acre park has 3 pairs of Pied-billed Grebes (RAA, EMW *et al.*), and an adult with four young was seen May 29 (JMA). Horned Grebes continued to be scarce, the best counts being of only 400 at Craney I., Va., Mar. 21 (TRW) and 130 at Elliott I., Md., Mar. 31, 75 of the latter diving and surfacing repeatedly in spectacular unison (HTA). Always uncommon here, two Red-necked Grebes were reported at Hunting Creek, Va., s. of D.C., Mar. 16 (DFA) and one was at Craney I., Mar. 23-25 (GMW, DLH *et al.*).

Pelagic reporting was minimal but 51 Wilson's and one Leach's storm-petrel were seen on a trip out of Ocean City, Md., May 11 (HLW *et al.*). The Leach's is never common in this Region. Off Ocean City 250 N. Gannets were seen Feb. 23 (RN *et al.*), 250 were at Virginia Beach Apr. 4 (DFA), an estimated 1000 were at Chinc., Mar. 9 (DMz, *vide* CPW), and up the Bay an immature was seen e. of Smith I., Md., Mar. 4 (BP). Wolfe had a red-letter day Mar. 9 at Virginia Beach when he saw an Am. White Pelican, two early Brown Pelicans, and a harbor seal. Another (?) white pelican was at Chinc. for most of March (RAA, CPW *et al.*). The earliest Brown Pelican was at Virginia Beach Mar. 2 (WS) and Vaughn saw four at Wallop's I., Va., May 17. Will they summer in record numbers for the 4th straight year? Stay tuned.

Up to 18 Great Cormorants were at Lower Machodoc Cr., Westmoreland, Va., off the lower Potomac R., Mar. 15, and the last were seen there Apr. 1 (JEJ). Scott found the best numbers ever for Double-crested Cormorant at Richmond, Va., and he found 99 Apr. 20 a bit farther down the James R. near Hopewell, including adults frequenting the heronry where they have bred twice in previous years. Thousands were at C.B.B.T., Apr. 4 (DFA) and 101 lingered at Barren I., Dorchester, Md., May 26 (GLA, PRS *et al.*). One to three Anhingas, the "flying syringe" (DFA), were at Stumpy L., Virginia Beach, May 23 into June, the Regional site where they are most likely to surface and which is undergoing worrisome development (GMW, HCI, TRW *et al.*).

Great Blue Heron continues to be a rock, maintaining already-high numbers or increasing, with 612 May 4 in Charles, Md., home of the populous Nanjemoy colony (GBW *et al.*), 200+ along the lower Susquehanna R., Harford & Cecil, Md., Apr. 1 (RMS), 225 nests at Mason Neck N.W.R., just s. of D.C., May 29, about 50% occupied (EMW), and 90 nests on Barren I., May 26 (HTA *et al.*). Symptomatic of the warmth in early spring were 39 Great and 11 Snowy egrets in s. Dorchester, Md., good numbers for Mar. 31 (HTA). At Nassawadox on the Virginia E. Shore, Truitt spotted 18 early Cattle Egrets Mar. 20, and the first Green-backed Herons were at Grand View, Hampton, Va., Apr. 3 (TK). On the urban scene Czaplak again found Black-crowned

Night-Herons breeding at the National Zoo in D.C., with 14 nests May 11. Sixteen Glossy Ibises were at nearby Mt. Vernon, Va., Apr. 1 (DFA). Up to 110 Glossies were in Mathews, Va., Apr. 16, rather far from the nearest known colonies on the coast or in the central Bay (JBB). Forty-two Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were counted by the Hampton Roads Bird Club on their spring count May 4, a good total away from the Virginia seaside (D & MM *et al.*).

WATERFOWL — Mute Swans seem to be continuing to consolidate their range in the central Bay with an adult on its nest at inland Caroline, Md., May 4 (*vide* AJF) and two adults with two young still in the nest at Barren I., at their s. limit on the Bay, May 26 (PRS, HTA, GLA). There was a remarkable influx of Greater White-fronted Geese, with an adult in Harford, Md., until the first week in April (DLK, 5th straight winter) with hybrid young, two adults and four immatures at Nokesville, Prince William, Va., w. of D.C., Mar. 16-Apr. 4 (RAA, KHB, EMW *et al.*, ph.) and a flock of 13 at Washington's Birthplace N.M., Westmoreland, Va., about Mar. 8-Apr. 1 (GC, JEJ *et al.*, ph.). All these were of the expected Greenland race. Snow Geese seem to be lingering later in the e. in recent years and 20 at Greensboro, Caroline, Md., May 4, fit this pattern (MWH). Canada Geese are still doing well as feral or wild breeders with 5 broods in D.C. (DC) and 36 young at Black.

A revitalized Wood Duck program at Black., consisting of 130 boxes, saw the production of 252 young, some of the boxes also being appropriated by Tree Swallows, Carolina Wrens, Eur. Starlings, Prothonotary Warblers, Great Crested Flycatchers, and E. Screech-Owls (HN). However, 55 straw bales put out for Am. Black Ducks to nest on attracted no takers. At Piney Run P. in Carroll, Md., good Piedmont waterfowl counts Mar. 16 included 168 Am. Black Ducks, 214 Ring-necked Ducks, five Red-heads, and a Eur. Wigeon (MO), the wigeon being present Mar. 10-Apr. 2 (AH, RFR, EMW *et al.*). Up to 500 Ring-neckeds were here Mar. 9 but had declined to nine by Apr. 6 (RFR). Another Eur. Wigeon was at Fisherman Island N.W.R., Va., Mar. 16 (RLA *et al.*).

Interesting diver counts were 1000 Canvasbacks at both Wakefield N.M., Va., Mar. 18 and Elliott I., Md., Mar. 20 (EMW), the best-ever Lesser Scaup populations in Balt. harbor peaking at 9500 Mar. 17 and scaling off to 57 by Apr. 20 (RFR), 2000+ Surf Scoters at C.B.B.T., Mar. 24 (D & SD), 3000 Ruddy Ducks at Back R., e. of Balt., Mar. 3-Apr. 13 (RFR) and 1000 at Craney I., Va., Mar. 21 (TRW). Lingering Ruddies included 58 at Brandon Shores, Anne Arundel, Md., May 4 (RFR), three at Hurlock, Md., May 26 (RFR), and seven at Craney I., May 21 (TRW). Jetty duck sightings consisted of one to five King Eiders (DFA), an imm. male remaining until May 5 (*vide* TK), and two ♀ Harlequin Ducks present in early April at C.B.B.T. (B & FH, RLA *et al.*). A King Eider was at Ocean City Mar. 2-3 (WK, MO, PO *et al.*).

RAPTORS THROUGH LIMPKIN — At Black., a nest platform project has increased the number of pairs of Ospreys to record levels of 16 in 1984 and 24 in 1985 (HN). Nicklas also reported that the Martin N.W.R. area of Smith I., Md., was surveyed May 28 revealing 106 adults, 34 young and 52 eggs, including 3 nests with 4 eggs. Unusual locally was a pair of breeding Ospreys in Dismal Swamp N.W.R., Va. (DS, BM, date?). Extremely rare here, an Am. Swallow-tailed Kite was at Back Bay N.W.R., Va., Apr. 21 (WE, *vide* FRS) and quite possibly the same bird was at Cape Charles N.W.R., Va., 2 days later (MB *et al.*, *vide* FRS).

In Dorchester, Md., 17 Bald Eagle nests produced 24 young (vs. 26 in 1984), three of these getting transfers to hack sites at Mattamuskeet N.W.R., N.C. (HN). Regionally Bald Eagles had the best nesting season in recent memory, over 80 being fledged in Virginia (FRS, MJA), further details to appear in the summer season report. A flight of 167 Sharp-shinned Hawks was seen at

Black Marsh, Md., Apr. 20 (RFR). Unfortunately details on raptor flights at nearby Ft. Smallwood P., *Anne Arundel*, Md., are lacking. This is one of the best sites for spring hawk flights in the e., with at least one 1000+ hawk day this season and 500 ± birds of 12 species May 1 (BM, *fide* CPW). A late Rough-legged Hawk was here May 1 (BM, HLW, *fide* CPW), providing about the 6th Maryland record for May. In the Patuxent area of Maryland, Martin found 33 Red-shouldered Hawk nests with a total of 50 ± young, close to his average for a 15-year study there, and an improvement over the past 2 poor seasons for this species. In March an adult and an imm. Golden Eagle were at Remington Farms, *Kent*, Md. (JG), a favorite locality, but an immature near Hopewell, Va., Apr. 22 was much more of a rarity there (EH, *fide* RLA).

Black Rails improved their standing at Elliott I. to close to what it was 15-20 years ago with one Apr. 27, 12 May 4, 14 May 11 (AJ, HTA, KS, CP *et al.*), and a report of 47 May 20 (MO). Observers are becoming more skilled at detecting rails in less-than-classic settings, to wit, 19 Virginia Rails in *Talbot*, Md. (LC *et al.*), and 25 Virginias, four Soras, and two King Rails in *Kent*, Md. (FLP *et al.*), May 4. Back in a classic setting, 107 Virginias were heard (one of these also seen) in the Black-Elliott I. area May 4, a scant 56 being heard May 11, a much windier day (RSS, HN, HTA *et al.*).

Unique was a Purple Gallinule flushed at Deal Island W.M.A., Md., May 19 by Dyke. Ringler had a Sora and 18 Com. Moorhens at Brandon Shores, Md., May 4, an excellent moorhen count for the w. side of the Bay. Late or possibly breeding Am. Coots were two at Huntley Meadows, Va., May 8 (EMW), one at Piney Run, Md., May 19 (RFR), and three near Berlin, Md., May 25 (RFR). Coots are almost unknown as Regional breeders. The star rarity of the season was a *Limpkin* near Ellicott City, *Howard*, Md., May 25 to at least June 4 (GD, JKS *et al.*, ph.), on a lawn feeding on earthworms and grubs, apparently healthy and unbanded. This furnished the 2nd Maryland and 3rd Regional record.

SHOREBIRDS — Wilds completed 10 shorebird surveys at Chinc., Mar. 28-May 31. These were hampered by very adverse weather May 17, 23 & 24, fewer than usual horseshoe crab eggs—so vital for beachpiper counts—and the “driest April on record, on top of a dry summer, fall, and winter.” Still she felt the drought had little effect on shorebird numbers. “Black-bellied Plovers in the 2nd and 3rd weeks of May were double the usual number...Greater Yellowlegs were high...and Spotted Sandpipers first arrived 2 weeks later than normal.” As usual most of these counts were done over 2-day periods. Highs included 34 Piping Plovers Apr. 18-19; three Am. Avocets Apr. 11-12 & 18-19; 323 Black-bellied Plovers, 400 Whimbrels, 123 Willets, 971 Least Sandpipers, 4296 Dunlins, and 1013 Short-billed Dowitchers May 9-10; 621 Semipalmated Plovers, 1703 Ruddy Turnstones, 562 Red Knots, 10 Stilt Sandpipers, 7477 Semipalmated Sandpipers, and 1934 Sanderlings May 16-17; 25 Spotted Sandpipers May 23; and 39 White-rumped Sandpipers May 30-31 (CPW, HLW). Rarities included an Upland Sandpiper May 24; two W. Sandpipers May 16-17; a Baird’s Sandpiper Apr. 19, early, in basic plumage and extremely rare in the e. in spring; a Long-billed Dowitcher Apr. 25-26; and a Red-necked Phalarope May 16-17 (CPW). For the 6th consecutive year a Curlew Sandpiper materialized at Fishing Pt. at Chinc., one present this year May 16-30 (RH, CPW *et al.*). The avocets were also seen Mar. 28 (RAA). Also in the Chinc. area was a Black-necked Stilt along the causeway May 31 (JHB).

On Cobb I., Va., 1200 Black-bellied Plovers were estimated Apr. 12 (BT). Two Black-necked Stilts were at Deal I., May 10-18 (LDB, JW), this and the Black. area being the 2 spots in Maryland where there is a reasonable chance to see them on an other-than-accidental basis. At Craney I., 34 Am. Avocets were seen Mar. 27 (TRW) but had built up to 188 by Apr. 14 (FRS, JWD, BR). Single Upland Sandpipers were at Elliott I., May 3-4, an unusual locality (JCM, HTA *et al.*).

Reiger reported 600 Whimbrels at Wachapreague Inlet, Va., Apr. 27. Near Nassawadox, Va., 12 Whimbrels were seen as early as Apr. 8 with 120 there the next day (BT). On the basis of these records and those of previous years it seems safe to say that certain shorebirds mass and use as a staging area the extensive beaches and natural flats of the lower E. Shore of Virginia during April before passing through Maryland later on, especially in the 3rd week of May, such as 46 Whimbrels at Deal Island W.M.A., May 20 (MO) and one right over the city of Balt the next day (RFR, EB, HLW).

A Red Knot was at Ocean City on the notable dates of Mar. 2-3 (WK, MO *et al.*). Remarkable for the Virginia Piedmont were 10 Dunlins May 17 (KHB, ph.) and two White-rumped Sandpipers May 21 (RAA) at Nokesville, *Prince William*. Interesting counts by central Bay standards were 19 Sanderlings, 47 Semipalmated Plovers, three Whimbrels, 86 Ruddy Turnstones, and 33 Red Knots at Barren I., *Dorchester*, Md., May 26 (PRS, GLA, HTA *et al.*), the knots a record county total. At Liberty Res., n.w. of Balt., nine White-rumped Sandpipers furnished a Piedmont highlight (RFR). The only early Pectoral Sandpiper report was of one at Elliott I., Mar. 31 (HTA). At C.B.B.T., 66 Purple Sandpipers were carefully counted Apr. 26 (BS), and 15 were still there May 25 (DFA). Three Stilt Sandpipers were at Black., May 11 (PRS, HN *et al.*). The highest Com. Snipe counts were modest ones of 81 at Lilypons, *Frederick*, Mar. 17 (MO), 65 at Nokesville Mar. 16 (RAA, KHB), and 60 in s. *Dorchester*, Md., Mar. 31 (HTA). A pelagic trip off Ocean City May 11 turned up two Red Phalaropes (HLW *et al.*).

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS — Laughing Gulls arrived early with two at Chestertown, Md., Mar. 6 (FLP), 145 in *Dorchester*, Md., Mar. 31, where it is often hard to find even one at this date (HTA), and a displaced Piedmont bird at New Design Rd., *Frederick*, Md., Mar. 31 in company with four Bonaparte’s and 1500 Ring-billed gulls (MO). The most exciting gull news was the presence of 18 Little Gulls, 17 adults and one immature, at Ft. Story, Cape Henry, Va., Mar. 3 (RLAk *et al.*) a record Regional count, with seven still present Mar. 7-10 (TK *et al.*). Excellent Bonaparte’s Gull counts were 120 in D.C., Apr. 9 (DC), and 2100 at Back R., e. of Balt., Apr. 7 (RFR); one lingered at Chinc. until May 29 (CPW).

Single Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at the usual favored spots including Ft. McHenry in Balt. (RFR) and C.B.B.T. (D & SD), but one inland at the *Prince William*, Va., landfill Apr. 5 was less expected (KHB) where none had been present all winter. Immature Glaucous Gull singles were reported from Howell Pt., *Kent*, Md., Mar. 7 (JG), Virginia Beach Apr. 11 (DFA), and in Hog I. Bay, *Northampton*, Va., Apr. 21 (BT). Along the lower Susquehanna R., 210 Great Black-backed Gulls were estimated Mar. 25 (HTA). Received too late to be mentioned in the winter report were the remarkable results of a sea trip Feb. 23 out of Ocean City, Md., where Naveen and others saw 41 Black-legged Kittiwakes, 2240 Herring Gulls, two Razorbills, 156 Dovekies, and at least four Atlantic Puffins.

At Craney I. were the first three Caspian Terns Mar. 27, in league with 52 Royal Terns (TRW). Dredging operations prevented counts of Caspians at their favorite Hart & Miller Is. haunts but in nearby Balt., two were on hand as early as Apr. 3, and at Ft. McHenry 85 were seen Apr. 7 and 160 Apr. 13 (RFR). The earliest Royal Terns were four at Lynnhaven Inlet, Va., Mar. 5 (RLA) and one seen from C.B.B.T., Mar. 17 (*fide* TK). At Barren I., Md., a total of 703 *Sterna* tern nests were tabulated May 26, compared with 619 in 1984 and 396 in 1983, the balance shifting more in favor of Forster’s vs. Common each year (HTA, PRS *et al.*). Heartening as these increases are for both species, the sad truth is that their colony sites here will be completely eroded away in a few more years. Also in this same area May 26 was a Great Black-backed Gull nest with 2 eggs and 5 Black Skimmer nests, for the 3rd consecutive year of breeding here and the only breeding records for the Maryland section of the Bay. Four Caspian Terns and the only report this season of a

The Dramatic Composition of LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES

TWENTY-SIXTH IN THE FUERTES SERIES

Robert McCracken Peck

From the time his paintings were first seen by art critics and ornithologists in the late nineteenth century, Louis Agassiz Fuertes (1874-1927) has been acclaimed as America's greatest painter of birds surpassing even John James Audubon in the quality of his art. A prolific painter with an engaging personality, Fuertes traveled the world in search of birds, visiting South and Central America, Europe, Asia, and Africa before his untimely death in a railroad accident in 1927. During his productive thirty-year career he illustrated scores of books, magazines, and journals, including *Bird-Lore* (predecessor of *Audubon* and *American Birds*) for which Fuertes created plates regularly from 1904 until his death. Since 1979, *American Birds* has been reprinting these plates from the original watercolors in the collection of the National Audubon Society. In this issue, we reproduce another kind of painting by Fuertes—the last one sold by the artist. “Prairie Falcons at Pyramid Lake, Nevada,” painted for the National Association of Audubon Societies (now the National Audubon Society) in 1927, is also from the Society's collection. T. Gilbert Pearson, then president of the Association, got the painting just two days before Fuertes' death in August of that year.

Unlike the diagrammatic plates Fuertes created to illustrate scientific texts, “Prairie Falcons” reveals the artist's talent for dramatic composition. The prey item is a Gambel's Quail (*Callipepla gambelii*). In individual bird portraits such as this, Fuertes set a standard of painting quality by which contemporary artists still judge themselves.

The youngest in a family of six, Fuertes was born and raised in Ithaca, New York, where his father, Estevan, taught engineering at Cornell University. As a young boy, Fuertes developed an intense interest in natural science and spent much of his free time observing, collecting, and drawing wildlife in the nearby countryside.

Although he received no formal training in art until after graduation from college, he drew inspiration and technical instruction from the large, hand-colored plates of Audubon's *Birds of America* in the Ithaca Public Library. The impact of these plates, which Fuertes once described as his “daily bread” during adolescence, may be seen in the meticulous style of his earliest paintings. Working from field observations and specimens he had collected, young Fuertes drew outlines of his subjects in ink, filled them in with watercolor wash, then high-



Rosiz Agassiz Puortes.
1926

lighted the painted sections with additional ink details.

As his painting style matured, Fuertes eliminated the confining ink outlines he had seen in the engravings. His watercolors took on a freer, lighter, and more lively appearance. As his confidence grew, he experimented with new compositions, abandoning Audubon's more formal poses in favor of the natural bird postures he had observed in the field.

In 1895, while on a Cornell Glee Club trip to Washington, Fuertes met Elliot Coues, then America's most influential ornithologist. Coues was greatly impressed by Fuertes' paintings, and quickly brought them to the attention of his scientific colleagues. Within a year, Fuertes had received his first illustration commissions. Soon he was inundated with requests to illustrate books, magazine articles, and a variety of other publications.

At about the same time, Fuertes' artistic talents came to the attention of Abbott Thayer, an important American painter, whose theories on the optical properties of color and light were of special interest to Fuertes. After a brief meeting and an exchange of letters, Thayer proposed that the young artist come to his New Hampshire studio to receive formal instruction in art. Fuertes accepted the invitation and, in the summer following his graduation from Cornell, began a rigorous course of study that would continue for several years. With Thayer's help, Fuertes sharpened his powers of observation and honed his painting technique.

As he later acknowledged in an autobiographical essay, the young artist could not have found two better mentors during these critical years of development than Coues and Thayer. With Coues' advice on scientific matters, and Thayer's instruction in art, Fuertes' innate talent was nourished and cultivated to new levels of excellence. Within a few years of his graduation from college in 1897, he had become America's acknowledged master of bird painting.

Fuertes' attraction to fieldwork, first evinced by his boyhood explorations of farms, woods, and deep river gorges near home, now had an important professional purpose: to observe and record the appearance, behavior, and habitats of birds. Thanks to his many contacts in the scientific community and a genial personality that made him a welcome member of any expedition, he was seldom without an invitation to travel.

Although Fuertes had visited Europe with his family in 1892 and again with the Cornell Glee Club in 1895,



The specimens Fuertes collected in the field served as permanent references for his paintings. Along with his field sketches and notes, they provided all of the information he needed to create "living portraits" of thousands of birds.

his first prolonged trip devoted exclusively to natural history was to Florida with Abbott Thayer in 1898. This was followed by a more extensive expedition to Alaska, the Bering Sea, and Siberia in 1899. Subsequent trips included: Texas (1901), the Bahamas (1902), California (1903), Jamaica (1904), the Canadian Rockies (1908), Mexico (1910), Colombia (1911 and 1913), and Abyssinia—now Ethiopia (1926-27). In between, when not in Ithaca with his wife Margaret and two children Sumner and Mary, Fuertes was making shorter trips in North America. By the time of his death, he had seen most of the United States and Canada and had made paintings of virtually every bird species on the continent.

Fuertes worked before a time when high-speed photography and telephoto lenses could record the details of bird color, anatomy, posture, and habitat. His knowledge of birds and keen powers of observation enabled him to capture the vitality of each species of bird and the flavor of its environment without belaboring the details of every feather and leaf.

The quality of his work and the frequency with which it was reproduced did much to foster public interest in and knowledge about the natural world. His distinctive style of bird portraiture left an impression on the field that extends to the present day.

Black Tern rounded out the Barren I records for May 26 (PRS, HTA *et al.*). For the first time in years no Least Tern nests were encountered here. The season's first Black Skimmers were 55 at Willis Wharf on the Virginia E. Shore Apr. 9 (BT).

OWLS THROUGH SHRIKES — A nest first noted Feb. 21 held two young Great Horned Owls Apr. 7 in a World War II watchtower on Smith I., Va., an unusual nest site (BT), and seven young Com. Barn-Owls were in a Balt. nest May 7 (RFR *et al.*). Best owl counts were from *Talbot*, Md., where 31 Great Horneds and 13 Barreds were May 4 (LC *et al.*). Bass noted a Long-eared Owl at Nokesville Mar. 4, the scene of suspected nesting in the past. Somewhat early was a Chuck-will's-widow at Winter Harbor, *Mathews*, Apr. 18 (JBB), and the first Whip-poor-will was at Sparta, Va., Apr. 4 (BP). Also early was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Newport News, Va., Apr. 5 (CD, *fide* TK); a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Chinc., May 19 was extremely late (RH). A Red-cockaded Woodpecker was seen near Dare, *York*, Va., Mar. 1-May 4 (HCI, D & MM).

This was a poor season for Olive-sided Flycatcher, the only reports being of singles at Huntley Meadows May 20 (EW, *fide* CPW) and Pennyfield, Md., near D.C., May 18 (FF, *fide* CPW). Very early was a Willow Flycatcher in n. *Baltimore*, Md., May 4 (RD). Unusual was an E. Phoebe nest on a dirt bank under tree roots about 4 ft above a stream in n. *Harford*, Md. (DLK, date?), analogous to present-day tree cavity nesting Chimney Swifts. First swallows included a N. Rough-winged in *Harford*, Md., Mar. 29 (DKL) and two very early Banks at Ft. Belvoir, Va., Apr. 2 (BP).

An estimated 20,000 Blue Jays were reported migrating through Ft. Smallwood P., *Anne Arundel*, Md., Apr. 26 (BM, *fide* CPW). An extension of the breeding range of Com. Raven was a few mi n.w. of Richmond, Va., in extreme n.e. *Goochland*, where Scott *et al.* discovered a nest Mar. 16, two adults and young Mar. 23, and an adult with two young Apr. 21 in a rock quarry very close to the Coastal Plain. Brown Creepers continue to breed sparingly in the Region with breeding or suspected breeding this year at Seneca, Md., in D.C., and at Huntley Meadows, Va. (DC, DFA, EMW *et al.*). Grasses growing in parts of Liberty Res., n.w. of Balt., due to this spring's drought attracted a Sedge Wren May 8 (RFR), an increasingly scarce species away from Elliott I. where a few still breed and where two were found May 11 (CP, HTA).

On the early side was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Northwest River P., Chesapeake, Va., Mar. 13 (GMW). The thrush flight was generally considered poor, but tolerably good flights were detected the nights of May 13-14 & 21-22 (v.o.). The best Water Pipit totals were groups of 200 in *Harford*, Md., in the 2nd week of April (DLK) and *Frederick*, Md., Mar. 24 (EMW); late birds were in D.C., May 4 (DC) with 40 in *Talbot*, Md., then (LC *et al.*). Cedar Waxwings continued in very high supply with many sightings in the hundreds, such as 500 at Farmville, Va., Mar. 11 (C & MH, *fide* TD), and 196 in *Mathews*, Va., Apr. 19 (JBB), but no sign yet of widespread breeding as happened for the first time last summer (v.o.). Loggerhead Shrike singles were seen at Beltsville Mar. 25 (WS) and Aberdeen Proving Ground Mar. 9 (DLK) in Maryland and Alexandria Apr. 3 (DFA) and Lucketts May 6 (EMW) in Virginia, as expected all in Piedmont localities or nearly so. The watch continues on this declining species.

WARBLERS — The warbler flight was dull due to lack of waves. In Newport News, the Mitchells, who ran 28 mist nets, reported close to the lowest number of birds on record. The big banding operation at Adventure Sanctuary near Potomac, Md., had its 2nd lowest total in 10 years with 1163 birds of 72 species in 17,522 net hours, operating continuously (except for May 23) Apr. 15-June 1, low even considering it is not on a major flyway (MD *et al.*). A "Brewster's" Warbler was reported at Pennyfield, Md., Apr. 28 (MO). In spite of the mild spring, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers lingered in higher than usual numbers into

May with counts such as 218 in the Newport News area (D & MM *et al.*) and 149 in *Caroline*, Md. (WR *et al.*), May 4 being representative this year. The first Yellow-throated Warbler was along the Blackwater R., Virginia Beach, Mar. 26 (GMW)

Out of place on the lower E. Shore of Maryland were single Cerulean Warblers at Ocean City May 25 (RFR) and n. of Black., May 4 (HTA *et al.*), the latter new for *Dorchester*. A Swainson's Warbler again showed up at Great Falls P., Va., n. of D.C., in May (RAA, EMW, m.ob.), and singles were also seen near Jamestown, Va., Apr. 25 (BS) and at Shad Landing S.P., *Worcester*, Md. in late April-early May (JKM *et al.*), 2 unexpected localities. This spring's star warbler was a Connecticut at Stevenson, n. of Balt., May 20, where five Mourning Warblers were also banded May 14-28 (BaR, ph.), all other Mourning reports falling between the dates May 20-30 (v.o.). At Adventure, N Waterthrush was the 3rd-commonest species banded, with 65, falling behind Gray Catbird (170) and White-throated Sparrow (161) but ahead of Swainson's Thrush (63) and Wood Thrush (47) (MD *et al.*).

SPARROWS THROUGH CROSSBILLS — A Clay-colored Sparrow was at Parkton, *Baltimore*, Md., Mar. 6-8 consorting with a flock of 18 Field Sparrows (RD). The only Henslow's Sparrow reports received were of the small group at Elliott I. where there were six heard May 4 and 11 May 11 (CP, KS, HN *et al.*). Of note were single Lincoln's Sparrows at Richmond May 1 (PBd, *fide* FRS), in n. *Baltimore*, Md., May 4 (RD), and at Back Bay N.W.R., May 8 (PB), while eight were banded at Adventure Apr. 25-May 19 (MD *et al.*). A genuine rarity was a ♂ Lapland Longspur in D.C., Mar. 23, not only late but apparently providing only the 5th record for the District (DC). Locally rare was a ♂ Boat-tailed Grackle at Bellevue, *Talbot*, Md., Apr. 13, which in addition to being scarce on the Eastern Shore n. of Taylor's I., *Dorchester*, Md., also had the virtue of being species 242 for the Regional Editor's family property (MEA, HTA).

House Finch is nothing if not invasive, and continues to spread, with May 4 counts of 74 and 78 in such non-strongholds as the Newport News area (D & MM *et al.*) and *Kent*, Md. (FLP *et al.*), respectively. One of the most outstanding phenomena of this spring was the sudden appearance, after no records all winter, of White-winged Crossbills in *Westmoreland*, Va., including one at Oak Grove Apr. 6-7 (BF, JEJ), four nearby Apr. 10-11 (OG, *fide* JEJ), and another individual at an additional adjacent site Apr. 14-May 3 (FL, JEJ, ph.).

OBSERVERS — D. F. Abbott, J. M. Abbott, Margaret Abbott, R. L. Ake (RLAk), R. A. Anderson, R. L. Anderson, G. L. Armistead, M. E. Armistead, K. H. Bass, J. B. Bazuin, Paul Bedell (PBd), Eirik Blom, L. D. Bonham, Patrick Brisse, Michael Bryant, J.H. Buckalew, George Church, Lester Coble, David Czaplak, Thelma Dalmas, C. Diersin, J. W. Dillard, David & Susan Disher, Robert Dixon, Margaret Donald, Sam Droege, Gretchen Duchac, S. H. Dyke, Wendy Ealding, Jeff Effinger, Ethel Engle, Fred Fallon, A. J. Fletcher, Bob Furcolow, the Orville Goldmans, J. A. Gregoire, James Gruber, Barb & Frank Haas, Alex Hammer, Charles & Melva Hansrote, Ed Hatcl, Margaret Hawk, M. W. Hewitt, Robert Hilton, D. L. Hughes, H. C. Irving, J. E. Johnson, Sylvia Johnson, Alice Jones, Hank Kaestner, Teta Kain, D. L. Kirkwood, M. K. Klimkiewicz, Wayne Klockner, Alicia Knotts, Frank Laubinger, Elwood Martin, Tess Matteson, Brooke Meanley, David Mehlman, J. K. Meritt, J. C. Miller, Dorothy & Mike Mitchell, David Mozurkewich (DMz), Bill Murphy (BMy), Ron Naveen, Heather Nicklas, Paul Nistico, Marianna Nuttle, Michael O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, F. L. Parks, Carl Perry, Don Peterson, Bill Portlock, George Reiger, R. F. Ringler, Wilbur Rittenhouse, Barbara Ross (BaR), Betsy Roszell, R. R. Runkles, Kurt Savoie, R. S. Schad, Brad Schram, R. M. Schutsky, Don Schwab, F. R. Scott, J. K. Solem, Jo Somerville, P. R. Spitzer, Wally Sumner, Barry Truitt, C. R. Vaughn, Ed Weigel, Steve Westre, H. L. Wierenga, C. P. Wilds, Jim Wilkinson, Lew Wilkinson, G. M. Williamson, G. B. Wilmot, E. M. Wilson, T. R. Wolfe, Charles Ziegenfus. — HENRY T. ARMISTEAD, 523 E. Durham St., Philadelphia, PA 19119.

SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

When the Southeast has a cool spring, with numerous cold fronts and abundant rainfall, bird migration tends to be better than usual. Birds are frequently delayed, and pulses of migrants fly on the few nights with favorable winds. Bad weather during the night can force down hordes of migrants. Frequent frontal activity brings westerly winds needed to deflect Trans-Gulf migrants from west of the Appalachians to the Atlantic side. This was the general scenario of spring 1983 and spring 1984 in the Region. Unfortunately, spring 1985 was a different story altogether.

Spring 1985 was typical of those producing "forgettable" migrations, which occur perhaps six years out of ten. Temperatures were quite warm (especially in April and May), frontal activity was scarce, and rainfall was low. Such a scenario occurs when a strong high pressure center remains somewhat stationary over the Southeast or over the adjacent Atlantic Ocean. The clockwise wind circulation around such a system carries Trans-Gulf migrants northward across the Gulf of Mexico and keeps the majority of them west of the Appalachians. Such southerly winds day after day, with little unsettled weather, allow migrants to pass northward in an unimpeded manner, with few waves for birders to encounter.

Not only were passerine migrants in short supply, but so also were shorebirds. However, birders at Clemson, South Carolina, did have a remarkable array of shorebirds at several farm ponds. Despite a fair number of pelagic trips off both Carolinas, results were rather mundane. Perhaps most surprising was the handful of records of far northern species usually seen only in very cold weather, such as Red-necked Grebe, Harlequin Duck, Razorbill, and Common Redpoll.

LOONS THROUGH ANHINGA — An outstanding N migration of Com. Loons was encountered at Kiawah I., S.C., Mar. 7; 4500 were counted in 2.5 hours (JA, PN). Another was very late May 30 in w. Ft. Bragg, N.C. (JHC). Most surprising were single sightings of winter-plumaged Red-necked Grebes at Moore's Landing near Charleston, S.C., Mar. 9 (JA, PN) and at Clark Hill Res., Ga., Mar. 31 (CB). This species is frequently missed in the entire Region in winter, much more so at this season. The spring was a lackluster one for pelagic birding; probably the best tubenose sighting was the Regional record 215 N. Fulmars off Oregon Inlet, N.C., Mar. 27 (DL). These birds were certainly

S.A.

Anhingas were everywhere in the North Carolina Coastal Plain this season. The species normally breeds only in the s.e. corner of the state and is only occasionally seen in other Coastal Plain counties. There were at least 9 reports from this province in 1985, as far n. as Merchant's Millpond S.P. (MD) and Weldon (RY, ML, HL). The best count was of 13 at L. Ellis in May (JHa), where breeding is known. However, first-time nesting was reported from Dunahoe Bay, in far-inland Robeson County (DS). It is likely that most of these birds were non-breeding individuals. Perhaps the winter and spring drought in the Southeast caused birds to forego nesting attempts or caused widespread breeding failure in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. If Anhinga numbers in spring 1986 return to normal, then this is a logical explanation.



migrants, for that state had had its first winter record just a month previously. The seasonal movements and wintering range of the fulmar in the Atlantic still need elucidation. Black-capped Petrels are rarely seen on one-day trips off Charleston, although they are regular about 80-100 mi from that city. However, Forsythe did find singles, all 55-60 mi from Charleston, on Apr. 28 and May 25 & 26.

American White Pelican records continue to increase. In North Carolina, where they were practically a "boldface" species 5 years ago, pelicans were reported at Sunset Beach Mar. 5 (PJC, JH) and at Beaufort Mar. 7 (three birds—DC). An ad. Great Cormorant was a rarity at Charleston Mar. 2 (DF). Until this spring, Double-crested Cormorants nested in the Region only at L. Ellis, N.C., near the coast. A first nesting for the Piedmont was noted at Jordan L., N.C., where 3 nests were found in May (KK) in groves of dead trees in the middle of the lake. Migrating cormorants on inland lakes continue to increase and are no longer notable in many areas where they were scarce a decade ago.

HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — Peak numbers of waders at a non-breeding roost at Augusta, Ga., occurred May 4, with notable totals of 85 Cattle Egrets, 13 Little Blue Herons, and 19 White Ibises (AW). A nesting colony of Great Blue Herons (14 nests) was discovered near Weldon, N.C., in April (RY *et al.*); this site lies along the Fall Line hardly 2 mi from the Piedmont, where the species has apparently never bred in this Region. Rare inland in spring were a Snowy Egret n. of Atlanta, Ga., May 11 (JB) and a Glossy Ibis at Clemson, S.C., Apr. 21 (CW, JSo). There were scattered inland reports of both night-herons, as usual; none suggested local breeding. A White Ibis near Whispering Pines, N.C., Apr. 20 (SV, *fide* JHC) was unusual for the season away from the coast.

Woodlake, near Vass, N.C., hosted four Tundra Swans Mar. 9 (DT), and one was late there Apr. 28 (TH). Although a few Greater White-fronted Geese often winter at Eufaula N.W.R., Ga., the species is quite rare elsewhere in the state; thus, of interest was one photographed at Callaway Gardens, 60 mi n. of Eufaula, Mar. 9-24 (D & PM). Quite late were Lesser Scaups at Augusta—a female May 25 and a male June 1 (AW, VW). Georgia's 2nd Harlequin Duck was a male at Tybee I., Mar. 10 (JC), likely the same bird seen there a year ago. Practically as notable were a female and an imm. ♂ Harlequin Duck at Huntington Beach S.P., S.C., Mar. 11 (HW). The only

inland scoter report was of a White-winged at L. Lanier, Ga., as the bird seen in February remained to Mar. 2 (JP). Seldom seen in April was a Com. Goldeneye at L. Jocassee, S.C., on the 1st (N & BS), and also late were three ♀ Red-breasted Mergansers at Hyco Res., Person Co., N.C., May 23 (HL, ML).

HAWKS THROUGH CRANES — Last year Ospreys were reported breeding in North Carolina's Piedmont for the first time. This spring, nesting continued at the same 2 sites, with one nest near Greensboro (HH) and 3 at Jordan L. (KK). Two birds at Roanoke Rapids L., N.C., May 27 (ML, HL) may have been just late migrants, but the lake seems suitable for a breeding pair. There was surprisingly just one "overshoot" record of Am. Swallow-tailed Kite, at Cape Carteret, N.C., Apr. 27 (HHA); whereas Cely found 6 nests in Francis Marion N.F., S.C., a long-time stronghold for the species. The late-migrating Mississippi Kite was early Apr. 22 at Augusta (AW). The species is regularly seen along the Roanoke R., N.C., in summer (breeding?), but two May 27 near Weldon (HL, ML) were farther upstream than previously found. North Carolina's lone 1984 breeding Bald Eagle pair nested successfully again this spring in Hyde County, fledging three young (MW). A 2nd active nest was also found in that state in Washington County in May (MW); two young were fledged. Sightings of migrants/non-breeders continue to increase, at least inland, with the best count away from tidewater being of seven at Jordan L. (MS). Late May records of Cooper's Hawks, perhaps representing breeding individuals, came from Raleigh (WI), Fayetteville, N.C. (PJC, JS), and 20 mi s.e. of Fitzgerald, Ga. (MO). Perhaps providing a first South Carolina record was an apparent Red-tailed (Harlan's) Hawk well-described Mar. 5 at Bear I. (G & PE). Most disappointing was the failure for anyone to find an inland Merlin or Peregrine Falcon, but then again, in this spring many species avoided detection.

The Atlanta area's 2nd Ruffed Grouse ever was one at Sweetwater Creek S.P., Mar. 30 (PR). Although King Rails breed at scattered inland sites, conclusive evidence is rare. Gratifying was a nest with 10 eggs found Apr. 18 in a Carolina bay in Lee Co., S.C. (SB, JNe). A dead Purple Gallinule—another frequent "overshoot" species—was noted at Bogue Inlet, N.C., Apr. 27 (JF, RJH, RW). Common Moorhens at Merchant's Millpond S.P., N.C., May 2-3 (MD, RB) and near Weldon May 27 (ML *et al.*) could have been migrants or possibly rare breeders; another was found dead near Atlanta May 5 (MAV). A first record for the heavily-birded Outer Banks of North Carolina was furnished by an errant **Sandhill Crane** seen in flight over Hatteras Inlet Apr. 6 (B & FH).

SHOREBIRDS — As always in spring, the shorebird migration was spotty, with a few sites having excellent seasons (especially the Clemson, S.C., area) and others being sub-par. A Black-bellied Plover at Jordan L., N.C., May 5 (RD) provided the only inland report. A tally of 42 Am. Avocets at Jekyll I., Ga., Apr. 4 (D & PM) was a notable number for that state. Upland Sandpipers staged just a moderate flight inland, with the best counts being of 16 at Augusta Apr. 10 (AW, VW) and nine near Pendleton, S.C., Apr. 13 (CW). Always of interest were two Long-billed Curlews at Ft. Johnson near Charleston Apr. 18 (PN). Good finds inland, especially at this season, were single Ruddy Turnstones near Pendleton May 8 (CW), near Greensboro, N.C., May 18 (HH), and at Clayton Co., Ga., May 18-19 (PB). The last site received excellent coverage by Brisse, who had good sandpiper totals of 47 Semipalmateds May 18, two Westerns Apr. 28, and 18 White-rumpeds May 25. The only other inland Westerns were found at Augusta Mar. 9 and May 14 (CB, AW); whereas White-rumpeds were found inland at 5 locales, with peak numbers typically later than any other shorebird—May 24-27. A Curlew Sandpiper in breeding plumage May 18-19 at Eagle I., N.C., just w. of Wilmington, was a highlight of the season (JN, MG).

Nugent *et al.* had an excellent concentration of shorebirds at Kinloch Plantation near the Santee R. delta, S.C., on the early date of Mar. 30. Notable there were four very early Stilt Sand-

pipers and two **Ruffs** (DA, PN) There were, surprisingly, just one or 2 previous sightings of Ruff for South Carolina. Inland Stilt Sandpipers were detected at Augusta Apr. 30 (CB), near Pendleton May 16 (CW), and Clayton County May 18-19 (PB). The Clemson area lacked a spring record for Short-billed Dowitcher until this season, when an absolutely stunning flock of 57 appeared at a farm pond near Pendleton May 10 (CW, JPI) That same farm pond hosted an even rarer shorebird—a winter-plumaged **Red Phalarope** May 2 (CW); the species is casual inland in spring. Also inland, although only by 10 mi, was a ♀ Red-necked Phalarope at Eagle I., N.C., May 12 (JN). Forsythe's numerous one-day pelagic trips off Charleston encountered Red-necked Phalaropes on 5 dates Apr. 13-May 12, with a peak of 12 Apr. 13, quite a surprise as this species usually peaks in May. He also had Red Phalaropes on 7 dates Mar. 2-Apr 21, with 840+ Mar. 2.

JAEGERS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — Forsythe had peak counts off Charleston of six Pomarine Jaegers and three Parasitic Jaegers Apr. 21. A pelagic trip out of Morehead City, N.C., produced an excellent flurry of jaegers May 11—four Pomarines, five Parasitics, and two very rare ad. Long-taileds (AS) Two Laughing Gulls at Jordan L., May 12 (RD) provided the sole Piedmont report. A Com. Black-headed Gull was noted Mar. 1 at Kiawah I., S.C. (JA); and another rarity for South Carolina, the Black-legged Kittiwake, was seen off Charleston Mar. 10 & 16 (DF). This was a very lackluster spring for encountering terns inland. Caspians were found inland only at 4 North Carolina sites, with a peak of five at Jordan L., May 12 (RD). An ad. **Roseate Tern** on the beach at Tybee I., Ga., May 28 (RM, RMJ) furnished the first good sight record for that state, pending acceptance by the Georgia records committee. Quite unexpected was a late Razorbill off Oregon Inlet Mar. 27 (DL), especially since none was reported anywhere in the Region during the winter. This was the latest Razorbill ever for North Carolina by a month.

A Com. Ground-Dove in a yard near Burgaw, N.C., May 18 (HHA) was unusual away from that state's coastline. One of the Region's rarer migrants, the Black-billed Cuckoo, was reported only a few times, all from the w. Piedmont. Is this species really a "common" breeder in the n. United States and s. Canada, as stated by the field guides?

For the 2nd time in recent springs, Charleston birders reported hearing N. Saw-whet Owls calling in response to taped calls at nearby l'On Swamp. However, these reports have been in late April and early May, 3 or 4 weeks later than the species has been reported elsewhere in the Region. Attempts to elicit responses to taped or whistled calls during the winter (such as on C.B.C.s) have essentially been futile here. Do Saw-whets begin to answer taped calls on their wintering grounds in April just before they depart to the breeding grounds? Are they really near far-south Charleston in late April? It seems as though visual confirmation is necessary before these unique records can be truly believed. Very early was a Whip-poor-will Mar. 8 near Catawba, S.C. (AEC). It could hardly have been a worse spring for migrant flycatchers—there were no sightings of Olive-sideds or Yellow-bellieds. Two records of *Tyrannus* species were thus quite surprising: a W. Kingbird (very rare in spring) along the causeway at Jekyll I., Ga., Mar. 30 (D & PM) and a Gray Kingbird near Wilmington, N.C., May 18 (JN *et al.*).

SWALLOWS THROUGH WARBLERS — What appears to be the largest nesting population of Cliff Swallows in the Region was discovered this spring at L. Murray, S.C. (KB). Approximately 300 nests, about half of which were active, were counted in mid-May at 2 bridges on S.C. 391 at the upper end of the lake (KB, OB, OL). The Fish Crow continues its slow spread inland, this season a few were again noted at Athens, Ga. (BP) and several were seen and heard in May at Greensboro (HH). However, these may simply be spring visitors; this species tends to wander farther inland at this season than at other times Bewick's Wrens are so rare in the East that this editor carefully

scrutinizes such reports with raised eyebrows. Thus, hopefully correct were reports (with details provided) of one seen and heard singing at Mt. Pleasant, S.C., Apr. 25 (CWa) and two near Fayetteville Apr. 10 (PJC). One of the most sought-after migrants, the Sprague's Pipit, was unfortunately reported without details at Eufaula N.W.R. this spring. This was the first spring in quite a while without a report of Warbling Vireo, undoubtedly a result of the scarcity of W winds. Both of the convincing Philadelphia Vireo reports were from c. North Carolina—one singing once at Falls L., Apr. 28 (RD) and a quiet bird near Raleigh May 4 (KKn, JSt).

As can be inferred throughout this report, the warbler flight was pitiful, much worse than those of the previous 2 springs, which were above average, and nearby as bad as any could be! The only positive statement is that all 37 species of non-Endangered e. warblers were observed, a rarity indeed, as the Mourning is usually missed. An Orange-crowned Warbler at Jordan L. on the ridiculously late date of May 28 (RD) might have been rejected had not the observer been so close as to see the crown patch for confirmation. The only Nashville Warbler was reported Apr. 28 at Durham, N.C. (OM). Presumably wintering (although not noted in that season) was a Cape May Warbler banded at Oriental, N.C., Mar. 10 (DFoy), a date obviously too early for a migrant. A pair of Black-throated Green Warblers was found in late May near Fayetteville (PJC *et al.*) and were likely breeding there. Excellent for the coast was a singing ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler near Charleston Apr. 28 (TR). Singing Swainson's Warblers were notable near Athens Apr. 21 & 28 (BP) and at the Chattahoochee R. n. of Atlanta most of May (TM). The species nests sparingly in the Georgia Piedmont, but singing birds in spring could just as easily be migrants or wandering males. The Connecticut Warbler migrates in spring NW through the West Indies and Florida to its breeding grounds; thus, it should not have been any less scarce this spring than others. However, Atlanta birders failed to find any, although Augusta observers did see one May 25 (AW, CB, JC). Few would have expected a Mourning Warbler to be reported this season, yet a singing male was observed May 18 at Atlanta (GS) and a silent male was seen May 24 at Crowders Mountain S.P., N.C. (PH).

FINCHES, BLACKBIRDS — The Irvins had as many as 15 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in one day at their sunflower seed feeder during early May near Raleigh. A pair of Painted Buntings was again present in Dublin, Ga., from April into early summer (TKP). This species nests commonly along much of our coast, but the range away from the coast (in parts of the Coastal Plain of Georgia and South Carolina) is so spotty that a distributional study is needed. Bachman's Sparrows in the Piedmont, where rare as breeding birds, were one near Athens Apr. 28 (BP) and seven-plus again in s.e. Chatham Co., N.C., May 5 (HL). The first well-documented spring record of **Clay-colored Sparrow** for North Carolina was furnished by a singing bird Apr. 13 in c. Halifax County (HL, ML). Two Grasshopper Sparrows, one singing, were s. of Americus, Ga., May 27 (MO) at the s. edge of the breeding range. Two Henslow's Sparrows were singing on territory Apr. 20 in the Green Swamp, Brunswick Co., N.C. (HL, KC). This date was possibly the earliest record of singing for the North Carolina breeding population; however, some or much of this population may be permanent residents. A few Lincoln's Sparrows were found in March and April near Townville (CW), where they winter; whereas birds away from the wintering range were seen in n. North Carolina near Weldon Apr. 14 (HL, ML), near Butner Apr. 28 (RD), and in c. Halifax County May 26-27 (FE). The only report of Brewer's Blackbird was of a female near Townville Mar. 17 & 24 (CW, SG). Because the past winter was clearly an off year for winter finches, a report of a redpoll without a photo or specimen would have been laughed at and probably rejected. Totally amazing indeed was the **Common Redpoll** photographed at an Atlanta feeder Mar. 2-5 (FM) for about the 4th state record. There was a noticeable, though small, increase in Pine Siskin numbers in parts of Region in



Common Redpoll at Atlanta, Ga., Mar. 5, 1985. About the fourth record for Georgia. Photo/Frank McCamey.

March; however, Evening Grosbeaks were rare, just as they were all winter.

CORRIGENDUM — The report of the Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco in South Carolina (AB 39: 158) should be deleted. Ornithologists at the U.S. National Museum of Natural History in Washington and at the Charleston Museum have examined the wing of the specimen and determined it to be from an aberrant Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco. The Regional Editor regrets the embarrassment that the published note may have caused the Charleston Museum.

OBSERVERS — Dennis Abbott, Jackson Abbott, Ken Beard, Oleta Beard, Clarence Belger, Steve Bennett, Robin Bjork, Patrick Brisse, Jerry Brunner, J.H. Carter III, J.E. Cely, James Clark, Kay Coburn, Dave Colby, A.E. Conway, P.J. Crutchfield, Ricky Davis, Mike Dunn, Frank Enders, Glen & Peggy Eppig, Dennis Forsythe, Dorothy Foy (DFoy), John Fussell, Mark Galizio, Sidney Gauthreaux, Barb & Frank Haas, Henry Haberyan (HHa), R.J. Hader, John Hagan (JHa), Paul Hart, Herb Hendrickson, Tom Howard, Jarvis Hudson, Fran Irvin, Wayne Irvin, Rose Marie Johnson, Ken Knapp (KKn), Kathy Kuyper, Oscar LaBorde, Dave Lee, Harry LeGrand, Merrill Lynch, Robert Manns, Frank McCamey, Dennie & Pam McClure, Owen McConnell, Terry Moore, Jeremy Nance, John Nelson (JNe), Perry Nugent, Mark Oberle, John Paget, T.K. Patterson, Jon Plissner (JPl), Bill Pulliam, Paul Raney, Tom Reeves, Georgann Schmalz, Mike Schultz, Norma & Bill Siebenheller, Jim Sipiora, Jim Sorrow (JSo), Alan Spearman, Dave Stephan, Julie Stewart (JSt), Dick Thomas, Mary Ann Vernocy, Skip Vetter, Heathy Walker, Charlie Walters (CWa), Anne Walters, Vernon Waters, Melinda Welton, Ray Winstead, Charlie Wooten, Randy Yelverton. —**HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR., 331 Yadkin Dr., Raleigh, NC 27609.**



Herbert W. Kale II

Last year I wrote that the 1984 spring migration in Florida would have won the "poorest migration in memory" vote. Scratch that. The 1985 migration wins hands down. Sonny Bass concluded his south Florida area report with the comment "Although this . . . is considered the Spring migration period, few data supported this hypothesis." Alarmed birders asked, "What has happened to the birds? Have all the tropical forests been cut down?" A large part of the explanation lies in the fact that few cold fronts with rainfall coursed down the peninsula, and easterly winds prevailed. Fronts in the last week of March and second week of April produced a few birds, but only the front of May 3-5 contained a rich fallout of migrants, and in Lyn Atherton's words this "was all that saved the 1985 spring migration from being a complete bust."

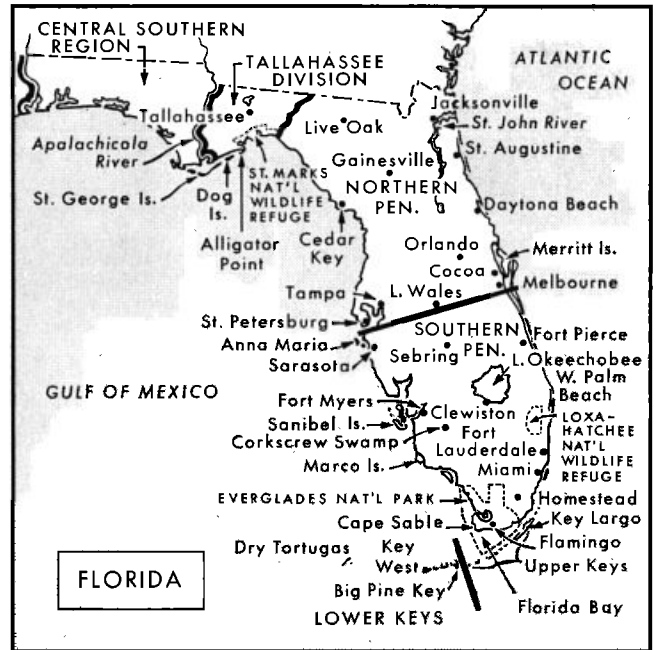
A trip to the Dry Tortugas is always exciting and rewarding, regardless of the quality of the migration, but most visitors there commented on the relative scarcity of birds, both species-wise and numberwise. Sharp-shinned Hawks were competing with birdwatchers looking for birds. At the end of April we found more feather puddles (mostly Yellow-billed Cuckoos) than we did live birds, or so it seemed, on Loggerhead Key.

We knew that birds were migrating because one or two individuals of most of our transient species were being reported at least somewhere in the Region. An interesting observation was relayed to me by Bob Brown, the new Florida Ornithological Society president, who was visiting Dauphin Island (Central Southern Region) in late April. He bumped into Sid Gauthreaux of Clemson University who had set up his sophisticated radar equipment to "observe" high-altitude migrants. It was mid-day, the weather was beautiful, and few, if any, migrants were to be seen, but the radar revealed thousands of birds flying at 6000-8000 feet, showing no interest in this first landfall after a 500-600 mile flight that had begun the previous night on the Yucatan Peninsula. This, of course, is not news to students of trans-Gulf migration, but it reminds us that when the weather is fair, we should not expect to find many migrants on the ground. Shorebirds, however, evidently migrate by other rules. Chuck Geanangel termed the shorebird migration in central Florida as "awesome," with the largest numbers on record there.

Although rains beginning in late May marked the return of the rainy season, the severe drought of late 1984-1985 kept water restrictions in place in most of south Florida well into July, and prevented any significant nesting by Snail Kites which dispersed out of their usual habitats in the Conservation Areas and Everglades National Park. Wildfires raged out of control during much of April and May, destroying homes of both people and wildlife.

Birders usually must travel many miles to someone else's back yard to see a hot rarity. Imagine Cynthia Plockelman's delight in finding a Bahama Mockingbird singing in her own West Palm Beach yard. This hotline bird brought birders from throughout the country to see, photograph, and tape. Other rarities for the period (details below) included Sabine's Gull, Black Noddy, Lesser Nighthawk, and Bronzed Cowbird.

ABBREVIATIONS — A.B.S. = Archbold Biological Station; B.B.S.P. = Bill Boggs State Park; B.N.P. = Biscayne National Park; Cape Can. = Cape Canaveral; C.S.M. = Clear Springs Mine (Polk



Co.); D.T. = Dry Tortugas; E.N.P. = Everglades National Park; Ft DeSoto = Ft. Desoto County Park (Pinellas Co.); F.O.S. = Florida Ornithological Society; Lox N.W.R. = Loxahatchee Nat'l Wildlife Refuge; N. Pen. = Northern Peninsula; S.G.I. = St. George Island (Franklin Co.); S. Pen. = Southern Peninsula; Tally Div. = Tallahassee Division; T.B.S.P. = Taylor Birch State Park (Broward Co.)

GREBES THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — A lone Eared Grebe at C.S.M., Mar. 9 was all that remained of the 20 that had wintered (CG, PJF). Pelagic trips in late April and May reported Audubon's Shearwaters and Wilson's Storm-Petrels in the Gulf Stream, as usual (REW, H & WDo). A Greater Shearwater was 8-10 mi n.e. of St. Lucie Inlet May 12 (PH, DH, EH). As usual in recent years, at least three White-tailed Tropicbirds appeared daily at Ft. Jefferson, D.T., throughout April and May (m.ob), but one flying high over the Naval Air Station in Key West Mar 28 (MB) was a rarity there.

A high count of 31 Masked Boobies on Middle Key, D.T., Apr 27 delighted birders on the Wings and Florida Audubon tours. No evidence of nesting was found this season. Up to four Brown Boobies perched on channel markers leading into the Garden Key anchorage every afternoon, nine were on the Rebecca Shoals light Apr. 27 (REW), and one was on a seawall at Cape Florida, Key Biscayne, Mar. 8 (JF). An estimated 1000 Am White Pelicans stopped at Mosquito Lagoon Mar. 6 (DL), and a loose flock of 2000 Double-crested Cormorants e. of Eastport, Apalachicola Bay, Franklin Co., Mar. 1 must have been an impressive sight. Four records of Magnificent Frigatebirds, a spring rarity in the upper Gulf, were reported along the Franklin County coast in April-May (JEC, SAC, JMS).

HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — Received too late for Wayne Hoffman's winter report was a sighting of a "Wurde-mann's" Heron in a Great Blue Heron nest colony on L. Tohopekaliga during the first week of January (GW). This "hybrid" of the Great Blue and Great White is rarely seen outside of the Keys. A lone Great White returned Apr. 23 to Bird Key in Terra Ceia Bay (SP), where a pair nested last year, and one reached Ponte Vedra Beach, Duval Co., May 12 (BJR). Also a bit out of range were an imm. dark phase Reddish Egret seen canopy-feeding in a canal that empties into the Oklawaha R. near S.R.

40 (B & ES), another one in the lower lake at Myakka River S P Apr 14 (MA), and one at Guano L., St. Johns Co., May 27 (BJR). As usual in a drought year, Wood Storks in s. Florida had better luck reproductively, but it was still a far cry from that of previous years. At the beginning of the period 1000 nests were present at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, but 600 of these were deserted after a single thunderstorm, and by the end of May 500-700 young were ready to fledge (THB). At E.N.P., for the first time in several years, 500 ± pairs nested at 2 of the 4 traditional colonies (OLB). This declining species was finally placed on the federal endangered list this past year.

Three Greater Flamingoes were on s. Biscayne Bay Apr 20 (MH *et al.*) and a flock of 16 near Cape Sable, E.N.P., May 9 contained half grayish immatures and half bright red adults (WBR). A ♀ Ringed Teal in a Wellington, Palm Beach Co., impoundment with a flock of Wood Ducks May 25 (HPL) surely was an escape from some captive collection. Although most wintering ducks depart Florida by the end of March, flocks of 303 Blue-winged Teal and 474 N. Shovelers were at C.S.M., Apr 7 (PJF). A Eur. Wigeon at Lake West, Mar. 4 (JB) provided a first record for E.N.P. A Lesser Scaup was tardy near Belle Glade May 4 (REW), and two Black Scoters at S.G.I., May 6 (SAC) were either late or summering, but a ♂ Surf Scoter in Hillsborough Bay Mar. 27 (SP) was thought to be flightless. Four White-winged Scoters at Rookery Bay Sanctuary, Collier Co., Apr 15 (THB) were the latest for the S. Pen., and three ♂ Com. Goldeneyes along the S.G.I. causeway Apr. 13 (HMS) were late stragglers.

RAPTORS — As Wayne Hoffman mentioned in his winter report, Snail Kites departed their s. Florida habitats in response to the drought conditions and began showing up in wetland areas farther n., including Duval County where a brown-plumaged bird was observed Apr. 26-May 1 (PCP, MCD *et al.*), for the first county record since 1884. Other kites appeared in the Savannah Recreation Area s. of Ft. Pierce Mar. 1 (H & WDo), in the remnant of natural St. Johns marsh w. of Vero Beach in April (JAR), four at L. Tohopekaliga in April (GW), and four in L. Kissimmee May 28 (LG, BC). Four kites in the 75-acre Wellington impoundment May 14 (C & KP) increased to 26 by May 28 (JT), and several kites were seen flying along the Florida turnpike where it crosses a water catchment area in Palm Beach County in late April and May (HWK, JS). These numbers were disconcertingly low and we began to fear the worst, but good news was just around the corner in June. You will have to read about this in Rich Paul's summer season report. Four Broad-winged Hawks spent several days on Loggerhead Key at the end of April (m.ob.). Single Short-tailed Hawks were at Boca Chica Apr 4 (HR), Key West Apr. 16 (white phase—LK, MB), Big Pine Key Apr. 25 (dark phase—MB), Pine Is., Lee Co., two Apr. 4 (RWR), and a white-phase bird over Fisheating Creek near Old Venus May 3 (REW). All three falcons were on the Tortugas Apr 26-29 with Merlins outnumbering Peregrine Falcons and Am. Kestrels 2:1. One Peregrine was seen to fly over to Bush Key, grab an ad. Sooty Tern and return to the fort to enjoy its repast. An imm. Am. Kestrel in Lake Wales May 14 (TP) suggested a successful nesting of this declining species (as a breeder) in Florida. Only one pair remained of the 12 that once nested at A B.S. near Lake Placid (FEL).

TURKEY THROUGH DOVES — A flock of 15 Wild Turkeys in a large field along U.S. 441, 3-5 mi n. of Yeehaw Jct., Apr 19 was a thrill to see, and 2 mi farther n. a flock of nine appeared (H & WDo). A Black Rail flushed on a small salt marsh inland n. of Cedar Key May 27 (RN) suggested breeding there. For those who keep records, the last date for the Black Rail that wintered at Eco Pond, E.N.P., in 1984 was Apr. 1, 1984 (FF). A Yellow Rail was calling at Lox N.W.R., Apr. 9 (RF), making this the 2nd year in a row this species has occurred there. A Virginia Rail at St. Marks Light May 4 (JMS *et al.*) was rather late, and a visiting British birder saw his life Virginia Rail walking on the 3rd-floor balcony of his motel at Treasure Is., Pinellas Co., in

mid-May (*fide* HWK) Another unexpected spectacle was that of a Purple Gallinule atop the old Long Key Bridge May 11 (GC) The 5th record for the Limpkin at D.T. was provided by a bird there Apr. 23 (HPL).

Nowadays, with people crowding the inlets and beaches, the best shorebird habitat in Florida is the flooded agricultural mucklands near L. Okeechobee and L. Apopka, and the clay settling basins (sometimes called "slime ponds") in phosphate mining areas, especially Polk County. These settling ponds are relatively permanent bodies of water, but during drought periods vast areas of mud flats are exposed, and this spring unprecedented numbers of shorebirds appeared at C.S.M. and the nearby Norlyn Mine's Homeland Pond. At these rich sites Apr 20 were 191 Black-necked Stilts (PJF, SB), 2000 Lesser Yellowlegs, and 1500 Stilt Sandpipers (PJF); May 5 there were 115 Semipalmated Plovers, and May 18 along with five Ruddy Turnstones (rare so far inland) were 7000 Least Sandpipers (PJF, LG, CG)!

Three Lesser Golden-Plovers at Belle Glade May 4 (REW) and one on the S.G.I. causeway May 5 (SAC) were late. A Black-necked Stilt at St. Marks Light Apr. 5 (JEC) was early, but an earlier one at C.S.M., Mar. 3, was probably the bird that had wintered at nearby Homeland Pond (PJF). Stilts are not often seen at inlets, so one at Ft. Pierce Apr. 14 (JMB) was of interest Late Upland Sandpipers were at S.G.I. (SAC) and Cudjoe Key (MB) May 2, at Egmont Key May 4-5 (LSA *et al.*), and at D.T., May 16 (JS). A Pectoral Sandpiper at the Leon County spray field ponds May 22 (HMS) was the latest for the Florida Region. A Stilt Sandpiper at the Tallahassee sewage ponds Mar. 9 (HMS) tied the earliest date for the Tally Div., while one there May 22 (TAM) was very late. The first record of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper at D.T. (and the Lower Keys) was provided by one there May 9 (DSM *et al.*), still present May 16 (JS). Wilson's Phalaropes at the Tally sewage ponds, one Mar. 27 (TAM) and two Mar. 28 (JMS), were both rare and early, as were three at C.S.M., Apr. 26 (SB, MH). Six Red-necked Phalaropes were seen by the Wings group along the edge of the Gulf Stream Apr 27 and six more off Islamorada May 1 (REW), and four were 8-10 mi n.e. of St. Lucie Inlet May 12 (PH *et al.*).

Prior to the opening of the Leon County landfill, Laughing Gulls rarely occurred in this inland county, but May 22 up to 250 gulls were present (HMS), underlining the influence of such sites on gull distribution. An imm. Thayer's Gull was reported at the Pompano Beach landfill (GH) and a photograph taken Mar. 10 was tentatively identified as being of this species, but awaits further confirmation, hence I have not boldfaced the species at this time. Eight (six ad., two imm.) Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at this same landfill Mar. 2, with two still there Mar. 10 (BH, WG, RF). A first-summer Great Black-backed Gull spent most of the period on one of the coaling dock piers at Ft. Jefferson, providing one of only few records for the Lower Keys. Florida's first spring record (possibly the first spring record for the s.e. United States?) of **Sabine's Gull** occurred Apr. 27 when it was detected among the flock of Masked Boobies on Middle Key by the Wings group (DS, HPL *et al.*).

A Caspian Tern at the Mile Marker 22 pond on U.S. 1 May 31 (MB, PWSm) was the latest for the Lower Keys. Each spring Roseate Terns frequent Molasses Reef Light. Are these migrants en route to New England, or does a nesting colony exist nearby? Fifty were there Apr. 28 and May 4 (SS), while an estimated 30 pairs were nesting atop the Naval Air Station roof in Key West (MB), and about 250 were counted offshore by the Wings group Apr. 27, although only one-half dozen or so were at D.T. where they occasionally nest. Bridled Terns seemed to be more abundant, although this may only reflect more birders offshore. The Wings group recorded 60 in the Gulf stream between Marathon and D.T., Apr. 27 (REW), 36 were flying over a school of bonita 18 mi s.e. of Conch Key May 11 (HD), three were 8-10 mi n.e. of St. Lucie Inlet May 12 (PH *et al.*), two (with four Sooty Terns) were 15-20 mi e. of Cape Can., May 19 (JS), and eight were off Sebastian Inlet May 26 (H & WDo). A single Black Noddy spent most of April and May on Bush Key, but only folks with access

to a small boat that could closely approach and circle the key were lucky enough to see it.

A White-crowned Pigeon in West Palm Beach Apr. 16 (RP *et al.*) was n. of its normal range. A pair of White-winged Doves remained several weeks on Garden Key in April and May, and one was at Cedar Key Apr. 14 (D & BV).

EXOTICS — Ringed Turtle-Doves now are well established in Key West and Islamorada (KS) and reports of their presence elsewhere in Florida cities (besides their centers of origin in St. Petersburg and Homestead) are increasing. The numbers of exotic species and numbers of individuals continue to increase in s.e. Florida. On Mar. 23 Wes Biggs, Vic Heller, and Bruce Neville found 14 species of parrots, 3 species of mynas (Hill, Crested, and Common), Red-whiskered Bulbul, Spot-breasted Oriole, Ringed Turtle-Dove, and White-winged Dove in the Dade County area; their list included Blue-and-yellow Macaw, Chestnut-fronted Macaw, Red-masked Conure, Mitred Conure, Dusky-headed Conure, Green Parakeet, and 2 subspecies of Canary-winged Parakeet. The two Blue-headed Conures were still flourishing on Garden Key this spring. One of these was a banded bird. A pair of Black-headed Parakeets was in a nest tree (but with no eggs) on Pine I. in May (RWR). Three Common Mynas were at the E.N.P. research center Apr. 26 (WBR), a pair was seen nesting in Homestead May 22 (PWSm), and all 3 myna species nested at shopping centers (in signs and wall crevices) in Miami (DS, CWB).



Short-eared Owl in a palm tree inside Ft. Jefferson, Dry Tortugas, Fla., Apr. 28, 1985. Photo/Howard P. Langridge.

OWLS THROUGH KINGLETS — A Short-eared Owl at Ft. Jefferson Apr. 28-29 (CC, m.ob.) established the 4th record for the D.T. and one of the latest, if not *the* latest, for the state. The Lesser Nighthawk is one of our "regular accidentals," especially at S.G.I., where another one was seen May 5 (JMS *et al.*). A Whip-poor-will at Ft. DeSoto May 4 (LAH, TM *et al.*) was the latest for the N. Pen. A movement of Red-headed Woodpeckers through Palm Beach County in mid-late April was evident with sightings Apr. 16 (JA), Apr. 26 (BL), and Apr. 30 (PW). The report of 7 active Red-cockaded Woodpecker colonies in the Jim Corbett Wildlife Management Area n.w. of Palm Beach (MR) was a good bit of news for a change.

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers are rare migrants in Florida, hence one heard calling in Franklin County May 4 (HMS) was notable. A lone Brown-crested Flycatcher seen and heard calling at Flamingo Mar. 15 (HWK, CWB) may have been the only one at E.N.P. this spring. Western Kingbirds and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers seemed unusually abundant in the Homestead farming area, especially after being so scarce this past winter,

with 18 Westerns and three Scissor-taileds there Mar. 16 (BN). A Western was late at Alligator Pt., May 13 (J & CW) and a Scissor-tailed was unusually late in Key West May 2 (*vide* MB). Gray Kingbirds are usually coastal strand inhabitants; one along S.R. 60 in Osceola County, 3 mi e. of the Kissimmee R., May 28 (BC, LG) was far from the coast.

One-half dozen pairs of N. Rough-winged Swallows were observed entering nest holes at C.S.M., Apr. 28 (PJF, LG). A partly desiccated specimen of a Cave Swallow was found at Ft. Jefferson Apr. 25 (HPL, *E.N.P.), but no live birds were reported. Fish Crows are extending their range S and are now being reported regularly in the Homestead area (BN); 1000 ± at a new landfill in Eastpoint Mar. 8 (HMS) reminds us that we need to keep an eye open for these landfills—they can be ornithological goldmines (although I don't mean to imply that Fish Crows are black gold!). Received too late for the winter summary was a report of a Red-breasted Nuthatch near Lakeland Feb. 4 (ES *et al.*), a rarity this far s. Marsh Wrens near Cedar Key fledged young by the unbelievably early date of Mar. 19 (VM). Near Gainesville a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen feeding a fledgling Apr. 3 (SK). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet at T.B.S.P., Apr. 29 (TH) tied the latest S. Pen. date.

THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS — For the most part, thrushes were scarce. The only thrush seen on the Tortugas Apr. 26-29 was a lone Veery (HWK). A Veery at Manatee Springs S.P., Mar. 17 (RN) was the earliest for the state. The May 3-5 cold front caused a fallout of Veeries, Gray-cheekeds, and Swainson's, with reports from Wakulla and Franklin counties (HMS *et al.*) to Ft. DeSoto (LSA), Sarasota (EVM), and the Palm Beaches (HPL). An Am. Robin at S.G.I., May 17 (HMS, JMS) was extremely late, while one 8 mi s. of Tallahassee May 24 and a pair at Tall Timbers Research Station during May (RLC) may have been breeding.

The bird of the season had to be the singing Bahama Mockingbird at W. Palm Beach Apr. 14-18 (CP, RP, m.ob.), the 5th recorded for Florida and the first individual to remain long enough in an accessible area to be seen by numerous birders. A Water Pipit at C.S.M., May 5 (TP) was one of the latest for the N. Pen. A late Solitary Vireo was at Myakka S.P., Apr. 24 (DHM), the rare Warbling Vireo was on Honeymoon Is., Pinellas Co., May 4 (DJJ), and one or two Philadelphia Vireos were at Ft. DeSoto May 3 (LAH, RC) & 4 (LAH, LSA *et al.*). A Red-eyed Vireo was early at Hypoluxo I., Mar. 23 (PWS), while one was very late at nearby Lake Worth May 19 (TT). As usual, Black-whiskered Vireos appeared at Cedar Key Apr. 6-7 (DFa, PR) and S.G.I., May 2 & 21 (SAC).

WARBLERS — Although a smattering of warblers was present in late March and April, it took the cold front of May 3-5 to convince us that the silent spring was only an illusion. At Ft. DeSoto 28 species of warblers were recorded that weekend and similar excitement occurred at S.G.I., that other paradise-to-be at when a migration fallout occurs. Blue-winged Warblers were at Hypoluxo Apr. 15 & 17 (DS, HPL *et al.*) and Matheson Hammock, Miami, Apr. 3 (BN) & 21 (DS). Three Blue-wingeds on S.G.I., May 5 (JMS *et al.*) were the latest for the Tally Div., as were two Golden-winged Warblers the same date (JMS, SAC). A Golden-winged at Hypoluxo Apr. 28 (TT) furnished only the 3rd spring record there, while three at Ft. DeSoto May 5 (LAH, LSA *et al.*) were the latest for the N. Pen. A blue-winged type "Brewster's" hybrid was at Egmont Key May 4 (LSA, BHA). Two Nashville Warblers in S. Miami Mar. 18 (MW) tied the earliest date for the S. Pen.

The wintering Chestnut-sided Warbler in E.N.P. was still being seen there in late March (m.ob.). Migrant Chestnut-sideds were at Ft. DeSoto May 3-4 (LSA *et al.*), S.G.I., May 3-5 (JMS, SAC), Sarasota May 4 (EVM), Casey Key May 8 (one banded—S & AS), and Lake Worth May 27 (GH). Except for a previous June 5 record, this latter bird was the latest for the state. On Mar. 4 up to 50 Magnolia Warblers were seen along the Franklin County

coast (HMS *et al.*) and 12+ at Ft. DeSoto (PT). Others were at Plantation Key Mar. 28 (JCO) & 31 (KS), eight at Sarasota May 4 (EVM), San Felasco Hammock, Alachua Co., May 7 (RN), and D.T., May 16 (JS); one singing in s. Jacksonville May 19 (JPC) was the latest for the N. Pen. Up to 17 Black-throated Green Warblers were at Ft. DeSoto May 4 (LSA *et al.*). Blackburnian Warblers were at Ft. DeSoto (LSA *et al.*) and Sarasota (JSi, EVM) May 4, at Colohatchee Park May 11 (WG) and Collie Hammock (TH) in Ft. Lauderdale, and in Miami (JS, MC) May 15. A wave of 92 Prairie Warblers passed through Hypoluxo Apr. 2 (HPL, TT).

The 2nd-earliest state record of Bay-breasted Warbler was provided by one on Sugarloaf Key Mar. 21 (PWSm). This species was probably the most common warbler grounded by the May 3-5 coldfront, with over 120 counted at Ft. DeSoto and Egmont Key (LSA *et al.*), and 70 on the Franklin County coast (HMS *et al.*), both May 4. Others were at Mahogany Hammock, E.N.P. (CM) and Longboat Key (M & RS) May 4, Sarasota (EVM) and T.B.S.P. (WG, TH, BH) May 5; D.T., May 16 (JS), and Hypoluxo May 25 (PWS), the latter date being the 2nd-latest for the state. The only Cerulean reported was one at Ft. DeSoto May 4 (TM, JJ, DRS). Two Black-and-white Warblers at Lake Worth May 19 (TT) were late, as were two Am. Redstarts at Jupiter June 3 (JH). A tailless N. Waterthrush tarried at Ft. DeSoto May 18-27 (MSW, LSA), while late Louisiana Waterthrushes were at S.G.I., Apr. 25 (JEC) and San Felasco Hammock May 15 (RN), the latter being the latest in migration for the state, although the species breeds in Florida n.w. of this site. A Kentucky Warbler was netted and banded on Casey Key Apr. 1 (S & AS). One was considered late at S.G.I., May 5 (SAC), and one in s. Jacksonville May 18-20 (JPC) was the latest for the N. Pen.

Connecticut Warblers are relatively secretive birds during migration and are probably more abundant than they appear to be. This year they were seen in unprecedented numbers in mid-May along the s.e. coast with up to 45 reported between s. Palm Beach County and Dade County, including 11 at Greynolds Park May 17 (TH, AB), 20 at T.B.S.P., May 18 (WG *et al.*), and seven at Spanish River P., Boca Raton, May 19 (BH, RF). Others were at S.G.I., May 5 (JMS *et al.*) & 10 (SAC), Ft. DeSoto May 6 (LSA *et al.*), B.B.S.P., May 12 (JS), San Felasco Hammock May 13 (RN), and Elliott Key, B.N.P., May 22 (PWSm). The only Mourning Warbler reported was a straggler on Plantation Key May 21-22 (JCO). We rarely mention Com. Yellowthroats, but 282 on Hypoluxo (PWS, HPL) and 200+ at Ft. Lauderdale (WG *et al.*), both May 4, were mentionable. Late Hooded Warbler (May 1) and Wilson's Warbler (May 1 & 5) were at Ft. DeSoto (LSA). A Wilson's in S. Miami Mar. 18 (MW) may have been wintering, but one at Cape Florida Mar. 30 (MC) was probably an early transient. A Bananaquit at Virginia Key Mar. 1 (DR) did not remain long enough to become a hotline bird, but they live only 55 mi to the e. and frequently pop over for a moment or so.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — A Summer Tanager was early in Tallahassee Mar. 26 (HMS), as was a Scarlet Tanager in Delray Beach Mar. 23-25 (RB). Single W. Tanagers, another of our "regular accidentals," were at Hypoluxo Mar. 29 (HPL *et al.*) and Castello Hammock P., Dade Co., Apr. 19 (RH). A flock of Brewer's Blackbirds spent several days near Fellsmere in early March (DWS). A ♂ **Bronzed Cowbird** spent Apr. 12-14

at a backyard feeder in Tampa (DJD). Clay-colored Sparrows were at Boynton Beach Mar. 17 (RF) and Elliott Key May 22 (PWSm), the latter providing the first record for B.N.P. Several Vesper Sparrows were singing in Franklin County Mar. 1 (HMS). The Lark Bunting that showed up at Alligator Pt. in late February remained there until Mar. 15 (RLC). A Grasshopper Sparrow was late at Hypoluxo May 4 (HPL). Two Song Sparrows at St. Marks Light Apr. 27 (JMS *et al.*) were the latest for the Tally Div. Another late sparrow was a Lincoln's at B.B.S.P., May 4 (DS). A large concentration of 50 Swamp Sparrows in Franklin County Mar. 8 (HMS) must have been migrating. Pine Siskins were scarce this past winter, hence six on Longboat Key Apr. 4 (M & RS) were surprising. One was very late in Tallahassee May 11 (FHS).

NOTE — After 16 years as the spring migration editor for the Florida Region, I am retiring to devote time as project director of the Florida Breeding Bird Atlas, 1986-1990. We hope birders visiting Florida will contribute any breeding observations (no matter how trivial they may seem) to the project, headquartered at Florida Audubon (address below). I thank my fellow Regional co-editors, our area editors, and the hundreds of contributors over the years and hope you will continue to feed information to my successor-nominee: Howard P. Langridge, one of Florida's most active and respected birders.

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ONTARIO REGION

Ron D. Weir

Winter finches provided much of the excitement for the season as they continued to respond to the heavy cone and seed crops of last autumn. Movements of crossbills, and to a lesser extent of siskins, suggested a pattern of irruption, breeding in selected areas in the company of non-

breeding groups, and rejoining the flocks with their young. All this occurred while others passed through, perhaps having already nested or about to nest elsewhere. The dynamics are so different from those of the *regular migrant* songbirds. This fact is driven home as one watches the adult crossbills



feed their nestlings as the snow falls at -20°C . Between mid-March and mid-April, thousands of redpolls, Purple Finches, and siskins, accompanied by crossbills, raced northwards, having moved southwest along the north shore of the lower lakes (passing Long Point in spectacular fashion March 13-19) before swinging north past Kettle Point along Lake Huron. Their arrival times at Sudbury and North Bay left no doubt from where they came. This passage was not noted at the west end of Lake Superior.

As for the *regular migrants*, many observers described the season as poorer than usual, although in the extreme southwest some considered it one of the worst ever. The persistent periods of high-pressure warm weather induced heavy nocturnal flights, but without heavy groundings on the following mornings. The migrants were overflying. Far too many early dates were received to include all in the following account. In Algonquin Provincial Park at least 13 species arrived at record-early dates. The comparable figures for Kingston and Peterborough were eight each, and for Sudbury and Pelee, seven each. In spite of this poor migration as seen by some observers, Long Point on Lake Erie enjoyed a fantastic spring with record numbers of rarities and bandings experienced, partly due to more thorough coverage. The few concentrations to occur there did so April 5 & 21-23 and May 1 & 6. These weather patterns were conducive to record numbers of several species of raptors passing the Grimsby lookout.

ABBREVIATIONS — M.I. = Manitoulin Island; Pelee = Point Pelee Nat'l Park; P.E.Pt. = Prince Edward Point; P.P.P. = Presqu'île Provincial Park. Place names in *italics* denote counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — The 19 sightings of Red-throated Loons were consistent with increased numbers during the past 4 springs. Their dates ranged from Mar. 11 at Hamilton (KMCL) to May 31 at P.P.P. (J & JT), and 11 were from L. Ontario, mainly Ajax e. to P.E.Pt. Loon watchers tallied impressive totals of Commons. Numbers were up over the 1981-1984 totals by 40% at the Ajax site, where 4843 were seen during 53 count hours on 42 count days. They were led by 505 flying over Apr. 12 and 373 Apr. 29 (JRN). Some 340 passed Cape Roberts, M.I., Apr. 26 (JCN), birds not visible from the Mississagi Light, and 250 were at P.E.Pt., Apr. 21 (K.F.N.).

The flight of Pied-billed Grebes was early and the 27 at Pelee Apr. 7 may have been the park's highest count ever (AW, AMcT). Horned Grebes were also early and, except for the 120 at Long Pt., Apr. 8 (L.P.B.O.) and 180 and 135 at P.E.Pt., Apr. 25 & 21 respectively (K.F.N.), their numbers remained low. The 450 Red-neckeds off Scarborough Apr. 12 (MPW) were the largest numbers followed by 45 at Cape Roberts May 6 (JCN), 36 at Whitby Apr. 20 (DDC), and 31 at P.E.Pt., Apr. 25 (RDW). An incubating bird was found near Sheguindah, M.I., June 1 (DCS). The breeding-plumaged Eared Grebe at Long Pt., Mar. 13-16 was early and another appeared there in late April (L.P.B.O.). Numbers of Am. White Pelicans at Kenora were above average (SRM) and 18 were e. to Quetico P.P., May 18 (SFP). Double-crested Cormorant sightings increased at Long Pt. (L.P.B.O.), at Southampton (JW *et al.*), and along the Ottawa R. at Pembroke (CM, JMB *et al.*).

Single Great Egrets away from the s.w. were at Winona Apr. 3 (RC), near Collingwood in late April (JW), and Orillia May 17-18 (FW). One returned to the Cornwall rookery by May 25 where young were raised during 1984 (BM). The only Snowy Egrets reported were singles in Hamilton May 10 (RC) and at Pelee May 17 (AW *et al.*). Adult Little Blue Herons appeared at Pelee I., May 4 (RRT), at the Amherstview sewage lagoons May 11 (PM, JHE, RDW), and at the tip of Long Pt., May 13 (KMP, KS *et al.*) for a total of three. The spring average since 1976 has been about two. Following last spring's record irruption, only one Tricolored Heron was reported, an adult at the tip of Long Pt., May 17 (G.May, KS *et al.*).

Ten Cattle Egrets were noted, of which only two were away from the s.w. One stayed in Carr's marsh between Port Hope and Cobourg May 6-17 (ERM) and another appeared in Pembroke May 13 (EO, PK). Green-backed Herons were scarce over wide areas, but one was n. of range at Wawa May 13 (JHA). Since 1960, there have been 13 spring records of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in the province with a maximum of 4 in 1976. This spring's 6 sightings, involving five or six birds, were therefore outstanding. The first turned up at Rondeau Apr. 22 (P & EM) followed by the same or another in Pelee's Hillman marsh May 7 (WS). One was on Centre I., Toronto, Apr. 27 (B & AG) and two visited Long Pt., May 10-11 (BJ *et al.*) and May 11 (DSE, LRM). Kingston's first was on Amherst I., May 25 (JHE, RDW). Three Glossy Ibises were reported from Iona, *Elgin*, May 13 (RP).

WATERFOWL — Some 15,000 Tundra Swans were at Dover Mar. 9 (LV) and 400 were e. to Hamilton Mar. 2 (KMCL). Single strays were on Wolfe I., Apr. 14 (DT) and at Ottawa Apr. 16 (BMD, WCI). The numerous sightings of Greater White-fronted Geese, involving about 39 birds, were unprecedented for this rare migrant. There were 19 and five at Pelee Mar. 8-10 & 22-23 respectively (AW, AJR), eight at York, *Norfolk*, Mar. 13-20 (BWD, DB *et al.*) that may have been part of the nine farther w. at Waterford Apr. 9-13 (TSa), six in the area around the base of Long Pt., Mar. 18-20 (DSh, MKM), and one and three in the Ottawa area Mar. 29 and Apr. 7-13 respectively (BMD *et al.*). Singles were at Providence Bay, M.I., Apr. 4 (DBF), Pickering Apr. 7 (JMS, DM), Washington, *Oxford*, Apr. 7 (D. Entz), and Orillia Apr. 28-29 (DH). Snow Geese were widespread from Long Pt., Mar. 12, to Quetico P.P., May 27, and e. to Ottawa where some 580 were tallied at Pendleton Apr. 8 (BMD, SO). The Brant flight was one to 2 weeks earlier than usual, appearing first at Westmeath, *Renfrew*, Apr. 25 (CM) and Whitby Apr. 27 (MJB). Thousands moved through the P.P.P.-Kingston-Ottawa corridor May 9-26. The large flocks of Canada Geese also moved through earlier with peaks of 40,000 at Pendleton Apr. 8 (BMD, SO) and 20,000 at Kingston Apr. 21 (K.F.N.). Several at Kingston were sporting yellow numbered neck collars, while two on M.I., Apr. 16, carried orange collars (JCN). Also at Pendleton Apr. 8 were 10,000 N. Pintails (BMD, SO).

For the 3rd consecutive year, **Cinnamon Teal** were reported. Single males were at Thunder Bay Apr. 27 (NE, NJ *et al.*) and Pelee May 29-31 (AW *et al.*), the latter bird moulting into

eclipse plumage The six ♂ Eur Wigeons were triple the spring average These were at Whitby Mar 28 (WB), Long Pt, Mar 29 (TW), Dundas marsh Apr. 7 (WL, RF), Fanshawe L. near London Apr 14-15 (AMcT), Ottawa Apr. 21-23 (BMD *et al.*), and Holland Landing during the first week of May (MJB *et al.*). High counts of 850 Am. Wigeons were at Pelee Apr. 11 (AW), and of 5000 and 3000 Canvasbacks at Long Pt. and P.P.P., Mar 25 & 27 respectively (L.P.B.O., RDM). Hamilton's overwintering ♂ **Tufted Duck** stayed to Apr. 7 (*vide* KMCL).

The King Eider at Niagara-on-the-Lake Mar. 24 (*vide* RFA) had probably overwintered in the area, and the only Harlequin Duck reported was a 2nd-year male at N. Bay Apr. 21 (EL, GFC). The main scoter flight was seen in eastern L. Ontario where 46 of the 55 Blacks, headed by 20 at P.P.P., May 22 (JJD), and 191 of the 207 Surfs occurred. Some 100 Surfs migrated at Kingston at dusk May 21 at the same time that 3000 White-wingeds were also heading NW during a 1½-hr period (RDW, BAW). On May 22, about 4000 White-wingeds were counted at P.P.P. (J & JT). A ♂ Com. Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser hybrid was at Pelee Mar 8 (AW, AJR). A ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye was near Orillia Apr 6 (DH), and Ottawa's overwintering female was not seen after Apr. 20 (BMD, RPH). The main flight of Red-breasted Mergansers passed Long Pt., Apr. 5-7 with an impressive 20,000 birds Apr. 6 (L.P.B.O.).

VULTURES THROUGH CRANES — Systematic coverage at the Grimsby hawkwatch yielded some interesting findings, among which were 5 species in record numbers (WK). Turkey Vultures totalled 947, peaking at 361 Apr. 4, and Bald Eagles also set a record at 10. The 6007 Broad-winged Hawks Apr. 21 accounted for 73% of the season's 8235, but more evenly distributed were the 3410 Red-taileds whose peak of 349 occurred Mar. 9. The 5th species in record numbers was Golden Eagle at 12 birds, over double those of last spring at the lookout. The 36 Ospreys were just short of last spring's record 38, but as expected N. Goshawk numbers were down sharply at 25. One Swainson's Hawk passed Grimsby in the huge flight Apr. 21 (ES *et al.*) For the province as a whole, the 50 Merlin reports were above average numbers. Peregrine Falcon sightings continued to increase. South of M.I., there were 25 plus "numerous individuals at Pelee" (AW). One adult at Whitby Apr. 21 wore a red band on its right leg (*vide* MJB) and another returned in early May to its release site atop a downtown Toronto building (MPW).

Single N. Bobwhites were at Blenheim May 16 (KJB) and Rondeau May 20 (HP). A Yellow Rail was heard in the Newington Bog near Cornwall (HVZ *et al.*) and three were in the Richmond swamp May 15 (BMD). Up to 15 King Rails in total were at Pelee, Rondeau and Long Pt. from Apr. 27 to late May (AW, PAW, L.P.B.O.). Singles were also found at Stoney Pt., May 4-31

Table 1. Selected early arrivals in Ontario, Spring 1985

Pied-billed Grebe	Algonquin P.P.	Mar. 28 (1)	RGT
Horned Grebe	Ottawa	Mar. 1 (1)	BMD
Double-crested Cormorant	Amherst I.	Mar. 20 (1)	ASc
American Bittern	Presqu'ile P.P.	Apr. 6 (1)	RPH
Green-backed Heron	Pickering & Peterborough	Apr. 7 (1)	JMS, WSt
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Hamilton	Mar. 11 (1)	WL
Virginia Rail	Long Pt.	Apr. 5 (1)	L.P.B.O.
Semipalmated Plover	Cavan	May 5 (2)	JN
Greater Yellowlegs	Dundas	Mar. 16 (1)	WL
Lesser Yellowlegs	Long Pt.	Mar. 18 (1)	L.P.B.O.
Spotted Sandpiper	Oshawa	Mar. 27 (1)	DVR
Sanderling	Pelee	Apr. 23 (1)	NFS
Dunlin	Guelph L.	Apr. 12 (1)	GKP, SRK
Caspian Tern	Wolfe I.	Apr. 4 (20)	AEB
Whip-poor-will	Bronte & Long Pt.	Apr. 15 (1)	MJ, L.P.B.O.
Whip-poor-will	Sudbury	Apr. 21 (1)	WRL
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Sudbury	May 11 (1)	CTB
Least Flycatcher	Whitby	Apr. 16 (1)	DVR, SR
Purple Martin	Whitby	Apr. 6 (2)	RGT
Tree Swallow	Carleton Place	Mar. 12 (1)	ASi
Bank Swallow	Kingsville	Apr. 6 (1)	AW, AMcT
Cliff Swallow	Long Pt.	Apr. 6 (1)	L.P.B.O.
House Wren	Long Point P.P.	Apr. 5 (1)	L.P.B.O.
Gray Catbird	Hay Bay	Apr. 16 (1)	RRo
Brown Thrasher	Algonquin P.P.	Apr. 16 (1)	RGT
Golden-winged Warbler	Pelee	Apr. 21 (1)	RMC
Tennessee Warbler	Long Pt.	Apr. 21 (1)	L.P.B.O.
Orange-crowned Warbler	Pelee	Apr. 20 (1)	MJ, RRi
Northern Parula	Presqu'ile P.P.	Apr. 14 (2)	J & JT
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Manitoulin I.	May 5 (1)	JCN
Blackburnian Warbler	Long Pt.	Apr. 23 (1)	L.P.B.O.
Palm Warbler	Algonquin P.P.	Apr. 27 (1)	RGT
Cerulean Warbler	Long Pt.	Apr. 30 (1)	L.P.B.O.
Black-and-white Warbler	Pelee	Apr. 6 (1)	S & AH
Northern Waterthrush	Presqu'ile P.P.	Apr. 8 (1)	RSm, CV, AGC
Indigo Bunting	Pelee & Presqu'ile P.P.	Apr. 20 (3) & 21 (1)	m.ob., HKM <i>et al.</i>
Chipping Sparrow	Algonquin P.P.	Apr. 22 (1)	RGT

(*vide* GTH), Mud L., *Niagara*, May 5 (AJS), Carr's marsh near Port Hope May 24 (JMGL), and n. to Mar., *Bruce*, May 21 (*vide* JW). Two separate reports of a Purple Gallinule at Sarnia May 1 were apparently sound (HM, JE, DFR). A Com. Moorhen returned to Garson Apr. 30 (JCN). The 45 Sandhill Crane reports were low. Two were from the s.w., 3 from *Parry Sound*, and 19 from Sudbury to Rainy R.

SHOREBIRDS — An early Black-bellied Plover appeared at Pelee Apr. 13 (AW), the same day 18 Lesser Goldeneyes arrived at Long Pt. (L.P.B.O.). The only Piping Plover reported was one at Blenheim lagoons May 4 (PAW, PT *et al.*). An early Willet lingered at W. Lorne Apr. 13-14 (RP, WP) before a single and two visited Pelee May 8 & 10 respectively (BS, EH *et al.*). Another was at Harrow May 11 (DF, GMB *et al.*). Unusual for both number and location were the six Upland Sandpipers at Thunder Bay May 16 (NE, JF). About 4000 Whimbrels were seen in a widespread flight May 16-June 8. Largest flocks numbered 1000 at P.P.P., May 21 (RDM, J & JT, HKM) and 600 at Long Pt., May 22 (L.P.B.O.). The single in Quetico P.P., May 21 (DAJ, SFP) followed by 45 May 23 (RAB, RB) constituted only the 2nd and 3rd occurrences for the district. Single Hudsonian Godwits were at Wawa May 13 (ERA, JHA), Stoney Pt., May 14 (*vide* GTH), and Harrow May 14-16 (JB *et al.*), and two were at Thunder Bay May 19 (NE, JF). Also in average numbers were the single Marbled Godwits at Port Perry May 4 (LR, GM), Whitby May 8-10 (DJM *et al.*), and Pelee May 24-28 (MSS *et al.*). The Ruddy Turnstone flight was unusually heavy, highlighted by 2200 at Pelee May 20 (AW) and 300 at Long Pt., May 28 (L.P.B.O.). Two at Lakefield May 8 were early (TB).

Some 1000 Red Knots left Kingston at dusk May 21 heading NW (RDW). One W. Sandpiper was reported at Stoney Pt., May 10 (RSm, PB, AGC), but without details. The 58 reports of White-rumped were good numbers, but well short of the spring record. The largest flock contained 25 at Long Pt., May 23 (L.P.B.O.). The 1000 Pectorals at Saltfleet Apr. 23 (WL) and 200 at New Hamburg Apr. 28 (JBM) accounted for most of their occurrences. The Purple Sandpiper at Long Pt., May 28-30 was joined by a 2nd bird May 29 (DSE *et al.*), which compares with four birds in the past 8 springs. Dunlins were grounded in numbers, the largest concentrations being 7000 at P.P.P., May 21 (RDM, J & JT) and 4000 at Cobourg May 18 (ERM).

The nine Stilt Sandpipers were normal numbers. Six tarried at Harrow May 17-21 (*vide* GTH) and the others were at Stoney Pt., May 12 (PB, AGC), Exeter May 19 (MD), and Sudbury May 23 (JCN). Ruffs maintained their high spring numbers of the past few years with five—all at sewage ponds. One remained at Holland Landing Apr. 29-May 18, but a 2nd was also present there early in May (GMB, MPW). A male and female were at Comber May 1-2 (GTH *et al.*) and a female at Aylmer May 20-31 (PJM, DSE, LRM). There were 78 sightings of Wilson's Phalaropes, down from the numbers we have come to expect. The early ♀ Red-necked Phalarope at Long Pt., May 7-9 (L.P.B.O.), was followed by two at the Winchester lagoons May 29 (BMD) and one at Bracebridge May 31 (RLB).

JAEGERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — The light-phase Parasitic Jaeger at P.P.P., May 23 (RDM) was their 2nd ever in spring, and a jaeger (sp.) passed Long Pt., Apr. 6 (L.P.B.O.). A Laughing Gull was at Wheatley May 13 (DFR *et al.*) and another or the same bird at Pelee May 20 (PDP *et al.*). The three ad. Franklin's Gulls were normal numbers. The first at Kingsville May 6 (MP) was followed by one at Brighton May 10 (RDM, PHS) and at Kingston May 17 (PM). Little Gulls totalled 34, of which 16 were from Long Pt. (L.P.B.O.). Single Com. Black-headed Gulls were at Kettle Pt., May 2 (AHR), P.P.P., May 17 (RDM, RJP), and Amherst I., May 19 (PM *et al.*). Three at Long Pt., May 29-31 (VWF, LRM, DSE) raised the season's total to six, about double the normal. The 2300 Bonaparte's Gulls at Wheat-

ley Mar 30 (AW) were early for such numbers. Both Iceland and Glaucous gulls were low at 19 and 39 birds respectively. However, Lesser Black-backed continued to increase at a record 11 composed of five adults, three in first-summer plumage, and three not aged. An adult thought to be of the intermediate race was at Long Pt., Mar. 16-18 (L.P.B.O.). The others were at Kingston Apr. 3 (RDW), Wheatley Apr. 17 and May 8-13 (AW *et al.*), Nepean Apr. 24-May 11 (two, BMD *et al.*), Pelee May 2 (JF, WAM), Port Stanley May 5 (three, GMB) and Long Pt., May 10 & 28 (L.P.B.O.). First spring records of Black-legged Kittiwakes occurred at Leamington Apr. 6, a bird in its first summer (DAM), and Long Pt., May 6, an adult (DSE, LRM).

The reports describing Ontario's first **Gull-billed Tern** May 22 at Long Pt. were convincing (PJM, SPC, DSa). The experienced observers saw this adult independently at different times. The early Caspian Tern flight was noted along the lower lakes at Kingston, Long Pt., and Whitby Apr. 4-6 (AEB, L.P.B.O., RGT), n. to M.I., Apr. 16 (JCN) and Ottawa Apr. 19 & 25 (BMD, WEG). The only Arctic Tern report was at Constance Bay near Ottawa May 17 (BMD). Away from its traditional areas in the s.w., a Forster's Tern was along the *Bruce* peninsula May 21 for a county first (*vide* JW). Two appeared at P.P.P., Apr. 26-May 16 (RDM, AGC, J & JT) and an adult was farther e. at Amherst I., May 19 (K.F.N.). The two at Aldershot May 27 were considered late migrants (RC).

Kingston's first **Razorbill** was shot near Wolfe I., Nov. 29, 1984 (MBu), and its photo was received too late for either the autumn or the winter report. The season's last Snowy Owl was on Wolfe I. to Apr. 20 (MCE, KFE), while Pembroke's overwintering N. Hawk-Owl was not seen after Mar. 11 (DD). Two Great Gray Owls spent 2 weeks during April near Matachewan (LT) and another was s.e. at Englehart near the Quebec line Apr. 29 (JW). What may have been the first breeding in captivity of wild Great Grays occurred at the Owl Research & Rehabilitation Foundation, Vineland, where a chick hatched May 23 from eggs produced by a pair of crippled adults (KMCK). Chuck-will's-widows returned to Rondeau May 3 (PAW), St. William's Forestry Station May 4 (TW *et al.*), and Pelee May 9-10 (MWR *et al.*).

A Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Oshawa Apr. 24 was early (SL) and a Red-headed Woodpecker reached Wawa May 23 (JHA). Numbers of Red-bellieds were way down. Several were noted at Long Pt., but only Apr. 14-15 (L.P.B.O.), and only two were found at Pelee (*vide* AW). Singles on Navy I., *Niagara*, during the period (MEF), at Westmeath, *Renfrew*, May 8 (CT), and Salmon Pt., *Prince Edward*, May 23 (MFu) provided the only other reports. South of the traditional breeding range were single Black-backed Woodpeckers near Kingston Mar. 26 (RKE) and Cobourg May 9-10 (H. Bud).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS — An Acadian Flycatcher singing near Kleinburg May 22-23 (GMB) was the only one reported away from the regular sites at Pelee, Rondeau, and Long Pt. One W. Kingbird visited the Cranberry marsh May 21 (NL). The first of three Scissor-tailed Flycatchers was found near Oliphant, *Bruce* (C. Kitney), May 10. Pelee hosted two different birds May 20 (REB, MG *et al.*) & 30 (N & DG) in what seems an annual occurrence there. Bank Swallow migration was heavy past Long Pt., where 100,000 moved May 18 (L.P.B.O.). Two Black-billed Magpies appeared at Atikokan Mar. 28 followed by singles there May 7 & 10 (*vide* SFP). One Com. Raven near Puslinch Mar. 30 provided Wellington's 3rd record (*vide* SRK). The origin of the **Jackdaw** at Whitby Apr. 13 remains unknown (MJB).

The 4 Tufted Titmouse reports were the most in spring for several years. Singles were at Erie Beach Apr. 14 (*vide* RFA), Long Pt., Apr. 28 (L.P.B.O.), Pelee May 4 (TM), and a spring nesting occurred near Dutton, *Elgin* (BR). The return flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches was virtually nonexistent and that of Brown Creepers was weak in spite of the 600 at Long Pt., Apr. 14 (L.P.B.O.). Carolina Wrens continued scarce. The only two



Male Mountain Bluebird near Port Stanley, Ont., May 26, 1985. Photo/Marvin S. Smout.



Male Mountain Bluebird at nest near Port Stanley, Ont., May 26, 1985. Photo/Marvin S. Smout.

were at Pelee, Apr. 28 and May 9 (*fide* AW). A Winter Wren at Sudbury was busy nest-building on the early date of Apr. 20 (CGB). A Sedge Wren was at Pelee Apr. 21 (DFR, J. Flynn) and the group of 17 at Thunder Bay May 19 was unusual there (NE, JF).

As part of a heavy flight of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, four were in Ottawa Apr. 22-30 (*fide* BMD) and a male was n. to M.I., May 16 (JCN). Ontario's 10th **Mountain Bluebird** occurred at Port Stanley during May. This male paired with a ♀ E. Bluebird at a nestbox (ph., *fide* RDJ). A Townsend's Solitaire came to a Thunder Bay feeder Apr. 20 (K. Albo). Among the early thrushes were a Swainson's at Pelee Apr. 19 (AW) and Wood Thrushes at Pelee Apr. 14 (LV) and Whitby Apr. 16 (DDC). One of the few late records in the period was furnished by the Hermit Thrush lingering at Pelee to May 26 (AW). Winter's eight Varied Thrushes increased to nine with the report of one near Apsley Dec. 28-Apr. 10 (ph. HH). Last dates for four of the others were at Pinery P.P., Mar. 2 (AHR), Oakville Mar. 9 (*fide* KMCL), Big Bald L., Apr. 3 (DCS *et al.*), and Pembroke Apr. 4 (ACL).

In spite of lower numbers of N. Mockingbirds, singles were n. to Sudbury May 10 (JCN) and Wawa May 14-17 (JHA, ERA). The last of the Bohemian Waxwings in the s. were 55 in Ottawa Mar. 9 (BMD) and 30 in Pembroke Mar. 31 (TF). The earliest of 20 Loggerhead Shrike sightings was in Ottawa Mar. 22 (BMD). Long Pt. hosted the largest numbers of White-eyed Vireos, some 20 in all, of which 12 were banded (L.P.B.O.). Singles were at

Dundas May 1 (WL), P.E.Pt., May 5 & 19 (K.F.N.), Bronte May 11 (MJ), Whitby May 12 (DVR), and P.P.P., May 11 & 13 (*fide* RDM). A rare Bell's Vireo was found at Aldershot May 22 (RC). Record-early vireos included Solitary at Long Pt., Apr. 15 (L.P.B.O.), and Warbling, Philadelphia, and Red-eyed at Pelee Apr. 23, 21 & 21 respectively (NFS, GTH, L & BF).

WARBLERS — Four Blue-winged Warblers were in the Oshawa area May 6-19 (MJB, DVR) along with one at Cobourg May 11 (BO), 10 at P.P.P., Apr. 30-May 22 (*fide* RDM), and eight at P.E.Pt., May 5-17 (K.F.N.). The six "Brewster's" hybrids were more than usual. They were seen at Long Pt. and London May 5 (L.P.B.O., GEM), Pelee May 11 (AGC, PB), Bracebridge May 17 (RLB), Pembroke May 26 (TF, JMB), and Deep River May 28 (WW). The "Lawrence's" hybrid at Long Point P.P., Apr. 23 was that area's first ever, and was banded (L.P.B.O.). The only sightings of Yellow-throated Warbler came from Pelee Apr. 21 (GTH) and two at Long Pt., Apr. 22 (L.P.B.O.). A feeder in Niagara-on-the-Lake hosted an early Pine Warbler Mar. 13-14 (GB). The only Prothonotary Warbler away from the extreme s.w. was in Bronte May 11 & 17 (MJ, DG). Numbers of Worm-eatings were down to only four at Pelee Apr. 30-May 12 (*fide* AW) and three at Long Pt., Apr. 27-May 10 (L.P.B.O.). Singles turned up at the Dundas marsh May 7 (A. Epp) and P.P.P., May 19 (CV).

Louisiana Waterthrushes were in increased numbers, led by 12 at Long Pt. from Apr. 15. *Durham's* first ever occurred Apr. 21 at Whitby (GC *et al.*), and a new site was discovered near Kingston where young were fledged May 26 (RDW). Kentucky Warblers numbered five at Long Pt., Apr. 23-May 24 (L.P.B.O.), four at Pelee May 1-13 (*fide* AW), two at P.E.Pt., May 12-18 (M. Boyd *et al.*), and singles at Whitby May 5 (MJB), Rondeau May 17 (PAW), and Newbury May 25 (GEM). East-of-range Connecticut numbered four at P.P.P., May 13-28 (*fide* RDM), two at Whitby May 26-27 (MJB, D. Barry), and singles at Cobourg and P.E.Pt., May 27 (BO, CF), and Deep River May 28 (WW). Hoodeds were e. to Dundas and Bronte May 13 (A. Epp, MJ), a female and male in Whitby May 16 & 17 (DDC), a male and female at P.E.Pt., May 19 & 26 (RDW, CF), and a male near Kleinburg May 30 (DSt). One in the Kitchener-Waterloo area was a county first (PW *et al.*). Some 25 Yellow-breasted Chats were tallied at Long Pt. (L.P.B.O.) and seven were away from the s.w., which is about average. Three were e. to P.E.Pt., May 5, 10, & 19 (K.F.N.), two at P.P.P., May 11-12 (J & JT), and two in the Bowmanville-Oshawa area May 7 & 10-12 (MJB *et al.*).



White-eyed Vireo at nest at Point Pelee, Ont., May 12, 1985. Photo/A. G. Carpentier.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES— Summer Tanager numbers were down at Pelee, where only five were seen Apr 20-May 12 (*vide* AW). Five were tabulated in Kent May 1-9 (*vide* KJB), three at Long Pt., May 5-28 (L.P.B.O.), and singles at London May 15 (DW, AWh) and P.P.P., May 28 (EJ). An early Rose-breasted Grosbeak came to a Bowmanville feeder Apr. 23 (K & RB). A possible Black-headed Grosbeak turned up at Strathroy Apr. 1 (*vide* WRJ). Two 2nd-year ♂ Blue Grosbeaks were netted and banded at Long Pt., Apr. 26 and May 19 (ph. L.P.B.O.), the first in spring for Ontario since 1983. Three Dickcissels appeared in the province as well. Males were at a Newcastle feeder Apr. 18-20 (ph. EA *et al.*) and in Bowmanville Apr. 19 (*vide* AGC). An immature remained at a feeder in the Kortright Centre near Kleinburg Apr. 21-May 20 (VT, DSt). Very late were two Am. Tree Sparrows at P.E.Pt., May 19 (K.F.N.) and two at P.P.P., May 20 (RDM). The 34 reports of Clay-colored were typical for the past several springs. However, the three Lark Sparrows were the most in spring since 1976. The first was along the railway line near Atikokan May 5 (DHE), the 2nd was at Pelee May 10 (RLB, HGC, GY *et al.*), and the 3rd was banded at the tip of Long Pt., May 11 (ph. L.P.B.O.).

A ♂ Lark Bunting flew past the Long Pt. tip Apr. 5 (DSh) to provide the first spring record in the s. since 1977. Three Le Conte's Sparrows frequented Pelee Apr. 20-23 and May 4 & 10 (B & RK *et al.*), and singles were found at Rondeau May 10 (PAW) and Long Pt., May 12 (GP). The only Sharp-tailed reported was the bird banded at Long Pt., May 13, where a late Fox Sparrow tarried to May 21 (L.P.B.O.). Earliest ever Swamp Sparrows arrived at Pelee Mar. 22 (AW) and Algonquin P.P., Apr. 9 (RGT). Four Harris' Sparrows were well e. of range at Mississauga Apr. 10-21 (LL), Ridgetown Apr. 20-25 (J & BR), Pelee May 1-2 (MC), and Kanata Mar. 1-Apr. 15 (PA). In the w., singles visited Atikokan May 5 (DHE) and Thunder Bay May 12 (DA). Over 5000 Lapland Longspurs passed Damascus, *Wellington*, Apr. 27 (DP), and 500 were near Chesley, *Bruce*, May 5 (DF).

A pair of W. Meadowlarks was on M.I., May 23 (*vide* JCN), and in the s., singing singles were at London Mar. 18-25 (*vide* MPW), Kitchener-Waterloo Apr. 5 (MDC), and Woodstock throughout April (JBM). Stray Yellow-headed Blackbirds included single males at Whitney and Guelph L., Apr. 15 (MBa, ED), Dunwich Apr. 17 (RSq), and Moosonee Apr. 25 (*vide* MPW), and females at Port Hope Apr. 26-May 8 (BG) and Long Pt. about May 15 (TSa). Migrating Brewer's Blackbirds numbered four and two at Long Point P.P., Mar. 14 and Apr. 12 respectively (L.P.B.O.). Away from the extreme s.w., Orchard Oriole numbers appeared higher than usual. One was near Peterborough May 1 (JD) and another visited Short Hills P.P., May 8 (RWK). Others included four in Whitby-Oshawa May 19-31 (*vide* MJB), two in P.P.P., Apr. 25-May 13 (AGC, CV *et al.*), and two e. to P.E.Pt., May 11-13 (RBL, RKE).

The last of what few Pine Grosbeaks were in the s. this winter left by Mar. 20. By early April, the many thousands of wintering Purple Finches thinned out in the s., leaving behind normal numbers for the nesting season. House Finches were up at all stations on Long Pt., pointing to migrants arriving in Ontario. In a one-day census Apr. 13 within Guelph city, some 44 were tallied along with 2 nests (*vide* SRK). The departure of Red Crossbills from Algonquin P.P. in March coincided with new arrivals augmenting those already wintering in e. Ontario. Hundreds appeared from Kingston to Hamilton, arriving at Long Pt., Mar. 19 (L.P.B.O.). Later peaks of 100 and 150 occurred at P.P.P., Apr. 14 and May 12 (J & JT). Confirmed nestings came from *Norfolk*, *York*, *Durham*, *Peterborough*, *Hastings*, and *Lennox & Addington*. In the n., they were common at Kenora but in low numbers elsewhere. White-wingeds were present to mid-March in the s., but did not penetrate the s.w. until the huge flight of 3300 Mar. 13 passed Long Pt., where waves continued to pass W until Mar. 19 (L.P.B.O.). By April their return flight was noted at Sudbury and Matachewan. The only confirmed nesting was indicated by a juvenile in P.P.P. during May (CEG).

A heavy redpoll influx occurred during March, bringing

thousands into the s. to the L. Ontario shore. They reached L. Erie when 2500 flew W at Long Pt., Mar. 13 continuing to Mar. 19 (L.P.B.O.). By Mar. 27, the hundreds moving N past Kettle Pt. with other finches had gone (AHR) and by Apr. 16, the last ones had moved N of M.I., Sudbury, and Matachewan. As frequently happens during redpoll incursions, some Hoaroes were reported—21 in all. The occurrence of Pine Siskins mirrored that of Purple Finches. However, several siskin nestings were reported during March and April. Their large numbers had gone by mid-April. Evening Grosbeaks remained scarce s. of Sudbury, where they were common. Migrants returned to Quetico P.P. in numbers from mid-April to mid-May (*vide* SFP).

CORRIGENDA — AB 38:1014, line 17, delete "SRK *et al.*", insert "AGC, PB"; p. 1015, line 18, insert after Mitchell "Bay, *Lambton*"; p. 1015, line 64, insert after juvenile "Bonaparte's", p. 1015, column 2, line 47, delete "Pelee".

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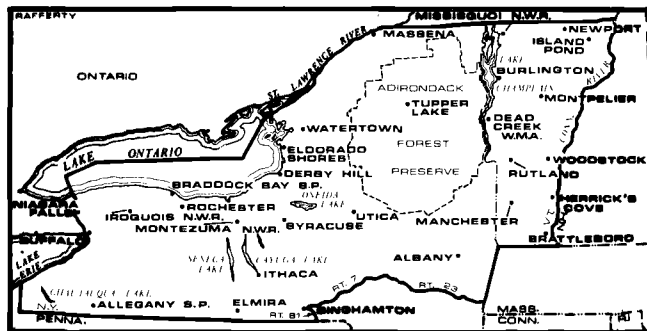
Douglas P. Kibbe and Cheryl M. Boise

The Region was blessed again with a remarkably mild early spring. Precipitation was well below normal although there were several notable deluges (one coinciding with most of the "big days" run in the Region). As we have indicated many times in the past, mild weather benefits birds, not birders who often consider grounded migrant waves to be typical migration numbers and feel a disaster must have befallen species enroute if this year's migration counts do not measure up to those of some previous memorable year.

If the mild weather failed to produce bushes full of wet, weary warblers, it did induce many to return early. At least 17 species of wood warblers were reported in New York by the end of April and landbird migration in general peaked a bit ahead of schedule in May.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS— Open water facilitated an early waterbird migration although the L. Ontario salmon fishing derby armada again drew complaints that loons and other divers were forced well offshore. Consequently numbers comparable to any reliable earlier tallies were unavailable. Although Eared Grebes are far more typical as fall vagrants, one was spotted at Buck Pond near Rochester Apr. 10 (FD, *vide* G O S.). Although a Least Bittern at W. Rutland marsh Apr. 29 (BR) was considered early, it could easily represent a normal arrival date for this secretive species. Southern herons were well represented by numerous Great and Cattle egrets. Great Egrets appeared as early as Mar. 27 at Iroquois N.W.R. (FD, JK). At least one Snowy Egret was present, at Fairhaven Apr. 29 (P & HK), while Tricolored Herons were seen at El Dorado Beach and Rochester. Two Yellow-crowned Night-Herons displayed to each other at Burgeson Wildlife Sanctuary near Buffalo (*vide* G O S.) and another appeared at Fredonia College (TM *et al.*). Western New York was also graced with a Wood Stork seen in Haskett Valley May 14 (J & MF) and possibly present in the vicinity into June. Up to three Glossy Ibises occurred in 3 n. Vermont locations while another four visited Tonawanda W.M.A. in w. New York. Given the recent nesting by Snowy Egrets in L. Champlain and the general population increase in coastally breeding Glossy Ibises, the nesting of the latter species in our Region in the near future appears well within the realm of possibility.

Very few migrant Mute Swans were noted, either because observers assume birds are local releases or because, although well established on the east coast, the species has little migratory instinct which would induce it to stray to our Region. A Tundra Swan at L. Bomoseen was slightly off the usual track which takes virtually the entire east coast population through w. New York. Surprisingly few Vermont records exist (*e.g.*, only 2-3 in the past decade). Greater White-fronted Geese upheld our earlier prophecy (*i.e.*, that they will become annual visitors) with appearances in w. and c. New York and s. Vermont. The three Barnacle Geese near Hamlin were presumably escapees. How many observers bother to scan flocks of geese for color-marked birds? Careful scrutiny at Henderson, N.Y. in March and April yielded 183 sightings of collared Canadas (LC), while in the Rochester area 512 different collars were read and traced to state of original banding (WS). Points of origin included Maryland (238 birds), North Carolina (86), Delaware (51), Pennsylvania (42), New York (38), Virginia (19), New Jersey (10), and South Carolina (nine). Interestingly, Chesapeake Bay geese arrived in the Rochester area a week ahead of either Cayuga Lake or North Carolina birds, and 12 to 13 birds seen in both 1984 and 1985 were found to frequent the same cornfields in the spring as they had the previous fall (WS). The duck migration



was generally unremarkable and early, except for some late May scoters whose only real claim to fame was that they were out of sync with the majority. Rarities included the Eur. Wigeon that reappeared for the 2nd year at Charcol Creek in Vermont, where it lingered nearly a month; a Harlequin Duck which lingered in Dunkirk Harbor through March; and a King Eider at Niagara-on-the-Lake, also in March.

HAWKS THROUGH GULLS— Hawk watching is at its best in our Region in spring, and this year was no exception. Hawk watches along L. Ontario are manned with a near-religious fervor daily for 4 months. Small wonder, since favorable SW winds during the peak passage periods produce exceptional counts, *e.g.*, 1891 Turkey Vultures at Braddock Bay Apr. 6 (L & NM *et al.*), but even SE winds may transport excellent counts. A record number of Broad-winged Hawks (27,924) was tallied at Derby Hill over the spring. Most counts at both major watches, Derby Hill and Braddock Bay, were, however, down slightly from recent record tallies. Exceptional sightings included two **Swainson's Hawks** at Derby Hill, Apr. 14 & 22 (GS, m.ob., *vide* PDB) and a **Mississippi Kite** at Braddock Bay (DMA *et al.*) Apr. 22. The latter species (same individual?) was also seen at Bird Swamp in Cattaraugus County Apr. 20 (TB *et al.*). Raptor hacking programs have had considerable success, judging from this season's reports. Vermonters heralded the first successful nesting Peregrine Falcons in a quarter century, and Ospreys were nest-building at the Allegany County hacking site in w. New York. We recently learned that the N.Y.D.E.C. released Gray Partridge near Union Springs last winter. Although we are skeptical of the need for or wisdom of such releases, observers should be aware of this sudden, although perhaps ephemeral, addition to their local avifauna. Sandhill Cranes continued their string of migration-season occurrences with appearances at Braddock Bay Apr. 10 & 14 (LM *et al.*), Derby Hill Apr. 22 (GS), and Yates, Orleans Co., May 14 (*vide* SE).

Despite mild weather, which doubtless allowed the mass of the shorebird migration to overflow us, a fine array of plovers and sandpipers was found—thanks in part to a major, storm-induced grounding May 18 when many waterlogged observers were attempting Big Days. Rare but regular transients included Whimbrel and Western and Stilt sandpipers, plus a ♂ Ruff at Hogan Pt. (RGS, SBS) and a female at Biddlecum Marsh (FS *et al.*), and one-half dozen Wilson's Phalaropes. The latter species, present at several locations in late May, has yet to be confirmed as a breeder in the Region, although we still believe it is only a matter of time. Given the mild spring, what induced four Purple Sandpipers to linger on Goat I. in the Niagara R until May 1 (WD *et al.*)?

Few notable gulls were found. The Laughing Gull which had established residence at Dunkirk Harbor finally departed Apr. 11, and (presumably the same one) was resighted at Barcelona May 26 (DG). A buildup of gulls along the L. Ontario shore in May included two to three Thayer's Gulls and a late Iceland Gull, but few of the other species we have come to expect as a

matter of course (e.g., Little Gulls went virtually unrecorded). An ambitious project is underway to document foraging movements of Ring-billed Gulls breeding on the L. Champlain islands. About 27,000 nests on Young I. and Island C of the Four Brothers group were sprayed with either red or green dye, respectively, in hopes of secondarily dyeing the adults during incubation (H.P.A.S.).

PARAKEETS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — The Monk Parakeet at Pittford, N.Y. (RS, *vide* NB) was apparently unrecorded after March. The failure of this potential agricultural pest to successfully colonize the n.e. may be due as much to the phenomenal increase in psittacine prices as to eradication efforts. Both cuckoos were generally sparse, reflecting the general abundance of lepidopteran defoliators. Will the ongoing spread of gypsy moths to our s. permanently reduce the frequency of cuckoo influxes in our Region by shortstopping them enroute? N^o Owls were, as usual, poorly reported, a chronic problem certainly not restricted to our Region. The only Com. Barn-Owl sighting was probably of a migrant, at Manitou Apr. 16 (RGS). Snowy Owls lingered at a few locations until mid-April. An intensive long-term monitoring study of both owls and caprimulgids is one of the crying needs of this and many other Regions. Comments about the population status of either of these nocturnally active groups are impossible to evaluate. Although owls are difficult to survey quantitatively since they are temperamental in responding to tapes even when present, Whip-poor-wills are much more obliging. One seen below a feeder in Rockingham, Vt., Mar. 19 (DD) was particularly overzealous, being a month ahead of schedule.

Evidence of a late May movement of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds came from Woodstock, Vt., where at least one dozen were netted May 29 (NM). Although few banders are licensed to band hummingbirds it is possible to keep daily tallies by judicious use of water-soluble felt-tip markers. Sandbar Wildlife Management Area on L. Champlain, long noted as a n. locale for Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Cerulean Warbler, added yet another s. swamp denizen to its list when a Red-bellied Woodpecker was found there May 13 (WB, RE). Although the latter species has yet to be confirmed breeding in Vermont, the lowland forests bordering the lake get our vote as the state's likely first site.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES — With evident disdain for proximal weather cues, most flycatchers arrived on or behind schedule, rather than ahead of schedule as did many other species. Since flying insect abundance lags well behind vegetation development and is sensitive to late frosts, flycatchers are well advised to adopt conservative migration strategies. Acadian Flycatchers continued to be found on new territories. A population increase may be taking place but little range expansion has occurred. As in most cases, in the absence of solid historical population survey data and given the meteoric rise in the number of active observers, any perceived increase in observations must be interpreted cautiously. Alas, the reverse is also true. One of our long-term, extremely active ob-

servers, who has complained bitterly in recent years of breeding passerine declines, is unbeknowningly going deaf. Silent spring indeed! Small wonder the Regional reports are filled with qualifiers.

The single reported Bohemian Waxwing, at Sodus (M & JT), was scarcely surprising after this winter's dearth, but Cedars were abundant judging from the 500 reported at Amity L. (VP) Loggerhead Shrikes, unreported in Vermont, fared scarcely better in New York where only three were sighted. White-eyed Vireos were reported from at least 3 New York locations and it is, we predict, only a matter of time before nesting is confirmed. An Apr. 29 Philadelphia Vireo at Rochester (SS) was remarkably early.

There was little evidence of the overshoot of s. warblers that usually accompanies strong early season migrations. A few Worm-eating Warblers overshot their breeding grounds on the s. edge of the Region, but the Kentucky Warbler at Cavendish, Vt. (TJ, AK) was the only exceptional local rarity in a lackluster warbler movement. Increases in Orange-crowned and Connecticut warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat reports are, we suspect, a consequence of better coverage rather than range or population changes.

Rarities included a couple of Clay-colored Sparrows (of questionable notoriety given the species' proven breeding records in recent years), a **Lark Sparrow** in Rutland, Vt., May 17 (CF), and three ♂ **Lark Buntings** in Earlville, N.Y., May 3 (E & MC, *vide* CC). The W. Meadowlark at Pt. Breeze, regular the past 5 years, has apparently met his demise. Listers need not fear, however, because Rochester birders succeeded in finding two others, and who knows how many are overlooked each year in w. New York. The same is also probably true of Brewer's Blackbirds, at least one of which returned to Hamlin (KG *et al.*), while five were seen at Burgeson Sanctuary (*vide* SE). At least two Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found in c. New York (*vide* PD). Although there was increased evidence of widespread breeding by Pine Siskins, it was the crossbills that really stole the show. There was direct or indirect evidence of breeding by both Red and White-winged crossbills from virtually every corner of the Region as these irruptive wanderers responded to a bountiful cone crop in a classic (if unprecedented in much of our Region) manner.

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APPALACHIAN REGION

George A. Hall

Rachel Carson, where are you? If this wasn't the "Silent Spring" it will serve until a real one comes along. Many reporters remarked that this was the poorest spring for birds in their experience. In fact, maybe there wasn't any spring. Summer weather arrived quite early, the development of vegetation was far ahead of schedule, and birds—? Where were they?

At Pittsburgh temperatures in both March and April averaged slightly above normal, and both months were much drier than normal. There was very little snowfall in these months. May averaged slightly warmer than normal but very warm weather began about the 10th and summer conditions prevailed thereafter. Precipitation was above normal. Most other areas experienced a similar pattern except that at many places there was little rainfall in May.

The March bird movement was about on time, although the waterfowl flight expected at that time was generally rather poor. With mild temperatures and open water to the north, apparently the birds overflowed this Region. In late March and early April a number of species arrived on early dates. The migration was interrupted by an intense cold spell about April 9-10, with snow and record low temperatures. With the return of warm weather, the late April group of species all showed up on time or a little early. In the Pittsburgh region 31 species were listed as arriving about a week or more early (PH). In the south the migration moved into full swing in late April and early May, but in the north the onset of the unusually warm weather and the uninterrupted northward flow of warm air changed things markedly. Northern locations saw very few birds and those migrants that were present did not stay long. At Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pennsylvania, of 54 species analyzed, 46 were banded in numbers below the ten-year average, three were at the average, and only five were above average (RCL).

It is presumed that the low numbers of most species were the results of overflights and did not reflect low actual populations. The validity of this assumption remains to be tested this summer since the present evidence is contradictory: warbler populations in the West Virginia spruce belt appeared to be nearly normal in late May (GAH), but on the other hand many locally-nesting species appeared to be in low numbers.

Some species, e.g., the Field Sparrow, apparently suffered winter mortality when the bitter cold of January penetrated far south into their wintering grounds. The April cold spell probably produced some mortality among the earliest arrivals. At Morgantown, for example, Brown Thrashers arrived quite early but after the cold spell none was seen for another 10 days.

On May 31 a series of intense tornados struck northwestern Pennsylvania. Besides obliterating several small towns, the storms deforested some sizeable areas. The effect of this on the birds remains to be established, but the Pittsburgh newspaper did report that one heronry was destroyed and a flock of Canada Geese was wiped out.

The following account does, however, report a somewhat larger than normal number of unusual sightings.

ABBREVIATIONS — B.E.S.P. = Bald Eagle State Park, Pa.; P.I.S.P. = Presque Isle State Park, Pa.; P.N.R. = Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pa. Place names in *italics* refer to counties.

GREBES THROUGH IBISES — Horned Grebes were more common than normal with a noteworthy concentration of 500 at Union City Dam, Pa., Apr. 3 (JM) and 130 at Cherokee L., Tenn., Mar. 7 (RK). A Red-necked Grebe was at P.I.S.P., Mar. 2 (JM). Eared Grebes were reported from Seneca L., Ohio, Mar. 16 (PM) and from P.I.S.P., May 5 (SS, JM). The Double-crested Cormorant continues to increase in this Region with reports from 9 locations from Tennessee to L. Erie.

There were reports of Am. Bitterns from Conneaut L., Pa., May 1 (RFL) & 21 (JW), Yellow Creek S.P., Pa., Mar. 30 & Apr. 27 (R & MH), L. Arthur, Pa., Apr. 12 (DD), and Shenandoah L., Va., May 15 (CT), while Least Bitterns were reported only at P.I.S.P. (JM). Two new Great Blue Heron colonies were reported, one in Crawford, Pa. (*fide* RFL) and one in Greene, Pa. (*fide* RB). The 6 heronries in Mercer, Pa., had about 255 active nests with 590 total birds in late May. The late May tornado completely eliminated a small heronry of 12 nests (EB). Great Egrets are no longer unusual in spring and many reports came in from throughout the Region. Snowy Egrets were found at State College, Pa., May 12 (AF, CS); Roanoke, Va., May 18 (MP, MD); and Chattanooga, Tenn., May 11 (m.ob.). Little Blue Herons were at



Morehead, Ky., Apr. 5 (FB) and Austin Springs, Tenn., May 18 (RK). Most unusual for the Region were 2 reports of **Tricolored Heron**, in *Greene*, Pa., May 23 (RBU) and in *Fauquier*, Va., May 25 (RSi). Cattle Egrets were at Roanoke Apr. 16 (MD, BA), Washington, Ohio, Apr. 24 (HB), and *Fauquier*, Va., May 24 (RSi). Glossy Ibises were at Antes Fort, Pa., May 5-18 (PS) and at P.I.S.P., May 9 & 21 (JM).

WATERFOWL — The waterfowl flight was generally disappointing and most observers felt that the birds overflowed the Region. The exception was at Presque Isle Bay on L. Erie where 100,000 birds, largely Canvasbacks and scaup, were present Mar. 17 (JM). Puddle ducks were less numerous there, but there were 800 Mallards at nearby Union City Dam. The Tundra Swan flight was poorer than usual, with 1000 at Union City Mar. 10 (JM). Elsewhere only small flocks were seen or none reported. There were 4 reports of Mute Swans: S. Holston L., Tenn., Mar. 3 (WC); Mosquito L., Ohio, Mar. 10 (CB); and State College, Pa., Mar. 10 (CS) and another there Apr. 13 to late April (MW).

The outstanding waterfowl event of the season was the unusual influx of Greater White-fronted Geese into the Region. A few records in the fall of 1984 were the first in many years, but during the period Mar. 13-15 several sizeable flocks occurred: Shawnee S.P., Pa. (TD, KG), Union City, Erie, Pa. (JM), B.E.S.P. (CS, HH), and *Wood*, W.Va. (PM, JE, NO). At Union City a single large individual [of a western race?] had been seen Mar. 7-9, but the small flock later in the month appeared to be of the small Greenland race (JM) as were the ones at B.E.S.P. (TS). Snow Geese were reported from Pymatuning L., Pa., Mar. 2 and Apr. 10 (RFL, ML), L. Arthur, Pa., Mar. 11 & 14 (MG, NK), Mosquito L., O., Mar. 10 (CB), 2 locations in *Wood*, W.Va., Mar. 3 (JE, TMP, SR), and very late near State College, Pa., May 28 (J & BP). Brant were seen at Shawnee S.P., Pa., Mar. 15 (KG, TD). Canada Geese are now nesting at many places throughout the Region.

A **Cinnamon Teal** was seen at Mammoth P., Pa., Apr. 27 (m.ob.) and one was present at Donegal L., Pa., May 8-31 (RCL). These represented the 2nd and 3rd records for s.w. Pennsylvania, but since the 2 localities were only 10 mi apart it is likely that only one bird was involved. A Eur. Wigeon was at L. Arthur, Pa., Mar. 10 (DF). Greater Scaup on Shenandoah L., Va., Mar. 14-30 (CT) were unusual for this location. All 3 scoter species were reported from P.I.S.P. (JM) while White-winged Scoters were also reported from Yellow Creek S.P., Pa., Mar. 23 (R & MH), and both Surf Scoters (Apr. 4, T & NM) and Black Scoters (Mar. 30, DF) were at L. Arthur, Pa. A Ruddy Shelduck of unknown origin was at Sherrystown, Pa., in mid-March (KG).

RAPTORS — Turkey Vultures are doing very well at most places and the Black Vulture continues to spread. A nest of the Black Vulture was found in *Huntingdon*, Pa., at a site where they nested in 1983 (TSM).

Two stations reported on organized hawk-watching for the N. flight. In Erie 13 hours of observation over 7 days in March and April logged 1169 hawks and 323 Turkey Vultures. The peak day was Apr. 14 with 805 raptors listed. Sharp-shinned Hawks with 668 led the list of 10 species identified (JM, SS). The Erie station reported seven N. Goshawks and this species was reported from Zelenople, Pa., Mar. 10 (DF) and Linn Run S.P., Pa., Apr. 23 (RM). Bald Eagles were unusually common with some 17 sightings reported from 8 locations from *Highland*, Va., and *Morehead*, Ky., n. to L. Erie. There were 5 nests in *Crawford*, Pa. (RFL), one at Mosquito L., O. (CB), and one in *Hardy*, W.Va. (W.V.D.N.R.). Non-nesting eagles were seen as late as May 28 at State College, Pa. (MW) and *Lycoming*, Pa. (SS). A pair of N. Harriers in the Chattahoochee N.F., Ga., on the late date of May 19 (HD) was intriguing, as the species has not been known to nest so far s. At Harvey's Knob, Va., 349 Broad-winged Hawks were logged Apr. 18 (MM). Four Golden Eagles were seen at the Chattahoochee N.F., Ga., Apr. 3 (HD) and singles were reported from P.N.R. (HS), and from Waterford, Pa., May 8 (SS).

At Warren, Pa., 25 nest boxes attracted 19 pairs of Am. Kestrels (WH, JD). Merlins were reported from P.I.S.P., May 3 (TK) & 5 (JM); Meadville, Pa., Mar. 20 (RFL); Sugar L., Pa., May 4 (RFL); and Mosquito L., O., May 10 (CB). There were no reports of Peregrine Falcons.

RAILS THROUGH TERNS — It was an unusually good year for rails. The prize was a Yellow Rail at Conneaut, Pa., May 11 (RC). King Rails were seen on several occasions at Chattanooga and copulation was observed (RR, DJ); Virginia Rails were reported from Chattanooga Apr. 3 (m.ob.), Bridger, Va., Mar. 6 (R.B.C.), and Austin Springs, Tenn., in May (RK). Soras were reported from Austin Springs (RK) and Chattanooga (DJ *et al.*). There were more reports of Common Moorhens than usual.

The expected reports of Sandhill Cranes came from Chattanooga Mar. 4 & 8 (RR), Chickamauga Dam Mar. 20 (DJ, KD), and Dalton, Ga., Mar. 4 (AH), but reports of 3 sightings in *Erie*, Pa., Apr. 21-May 21 (N & EH, TG, CM) were most unusual.

Shorebird reports were mixed. There was a fairly good flight at P.I.S.P., and at Elizabethton, Tenn., the flight of both yellowlegs species was the heaviest in years (GE); but at the Kingston Steam Plant in e. Tennessee, water levels were poor and no flight developed (CN), and most other places had a disappointing spring flight. There were, as usual, a considerable number of rarities: Black-bellied Plovers at P.I.S.P., Apr. 14 (3 weeks early—JM) and Fort Loudon, Pa., Apr. 28 (JW); Lesser Golden Plovers at Chattanooga Mar. 30 (m.ob.); Willets at Chattanooga Apr. 27-28 (DJ); an unprecedented flock of 50 Whimbrels at P.I.S.P., May 25 (JM) and a migrating flock at Hartstown, Pa., May 21 (JW); Ruddy Turnstone at P.I.S.P., May 20 (JW) and State College, Pa., May 28-31 (TS); Red Knot at P.I.S.P., May 18 (SS); Stilt Sandpiper at Hiwassee R. Area, Tenn., May 5 (m.ob.) and P.I.S.P., May 12 (J & BB); Short-billed Dowitcher at S. Charleston, W.Va., Apr. 23 (RBa), Roanoke in May (MD), Mosquito L., O., May 10 (CB), and *Morehead*, Ky., May 18 (RB); Wilson's Phalarope at P.I.S.P., May 25 (PI); and Red-necked Phalarope at B.E.S.P., May 28 (GB). The usually rare White-rumped Sandpiper was reported from 6 locations. Western Sandpipers and Dunlins were more widely reported than usual, but at P.I.S.P., Pectoral Sandpipers were unusually scarce (JM).

The concentration of gulls at Pymatuning L., Pa. did not build up to its normal numbers (RFL). Bonaparte's Gulls were widely reported and were in greater than usual numbers. A Laughing Gull was at S. Charleston, W.Va., Apr. 22 (RBa), one was at P.I.S.P., May 9 (JM), and one was at Knoxville May 11 (AHO). As usual the really rare gulls turned up at P.I.S.P.: Glaucous Gull Mar. 10 (JM) and Iceland Gull Mar. 17 (JBa). An imm. Little Gull

was sighted at L. LeBoeuf, 20 mi s of L. Erie, Apr. 28 for one of the few records away from the lake (JM, SS).

Both Caspian and Forster's terns were more numerous and more widely reported than usual.

CUCKOOS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS — Both cuckoo species were generally in unusually low numbers except at P.N.R., where they may have been attracted to the outbreak of periodical cicadas (RCL).

The only reports of nesting Com. Barn-Owls came from the usual 3 places, *Rockingham*, Va. (R.B.C.), *Augusta*, Va. (MHe), and Elizabethton, Tenn. (3 nests—GE), and the species was reported also from Jersey Shore, Pa., the first there in 2 years (PS). Eastern Screech-Owls suffered heavy losses during the cold spell at Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE), and this was probably true elsewhere. An emaciated Snowy Owl was captured at Canoe Creek S.P., Pa., in mid-May and was being rehabilitated (TS). Short-eared Owls were reported from Weyer's Cave, Va., Mar. 6 (R.B.C.) and P.I.S.P., Apr. 20 (JM). Two N. Saw-whet Owls were seen in *Warren*, Pa., Mar. 15 (HJ), and one was seen at Yarnell, Pa., Mar. 15-19 (J & BP). Two were reported from the Great Smoky Mountains N.P., Apr. 15 (B & SSd), and the first confirmed record for Roan Mt., Tenn., was made Apr. 12 (RK).

Chuck-will's-widows were found at 2 sites in *Rockingham*, Va. (R.B.C.), one site in *Augusta*, Va. (YL), one location in *Berkeley*, W.Va. (RBa), at Kingsport, Tenn. (TF), and in the Chattahoochee N.F., Ga. (HD). Whip-poor-wills were perhaps a little more numerous than in recent years and they seemed to be doing well in the areas of Pennsylvania devastated by the gypsy moth.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH CORVIDS — Red-headed Woodpeckers were more widely reported from w. Pennsylvania and West Virginia than normal, which is very good news. There were 3 nesting locations known in *Rockingham*, Va. (R.B.C.) There were 2 records of Red-bellied Woodpecker in *Warren*, Pa. (DDo, CP), while at *Erie*, the species still occurs but does not increase (JM).

Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from Great Smoky Mountains N.P., May 16 (S & BSd), and Cranberry Glades, W.Va., May 29 (GB)—both nesting locations—and from Niles, O., May 28-29 (CB), *Wood*, W.Va., May 16 (CBe), *Centre*, Pa., May 27 (J & BP), and Chattanooga May 23 (RR), but for the first time in many years none was seen at P.N.R. Willow Flycatchers, which are difficult to identify while migrating, were reported from several places s. of the usual range, but we await the summer season reports to confirm any new breeding localities. Alder Flycatchers were present on Roan Mt., Tenn., from May 15 (S & BSd) to the end of the period (GE). This would represent a new s. location for this species. The E. Kingbird, while still widely reported, is apparently in great trouble in n. West Virginia (GAH).

The Bank Swallow is a rare breeder in this Region so the reports of nesting colonies at Freeport, Pa. (BS), *Rockingham*, Va. (R.B.C.), and Waynesboro, Va. (JN), were welcome news. A pair of Fish Crows was seen carrying nesting material at State College, Pa., Apr. 19 (TS), the first indication of nesting at that location. The Com. Raven continues to do well: there were 5 nests in the *Warren*, Pa., area (WH), and they were seen feeding young in *Fayette*, W.Va. (RBa). The **Jackdaw** "affair" has reached this Region with a pair carrying food to a spot at the Federal Penitentiary in Lewisburg, Pa. (F & BH).

NUTHATCHES THROUGH VIREOS — Red-breasted Nuthatches had been scarce last fall and winter, and remained very uncommon this spring. Brown-headed Nuthatches were found in 4 new areas near Chattanooga (RR).

Carolina Wrens were generally scarce and even completely absent at places, as a result of winter mortality, but there were 4-5 records at Lock Haven, Pa. (PS), and a nest was found at Lake City, *Erie*, Pa., both places n. of the usual range. The seldom-

reported Bewick's Wren was found nesting in *Whitfield*, Ga (KS), and reports came from Salem, Va., Mar. 30 (J & DH), *Highland*, Va. (*vide* YL), and Millville, W.Va., May 4 (RBa, RD). Two Marsh Wrens were at Chattanooga May 4 (RR) and one was banded at P.N.R., May 21 (RM, RCL). The only report of Sedge Wren was from Geneva, Pa., May 11 (RFL).

The N flight of both kinglet species was poor. At P.N.R., bandings of Ruby-crowneds were 22% below average (RCL). Golden-crowned Kinglets were again at the *Armstrong* location where they nested in 1984 (R & MH) and a singing male was noted in *Fayette*, Pa., May 29 (DK).

The E. Bluebird is doing well and many reporters commented on the unusually high numbers seen. The spotted thrush migration was extremely poor and also extremely brief. At P.N.R. only 13 Swainson's Thrushes were banded (73% below average), all in the period May 11-14 (RCL, RM). At Morgantown only two Swainson's Thrushes were seen all season, but populations in the breeding grounds in the Cheat Mountains seemed normal in late May (GAH).

It was another good year for Water Pipits, which were reported in good numbers throughout the Region. The only reports of N Shrike were from P.I.S.P., Mar. 2 (JM) and Edinboro, Pa., Mar. 7 (DT). A major research project on the Loggerhead Shrike is underway in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. As of the end of the period there were thought to be 40 adults and 17 nesting attempts with at least 39 young hatched in the valley. Another 2 pairs had nested near Blacksburg (R.B.C.). A nesting was found near Chattanooga (RR), but the only other reports came from Elizabethton, Tenn. (2 sightings—GE) and *Murray*, Ga (HD).

The White-eyed Vireo continues to move N, with 3 records at P I S P., Apr. 27-May 9 (JM). Red-eyed Vireos arrived early and apparently were the only Neotropical migrants generally thought to be in good numbers. On the Knoxville Spring Count Apr. 28, 194 (twice the usual number) were counted (*vide* CN).

WARBLERS — The normal climax of the spring migration, the warbler flight, was certainly anticlimactic this year. Almost universally the flight was considered to be poor. One exception was at Meadville, Pa., where it was considered to be better than last year (RFL). Southern locations reported normal arrival dates and fairly good flights, but with the sudden advent of extremely warm weather the birds apparently overflowed the n. locations. The advanced stage of the vegetation also made it hard to locate the few birds that were present. At P.N.R., 9 species were handled in below-average numbers, 3 (Blue-winged, Magnolia, and Wilson's warblers) were above average and only one in average numbers. Both the "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" hybrids were banded at P.N.R. (RCL, RM), and a "Lawrence's" was seen near Lock Haven, Pa., May 4 (PS). Tennessee Warblers were unusually numerous in the Knoxville area (CN). The Yellow-throated Warbler continued to expand its range. Records from *Rockingham*, Va., Apr. 6 were the first for that county (R.B.C.). In s.w. Pennsylvania, seven birds at 3 locations were known from *Allegheny*, three from *Westmoreland*, and one from *Beaver* (PH). A record at Irvine, *Warren*, Pa., May 12 (JK) was the northernmost yet in the Region. Prothonotary Warblers nested for the 3rd year at P.I.S.P. (J & BB). A Mourning Warbler was seen in late May on the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina where it summered last year (RY). Orange-crowned and Connecticut warblers are seldom reported in spring. The former was found at Chattanooga Apr. 21 (DJ, KD), Knoxville, 5 reports (CN), and two banded at P.N.R., May 4 & 8 (RM, RCL); the latter was reported from Knoxville May 15 (BSd), Oak Ridge, Tenn., May 19 (B & JC), and Niles, O., May 28 (CB). A Swainson's Warbler found at Todd L., Va., May 17 (CT) furnished the first *Augusta* record, and one banded at P.N.R., May 21, furnished the 2nd w. Pennsylvania record (RCL, RM).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — The Summer Tanager continued its unspectacular N range extension with reports

from Deer Lake P, Pa, May 1 (DK) and Donegal, Pa, May 18 (DF) At Ona, W Va (in the normal range), they were thought to be in low numbers (LW). Blue Grosbeaks continued to increase in numbers at the n. edge of the range. A Dickcissel was seen in *Augusta*, Va., May 7 (VD).

The sparrow migration was unimpressive with White-throated Sparrows being somewhat less common than usual, and Field Sparrows being very low at some places. There were some unusual records, however. Clay-colored Sparrows have been turning up regularly in recent years and this year reports came from P.I.S.P., May 11 (JM *et al.*) and from Yellow Creek S.P., Pa, May 11-31 (R & MH). A **Le Conte's Sparrow** was seen at Knoxville, Tenn., Apr. 23 (JHo), and one of the prizes of the season was a **Bachman's Sparrow** in *Grainger*, Tenn., May 12 (RK), the first record of this once-fairly-common bird from the Region in many years.

A **Western Meadowlark** was seen and the song recorded in *Butler*, Pa., throughout May (R & JBT). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported from Jersey Shore, Pa., Apr. 14-20 (PS), and Harrisonburg, Va., May 7 (R.B.C.). A Brewer's Blackbird was seen for the 2nd year in a row at Waterford, Pa., Mar. 2, for the 5th *Erie* record (RBr), and another record came from *Warren*, Pa (JD).

Purple Finch numbers were generally well below average. The only reports of Red Crossbills came from the nesting location on Shenandoah Mt., Va. (R.B.C.), and from Ona, W.Va., where two were banded Apr. 19 & 24 (LW). White-winged Crossbills were found near Chattanooga in early April (RR). The usual heavy influx of Am. Goldfinches in n. West Virginia failed to materialize this year (GAH). Small flocks of Pine Siskins were seen in Knoxville through mid-May (AHO, JC), Elizabethton, Tenn., until mid-May (GE), Lynchburg, Va. (RS), *Warren*, Pa. (CNe), remaining until May 31 (JD), and Union City, Pa (JM). Despite the lack of winter records there were 4 reports of Evening Grosbeaks: *Chattahoochee* N.F., Ga., May 19 (HD), Parkersburg, W.Va., Apr. 25 (JBI), *Allegheny*, Pa., Mar. 16 (DF), and several sightings in *Warren*, Pa. (JD).

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David J. Powell

This spring was notable for two reasons. First, the weather was almost uniformly warm throughout the season and the Region. Exceptions to this were a major blizzard on March 3-4 in Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin, and a heavy snowfall at the end of March. In between those times the weather was quite mild. By mid-April it was very warm and the leaves were out markedly farther than in most years. By early May, the foliage had progressed to a stage normally associated with late May. Accompanying this warm weather in Michigan and Wisconsin was a consistently strong south-southwest wind and no real fronts. The wind was so consistent and so strong (often 20-35 mph) that the birds should have been very difficult to see. This brings us to the second notable point of the season: Warblers and other passerines would have been hard to see, if there had been any to see. By all accounts, this spring's passerine migration was one of the worst ever. Fortunately, shorebirds were found in good numbers and diversity. In total, however, this was a disappointing and frustrating season.

ABBREVIATIONS — W.P.B.O. = Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Michigan; M.W.S. = Muskegon Wastewater System, Michigan; U.P. = Michigan's Upper Peninsula; L.P. = Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — Red-throated Loons were in average numbers in Minnesota and Michigan, but below average in Wisconsin. Two in L. Michigan off *Allegan*, Mich., Apr. 14 (TS, DP) were unusual. Red-necked Grebes were found in the usual numbers and locations in Wisconsin, but 159 during the season at W.P.B.O. (staff) was twice the average there. The high of 57 Apr. 28 at W.P.B.O. was particularly impressive. Eared Grebes were reported from 3 Wisconsin and 3 Michigan locations. Single Am. White Pelicans were found at one Michigan and 3 Wisconsin sites. One of the true avian success stories is that of the Double-crested Cormorant in the w. Great Lakes. Not too long ago, a cormorant sighting was quite unusual. Now, however, they are to be expected along the Great Lakes in Michigan and Wisconsin with the number of inland sightings also increasing sharply.

A Great Egret at Warroad, Minn., Apr. 21 (AJ) was farther n. than normal. Snowy Egrets were seen in all 3 states, with one unusually far to the n.e. in Minnesota's *St. Louis* Apr. 22-27. Little Blue Herons were reported from 3 Minnesota and 3 Wisconsin locations. For the first time in at least 3 springs, there were no Tricolored Herons reported from the Region. At the other extreme, Cattle Egrets were reported in encouraging numbers, particularly from Wisconsin, where about 25 nesting pairs were found at Green Bay (m.ob.). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were reported from 2 Minnesota, one Michigan, and 2 Wisconsin locations, with one adult returning to last year's Pigs Eye L., St. Paul, nest site Apr. 27 (SS). An unidentified *Plegadis* ibis was at Michigan's M.W.S., Apr. 29 (TS).

A notice is in order to unknowing birders in the area of Minneapolis/St. Paul, in both Minnesota and Wisconsin, regarding Trumpeter Swans: Captive Trumpeters have been allowed to become free-flying in the hope that they might re-establish a local breeding population. Along these lines, observations at Aitkin, Minn., Crex Meadows W.M.A., Wis., Gordon, Wis., and *St. Croix*, Wis., all should be considered as escaped/introduced birds and not legitimate wild birds. Also a possible escape but interesting nonetheless was a Whooper Swan found May 27 at Three Lakes, *St. Croix*, Wis. (RH). The origins of this bird have not as yet been determined. Tundra Swans were fairly scarce in



Michigan with no large flocks reported. Wisconsin observers found Tundra Swans in fairly usual numbers except at Shiogton where 4000-5000 totals were about half their normal peaks (DT).

Greater White-fronted Geese were much more common than usual Regionwide, with groups of up to 32 reported and individuals reaching the U.P. of Michigan and Minnesota's N Shore. Unprecedented was a group of nine Brant May 22-26 at Cheboygan, Mich. (MO, m.ob.). Cinnamon Teal were reported from 3 Minnesota and 3 Wisconsin locations, more than usual. Also found in Minnesota was a Blue-winged x Cinnamon hybrid May 19 in *Goodhue* (JP/AM). Eurasian Wigeons were found at 2 Wisconsin locations: Apr. 17 at Milwaukee (DG) and May 11 at Horicon N.W.R. (m.ob.). As in other years, Michigan's W.P.B.O. had the bulk of the scoter observations with seasonal totals of six Blacks, 21 Surfs, and 1443 White-wingeds, with a peak total of 348 White-wingeds May 15. Away from W.P.B.O., Black Scoters were seen at one Michigan and one Wisconsin location, and Surfs were seen at one Michigan, one Minnesota, and 3 Wisconsin locations. In Minnesota, where scoters normally occur only on L. Superior, inland records of White-wingeds from *Hennepin*, *Itasca*, and *Otter Tail* were unusually numerous.

HAWKS — Repeating the pattern of recent springs, W.P.B.O. furnished the bulk of raptor observations. Turkey Vultures were more than double last year's total at W.P.B.O. with 108 during the season (staff). An Osprey Mar. 29 in *Trempealeau*, Wis. (TH) was early. Sharp-shinned were up at W.P.B.O. after a 2-year lull, with a period total of 10,679, and a peak of 1019 May 8 (staff). Cooper's Hawks also were seen in larger than average numbers at W.P.B.O.; however, this total was only 82 individuals, showing the tremendous difference in abundance between these 2 very similar species. A Broad-winged Hawk in Ashland, Wis., Mar. 7 (DV) was extremely early (and hopefully well-detailed). Only 2964 were seen at W.P.B.O. this spring, well below average, but it is hard to draw any conclusions since the weather during their peak migration period was not conducive to a good migration. Single Swainson's Hawks were found at 3 locations comprising either three or four birds: Apr 22 & 25 at W.P.B.O. (possibly the same bird) (JS, VY, RS, RP), Apr. 25 in *Dunn*, Wis. (JPo), and May 9 in Ashland, Wis. (DV), a good showing for this w. species. Red-tailed Hawks were relatively scarce at W.P.B.O. this spring with only 551 counted, only about one-fourth of the average. Although Rough-legged Hawks were down somewhat at W.P.B.O. (staff), they were higher than might have been expected considering last winter's near-total absence of them.

As a rare/regular species in Minnesota, Ferruginous Hawks in *Sterns* Apr. 19 (NH), and at 2 different locations in *Lac Qui*

Parle Apr 27 (FL, OJ, DB) were not unexpected—however, one at W.P.B.O., Apr. 25 (JS, RS) was a surprise. If accepted by the Michigan Ornithological Records Committee, it will be the 3rd sighting for the state. Golden Eagles were in good supply with 11 seen in Michigan (nine at W.P.B.O.) and six in Wisconsin. Forty Merlins were tallied as they winged their way by W.P.B.O. (staff), certainly an impressive number. Peregrines also fared well this spring with reports from 7 Minnesota locations and 17 individuals (14 W.P.B.O.) sighted in Michigan, with another 15-20 individuals found in Wisconsin. This once extremely rare raptor has been making a splendid comeback with sightings along the Great Lakes becoming uncommon, but expected. The two Gyrfalcons which finished the winter at the Duluth/Superior harbor lingered into March. A white-phase Gyrfalcon was seen at Mosquito Hill Nature Center, *Outagamie*, Wis., Mar. 8 (LP *et al.*).

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Spruce and Sharp-tailed grouse were seen in average numbers in Michigan, but were not reported elsewhere. Northern Bobwhites were in s.w. *Murray*, Minn., Mar. 26-28 (NDK). Since this is only about 10 mi from the new small population at Blue Mounds S.P., odds are that these were wild birds expanding their range rather than escapes/releases. In Minnesota, anyone, anywhere, can purchase, raise, and release bobwhites, turkeys, and Chukars, making it difficult to determine the origin of these birds except in the bobwhite's and turkey's limited s.e. and s.w. Minnesota range. Probably, any of these species away from that area are escapes/releases (KE). Yellow Rails were reported from 4 Wisconsin sites with 2 sightings 3 weeks apart at Crex Meadows W.M.A., a good number of reports. King Rails were found at 3 Wisconsin locations, but none elsewhere. The status of this species is very precarious in Michigan, and careful watch should be kept for evidence of this species in the state. A Com. Moorhen was n. of normal at Agassiz N.W.R., Minn., May 28 (JM). Sandhill Cranes in *Anoka* Mar. 16 (JH) and *Wilkin* Mar. 20 (KE, S & DM) were unusually early for Minnesota.

A Black-bellied Plover found Apr. 21 in Wisconsin's *Dane* (RMS) was early. Piping Plovers were reported from 4 Michigan and 3 Wisconsin locations, discouragingly few reports for this troubled Great Lakes beach nester. American Avocets were found at 2 Minnesota, one Michigan, and 3 Wisconsin locations, with 15 at Milwaukee Apr. 24 the largest single group. A Solitary Sandpiper was very early Apr. 14 in *Eau Claire* (JPo). Willets were less common than usual with only 3 Michigan and 4 Wisconsin reports. In addition to their normal Great Lakes haunts, Whimbrels turned up at unusual locations in all 3 states including w. Minnesota, where the species is considered accidental, with one in *Traverse* Apr. 26 (MS), early to boot! Hudsonian Godwits were more common than usual Regionwide, as were Marbled Godwits in Minnesota and Wisconsin. A good movement of Red Knots was reported at Manitowoc and Superior, Wis., with a few birds reported in Michigan. A Baird's Sandpiper Apr. 18 in *Eau Claire*, Wis. (JPo), was amazingly early. Early Dunlins were found in *Dane*, Wis., Apr. 12 (JSu) and over 1000 were at Horicon N.W.R. in mid-May (staff). Stilt Sandpipers are uncommon in Michigan and Wisconsin in spring, so 2 Michigan and 4 Wisconsin reports were more than normal. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was in *Olmstead*, Minn., Apr 27 and May 4 (m.ob.). They are only casual in the Region in spring. A Ruff in *Goodhue*, Minn., May 19 (m.ob.) was the first in 2 years after a tremendous number of individuals the previous spring (11). Wilson's Phalaropes were found in normal numbers, with one in *Cook*, Minn., May 23-24 (K & MH) at the only unusual location.

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — A Parasitic Jaeger was seen May 29 at W.P.B.O. (staff), only the 3rd spring jaeger record for Michigan, but the 2nd year in a row at W.P.B.O. Single Laughing Gulls were found Apr. 24 in *Dodge*, Wis. (MP), during mid-May at Manitowoc (CS *et al.*), and May 30 at W.P.B.O. (LG,

staff), about normal for this rare/regular species. The only Franklin's Gulls reported were three individuals from Wisconsin, where one Mar. 27 in *Chippewa* (JPo) was early. Little Gulls were seen in all 3 states with a total of 13 birds found. A Com Black-headed Gull at Milwaukee Apr. 28 (JI) was only the 5th for Wisconsin. The only Thayer's Gull reported was one which lingered to Mar. 3 at Milwaukee (JF). Iceland Gulls were also at Milwaukee, with two or three there Mar. 3-4 (BC). One also was at Manitowoc Mar. 23 (CS). Also in Milwaukee (obviously the place to see gulls this spring) Mar. 3-4 was Wisconsin's 3rd Lesser Black-backed Gull (GD, BC), an adult observed at the Coast Guard Impoundment. Fewer Glaucous Gulls than normal were reported this spring, but three were at the unusual inland location of L. Traverse, Minn., Mar. 31 (G & AM).

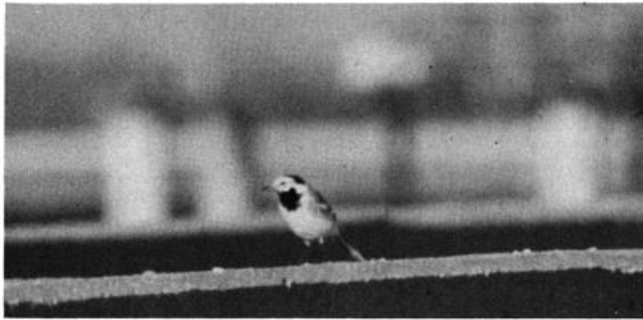
— S.A. —

A word of caution to all the Region's observers is warranted regarding identifying "white-winged" gulls. On Apr. 28, Booth, R. Smith, and Powell observed a totally white gull with several thousand other gulls at St. Joseph, *Berrien*, Mich. This bird flew by only a couple of hundred feet away, allowing careful inspection, and the small bi-colored bill was clearly seen. Immediately, the observers started congratulating themselves on finding an Iceland Gull, since this bird was obviously too small to be a Glaucous Gull. However, as they continued to watch the bird, a sneaking suspicion began to come over them. The bird was flying with Ring-billed Gulls, and it seemed to be no bigger than the gulls it was with. After getting close to the bird on the ground, it became clear that, instead of an Iceland Gull, what they had found was a total albino (except for the soft parts) 2nd-year Ring-billed Gull. This incident will hopefully instill some caution in those observers who quickly identify "white-winged" gulls, particularly from a distance.

The water level in L. Michigan was near a record high, resulting in many tern colonies being partly or completely underwater. One such colony (of Com. Terns) in Green Bay near Escanaba, Mich., contained only 2 nests (CT, BT). Fifteen Forster's Terns were in Duluth May 9 (KE), where the species is considered rare. Arctic Terns continue to appear in the Region as observers look for them. This spring, one was at Manitowoc May 1 (CS) and two were at Duluth May 18 (BP, DR).

CUCKOOS THROUGH THRUSHES — Continuing the pattern of recent history, both cuckoos were scarce Regionwide. A Black-billed Cuckoo in *Midland*, Mich., Apr. 30 (CF) was very early, however. The latest Snowy Owl report was of an individual which lingered until May 16 in Alpena, Mich. (JFa). After last winter's absence (first time ever?) in Minnesota, two N. Hawk-Owls were found this spring: one Mar. 25 in *Mille Lac* (*vide* WN), and one Apr. 6 at Clearwater (AB). Great Gray Owls were scarce in Minnesota, with reports from only 2 counties. Away from their usual Minnesota locations, four were banded at W.P.B.O. (staff), one was found killed by a car in Superior Mar. 11, and the individual found near Medford, Wis., during the winter lingered into April (m.ob.). Short-eared Owls were exceedingly scarce, with only single sightings in Michigan and Minnesota. After last spring's epic flight, Boreal Owls returned to more normal numbers at W.P.B.O., with four banded. Four were heard along the Gunflint Trail in *Cook*, Minn. (K & MH), about average. Twelve N. Saw-whet Owls were found in *Lake*, Minn. (SW/MS), with eight found on a 5½-mi stretch of road. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were early in both Michigan and Wisconsin, with singles Apr. 26 in *Washtenaw*, Mich. (CSt) and Ashland, Wis. (DV), and were reported more commonly than usual in Michigan. Five Black-backed Woodpeckers were reported from 2 sites in both Michigan and Wisconsin.

Unfortunately, the non-passerines have all been discussed. Hereafter, the "pickings" were slim, with flycatchers and thrushes typical for their relative scarcity. Western Kingbirds were e. of normal with singles May 22 & 23 at W.P.B.O. (staff, JR), and May 28 in *St. Croix*, Wis. (JPo). Amazingly, there were 5 sightings of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in the Region, all singles, as follows: May 5, *Ontonagon*, Mich. (JMc); May 5, *Monroe*, Wis. (EE); May 7, *Olmstead*, Minn. (JG); May 11, *Cederburg Swamp*, Wis. (WW, MB); and May 24, *Norman*, Minn. Horicon N.W.R., Wis., was host to 10,000 Tree Swallows Apr. 27 during a cold wave (DT). A N. Rough-winged Swallow in *Hillsdale*, Mich., Apr. 6 (JR) was early. Cliff Swallows were more common than usual in Michigan, particularly in the southern L.P. Black-capped Chickadees were considerably lower than average at W.P.B.O., as were Boreals. A Marsh Wren Apr. 23 at Duluth (KE) was unusually early. Three Mountain Bluebirds were found in Minnesota, including one far e. in *Dakota*, Apr. 8 (JP/AM). Migrant *Catharus* thrushes were as scarce as any spring in recent years throughout the Region, with no large numbers reported anywhere. The last of the wintering Varied Thrushes departed *Taylor*, Wis., Apr. 7 (SR).



White Wagtail at Muskegon Wastewater System, Mich., Apr. 21, 1985. First state and Regional record. Photo/James Ponshair.

MIMIDS THROUGH WARBLERS — More N. Mockingbirds than usual were found away from their s.w. Michigan center of abundance. Minnesota had 6 reports, Wisconsin had 4 reports, and three were found in Michigan's U.P. A **Sage Thrasher** at Agassiz N.W.R. (JM) was only the 2nd for Minnesota.

S.A.

Overwhelming all the other birds of the season and year, and perhaps the most unlikely bird ever found in Michigan, was the first state and Regional **White Wagtail** (*Motacilla alba*). This was the 2nd lower 48 record, the first coming last fall in California (AB 39:104), and perhaps the first inland record of a wagtail in the United States. The bird was discovered by Ponshair, Wickstrom, and Slater in the afternoon of Apr. 14 at the Muskegon Wastewater System. The bird was quite skittish and it took them several hours to get good enough looks to determine that it was a White Wagtail in breeding plumage. The bird was seen again the following morning by Powell (who had seen many Black-backed Wagtails on Attu in Alaska) and Adams who agreed that it was a White, not a Black-backed, Wagtail.

The pale gray back, dark cap, black chin and throat, and long tail were seen, as was the relatively small amount of white in the wing when the bird flew, allowing separation of this species from the Black-backed. Knowing its exceptional rarity, Ponshair tried for 6 days before finally photographing the bird. The wagtail remained until Apr. 24, and although elusive, allowed dozens of birders from various parts of North America to see it.

Back to the more mundane species, Bohemian Waxwings lingered into March in Michigan's U.P. and n. Wisconsin Northern Shrikes lingered into April at 3 Michigan locations, 2 in the L.P. Loggerhead Shrikes were more common in Wisconsin this spring with 8 sightings; however, there was none in Michigan, increasing the concern for the species there. White-eyed Vireos were reported from 6 Michigan and 3 Wisconsin locations, about average. Minnesota observers found a bumper crop of Bell's Vireos with reports from 8 locations in the s.e. part of the state. Wisconsin birders found them down with reports from only 5 counties, and Michigan had its usual single report. Yellow-throated Vireos were n. of usual in both Minnesota and Michigan, with singing males at a Duluth location where a family group was found last year (KE), and one May 22 in Porcupine Mountains S.P., Mich. (JMc). A Yellow-throated Vireo at Devil's Lake S.P., Wis., Apr. 23 (RD) was the earliest ever for Wisconsin.

The warbler migration this year was undoubtedly the worst in recent memory. Observers in all 3 states commented on the extreme scarcity of all woodland birds, with warblers the scarcest. Ray Adams in Kalamazoo, Mich., has conducted an extensive survey of the spring migration in *Kalamazoo* for the last 15 years, and he summed up the migration by calling it "only 50% of the worst previous year." There were localized moderate movements in a couple of Minnesota locations and one Michigan location, but no major movements or extended periods with lots of migrants reported anywhere in the Region. The warm weather in April did bring several species back early in Michigan and Wisconsin. A list of early species follows (exceptional dates in italics): Blue-winged Warbler, Apr. 20, *Kalamazoo*, Mich. (DP), and Apr. 24, *Milwaukee* (MB); Tennessee Warbler, Apr. 20, *Dane*, Wis. (RMS), and *Kalamazoo* (RA, DP); Orange-crowned Warbler, *Dane*, Wis., Apr. 20 (RMS); Nashville Warbler, Apr. 20, *Kalamazoo* (RA, DP), and *Dane* (RMS, DC); Black-throated Green Warbler, Apr. 20, *Kalamazoo* (DP), and Apr. 22, *Sauk*, Wis. (KL); Cape May Warbler, Apr. 23, *Hillsdale*, Mich. (JR); Pine Warbler, Apr. 9, *Shawano*, Wis. (MP) (earliest by more than a week); Blackpoll Warbler, Apr. 2, *Hillsdale*, Mich. (JR), N. Waterthrush, Apr. 23, *Sauk*, Wis. (KL); and Louisiana Waterthrush, Apr. 13, *Sauk*, Wis. (KL).

An "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler was in *Mower*, Minn., May 13 (R & RK). Yellow-throated Warblers returned to their *Berrien*, Mich., nesting location Apr. 27 (RSm, WB), the earliest ever. How then does one explain a Yellow-throated in *Scott*, Minn., Apr. 21 (BF), much farther n. than the Michigan location, yet 6 days earlier? This species is still accidental in Minnesota, but well on its way to casual or even regular status (KE). Prairie Warblers are rare in Wisconsin, so 3 sightings were more than expected, with one exceptionally early Apr. 30 in *Door* (GY). Worm-eating Warblers were found in Minnesota and Wisconsin with two and six individuals respectively. Kentucky Warblers were found only in Wisconsin this spring with reports there from 5 counties. Hooded Warblers were as expected in Michigan and Wisconsin, and one May 6-9 in *Hennepin*, Minn. (SC, ES) continued their rare/regular status in that state. Yellow-breasted Chats were found in all 3 states, with eight May 15 in *Hillsdale*, Mich. (JR), an impressive number.

TANAGERS THROUGH SISKIN — Surprisingly, the only Summer Tanagers of the spring were in Minnesota, where three were reported. A Scarlet Tanager arrived in *Rock*, Wis., on the record early date of Apr. 22 (GM). Single W. Tanagers were in *Clay*, Minn., May 13 (L & CF) and *Eau Claire*, Wis., May 19 (JPo). A ♂ Lazuli Bunting was at *White Bear L.*, *Ramsey*, Minn., Apr. 17 (EC). Dickcissels arrived very early in Wisconsin, in early May, but were found only in scattered spots thereafter, indicating no major movement this year. Lark Sparrows were found at 3 locations in n.e. Minnesota, where they are considered accidental: *Carlton*, May 8 (*vide* KE); *Duluth*, May 10 (JGr); and *Lake*, May 19 (AB). Lark Buntings were found at 3 w. Minnesota locations (where they are rare/regular), however one in *Grand Marais*, Minn., May 5 (K & MH) was exceptional. Henslow's

Sparrows nested n. of normal in *Menominee*, Mich. (CT, BT). A lone Sharp-tailed Sparrow May 7 at St. Ignace, Mich. (CT, BT), was unusual. More usual were six to eight singing May 25-27 at Crex Meadows W.M.A., Wis. (RH, DT, MP *et al.*), and three in *Chippewa*, Wis., May 29-31 (CK *et al.*). A Lincoln's Sparrow Apr. 27 at Lake Geneva, Wis. (DT) was early. Harris Sparrows were e. of normal at 3 Michigan locations: the overwintering bird in *Leelanau* remained until Apr. 24 (LG); one was in *Ontonagon* May 8 (ED); and one was at W.P.B.O., May 9-10 (LW, TW, VY). Wisconsin observers found individuals in 10 counties. A **Chestnut-collared Longspur** Apr. 28 at W.P.B.O. (JS, RS) was only the 3rd for Michigan. Purple Finches were found in good numbers in many parts of Wisconsin during March and April. As has become normal, House Finches continue to expand in Michigan, with more birds from more locations across the s. one-third of the state. After last winter's huge invasion, Red Crossbills were widely reported throughout the Region, particularly northward. White-winged Crossbills were less common than Reds, with most reports coming from n. Michigan and n. Wisconsin. Common Redpolls remained to Apr. 20 at W.P.B.O., with 510 there Mar. 28 (staff) and to late March in n. Wisconsin. A few Hoary Redpolls were in *Douglas*, Wis., in early March (DT) and singles were at W.P.B.O., Apr. 8 & 12 (staff). Pine Siskins were present in good numbers in Michigan's U.P. and the n. one-third of Wisconsin.

CONTRIBUTORS — This editor wishes to thank the many individuals who submitted reports for this summary. The nature of the summary precludes listing every individual who sends in reports; therefore, only those individuals with cited records are listed below. (State editors in boldface.) Ray Adams, Al Bolduc, Don Bolduc, Marilyn Bontly, Walter Booth, E. Campbell, Steve Carlson, Dave Cederstrom, Bill Cowart, Gerald De Boer, Nelvina De Kam (NDK), Ray Dischler, Erv Drabek, **Kim Eckert** (Minnesota), Paul Egeland, Eric Epstein, Jan Fairchild (JFa), Laurence & Carol Falk, B Fall, Chip Francke, Jim Frank, Leonard Graf, John Green (JGr), J Gullickson (JG), Dennis Gustafson, Nestor Hiemenz, Ken & Molly Hoffman, Randy Hoffman, James Howitz, Tom Hunter, Oscar Johnson, Arthur Johnston, John Idzikowski, Charles Kemper, Ron & Rose Kneeskern, Ken Lange, Fred Leshner, Gyda Mahlum, Gordon & Artis Martinson, Jim Mattsson, Joe McDonnell (JMc), Steve & Diane Millard, Warren Nelson, Jon Peterson/Ann McKenzie (JP/AM), Mark Peterson, B. Pieper, Rod Planck, Janine Polk (JPo), James Ponshair (JP), **David Powell** (Michigan), Larry Prickette, Sam Rob bins, D. Ruhme, Ellen Slater, Roy Smith (RSm), R. Martin Smith (RMS), Tom Smythe, Charles Sontag (CS), Evelyn Stanley, Charles Steinbach (CSt), M. Stensas, Steve Stucker, Jonathon Sutton (JSu), Bill Taylor, Charlotte Taylor, **Daryl Tessen** (Wisconsin), Dick Verch, W.P.B.O. staff (Rick Sawicki {RS}, Jeff Smith, Larry Walkinshaw, Terry Weins, Vince Yurkunas), George Wickstrom, Steve Wilson/Mary Shedd (SW/MS), Winnie Woodmansee, Geoff Yeomans.—**DAVID J. POWELL**, Research Associate, Kalamazoo Nature Center, 7000 N. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007.

MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

Bruce G. Peterjohn

This spring was quite a contrast with the cool, wet springs we have experienced during recent years. Temperatures were above normal during all three months. A significant warming trend developed during the latter one-half of April, producing record high readings in the 80s and low 90s at many locations. This trend continued throughout May and was interrupted by only a few weak cold fronts. Precipitation varied across the Region, being greatest in the western states while Ohio and Kentucky had one of their driest springs ever.

Two factors significantly influenced the season's birding. Fairly strong southwest winds were frequent for extended periods of time. While these winds assisted the migrants in their rapid passage through the Region, they also apparently displaced a variety of western birds to the east of their normal migration paths. Secondly, the unusually warm temperatures caused the vegetation to leaf out by the end of April. While this vegetation benefitted the migrating passerines, it also made them very difficult to observe.

For those who measure spring migration by the strength of the passerine movement, it was a dull year. The favorable weather allowed many birds to fly over the Region while those that landed were hidden by the dense vegetation. However, nonpasserines generally appeared in good numbers and produced a locally exciting migration.

Contributors should remember that all extraordinary sightings must be thoroughly documented at the time of observation. Several noteworthy birds that were apparently viewed by many birders were not included in this report simply due to the absence of written documentations.

ABBREVIATIONS — S.C.R. = Squaw Creek Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Mo.; O.W.R. = Ottawa Nat'l Wildlife Ref., O.; M.M.W.A. = Magee Marsh Wildlife Management Area, O.; Spfld. = Springfield, Ill. *Italicized* place names are counties.



LOONS THROUGH ANHINGA — The favorable weather allowed loons to bypass this Region. Only Commons were reported, beginning with early migrants Mar. 12-17 in all states except Iowa. Numbers were low with no more than nine observed at any location. The grebe migration was equally dismal. Largest Pied-billed concentrations totalled 30-50 in most states; few flocks of Horneds were reported, although 100 at Table Rock L., Mar. 9 was a sizable group for this uncommon migrant in Missouri (MG). Horned Grebes generally departed by early April but singles lingered through May 24 at Kentucky L., Ky. (m.ob.) and May 26 at Cleveland (DC). Only Red-neckeds appeared in above-normal numbers. In addition to 2 L. Erie reports, inland singles were discovered at L. Jacomo, Mo., Mar. 20 (m.ob.), Fulton, Ill., Mar. 24-Apr. 6 (LJ, m.ob.), L. Lemon, Ind., Mar. 27 (D & BW), and Princeton W.M.A., Ia., Apr. 10 (GS, *vide* P), plus two to three at Merom Res., Ind., Mar. 17-Apr. 6 (TK, MH, m.ob.). Eared Grebes were scarce with sightings from w Iowa including 12 at Willow Slough Apr. 27 (RC, FM) and 2 Illinois locations. Western Grebes were reported from one w Iowa lake where they are regular spring migrants, while one wandered E to L. Michigan at the Port of Indiana Apr. 30+ (CF, m.ob.).

American White Pelicans peaked at 300-550 in Iowa and Missouri. They are rare spring migrants farther e where two appeared at Rock Falls, Ill., May 6 (BS, LJ) plus singles near Logansport, Ind., May 19-23 (m.ob.) and along w. Lake Erie May 27. Early Double-crested Cormorants returned to several states by late February. Migrants were not particularly numerous at many localities although noteworthy concentrations included 400 at New Boston, Ill., Apr. 6 (MBa), 350 in *Fremont*, Ia., May 6 (TB), 254 at Peoria, Ill., Apr. 8 (KR), and 100 in *Fulton*, Ky., Apr. 6 (BP *et al.*). An Anhinga was discovered at Union County W.M.A., Apr. 28 (†JR), providing one of very few records for s. Illinois.

HERONS, IBISES — Most herons returned earlier than normal, with numbers of most species comparable to other recent springs. Both bitterns were reported in improved numbers with as many as six Americans from 42 locations and a maximum of eight Least at 27 sites. Great Egrets were widely observed, beginning with an early migrant at O.W.R., Mar. 3 while 106 at Joliet, Ill., Apr. 22 made a large concentration for spring (JM_i). An exceptionally early Snowy Egret returned to Hendrickson Marsh, Ia., Mar. 27-28 (†HZ, †SD). Ten additional sightings from all states except Indiana and Kentucky included maxima of 11 in s. Illinois and along w. Lake Erie. Small numbers of wandering Little Blue Herons appeared at one to 6 localities in all states; the only sizable concentrations were noted near their Mississippi R. nesting colonies. One or two Tricolored Herons returned to L. Calumet, Ill., Apr. 14-May 12 (†JLa, m.ob.), and to the w. Lake Erie marshes May 22+ (†m.ob.), where they have become rare but regular spring visitors.

Early Cattle Egrets returned to Illinois and Missouri Mar. 30-31 but numbers were reduced from the previous 2 springs. Largest flocks totalled 30 or fewer except along the Mississippi R in Illinois, where 103 in *Alexander* May 26 was the largest reported concentration (JR). An early Green-backed Heron returned to s. Illinois by Apr. 3 while this species continued to decline at several localities. Black-crowned Night-Herons remained stable with the largest numbers noted near known nesting colonies. As many as nine Yellow-crowned Night-Herons from 18 locations in all states was a normal number of spring reports. The only Glossy Ibis discovered was near Caruthersville, Mo., May 13 (MR). A thoroughly-studied ad. **White-faced Ibis** at O.W.R., May 18-23 may have provided only the 2nd confirmed record for Ohio (†JP, m.ob., ph.). A single White-faced Ibis also appeared Apr. 20 in *Lawrence*, Ill. (†DJ), where they are casual migrants, while seven were found at S.C.R., May 25 (MR, L *et al.*).

WATERFOWL — The waterfowl migration started early with most species returning by the first week of March. Good numbers appeared in most areas but the favorable weather allowed them to move through the Region very quickly. Only the customary small numbers of lingering ducks remained after early April. Normal numbers of Tundra Swans passed through their traditional staging areas. Elsewhere, they appeared at 12 scattered locations in all states except Kentucky, including a flock of 30 at Saylorville Res., Ia., Apr. 7 (SD). Late individuals remained through May 8-17 at 5 sites in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. This winter's wandering Trumpeter Swans were last noted in Missouri Mar. 9.

Since there are very few spring Brant records from the Ohio shore of L. Erie, a flock of 28 flying past Crane Creek S.P., May 26 was exceptional (†KA, RC_n).

Ducks did not exhibit a similar E displacement. A ♂ **Cinnamon Teal** was photographed at Reelfoot N.W.R., Apr. 30 providing a 2nd record for Kentucky (†CP, FH). The species is casual in Illinois, where one appeared near Crete Apr. 22 (†AD), while the only sighting from the w. states was of one at Schell-Osage W.M.A., Mo., Apr. 13 (LM, MMh). At least two Eur. Wigeon were reported Mar. 8-Apr. 3 along w. Lake Erie, where they are detected each spring. Singles also appeared at Atter-

S.A.

This spring will be remembered for the E displacement of geese that normally migrate through the Great Plains. This movement brought unprecedented numbers of Greater White-fronted Geese to states e. of the Mississippi R. where they are normally rare or casual migrants. They arrived in Illinois Feb. 17 and appeared at 15 locations, including flocks of 30-58 at 4 sites. The 9 Indiana reports included 200+ in *Sullivan* Mar. 16-17 (DJ, m.ob.) and 47 at Jasper-Pulaski W.M.A., Mar. 10 (JK), while they were discovered at 5 Ohio localities including Mar. 16 flocks of 97 at Big Island W.M.A. (†J, m.ob.) and 62 in *Wayne* (JHe *et al.*) Singles were also detected at 3 Kentucky locations through Apr. 14. These geese were accompanied by large flocks of Snows, especially Mar. 7-16 when flocks of 500+ appeared in Indiana and Ohio, while the many Illinois reports included a maximum of 5000 in *Hancock* (RC). Not surprisingly, these flocks harbored small numbers of Ross' Geese. As many as four **Ross' Geese** were found in *Sullivan* Mar. 10-19, providing the 2nd record for Indiana (†DJ, m.ob.). Several of these birds were also detected in adjacent *Wabash*, Ill., while singles in *Alexander* Mar. 16-17 (†JR) and near Streator Mar. 27-Apr. 3 (LMc, †m.ob.) added to the handful of previous records from Illinois. Strong SW winds during the month undoubtedly contributed to the E displacement of these geese.

bury W.M.A., Ind., Mar. 2-26 (TK *et al.*, †m.ob.) and Spring Valley W.M.A., O., May 4-11 (†JKa, m.ob.).

Canvasbacks were thought to be scarce in several states although flocks of 2000-4000 appeared in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. Inland observers regularly detected Greater Scaup, including several flocks of 15-20, while the latest of 3 May reports was of one at Spfld., May 31+ (H). Oldsquaws were scarce with a maximum of 35 along L. Michigan and only 3 inland reports from Missouri and Ohio Mar. 2-24. Small numbers of Black and Surf scoters were observed along the Great Lakes while inland reports consisted of two Blacks at Beaver Creek Res., O., Apr. 16-19 (TBa), plus single Surfs at Summit L., Ind., Apr. 28 (LC) and Barberton, O., May 4 (LR, EP). White-winged Scoters were rather scarce with a maximum of 35 along L. Michigan plus only 2 inland reports from Ohio and Illinois Mar. 17-Apr. 15.

HAWKS — The strong SW winds produced an expectedly good movement of migrating hawks. These continuously favorable conditions contributed to record high seasonal totals in n.w. Indiana but also allowed the birds to filter by daily so that few large flights were reported. A Black Vulture wandered N to Kankakee S.P., Ill., Apr. 28 (†JM_i) for only the 2nd n. Illinois record. An early Osprey at Ft. Wayne, Ind., Mar. 17 (TH) presaged a moderate movement with maxima of four to seven in most states while they were unusually scarce at several localities. Mississippi Kites reappeared at their traditional Mississippi R. sites Apr. 29+ with a maximum of 18 near New Madrid, Mo., May 28 (AW). They were reported n. to St. Louis with extralimital singles at Otter Creek P., Ky., May 15 (DD) and an immature along L. Erie in *Lucas* May 11 that provided only the 2nd documented record for Ohio (†J, †LR, DT).

Slowly-improving numbers of migrant Bald Eagles were most evident in the e. states where at least 19 were reported from Indiana. While N. Harriers were scarce in many localities, a record total of 100 flew past Indiana Dunes this spring including 36 Apr. 12 (KB). Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks were numerous only along the Great Lakes while one or two N. Goshawks from 15 sites in the n. states were slightly more than normal for a non-invasion year. The only sizable Red-shouldered Hawk movement consisted of 71 along w. Lake Erie Mar. 10. Broad-winged Hawks trickled through in small numbers,



Black Vulture at Kankakee River State Park, Ill., Apr. 28, 1985.
Photo/ Joe Milosevich.

the largest flights totalled 600+ along w. Lake Erie Apr. 20-21 (m.ob.) and 300 late migrants in *Story*, Ia., May 27 (B & MP, RS).

Normal numbers of Swainson's Hawks in the w. states consisted of as many as seven scattered across 11 locations. Extralimital singles were reported from *Mason*, Ill., Apr. 2 (†KR) and *Spfld.*, Apr. 17 (H) where they are rare migrants; one photographed at Willow Slough W.M.A., Apr. 13 provided only the 3rd record for Indiana (†M & CB). Rough-legged Hawks remained scarce. Golden Eagles are also slowly increasing with a total of nine reports from Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, and Ohio. Migrant falcons have remained stable with 16 Merlin and 14 Peregrine sightings. Prairie Falcons are apparently less numerous in spring than during fall and winter. The only migrant was reported near *Overton*, Mo., Mar. 21 (TBk).

RAILS THROUGH CRANES — Rails were apparently fairly scarce in most areas. The elusive small rails were represented by two *Yellows* at *Doolittle Prairie*, Ia., Apr. 28 (†PM *et al.*) and one at *Sangchris Lake S.P.*, Ill., Apr. 11-14 (H, m.ob.), plus single *Blacks* at *Whetstone Creek W.M.A.*, Mo., May 10 (†JG, †THu) and in *Grundy*, Ill., May 24 (†JHm, JMk). King Rails improved slightly with 15 reports from Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri. Largest reported concentrations of *Virginias* and *Soras* totalled 17 and 15, respectively. Early *Soras* returned to Indiana and Illinois by Mar. 23-24. Rare visitors to s. portions of the Region, single *Purple Gallinules* appeared at *Duck Creek W.M.A.*, Mo., May 15 (JWa) and *Mermet Lake W.M.A.*, Ill., May 26 (LHa *et al.*). Two early *Com. Moorhens* returned to *Decatur*, Ind., Mar. 24 (LP). This species received mixed reports, with 16 at *Duck Creek W.M.A.*, May 15 being a large group for s.e. Missouri (MR).

Migrant Sandhill Cranes were scarce in Kentucky but more numerous than normal in w. Ohio where there were 11+ reports. A strong movement Mar. 10 included 724 over L. Calumet, Ill. (JLa, CMo) and 82 past *Crane Creek S.P.*, O. (JP), unusu-

S.A.

It was only a matter of time until a "white-shielded" coot was reported from the Region. A coot with an enlarged white facial shield and without a visible red callus was closely studied with Am. Coots at E. Chicago, Ind., May 25 (†KB *et al.*). With sightings of similar-appearing coots accumulating from scattered locations in North America, it is becoming apparent that enlarged facial shields and reduced or entirely absent red calluses may be the result of normal variability within Am. Coot populations. Hopefully, somebody will take a fresh look into the extent of variability in coot facial characteristics and their relationship with the breeding behavior and taxonomic classification within this group.

ally large concentrations for both states. Extralimital reports consisted of singles at 3 Iowa sites plus three at *Cleveland* Apr. 12 (RH *et al.*).

SHOREBIRDS — The shorebird migration was generally good, especially along w. Lake Erie where high water levels flooded many fields and attracted large numbers of birds. Early *Black-bellied Plovers* returned to Iowa, Illinois, and Ohio Apr. 20-21 but numbers were fairly low. The *Lesser Golden-Plover* migration was normal with returning migrants in s. Illinois Mar. 16 plus maxima of 1000-6000 in Illinois and 400-1500 in the other n. states. Casual migrants in w. Missouri, two *Snowy Plovers* were closely studied at *Schell-Osage W.M.A.*, May 21 (†MR). *Semipalmated Plovers* peaked with 200+ in *Wabash*, Ill., May 6 (LHa), a large inland concentration. The fortunes of *Piping Plover* have not improved with only 5 sightings from Iowa, Missouri, and Ohio.

It was also a poor spring for Am. Avocets with only 7 reports. Noteworthy flocks included 32 at *Oregon*, O., Apr. 22 (ET) and 13 at *Louisville* Apr. 23 (LRa *et al.*). Early *Solitary Sandpipers* returned to *Jackson*, Ill., Mar. 23 (JR) and *Brown*, Ind., Mar. 31 (LS). Increased numbers of *Willetts* appeared in Iowa with a maximum of 40 at *Bays Branch* Apr. 30 (RM). Fewer were noted elsewhere with peaks of 14-19 at 17 locations in all states except Kentucky. A concentration of 95 *Upland Sandpipers* at the *Joliet*, Ill., arsenal May 7-9 was exceptional for this Region (WG *et al.*). Four n. Ohio *Whimbrel* reports included flocks of 47 near *Bono* May 24 (JP) and 40 near *Lodi* May 26 (LR). They are casual in Missouri where four appeared in *Buchanan* May 23 (†L). *Godwits* were also rather scarce. *Hudsonians* were scattered across Iowa with a maximum of 25 in *Cherokee* May 9 (MB) but were reported from only 4 locations in Missouri and Illinois. *Marbleds* were restricted to Iowa and Illinois where as many as five were detected at 6 sites.

An early *Ruddy Turnstone* at *Lawrence*, Ill., Apr. 19 (LHa) presaged a fairly strong movement with Great Lakes maxima of 45-82 and inland sightings from 24 locations through June 9. A flock of 22 *Red Knots* at *Waukegan*, Ill., May 27 (CMo, JLa) was exceptional for L. Michigan during spring. As many as three knots appeared at 3 additional Great Lakes locations May 22-30. Small numbers of *W. Sandpipers* were reported from Illinois, Iowa, and Ohio during May with a maximum of 10 at *Waukegan*, Ill., May 18 (DWi). A very early *Least Sandpiper* returned to *Riverton W.M.A.*, Ia., Mar. 16 (SD) and there were 4 additional March sightings from Iowa and Illinois. *White-rumped Sandpipers* peaked with 140 in *Kossuth*, Ia., May 28 (SD) while 80 in *Fulton*, Ky., May 30 (BP *et al.*) was an exceptional total for that state. Early *Baird's Sandpipers* returned to S.C.R., Mar. 10 (L) and 2 Iowa locations Mar. 30. Scattered sightings in the w. states included 50 in *Fremont*, Ia., Apr. 21 (TB). Three at *Oregon*, O., May 17 provided one of few documented spring records from Ohio (†ET).

Pectoral Sandpipers were abundant as evidenced by 7000 in *Sullivan*, Ind., Apr. 19 (AB, EM) and 2500 at *Coralville Res.*, Ia.,

May 7 (TS) The earliest Dunlin returned to *Tazewell*, Ill., Mar. 24 (LA) while 2500+ congregated along w. Lake Erie during May. Mixed among these Dunlins was Ohio's 3rd Curlew Sandpiper in *Ottawa* May 7-12 (+JP, +J, m.ob.). Another **Curlew Sandpiper** was thoroughly studied at *Nashua* May 10, providing the first record for Iowa (+FM). An early Stilt Sandpiper in *Mason*, Ill., Apr. 14 (KR) was followed by a good movement e. of the Mississippi R. where they appeared at 19 locations. Largest concentration in the w. states was 27 at S.C.R., Apr. 28 (L). A remarkable 40 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were noted in *Osceola*, Ia., on the early date of Apr. 24 (DH). One in *Monroe* May 25 provided a rare spring record for Illinois (+RGo). At least two Ruffs and one Reeve were present in *Ottawa*, O., May 4-11 (+m.ob.), and another Ruff was discovered in *Porter*, Ind., Apr. 22 (LH, +m.ob.).

Short-billed Dowitchers were widely observed, and Long-billed were reported from 11 locations in all states except Kentucky. Three early Long-billed returned to S.C.R., Mar. 10 (L), while sightings through Apr. 28 included 17 in *Gibson*, Ind., Apr. 26 (DJ). Early Wilson's Phalaropes returned to *Lawrence*, Ill., Mar. 28 (GBo) and Reelfoot N.W.R., Ky., Apr. 6 (BP *et al.*). Numbers were very low with a maximum of only 14 in Iowa. Single Red-necked Phalaropes appeared at 3 Iowa and one L. Erie sites May 16+, and extralimital birds were detected at *Barberton*, O., May 28 (LR) and *Indianapolis* June 2 (m.ob.).

GULLS, TERNS — Gulls apparently passed through the Region quickly without forming the expected concentrations along the Great Lakes or at inland reservoirs. Single Laughing Gulls at one L. Michigan and 3 L. Erie sites constituted a normal number of reports from the Great Lakes, while inland birds were restricted to Kentucky with one at *Louisville* Apr. 23-May 12 (BP, LRa) and three at *Kentucky L.*, May 23-24 (BP *et al.*). An early Franklin's Gull returned to *Pottawattamie*, Ia., Mar. 2 (TB), but subsequent numbers were fairly low with a maximum of 230 in w. Iowa and four at scattered sites e. of the Mississippi R. Little Gulls were restricted to scattered singles along L. Erie. A concentration of 550 Bonaparte's Gulls at *Kentucky L.*, Apr. 14 was exceptionally large for Kentucky (BP).

The winter gulls generally departed during March although single Thayer's lingered through May 17 at *Port of Indiana* (KB, JM) and May 19 at *Cleveland* (JE, DC). Only one Lesser Black-backed Gull was detected along L. Erie. Glaucous Gulls remained through Mar. 15 in *Buchanan*, Mo., where they are casual at any season (+L), and May 17 along L. Erie. Black-legged Kittiwakes were discovered at 2 L. Erie locations Mar. 5-May 2 including an unprecedented four in *Ottawa* Mar. 28 (+JP, m.ob.); they are still casual spring migrants along L. Erie in Ohio.

Tern numbers were exceedingly low, even along the Great Lakes where they should have been fairly numerous. Only Caspians were fairly common with concentrations of 120 at *Lorain*, O., Apr. 16 (TL) and 79 in *Appanoose*, Ia., May 16 (RCu). Common Terns peaked with 290 at *Waukegan* May 27 (JLa), while Forster's were observed in flocks of 60 or fewer. Least Terns returned to their Mississippi R. haunts May 12+ with maxima of 13-25 near known nesting sites in Kentucky and Missouri. They were also reported from 3 w. Iowa sites where eight at the IPL ponds, *Pottawattamie*, May 30 appeared to be potential nesters (BWi). An immature wandered N to *Waukegan* May 27 (+JLa *et al.*); there are few previous records from n. Illinois. Black Terns continued to decline in most states except for flocks of 145-200 in Iowa.

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Cuckoos remained scarce, especially Black-billed, which went unreported from many locations. A Yellow-billed at *N. Olmstead*, O., Apr. 21 was very early for n. Ohio (RH). A Greater Roadrunner in *Christian* May 27 indicated a small population still survives in s.w. Missouri (CJ). In addition to nesting birds, Com. Barn-Owls were reported from *Osceola*, Ia., Apr. 1 (*vide* DH) and *Madison*, Ind., Apr. 26 (M & CB) where few have been observed

in recent years. Snowy Owls remained through mid-March along the Great Lakes while inland birds were discovered at *Hartsburg*, Ill., Mar. 16 (TP) and in *Buchanan*, Mo., Mar. 19 (+L). A Burrowing Owl was discovered in n.w. Missouri near *St Joseph* Apr. 28 where it is a casual spring migrant (+L & RG). Other migrant owls were fairly scarce. Long-eareds were detected at only 6 locations in Iowa, Ohio, and Illinois, and Short-eareds were noted at 13 sites in all states except Kentucky. Northern Saw-whets were discovered at only 3 localities in Iowa and Ohio.

Common Nighthawks returned during late April but numbers were fairly low except for flocks of 80-125 in Iowa and Illinois. Chuck-will's-widows appeared at 4 new sites in Illinois n. to *Cook* (PD, m.ob.). Early Whip-poor-wills returned to Kentucky and s. Illinois by Apr. 3. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds also arrived early, by Apr. 10-12 in Missouri and s. Illinois.

Red-headed Woodpeckers were thought to be scarce in Ohio and Missouri. Few Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported, except for 35 at *Chicago* Apr. 14 (CMo). Without a doubt, the most surprising discovery of the season was a ♂ **Williamson's Sapsucker** at *Chicago* Apr. 17 (DY, +m.ob.). The bird was roosting in a residential area where it could be closely studied and all field marks noted. This bird provided the first Illinois record and possibly the first sighting e. of the Mississippi R. A Pileated Woodpecker at *Nine Eagles S.P.*, May 3 had wandered W of its normal Iowa range (JL).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH NUTHATCHES — As was true for most passerines, the flycatcher migration was largely uneventful. An E. Wood-Pewee at *Spfld.*, Apr. 23 was unusually early (H). Acadian Flycatchers also arrived early with five at *Lacey-Keosauqua S.P.*, Ia., Apr. 27 (JS). Very rare in n.w. Iowa, one was reported from *Dickinson* May 12 (DH). Normal numbers of Alder Flycatchers returned May 12+ with a maximum of 13 at *L. Shelbyville*, Ill., May 28 (SR). Regular numbers of W. Kingbirds in the w. states included a maximum of 12 in n.w. Missouri. The only other sighting was of two returning to *Alton*, Ill., May 27 (LJ *et al.*). Extralimital Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were restricted to Indiana with singles near *Ft. Branch* May 14-16 (CM, +m.ob.) and one photographed in *Gibson* May 18 (DJ).

The swallow migration was dismal with many observers expressing concern over declining numbers of Purple Martins. Only Tree Swallows were reported in large flocks, with a maximum of 1200 in *LaPorte*, Ind., Apr. 9 (S & DP). Early sightings of the other swallows included three Banks at *Spfld.*, Mar. 31 (H), single Cliffs at *Clinton L.*, Ill., Mar. 16 (RCh) and *Spfld.*, Mar. 30 (H), and a Barn at *Big Marsh*, Ia., Mar. 16 (FM). Large flights of migrant Blue Jays failed to materialize this year. Three Fish Crows at *Crab Orchard N.W.R.*, Ill., Apr. 11-30 were at an unusual inland location (JR). Red-breasted Nuthatches were universally scarce.

WRENS THROUGH SHRIKES — Away from s.w. Missouri, the only Bewick's Wrens found were in *Calloway*, Ky. (CP). Winter Wrens were generally scarce with a maximum of 16 along L. Erie. Sedge and Marsh wrens were numerous only in Iowa, with few reported in the e. states. Golden-crowned Kinglets were particularly abundant with maxima of 175 in *Ottawa* and *Lucas*, O., Apr. 13 (MA) and 95 in *Vermilion*, Ill., Apr. 10 (SB). On the other hand, Ruby-crowned Kinglets were fairly scarce with no more than 30 reported from any locality. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in *Christian* Mar. 30 was early for c. Illinois (RP).

The *Catharus* thrush migration was mediocre at best. Veeries and Gray-cheekeds were particularly scarce, while Swainson's and Hermits were slightly more numerous with Chicago maxima of 45 and 40, respectively. Northern Mockingbirds appeared to have modestly increased in some n. areas. The Water Pipit migration was protracted but the largest flocks totalled only 40-100. Iowa's Bohemian Waxwings remained until early March with two in *Cherokee* Mar. 2 (DB) and four in *Story* Mar. 9 (PM). The late February-early March Cedar Waxwing migration was heaviest in Missouri and Illinois where 750+ were present at

Danville, Ill., Mar. 1 (SB). In contrast, the late May movement was rather small in those states while large flocks were reported from the other 4 states. Northern Shrikes were discovered at 7 locations in the n. states including a late bird at Big Creek S.P., Ia., Apr. 6 (+SD). Loggerhead Shrikes remained unchanged with only a few scattered reports from the n. states.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Warm weather during the latter one-half of April ushered in an exceptionally early movement of vireos and warblers. The most pronounced movement occurred Apr. 20-24 when many species returned to the entire Region. Hence, it was not unusual this spring for species to arrive in Iowa and Kentucky on the same date, producing a record-early arrival in the former state but normal arrival dates in the latter. However, only small numbers returned in April and the largest movements occurred nearly on time during early and mid-May. In addition, the latest migrants did not return until their normal mid-May arrival dates.

Vireos elicited few comments except for early migrants including White-eyed in *Union*, Ill., Apr. 6 (RP), Bell's in *Jasper*, Ill., Apr. 30 (LHa), Yellow-throated at Big River S.F., Ill., Apr. 13 (MBa), and Red-eyes at Pomona, Ill., Apr. 13 (JR) and N. Olmstead, O., Apr. 21 (RH). They were not particularly numerous except for 50 Warbling Vireos at Atterbury W.M.A., Ind., May 11 (BG) and maxima of 12 Philadelphia Vireos at 2 Illinois locations.

A Golden-winged Warbler in *Dickinson* May 22 was unusual for n.w. Iowa (DH), while seven "Brewster's" and two "Lawrence's" hybrids were detected this spring. Tennessee Warblers were abundant in most areas as evidenced by 140 at Ames, Ia., May 8 (PM), and many reports of 50-75. Nashville Warblers were also fairly numerous with 60 at Ames, Ia., May 6. An early Chestnut-sided Warbler was discovered at M.M.W.A., Apr. 17 (JP). In the w. states, where they are rare migrants, Cape May Warblers appeared at 3 Iowa locations and a Black-throated Blue was noted at one Missouri site.

The abundant Yellow-rumped Warbler peaked with 500 in *Cherokee*, Ia., Apr. 24 (MB). An early Yellow-throated Warbler returned to *Union*, Ill., Mar. 31 (JR). Pine Warblers arrived in the s. states during the first week of March. A Bay-breasted Warbler at Olney, Ill., Apr. 23 (LHa) was early, while early Blackpolls were widespread, with Apr. 19 singles in Kentucky at Madisonville (JH) and Bowling Green (BF), and sightings in all other states by Apr. 26-27. An early Am. Redstart at Hematite L., Ky., Apr. 14 (BP) presaged a strong movement with maxima of 180 at Chicago May 20 (CMo) and 300+ at Kelley's Is., O., May 13 (JP).

Worm-eating Warblers were regularly encountered in areas n. of their breeding range, beginning with an early migrant at M.M.W.A., Apr. 15 (JP). Swainson's Warblers were reported from their regular nesting areas in s. Missouri, and one was thoroughly studied at Columbus Apr. 27-28, providing one of very few confirmed records for Ohio (Ce], †m.ob., ph.). Both Connecticut and Mourning warblers were widely reported including maxima of 11-15 Mournings in Ohio and Illinois. An early Yellow-breasted Chat was noted at Fairfax, Ind., Apr. 5 (MM).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — Relatively few Summer Tanagers appeared in n. areas. Early tanagers returned to Illinois Apr. 16 with a Summer in *Champaign* (RA) and Scarlet near Joliet (FW). Single Black-headed Grosbeaks were documented at University City, Mo., Apr. 21 (†RK), Urbana, Ill., May 7 (†RCh), and Coralville Res., Ia., May 13 (†T). They are casual migrants anywhere in the Region. An early Blue Grosbeak returned to *Williamson*, Ill., Apr. 26 (JR). This species is still a very rare migrant near the Great Lakes, where singles were reported from Braidwood, Ill., Apr. 28 (JMi), Beverly Shores, Ind., May 11 (KB), and M.M.W.A., May 19 (JE, †m.ob.). Painted Buntings were noted at 2 locations within their normal s.w. Missouri range. An early Dickcissel returned to Iowa City Apr.



Male Great-tailed Grackle in Ottawa County, O., May 7, 1985. Although Boat-tailed Grackle might also be possible as a vagrant in Ohio, this bird's identification as Great-tailed is suggested by its flat forehead and narrow-headed look, and by its proportionately long tail. Photo/John Pogacnik.

16 (*fide* JS). They were numerous in the w. states but few were reported from the e.

Bachman's Sparrows are losing their last stronghold in this Region. They have disappeared from many s.w. Missouri locations although two were located near Summerville May 16 (MR). One or two were also discovered at 2 sites in *Calloway*, Ky., during May (CP, BP *et al.*). An Am. Tree Sparrow at Joliet, Ill., May 21 was exceptionally late (JMi). Extralimital Clay-colored Sparrows were discovered at 2 locations along L. Erie, including one at Cleveland May 11-12 (DC, m.ob.), while one was also noted at Cowles Bog, Ind., Apr. 19 (†FK). The only Lark Bunting found was in n.w. Iowa in *Lyon* May 16 (*fide* DH).

Grassland sparrows were widely reported although the only migrant flock was of 100 Savannahs along L. Erie in mid-April. Both Grasshopper and Henslow's sparrows reappeared in most states Apr. 14-20. The expected small numbers of Le Conte's Sparrows were recorded e. to n.w. Indiana. Sharp-tailed Sparrows appeared at 3 Great Lakes locations May 11-21, while two in *Story*, Ia., May 18-19 (PM, SD) and one at Big Island W.M.A., May 18 (J, JMc) were unexpected during spring. Fox Sparrows were fairly numerous, with a maximum of 75 along L. Erie, but Lincoln's Sparrows were rather scarce. Harris' Sparrows were restricted to the w. states. A large movement of Dark-eyed Juncos totalled 1500 at Cleveland Apr. 15 (MGU), and lingering birds remained until late May in Indiana and Illinois.

Lapland Longspurs were abundant in Iowa and Illinois during March, when flocks of 2200-3000 were discovered. Only small flocks were reported elsewhere. Smith's Longspurs were widespread in Illinois with a maximum of 215 in *Mason* Mar. 21 (KR). Normal numbers in the w. states included flocks of 120-125 in Iowa and Missouri, and as many as 12 were noted at 4 w. Indiana sites. Chestnut-collared Longspurs were detected in Iowa, where they are casual migrants, with different males in *Story* Mar. 20 (†SD, GB) & 30 (†PM). A large flock of 5000 Snow Buntings passed through *St. Joseph*, Ind., Mar. 2 (V & MR); late birds lingered through Apr. 14 in n. Ohio and n. Illinois.

Increased W. Meadowlark sightings from Ohio consisted of 7 reports from n.w. and c. counties with a maximum of five at Maumee Bay S.P. An early Yellow-headed Blackbird was found at Terre Haute, Ind., Mar. 21 (M & CB). Normal numbers returned to traditional nesting areas; extralimital sightings included singles in *Henderson*, Ill., Apr. 14 (MBa) and *St. Charles*, Mo., May 4 (RCo *et al.*). A late Rusty Blackbird tarried at Louisville May 12 (DN). The **Great-tailed Grackle** made its first appearance in Ohio, with one intermittently observed in *Ottawa* May 6+ (†KA, †m.ob., ph.). Five in *Barry*, Mo., Apr. 13 (MRg, VJ) were unexpected in s.w. Missouri, and up to 25 were report-

ed from their regular n.w. Missouri range. Both orioles were noted in fairly good numbers this spring.

Purple Finches were universally scarce. House Finches are expanding rapidly in Illinois where as many as 15 were noted at 9 locations. They are still casual visitors to Iowa where singles were discovered at Iowa City Mar. 28 and Burlington Apr. 12 (†JF *et al.*). Red Crossbills were numerous in Iowa where flocks remained through May 23 at Sioux City (BH) and May 25 at *Cherokee* (DB). They were also reported from one Missouri, 3 Ohio, and 4 Illinois sites, including a late flock of four at Maumee, O., May 27 (MA). White-winged Crossbills were restricted to Iowa where as many as 12 remained through Apr. 12. Common Redpolls were noted at single sites in Iowa and Ohio through Apr. 5. Pine Siskins were common in Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois, where many lingered through late May and nesting was suspected. They were scarce farther e. although eight remained at Fern Cr., Ky., May 27-31 (S). An impressive 921 Am. Goldfinches passed by Michigan City, Ind., May 5 (KB). Evening Grosbeaks were nonexistent except for a single bird in Missouri.

UNCORROBORATED REPORTS — The following sightings were not documented, but reportedly involved many observers and may have been valid: Long-billed Curlew at Meredosia, Ill., Apr. 2-3, Band-tailed Pigeon at Kansas City Mar. 29-Apr. 20, and Burrowing Owl in *Jasper*, Ill., Apr. 6-17.

CORRIGENDA — In AB 38:1025, the Bald Eagles in n.e. Iowa built a nest but there was no evidence that eggs or young were produced. In addition, Swainson's Hawks are casual summer residents in w. Missouri with nesting records as early as the 1950s.

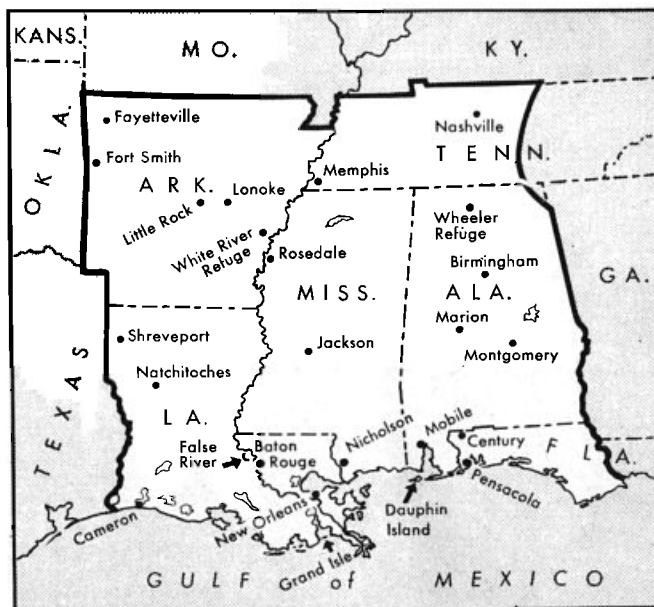
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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

Thomas A. Imhof

The season was warm and dry nearly throughout the Region but especially on the coast where southerly, mostly southeasterly, winds and practically no rain prevailed. The winds were governed by a "low" in mid-Gulf and a "high" about South Carolina or farther east—the "Bermuda High." Often this "high" remains almost stationary for five or more days and gives Atlantic coast migrants plenty of opportunity to reach western Louisiana, as they did this year. This wind pattern extended far inland where migration and nesting activities were about a week early. Land-bird migration continued day after day on the coast, but frustrated birders saw very few woodland birds, especially warblers. Conducting a study on Dauphin Island, Sid Gauthreaux with his special radar "saw" plenty of birds in the sky to prove that migration continued. But the birds just did not have any reason to drop into the trees to be seen, admired, and ticked off on a list. So, for once, conditions were favorable for the bird rather than the birder. At the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island, for instance, most birders saw only one or two warblers in good numbers and usually fewer than five species per day. Tennessee, Magnolia, Cape May, Bay-breasted, and Blackpoll were the warblers most often seen.

Inland, things improved as one got away from the Gulf; but in Memphis, for example, Ben Coffey reported migration "poor and late, numbers less than half that recorded in the '70's—about same as '84." Sounds like Ben has a case of Weston's Syndrome—each spring's migration becomes worse than the one before (AB 38:921). If we continue to destroy large chunks of the environment, how can it be otherwise?



Coastal reporters (RAD, OF, GDJ, CLK, RDP, BPo, JAT) all agreed that this was one of the worst migration seasons ever, numbers way down, no fallouts of consequence, and warblers scarce. Inland (BBC, WMD, TAI, JCN, SJS) impressions of migration were mixed, but everyone was agreed that there were fewer birds, especially warblers, and fewer concentrating weather patterns. Toward the end of May, coastal passerine birding improved, but not enough to rescue a dull season. Conversely, waterbirds and shorebirds had a good

migration, and oddly enough some of them, notably Western Grebe, scoters, Common Merganser, shorebirds, and jacks, lingered late in the warm season. Gaillard Island, the spoil island in Mobile Bay, was heavily used by nesting seabirds, but again the Corps of Engineers was active with draglines during the nesting season. Are those guys so insensitive to wild creatures that they cannot leave the seabirds alone for one or two critical months?

ABBREVIATIONS — Place names in *italics* are counties or parishes

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — The Com. Loon situation may be summarized by a count of 96 in *Jackson*, Miss., Mar. 9 (JA, BSJ), seven in the Birmingham area May 11 (B.A.S.), and late birds at L. Radnor, *Davidson*, Tenn., May 28-30 (MLJ, MLB) and at Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, Ala., June 1 (HHK, GDJ, GNP). An Eared Grebe at Big Cajun II Power Plant, *Pointe Coupee*, Mar. 2 (DLJ, SWC, TJD, PMK) provided one of a very few inland records for Louisiana. Western Grebes were in Tunica, Miss., Mar. 23 & 24 (RPe, BBC, LCC, m.ob.), first locally; and at Wheeler N.W.R., May 21 (RMB), 4th for Alabama, first in the Tennessee Valley. Three Masked Boobies were seen 86 mi s.e. of Destin, Fla., May 30 (BPo). An ad. Brown Booby was at Ft. Morgan Apr. 24 (CWB, PB); an immature was at Gulf Shores Apr. 30 and an adult was there May 2 (ALM, ADM); and another adult was at s.w. pass, Mississippi R., May 29-June 7 (BMM). Boobies again prove to be quite regular on the n. Gulf Coast in the warmer months, taking up where the gannets leave off. April is a good month for comparisons when the immature boobies are all dark-headed but the 9-month-old gannets show light areas on the head. Most N. Gannets were seen in March and early April with six or more as far w. as *Cameron* Mar. 18 (KVR, DMu, GHR); a count of 10 was made in an hour Apr. 22 and one was seen Apr. 23 on Dauphin I. (RDG, TAI).

On Gaillard I., in spite of the dragline operation Apr. 17, a count of 600 Brown Pelicans was again obtained May 16, but only 115 nests, 22 with eggs (CDC, TT, SH). Near Holly Beach, *Cameron*, the first Brown Pelican there in many years was seen May 12 (NLN, PN, TJD). An impressive sight Apr. 7 was that of 3 flocks of Am. White Pelicans totalling 2200 at L. Millwood, Ark. (CMi). Substantial numbers of Double-crested Cormorants inland were 120 at Scott, *Pulaski*, Ark., Mar. 10 (WMS); 192 at Duck R. Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., Apr. 27 (SJS, BHS); 350 on Mud Lake, Tenn.-Miss., Apr. 14; maximum there this winter, 1500 (BBC, LCC); and on the coast 2200 at Fort Morgan Mar. 19 (TAI, RAD). Late birds inland were one May 11 at L. Porter, *Jefferson*, Ala. (TAI, LAT) and May 27 at L. Langhofer, *Jefferson*, Ark. (MDL).

Among several Am. Bittern records was one at Louisiana Purchase S.P., Ark., Mar. 7 (WMS, WP), in which the bird swam away. The Great Blue Heron colony at Duck R. Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., was estimated at 280+ nests (SJS). Snowy Egrets were seen in 3 Arkansas places in late May: one near Lincoln, *Washington*, in a Little Blue Heron-Cattle Egret colony May 17 (JCN); 30 in *Jefferson* (MDL); and two in *Washington* May 26 (BSa). At Lincoln May 17, 50-100 Little Blue Herons and 50-100 Cattle Egrets were present in the only heronry in n.w. Arkansas, in its 4th year, 2nd year with high numbers (JCN, NE). Several Reddish Egret records this spring included a white-phase bird at Pascagoula R. Marsh Apr. 7 (JAJ). Along the Atchafalaya Freeway on I-10 on May 26, 22 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were counted in 15 minutes (PMK); in Birmingham, 2 creeks which run for 25 mi each through downtown support a minimum of 50 nesting pairs, better than one per mile (TAI)! Late March appears to be a good time for White Ibis movement: 100+ were over *Jackson*, Miss., Mar. 21 (JAT, DK) and 100+ were flying N Mar. 28 near Baton Rouge (KVR). A Glossy Ibis was carefully identified at Pascagoula R. Marsh, Miss., where White-faced is expected, Mar. 28 (MHo, JAT, DRu); even more unusual was the first Nashville area record for Glossy at Lewis Pond, *Sumner*, May 3 (DTC, JPC).

WATERFOWL — The greatest number of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks seen this spring in *Cameron* was 2115 Apr. 5 (SWC, DLD). Two **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** May 8-10 at Yazoo N.W.R. were the first ever for Mississippi (JFu, ph. TW, AB, JFI). Last reports of Tundra Swan were Mar. 10, one immature at Cross Creeks N.W.R., Tenn. (DWB) and Mar. 12, 15 near Gould, *Lincoln*, Ark. (RCr, H & HS, VF). Greater White-fronted Geese reported in Tennessee were one near Dyersburg Mar. 14 (SJS, RCS), two on Monsanto ponds, *Maury*, Mar. 13 & 24 (SJS, OBL, ARL), and two on Laurel Hill L., Mar. 11-30 (LWC, HMC *et al.*) Unusual for the coast were 300 Snow Geese in *Hancock*, Miss. (MH, JAT), Mar. 4. Canada Geese of varying wildness now breed in protected areas in much of the southeast; in Mississippi young were reported at Yazoo N.W.R., Apr. 29 (JFu), and Leflore-Malmaison W.M.A., May 2 (WMD).

A ♂ Cinnamon Teal Mar. 22 at Lacassine N.W.R. and Apr. 7 at Holly Beach (KVR, m.ob.) was possibly the same bird seen earlier this winter in *Cameron*. Some late ducks included a N. Shoveler June 1 in *Cameron* (SWC, DLD); a Gadwall May 4 on Monsanto ponds, *Maury*, Tenn. (SJS, JC, JRW); an Am. Wigeon with a crippled wing June 1 in *Cameron* (SWC); and a Redhead May 8-9 in *Dyer*, Tenn. (SJS, RCS). Ten Greater Scaup were near Horn I., Miss., Apr. 3 (MH, JAT), and four Lesser Scaup were in *Cameron* May 30-31 (SWC, DLD). Oldsquaws were seen throughout March in *Hancock* and *Harrison*, Miss., and were last seen Apr. 9 (JAT, JPS, m.ob.). All 3 scoters lingered in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi; two Blacks were last seen in *Cameron* May 14 (PMK, TJD) where 15 had been present Apr. 28; Surfs lingered on Dauphin until Apr. 28 (GDJ, DGJ), but 155 were still present n. of Horn I., Miss., Apr. 3 (MH, JAT), and one was still at Peveto Beach, *Cameron*, May 14 with the Blacks (PMK, TJD); five White-winged were still on Dauphin Apr. 28 (GDJ, DGJ), and two at Holly Beach, *Cameron* the same day (PMK, JK, DMg, m.ob.) when a total of 30+ of 3 species was seen.

The Hooded Merganser has long been known to nest sparingly in the s.e., but perhaps the best concentration was that of 10 nests found in March and April in Wood Duck nest boxes on Yazoo N.W.R., Miss. (JFu). A report of Com. Merganser on the almost impossible date of May 19 from Woods Res., *Franklin*, Tenn., came in without details; but it was a male, the observer (SJS) is reliable, and it seemed to fall into this spring's pattern of late waterbirds, about as late as the W. Grebe at Wheeler and the scoters at *Cameron*. Red-breasted Merganser concentrations this year were in Tennessee, 200 on Old Hickory L., *Sumner*, Mar. 23 (LFK), and 400+ on Duck R. Unit, *Humphrys*, Mar. 16-18 (SJS, RCS, VJ).

VULTURES THROUGH CRANES — A Black Vulture had a nest in Devil's Den S.P., *Washington*, Ark., in a shallow cave with 2 entrances, and had the first egg Mar. 11, the 2nd Mar. 17 (GS, DHO). Migrant Ospreys were reportedly more numerous in all states, and nests were reported in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Five early Am. Swallow-tailed Kites were at the Rigolets, *St. Tammany*, Mar. 17 (RDP, NN); Black-shouldered Kite was not seen; and Mississippi Kite was in *E. Baton Rouge* Mar. 14 (AT). Bald Eagle was known to nest this year in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee (5 nests in mid-Tenn.); Alabama was hacking two young in the Tennessee Valley (DBC, JAT, JAJ, SJS, TAI, JM); wintering birds, about 40 in *Benton*, Ark., left about Mar. 18 (JFi). A late N. Harrier was in *Maury*, Tenn., May 5 (SJS, JRW, ALH); and a late Sharp-shinned Hawk was at Shalimar, *Okaloosa*, Fla., May 18 (BPo). In middle Tennessee, nine Sharp-shinned were seen in 7 counties through Apr. 28, and 10+ Cooper's in 6 counties through May 12 (*vide* SJS). An earliest-ever Broad-winged Hawk was on Grand Isle Mar. 3 (BMM, NN, RDP). Swainson's Hawks seen in *Benton*, Ark.—Maysville Mar. 31 (DAJ), Lowell Apr. 20 (BK), and Centerton May 28 (JCN)—could have been the same bird, another was in *Cameron* May 4 (TD, J & CA). "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawks were seen in *Shelby*, Tenn., two Feb. 28, and in *DeSoto*, Miss., one Mar. 23 (BBC, LCC). The only Rough-legged

Hawk was a late one Mar 9 at Cross Creeks N W R , Tenn. (CGD). An imm. Golden Eagle was seen 15 mi n.w. of Tuscaloosa, Ala., Mar. 23 (J & FT, D & RC). An ad. Peregrine Falcon was in *Cameron* Mar. 23 (SWC), for the only report.

A **Yellow Rail** at Monsanto, *Maury*, Tenn., May 4 was seen next to a Sora and "stayed very close to the base of the vegetation in which it foraged" (JRW, DMA, MCT). A Purple Gallinule in New Orleans Mar. 17 (RDP) was the earliest for s.e. Louisiana. An Am. Coot at Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, Ala., May 19 was on a floating nest, but no coots were found on a return visit June 1 (GNP). Six of 7 Sandhill Crane reports were clustered in the first 10 days of March; one in *Pope*, Ark., Mar. 2 (WMS, MW, m.ob.); 43 in *Putnam*, Tenn., Mar. 4, and 68 + there Mar. 7 (RWS); five in *Wilson*, Tenn., Mar. 9 (RVW, MRM); three in *Vermilion*, La., Mar. 9 (JVR, KVR, TJD) & 10 (DLD, SWC); two in *Lauderdale*, Tenn., Apr. 17 & 18 (BFO).

SHOREBIRDS— On Apr. 24, 100 Black-bellied Plovers were counted on a sod farm at Gulf Shores, Ala. (TAI, RDG); and June 9 one was at Morganza, *Pointe Coupée*, La. (DWG). Best concentrations of Lesser Golden-Plovers were 43 Mar. 24 in *E. Baton Rouge*, La. (PMK, LH); 80 Apr. 8 in *Washington*, Ark. (DAJ, TH); 25-265 in the tri-state Memphis Area, Mar. 9-30 (BBC, LCC); and 525 in the rice country of *Acadia*, *Vermilion*, and *Jeff Davis*, La., Apr. 6 (JVR, JDu, NK). The last Piping Plovers reported were two on Gaillard I., May 16 (CDC). An early Wilson's Plover was at Pascagoula R. Marsh 12 (JAT, GM, JH); the best news was of 5 pairs on Gaillard I., *Mobile*, May 16 (CDC, TT, SH) and seven at Pascagoula R. Marsh May 24 (JAT, DK). A high count of 150 Semipalmated Plovers Mar. 12 at Pascagoula R. Marsh (JAT, GM) was followed by good records inland: 15 Apr. 13 in *Grenada*, Miss. (WMD), and one Apr. 15 in *Williamson*, Tenn. (SJS), both very early, and a high of 29 May 11 in *Sumner*, Tenn. (JPC). The only Snowy Plover reports were of three on Horn I., Miss., Mar. 9 (JA, BSJ), and eight in *Cameron* Apr. 11 (GLB, JPM). After a 4" rain Mar. 21, five Black-necked Stilts showed up in 4 places, Gulf Shores to Ft. Morgan, Mar. 21-25 (TAI, GMI); 2 pairs on Gaillard I., Ala., appeared to establish the 2nd Alabama breeding locality (CDC, TT, SH); two downy young were at Blakely I., May 19 (GDJ); coastal Mississippi had a count of 60 Apr. 25, and two downy young May 24 (JAT *et al.*); in Tennessee one May 9 in Ennsley, *Shelby* (SJS, RCS), was unusual; and in Mississippi three were on Yazoo N.W.R., Mar. 28 (TW) and one at Panther N.W.R., Apr. 15 (LNe).

Lesser Yellowlegs peaks were in *Acadia*, *Vermilion*, and *Jeff Davis*, 2150 Apr. 6 (JVR, JDu, NK); and at Pascagoula R. Marsh, 500 Mar. 8, 1000 Mar. 28, and 600 Apr. 25 (JAT *et al.*). Migrant Willets noted in Tennessee were four in *Cheatham* Apr. 20-21 (CGD), ten in *Humphrys* Apr. 27 (SJS, BHS), and four in *Davidson* May 1 (SJS). An early Nashville area record was provided by an Upland Sandpiper in *Williamson* Mar. 26 (BHS); a "typical" number was the 125 at Jennings Airport, *Jeff Davis*, La., Apr. 6 (JVR, JDu, NK). On Mar. 3 a flock of 104 Marbled Godwits on Fourchon Rd., *LaFourche* (RDP, BMM, NN), was the earliest ever and the most ever for s.e. Louisiana. Most Hudsonian Godwits were on the w. edge of the Region, best count 10 at Centerton, *Benton*, Ark., May 12 (BSa, LC). Counts of Red Knot in coastal Mississippi were 18 Mar. 8 at Pascagoula R. Marsh and 21 Mar. 19 at Gulfport (JAT, m.ob.). High counts of Semipalmated Sandpipers in *Cameron*, La., were 700 Apr. 27 and 5800 May 15 (JVR, m.ob.). Peaks of W. Sandpipers at Pascagoula R. Marsh were 2000 Mar. 2 and 4000 Mar. 12 (JAT, m.ob.); peak of Least Sandpiper there was 2000 on Mar. 21 (JAT *et al.*).

White-rumped Sandpiper high counts were 1300 in *Cameron*, La., May 15 (JVR, m.ob.); 184 in Centerton, *Benton*, Ark., May 28 (JCN); 60 in *Sumner*, Tenn.; May 23 (SJS, JPC); 55 at L. Hamilton Hatchery, *Garland*, Ark., June 2 (H & MP); and very late were four in Ennsley, Memphis, June 9 (BBC, LCC). Two Baird's Sandpipers were on Dauphin I., Apr. 18 (RWH), and one of a very few for inland Mississippi was one May 11 at Sardis Dam, *Panola* (WMD). On Apr. 6 in *Acadia*, *Vermilion*, and *Jeff Davis*, 530 Pectoral Sandpipers were counted (JVR, JDu, NK);

two were very late May 31 in *Cameron* (DLD, SWC) A **Curlew Sandpiper** was discovered at Cape San Blas, *Gulf*, Fla., Feb 23 (JMS). Six Stilt Sandpipers were very early Mar. 8 at Pascagoula R. Marsh (JAT, m.ob.); late in *Cameron* June 1 (SWC, DLD) were three—two in alternate plumage, one in basic (winter) plumage with leg missing and likely to remain for the summer. Peak counts in *Cameron* were 700 Apr. 27 (JVR, SWC, DLD), 500 + Apr. 28 (PMK, JK, DMG), 1000 May 12 (MSw, JK), and 3900 May 15 (JVR, DMu, SWC); peaks elsewhere were 250 Apr. 17 on Blakely I., *Mobile* (GDJ), and 118 May 14 at Centerton Hatchery, Ark. (DAJ, m.ob.). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper May 5 at a sod farm at Gulf Shores was late (GDJ, DGJ). A Short-billed Dowitcher was early at Destin, *Okaloosa*, Fla., Mar. 3 (BPO), Long-billed peaked at 400 Apr. 9 at Pascagoula R. Marsh (MH, m.ob.). Wilson's Phalarope was recorded early Apr. 6 in *Vermilion*, La. (JVR, JDu, NK) and late June 1 in *Cameron* (SWC, DLD); maximum count was 32 May 20 at Centerton Hatchery, Ark. (BSa, NW).

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMER— At or near the SW Pass, Mississippi R., several jaegers were seen: Apr. 4, two Pomarines, an ad. light-phased and an immature; May 6, a Parasitic adult; May 12, a dark Parasitic subadult; all were described in painstaking detail (BMM). Possibly the birds remained this late because they are rapid migrants and the major part of the tundra is not ready for jaeger breeding in May. On Gaillard I., *Mobile*, May 16, 10,000-12,000 pairs of Laughing Gulls had mostly 2-3 eggs in their nests (CDC, TT, SH). A Franklin's Gull Apr. 28 at Holly Beach, *Cameron* (JHS, JH) was probably the same bird seen May 12 (JK, m.ob.), unusual for this time of year. An imm **Little Gull** near Holly Beach Apr. 27-28 (KVR, RDP ph., m.ob.) was the 3rd for Louisiana, and possibly made the Mississippi C.B.C. report this winter more believable. The bird was still present May 12 (DBC). Bonaparte's Gull seemed more numerous this spring: 80 + at Duck R. Unit, *Humphrys*, Tenn., Mar. 16 (SJS, CGD, VJ); 500 +, 75% in alternate or breeding plumage, on the beach at *Cameron* Apr. 5; 120, only one in alternate plumage, at L. Shelby, Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, Ala., Apr. 25 (TAI, RDG); one late at *Cameron* May 12, in alternate plumage (MSw, m.ob.); and at Blakely I., May 19 (GDJ, DGJ). With the report of five Ring-billed Gulls at Old Hickory L. Dam May 23 came the comment, "Summering birds are more and more common" (SJS). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** and their hybrids are still making news in this Region: the first inland record for Alabama was furnished by an adult at Guntersville, *Marshall*, Mar. 9 (DJ) & 16 (TAI, ALM, HK, GDJ, CWB ph., m.ob.), 2nd state record of a "purebred"; the 6th or 7th for Louisiana (which was on the C.B.C. on Dec. 17, 1984) was seen in *Cameron* Mar. 18 and Apr. 26 (KVR, m.ob.); an adult on the beach at Gulfport Mar. 2-18 was probably the same that had been present since Oct. 24, 1984 (JAT *et al.*); and of course there is "Old One-Foot" seen Apr. 15 & 20 and May 19 at Pensacola (RAD, PJo), "closely associates with Herring Gull." The 7th Great Black-backed Gull for Louisiana was an adult on Rutherford Beach, *Cameron*, Mar. 2 (DTK, m.ob.); and the latest for Alabama was a first-winter bird on Dauphin I., May 1 (ALM, ADM). A Glaucous Gull was on Dauphin I., Mar. 8 (RWH, SHE), another was on Fourchon Rd., *LaFourche*, Apr. 21 (AS, PS, GW ph.); and a first-year bird was at Holly Beach, *Cameron*, Apr. 25-28 (KVR, m.ob., ph.) An imm. Black-legged Kittiwake was in *Cameron* Apr. 26-27 (KVR, NN, RDP, BMM, DMu).

More encouraging news from Gaillard I.: 200 pairs of Gull-billed Terns were found nesting there May 16 (CDC, TT, SH), to get more out of your birding, watch these terns dive for ghost crabs over sand without hurting themselves (RDG, TAI). Other terns found nesting on Gaillard I. on May 16 included Caspian, 1000 pairs; Royal, 150 pairs; Common, 10 pairs; Least, only 20 pairs; and Black Skimmer, 450 pairs (CDC, TT, SH). A Caspian Tern Apr. 4 at Sardis Dam, *Panola*, Miss., was the earliest there in spring (WMD), and a good concentration of them was the 1400 on Broussard's Beach, *Cameron*, May 15 (JVR, DMu, GHR). Common Tern is not very common on the n. Gulf Coast,

Forster's outnumbered it all seasons. So a count of 200 ± Commons at Cape San Blas, Gulf, Fla., May 17 (HMS, JMS) was really unusual. Perhaps it had something to do with the increase in waterbirds in late May this year. Inland, five Com. Terns were at the Centerton Hatchery, Ark., May 12 (BSa, LC). Four Forster's were heading N at 8 a.m. on Apr. 28 only 20 ft above the treetops at Oxford, Miss. (WMD); two were at Cave Creek P., Putnam, Tenn., Apr. 30 (RWS, AJ). One Black Tern was at Ft. Pillow, Lauderdale, Tenn., May 7 (RCS). An ad. ♀ Sooty Tern was found on W. Holly Beach, Cameron, May 12 (TJD, ph., *L.S.U.M.Z., NLN, PN), and another dead and well-decayed at Cape San Blas, Fla., May 4 (JMS *et al.*).

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — A White-winged Dove, rare in spring, was at Bellefontaine Beach, Miss., Apr. 17 (MH). A new locality for Inca Dove is the junction of Hwy 180 and Gum Cove Rd. in Cameron; one was seen there Apr. 24, and three Apr. 28 (KVR, NN, GHR, DMu, RDP, BMM). Two nests of Monk Parakeet were found in Metairie, Jefferson, La., May 7 (RDP, DBC, RJN, LRH). Yes, Greater Roadrunners can still be found in Arkansas: one was 2 mi s.e. of Elkins, Washington, Apr. 23 (DAJ, BSt). A Burrowing Owl was on Dauphin I., Mar. 13 (RWH, PK). A roost of six Long-eared Owls on Holla Bend N.W.R., Pope, Ark., lasted from Feb. 17 to Mar. 25 (MG, *fide* MP). Alabama's 3rd Lesser Nighthawk was also the 2nd in April at Ft. Morgan, Apr. 11, seen but not heard, well described (LRD, RSD); one was flushed from wooded chenier in recently-dedicated Holleyman Bird Sanctuary, Peveto Beach Woods, Cameron, Apr. 20 (PMK, JK, MSw), also apparently silent. A Com Nighthawk on Elm Hill Pike Mar. 4 was very early for the Nashville area (MTH). At Oxford, Miss., the earliest Ruby-throated Hummingbird was seen Mar. 29 (WMD, GK). In *E. Baton Rouge* the first Ruby-throated was noted Mar. 1 at Hilltop Arboretum (AR, ES); then birds visiting 10 feeders (PMK) built up to a peak of 45-50 Mar. 31; much of April found the birds at honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) that was blooming profusely; in May the birds again patronized the feeders heavily, and numbers varied from 35 May 1 to 140 May 11 to 60 May 31 (PMK)! A female was seen Apr. 7 filling her bill with new achenes of a ♂ Am Sycamore, a tree which often figures as the nest site. The 3rd Black-chinned Hummingbird for Alabama was a male seen at the Shell Mounds, Dauphin I., Apr. 25 (CWB, PB). In Baton Rouge, a Rufous Hummingbird spent from Nov. 30, 1984 (banded Dec. 3—NLN) to Mar. 24, first local wintering for any hummingbird (PMK). Red-headed Woodpeckers often appear in April and May on the Alabama coast, their origin unknown; this year an adult was near Johnson's Bayou, Cameron, May 12 (NLN, TJD, PN).

The latest of several Olive-sided Flycatcher reports was May 30 in Rutherford, Tenn. (RVM). An early E. Wood-Pewee was in E Jetty Woods, Cameron, Apr. 5 (SWC, DLD, *L.S.U.M.Z.). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was reported from Gulfport May 3 (JAT), and an early Acadian Flycatcher was in *E. Baton Rouge* Apr. 7 (PMK). Two Willow Flycatchers in D'Arbonne N.W.R., Union, May 10 in the same location occupied by a single singing male in 1984 were suspected of nesting locally (DTK). Some Willow Flycatchers were rather late, including one May 28 in Gonzales, Ascension, La. (MSw) and four May 30 in Davidson, Tenn. (DV), and may have been more indications of local breeding or just late migrants. At Wheeler N.W.R., Ala., a Great Crested Flycatcher Apr. 9 was the earliest ever locally (HHW, ALM, MMD). Three W. Kingbirds were in E. Jetty Woods, Cameron, La., May 15 (*L.S.U.M.Z., DLD, SWC); another was in Hempstead, Ark., May 26 (H & MP). Gray Kingbird was first noted at Ft. Morgan Apr. 12 and built up to five birds May 5 (GDJ, DGJ). Nesting Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were noted at Murphreesboro May 12, as for the last 3 years (RVM, m.ob.), and near Holly Beach for the first time in Cameron in many years (DBC). A few more migrant Scissor-tailed than usual were reported from Louisiana, Alabama, and Tennessee (GDJ, RVM, EL, DLD, m.ob.).

LARKS THROUGH SHRIKES — The only Horned Larks reported from mid-Tennessee were two at Duck R. Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., Apr. 6 and May 30 (SJS, BHS); in Louisiana they were found in mid-April and early May in *Calcasieu* and *Bossier* (PMK, MSw, CNM), not far from e. Texas breeding sites. Tree Swallow was very early Mar. 3 at the Duck R. Unit (BHS, ARH, SJS), and at Laurel Hill L., Tenn., the first local nesting was established by four young in a box June 3 (JMo, GNP, MDW, DJS). At Middle Pearl R. (Louisiana-Mississippi line), 15 Cliff Swallows returned earliest ever Mar. 24 to their new U.S. 90 bridge breeding site. At Ashland City, Tenn., May 11, a high of 1600 Cliff Swallows was counted (CGD). An albino Blue Jay was at Duck R. Unit, Tenn., Mar. 16 (CGD, m.ob.); and an albino Am. Crow was noted on I-12 near Baton Rouge in May (RGU). Fish Crows have been pushing into hilly country near the Fall Line for at least 10-15 years; this year they were noted in the Ozarks in Devil's Den S.P., Washington, Ark., Apr. 4 (JCN); in Alabama five were seen and heard Mar. 26 in suburban Birmingham and on May 2 & 11 one each in Oak Mountain S.P. just to the s. (TAI, JoF, ALM).

Bewick's Wren continued a bit diminished from 1984 at 5 sites in mid-Tennessee (RVM, RG, JPC, TJW), with one noted May 11 near Oxford, Miss. (WMD, GK). Bewick's Wren may be a dry-country bird that is not very well adapted to the wetter country this far e. It is most likely not endangered, except locally, and is just retreating back w. where it is doing very well. Perhaps the House Wren rather than the Carolina Wren will fill the vacuum. House Wren was early at Belle Meade, Davidson, Tenn., Apr. 11 (MAG); Stedman commented, "many mentions of nesting in May." The latest of several Sedge Wrens was May 11 at Dyson's Ditch, Cheatham, Tenn. (CGD). Two Marsh Wrens near Oxford, Lafayette, May 2 were the first in spring in n Mississippi.

A Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Oxford May 11 was the latest ever for n. Mississippi (WMD). Nine Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nests were found Apr. 16-18 at Durham, Washington, Ark. (KS, CK). A Veery May 30 in Cameron (SWC, DLD) was very late. A Gray-cheeked Thrush (RDP) and a Swainson's Thrush (AS, GS, *et al.*) May 26 at Grand Isle were both latest ever for s.e. Louisiana. At least 39 Wood Thrushes were in Holleyman Sanctuary, Cameron, Apr. 16, a rare concentration this year (PMK, BM). Late Water Pipits were 35 Apr. 15 at Oxford, Miss. (WMD, GK) and two Apr. 27 at Fall Creek, Wilson, Tenn. (RVM). Loggerhead Shrikes were widely reported, many nesting, with a maximum of 40+ at 35 sites in c. and e. Williamson, Tenn., yet the Williamson Breeding Bird Survey reports an 80% drop in last 15 years (SJS, BHS)—apparently there's a drastic change in habitat here somewhere.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — The only 2 pairs of Bell's Vireos from Louisiana were in Monroe June 5 (DTK). The last Solitary Vireo in Jackson, Miss., was Apr. 18 (JAT, MH). On May 1 in Thompson, Madison, Ark., four Philadelphia Vireos were seen in one tree (JCN, BSa) and May 4 in Vicksburg, nine were counted (JAT, MH). Black-whiskered Vireos, like the Cape May Warblers (see below), also took advantage of the SE winds, they were seen at Gulf Breeze, Fla., Apr. 2 (LRD), on Dauphin I., Apr. 25-May 5 (GDJ, RAD), and on Grand Isle, La., May 19-22 (NLN, DMu, BMM). Rumors still persist that these vireos may be breeding in mangroves of s.e. Louisiana, notably the Chandeleur Is., as evidenced by the first-ever fall records for Alabama and nearby Florida last fall. In 1971 the species had remained in s.e. Louisiana into June and July.

Blue-winged Warblers were widely reported in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama in early April (PMK, JAT, m.ob.) One bird Apr. 2 in *E. Baton Rouge* "was singing what resembled the alternate song of Bachman's Warbler." A Tennessee Warbler Mar. 23 at E. Jetty Woods, Cameron (SWC, DLD, *L.S.U.M.Z.) was one of the earliest for Louisiana. Also early was a Nashville Warbler at the same date and place. Two early N. Parulas were one Mar. 31 at Leiper's Ford, Williamson, Tenn. (SJS, BHS) and another Apr. 9 at Wheeler N.W.R. (HHW,

ALM, MMD) Possibly nesting was a Yellow Warbler at Monroe, *Ouachita*, La., June 5 (DTK). A late Magnolia Warbler was at Grand Isle May 26, latest ever for s.e. Louisiana (RDP). Cape May Warblers, noted rather early Apr. 14 at Grand Isle (RDP, BMM, NN), were many times more numerous than usual on the coast this spring, undoubtedly due to the constant E and SE winds. Black-throated Blue Warbler is another Atlantic coast migrant: an Alabama bird was at Ft. Morgan Apr. 28 (GDJ, DGJ); a late Mississippi bird was at Oxford May 17 (SD); and a Louisiana bird was in New Orleans May 21, latest for state (DMu). A ♂ Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler was seen on Dauphin I., Apr. 13 (JAT, MH). Blackburnian Warblers were early Apr. 7 at *E. Baton Rouge* (PMK) and late May 20 at Gulf Breeze, Fla. (RAD, LRD, RSD, DBa). A yellow-lored Yellow-throated Warbler, most likely *D. d. dominica* (SWC, DLD, *L.S.U.M.Z.), in E. Jetty Woods, *Cameron*, Mar. 10, probably provided the first record of this subspecies for s.w. Louisiana. Late Palm Warblers were a male in *Cameron* May 14 (DLD, SWC, *L.S.U.M.Z.) and one in *Colbert*, Ala., May 19 (GNP). Rather early Blackpoll Warblers were on Grand Isle Apr. 14 (RDP).

On May 3 with N wind blowing, 100 Bay-breasted Warblers were estimated at Gulfport, Miss. (DKi), and on May 11, 150 at Grand Isle (RDP). A Cerulean Warbler was early at Leiper's Fork, *Williamson*, Tenn., Mar. 29 (BHS). A Prothonotary Warbler at Wheeler N.W.R., Apr. 9 was very early (HHW, ALM, MMD). Nine Worm-eating Warblers were counted in Peveto Beach Woods, *Cameron*, Apr. 16 (PMK, BM). Some substantial numbers of Swainson's Warblers, probably all singing males and possibly one-third on territory, were recorded this spring: 16 Apr. 6-23 in *E. Baton Rouge* (PMK, SW); seven May 11 in the Birmingham Area (B.A.S.); seven Apr. 10-May 30 at Logtown, Hancock, Miss. (JAT, MH, m.ob.); six Apr. 16 in Peveto Beach Woods (PMK, BM). An early Ovenbird at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, Ala., Mar. 3 was at a spot where birds have overwintered (GDJ), so try to outfigure these birds. In *Cameron*, a N. Waterthrush May 19 (KVR) was late, and a Louisiana Mar. 2 (DTK) was early. On Apr. 7-23 on Comite R. bottomland, 25-40 Kentucky Warblers were counted (PMK, SW), and on May 18 in the same area the tally was 35! Connecticut Warbler is rare in this Region because it migrates along the Atlantic coast at this latitude; this year it joined other Atlantic coast migrants in riding SE winds far to the w. Singles were found in Tennessee in *Davidson* Apr. 20 (CGD) and May 23 (SJS) and *Maury* May 5 (KAG); in Arkansas at Farville, *Craighead*, May 8 (NL); and in Florida at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, May 20, for a first local spring record (LRD, m.ob.). Florida is usually too far e. for Wilson's Warbler, yet two were found at Shalimar, *Okaloosa*, Apr. 6 & 11 (BPO).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES— Three W. Tanagers in *Cameron* Apr. 27-28 were notable (SWC, DN, *L.S.U.M.Z.). Latest ever Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were males in Oak Mountain S.P., *Shelby*, Ala., May 23 (TAI, JoF) and at Barnes Hollow, *Putnam*, Tenn., May 27 (RWS). An early Indigo Bunting Mar. 7 in *E. Baton Rouge* could have been a locally-wintering bird (PMK). A Dickcissel at a feeder in New Iberia, La., Mar. 31 (MJM) could also have wintered locally. About five singing ♂ Bachman's Sparrows were located this spring, Apr. 20-May 18, in *Cleveland*, Ark. (WMS, MSh, M & HP). Good news: four Rufous-crowned Sparrows have been located on Magazine Mountain, *Logan*, Ark., May 7 with the comment, "two pairs, both apparently feeding young" (WMS). Three Am. Tree Sparrows were still present in *Dyer*, Tenn., Mar. 15 (SJS, RCS). At least 5 nesting pairs of Lark Sparrows were found in *Wilson* and *Rutherford*, Tenn. (RVM). Grasshopper Sparrows were late leaving their winter quarters, last seen in *Cameron*, La., Apr. 25 (KVR); while at the other end of the Region, 10+ birds did not settle into their breeding area in c. *Williamson*, Tenn., until Apr. 30 (SJS). Le Conte's Sparrow was last seen w. of Leflore, *Granada*, Miss., where very rare in spring, Apr. 13 (WMD, PL, m.ob.); but at Hackberry Ridge, *Cameron*, on the coast, two were seen Apr. 21 (SWC, DLD). The last Lincoln's Sparrow in middle

Tennessee was May 12 (DV), but on the coast it was May 22 at Grand Isle, *Jefferson* (DMU, NLN). The last White-throated Sparrow for middle Tennessee was noted May 31 in Gallatin, *Sumner* (DTC). Harris' Sparrow is becoming rare in middle Tennessee, so one at Duck R. Unit Mar. 16 (BHS, VJ, m.ob.) was noteworthy.

Yellow-headed Blackbirds reported were one in *Garland*, Ark., Apr. 28 (H & MP), and an imm. male on Dauphin I., Apr. 21-24 (GDJ, A.O.S.). Another imm. male in Birmingham May 11 (DEF, SZ, BSh, NH) provided the first record for the mountain region of Alabama; there had been only 3 other inland records, 2 in fall, one in winter. The last Brewer's Blackbird noted on the coast was Mar. 27 in *Hancock*, Miss. (JAT, DK, MB). Great-tailed Grackles continue to move in n.w. Arkansas; 13 were in Van Buren, *Crawford*, May 7 (BB) and three in Centerton, *Benton*, May 28, for the 2nd year with birds present in the breeding season in the Ozarks (JCN). Bronzed Cowbirds continued in the Metairie area with five May 2 (DBC *et al.*). Purple Finches were virtually absent from the Region, but the few present lingered late: two each at Nashville and Clarksville Apr. 25 (ATT, EJW) and one male at Gurley, *Madison*, Ala., May 4 (BH). Nesting pairs of House Finches were in the Nashville area for the 2nd year (many); in Memphis this was the 2nd winter for any birds, and a male remained to May 6 (JL); in Birmingham the species is well scattered throughout the metropolitan area—20+ nesting pairs, 5 of them at the writer's feeder and at least four juveniles (B.A.S.). Twenty Red Crossbills were seen at Land Between the Lakes, Tenn., Mar. 16 (DWB); and at New Edinburg, *Cleveland*, Ark., there were three or more Apr. 15, six Apr. 20, and 15-20 including juveniles May 4 (WMS). A ♂ Com. Redpoll at Highfill, *Benton*, Ark., Mar. 3-17 (JSh, ph., DAJ, m.ob.) furnished the 6th acceptable Arkansas record. Widespread Pine Siskins seemed more common near the coast, with 50 Mar. 21 at Fairhope, *Baldwin*, Ala. (MN); recorded in *Baton Rouge* May 4 (H & OJW); and three in Nashville May 17 (MLJ).

CORRIGENDA AND ADDENDA — Unless stated otherwise, these refer to the spring 1984 report from this Region South of L. Arthur, *Jeff Davis*, La., there were 20,000+ Snow Geese Oct. 26, 1984 in a recently-harvested rice field (PMK, RN). An Am. Black Duck wing from the 1983-1984 hunting season was found (PMK) and identified by a Mottled Duck expert of 20 years (CSt). Two, not one, of the Cross Creeks N.W.R. eaglets died in the nest last year (1984). The date of the Mountain Plover on Dauphin I. was Apr. 10, 1984. Groove-billed Anis have not been known to linger beyond winter in coastal Alabama or the Pensacola area, but farther e. in n.w. Florida, as in *Bay*, they do occur in spring. The Gray Kingbird photograph from Grand Isle by RDP (*AB* 38:924) because of camera angle looks a bit foreshortened and stocky, but it is not a Loggerhead or Thick-billed, just a Gray. The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Murfreesboro returned in 1984 on Apr. 25 (SJS). The **Rock Wren** found n. of DeQuincy, *Beauregard*, Apr. 20, 1984 (DBo) provided the 2nd record for Louisiana. The Winter Wren at Loretto, Tenn. was seen by Damien Simbeck. The March Gray Catbird at Columbia was seen by Nina Thomas. The Lark Sparrow singing in *Henry*, Tenn., was on May 29. The ♂ House Finch at Ft. Polk, *Vernon*, Mar. 30 and Apr. 11-24, 1984 (GPo ph.) was within 25 mi of the Texas line. Under Contributors change Corner to Comer, Linda Duncan to Lucy Duncan, Bobby Harris to Bobby Harrison, Imnof to Imhof, Richard W. Simmons to Richard W. Simmers, Stephan J. Stedman to Stephen J. Stedman.

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PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

J. Bernard Gollop

March was much warmer and drier than normal with more hours of sunshine than usual. However, a snowstorm March 21-22 produced 10-36 cm of snow across southern Alberta and Saskatchewan with rain in Manitoba. In April temperatures were normal in the north and warmer than usual in the agricultural areas. Precipitation was very light in southwestern Manitoba and northern Alberta. A major storm starting April 19 dumped up to 55 cm of snow in Alberta and 30-50 mm of rain in Saskatchewan. May was much warmer than usual with some record high temperatures but there were no severe storms.

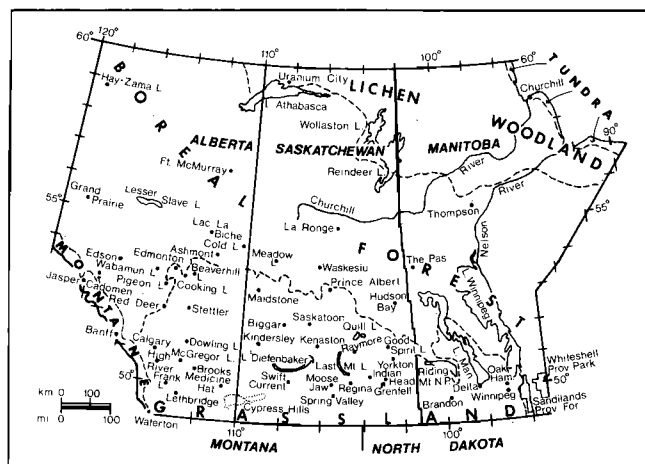
Wetlands in May in the southern prairies were above 1984 numbers by 52% in Alberta, 96% in Saskatchewan and 21% in Manitoba. Compared to the average of the last ten years, the provinces were up 6%, up 41% and down 24%, respectively. (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Canadian Wildlife Service).

The only outstanding event of the period was the poor shorebird, thrush, warbler, and sparrow migration.

ABBREVIATIONS — L.M.L. = Last Mountain Lake.

LOONS THROUGH GEESE — There were concentrations of 22 Com. Loons Apr. 22 near Calgary (JP), at least 200 Horned Grebes at Oak Hammock Apr. 27 (GHn, RKO) and 200 W. Grebes on the e. end of Little Manito L., Sask., May 11 (CE). Two "Clark's" Grebes (formerly called light-phase Western Grebe) spent May 17-June 1 in Regina and were described in detail (CA, m.ob.). An ad. Snowy Egret at the n. end of L.M.L., May 7 and one at Little Quill L., May 30 provided Saskatchewan's 15th (& 16th?) record (WH, MGo). Cattle Egret has now occurred at least 30 times in Manitoba with a bird at Oak Hammock May 23-25 (DB, m.ob.). A White-faced Ibis at the n. end of L.M.L., Apr. 23-May 11 was the province's 8th (CJ, WH, CA).

Swans, geese, and ducks migrated day and night at Bromhead, Sask., Apr. 3 (CB). For the 2nd consecutive year a black swan was reported on migration near Saskatoon; this year's bird was on a slough near Swanson Apr. 17 (*vide* JW). A Tundra Swan with a black neckband (red numbers) appeared at Spring Valley Apr. 21 (FB). Three Trumpeter Swans were seen and



heard as they flew into Glenmore Res., Calgary, Apr. 8, and two were studied on a slough w. of the city Apr. 10 (DC, RS) A heavy migration of all species of geese was reported Apr. 10-14 from Wolseley, Sask. (DH). On Apr. 16 1140 dark geese in 32 flocks flew NW over Saskatoon and on May 7 1000 ± geese flew N over Ft. McMurray (BG, JG). Concentrations of Snow Geese were reported as follows: Apr. 4, 30,000 on Tyrell L., n. of Calgary (DE); in Saskatchewan, Apr. 21, 12,000 near Kipling and 20,000 near Candiac (RKR, RM), and Apr. 27, 13,000 flying NW near Raymore with about 30% Blues included; this was about 10 times the usual proportion of Blues in this area (WH) Near Regina, three of the small variety of Canada Goose (Richardson's) were seen with Mallards Apr. 21 (RKR), and a white large Canada with a light gray neck was with a normal bird May 18 at the n. end of L.M.L. (RGO).

DUCKS — Air-ground surveys by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service across the s. prairies showed an overall increase in ducks for each province compared to 1984. Significant increases were recorded for Green-winged and Blue-winged teal, N. Pintail, N. Shoveler, Com. Goldeneye, and Ruddy Duck. Species that changed little were

Mallard, Gadwall, Am Wigeon, Redhead, Canvasback, and Bufflehead. Only Ring-necked Duck and Lesser Scaup showed significant declines in the s. Prairie Provinces. On Apr. 17 Cypress L., Sask., had concentrations of about 500 Green-winged Teal, 2000 N. Pintails, 500 Gadwalls, 100 Am. Wigeon, and 1000 Redheads, as well as smaller numbers of 11 other species of ducks (CE). On Apr. 14 there were 250 Green-winged Teal on a slough near Spring Valley (FB). A ♂ Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal was studied at the n. end of L.M.L., May 18 (RGo). Cinnamon Teal seem to have erupted in Saskatchewan this spring. Reports indicated five single males and 6 pairs from 5 areas May 7-31 (LB, WH, CE, MGo, FB). Included was a pair that may have nested in Regina, based on sightings of the pair followed by a lone male (CA, BL). One-day counts of 20 Apr. 28 and 18 May 5 near Calgary were also unusual (JS, LG, DC). Eurasian Wigeon can probably be classified as an annual rarity in the Region: single drakes were at Irricana Apr. 7, 9 & 27 and Pakowki L., Alta., May 29 (WW, LG, AS) and at Cypress L., Sask., Apr. 13, 14 & 17 (SS, CE). Greater Scaup may be in the same category: at least five Apr. 17 in Regina, five Apr. 23 and a pair May 20 near Saskatoon, and two males May 3 in Prince Albert N P. (BL, CA, TR, SS, CE). There were 6000 ± Lesser Scaup at the s. end of L.M.L., Apr. 13 and 3000 ± in Wascana P., Regina, Apr. 17 (BL).

EAGLES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — The only Bald Eagle migration reported was of 31 birds Apr. 6 near Cochrane, Alta. (RS). Stragglers to Churchill included a Bald Eagle May 11-26 and a Broad-winged Hawk May 28 (BC). A pair of N. Goshawks remained on a Raymore farm through the period, suggesting a breeding attempt s. of their normal range (WH). Three active Ferruginous Hawk nests were found in s.w. Manitoba, compared to one in 1984, making this the 2nd consecutive nesting year in 5 decades (JMu, BR). A flock of 48 Rough-legged Hawks was feeding on mice in a stubble field e. of Edmonton Apr. 23 (RF). Five pairs of Merlins were nesting in Medicine Hat, 3 pairs in Regina (compared to 8 last year), and 20 ± in Saskatoon (compared to 16 ± in 1984) (RGa, TR, CA, LO). A winter Peregrine Falcon was flushed from a Gray Partridge Dec. 28, 1984 near Spring Valley (FB). The Peregrine migration was in 2 shifts in the Raymore-L.M.L. area: the first three birds, Apr. 26-27, coincided with the waterfowl migration, and the next five birds, May 25-30, with shorebird movements (WH). Six of 10 Saskatchewan observers reported Sharp-tailed Grouse down; one reported a slight increase and 3 no change. Concentrations of at least six Yellow and five Virginia rails were found in a marsh s.w. of Saskatoon May 26 (RGo, SS). Federal government air-ground surveys found no change in Am. Coot populations in the s. Prairie Provinces. There were >1000 coots on Scottie L. near Spring Valley Apr. 20 (FB).

It was a poor shorebird migration across the s. prairies, described as "the poorest in 10 years" for s.c. Saskatchewan (WH). On May 8 1500 ± shorebirds in 80 flocks flew WNW over Saskatoon (MGi, JW, BG). The largest concentrations or one-day counts for some of the 34 species reported were: at Red L. near Moose Jaw May 20 there were 60 Red Knots and 1100 White-rumped, 1450 Baird's, and 3350 Stilt sandpipers (ML). There were also 225 Black-bellied Plovers May 22, 555 Lesser Golden-Plovers May 18, and >500 Hudsonian Godwits Apr. 28 near Regina (BL, RKr, CA); 800 Am. Avocets near Morse, Sask., Apr. 25 (JS); 3200 Stilt Sandpipers, 2200 Buff-breasted Sandpipers, and 12,800 Red-necked Phalaropes May 25 near Saskatoon (CE, KM, SS); 1000 Pectoral Sandpipers and 500 Short-billed Dowitchers May 8 at the n. end of L.M.L. (CE); 2000 Semipalmated Sandpipers May 12 and 1380 Long-billed Dowitchers May 11 near Calgary (JS, JP, EH). Piping Plovers, on the Canadian endangered list, were reported from 5 areas in Manitoba and 5 in Saskatchewan. Rarities included a Black-necked Stilt n. of Calgary May 13-14 (DE, WW), a Whimbrel at Beaverhill L., May 12 (AW, SL), and 3 Whimbrel observations in s. Manitoba: 10 May 18, two May 25, and one other in May, all in and n. of Winnipeg (DF, GHn, RKo, PT).

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — The Inglewood Bird Sanctuary in Calgary held 500 Herring Gulls in late April (DC). Gulls with <30 records for a province included: a Thayer's Gull at Victoria Beach, Man., May 4 (DF, PT) and one in first-year plumage at Calgary Apr. 20-May 1 (EH, RS, AW, WF); single Iceland Gulls at Churchill May 14 & 30 (BC), an imm. Glaucous-winged at Calgary Apr. 17 and a Glaucous in 2nd-year plumage there May 1 & 3 (DC, WF); single Glaucous Gulls at Edmonton and Beaverhill L., Mar. 30 (GL, GHr), and at least two in first-summer plumage Apr. 13-28 at L.M.L. near Regina Beach (BL). A 2nd-summer Great Black-backed Gull at St. Ambrose provided Manitoba with its 10th record (GG, PH, GHn, RKo), and a Sabine's at Churchill May 31 was rare for the province (BC). A pasture belonging to 3 pairs of Burrowing Owls in 1984, the last colony in the Saskatoon area, was ploughed up this spring (BG). Nine calling E. Screech-Owls were found in the Souris R. valley, plus four others as far w as Moose Jaw, in March and April (*vide* CA). Great Gray, Long-eared, Short-eared, and Boreal owls were down in s. Manitoba (RKo, HC). The only concentrations of Short-eareds were of six hunting in the Rough-legged field near Edmonton Apr. 25 and 3 pairs in 20 km near Calgary Apr. 28 (RF, JS). Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported down around Calgary and in s. Manitoba (DC, HC). Lewis' Woodpecker, rare for Medicine Hat, was seen there May 20 & 26 (RGa). A sapsucker, studied and photographed in Regina Apr. 20-21, was apparently a hybrid between Red-breasted or Red-naped and Yellow-bellied (RKr).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH REDPOLLS — A large migration of *Empidonax* flycatchers was reported in Regina May 27-31 (BL). On May 11 a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, the 4th in 6 years, was found in s. Manitoba (Grand Beach) (GG). A W Bluebird appeared s.w. of Calgary Mar. 17 (the same date as 2 pairs last year) but was not seen again (DC). The thrush migration was poor—"the poorest in memory" in s. Manitoba (RKo). The only report of >20 Swainson's Thrushes in one day was from Regina—50 May 19 (BL). Medicine Hat, however, reported a large increase in Swainson's over 1984 (RGa). On Apr. 17, 260 Am. Robins in 12 flocks migrated WNW over Saskatoon, in Regina the peak was Apr. 21 with at least 200 birds in the city (BG, BL). A Sage Thrasher, described in detail, was found s. of Regina Apr. 24, furnishing the province's 25th record (TR).

The warbler migration was also poor with fewer species and numbers in a given area than usual (RKo, WH). Alberta had three N. Parulas, where there had been <10 previous records. a singing male in Calgary May 15 (PK), another at Writing-On-Stone P.P., May 23 (DC), and a male seen s.e. of Edmonton May 30 (PM, RKl, AF). Another rarity for Alberta was a Black-throated Blue Warbler at Medicine Hat May 26 (RGa). On May 19 Calgary's Inglewood Bird Sanctuary had at least 15 singing ♂ Blackpoll Warblers (EH). Saskatchewan's first Hooded Warbler was studied, described, and photographed for 3 hours by 10 experienced birdwatchers in Regina May 26 (BL, CA, RKr). A Yellow-breasted Chat May 28-29 and two singing ♂ Lazuli Buntings in late May were rarities in Calgary (JMc, JP). Beaverhill L. was the location for Alberta's 4th Scarlet Tanager May 11 (*vide* RE), and its 5th was found May 30 in Edworthy P., Calgary, where one had been seen in 1981 (DHZ).

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak, well s. of its breeding range, spent most of May in Medicine Hat and was still there June 5 (RGa). A concentration of 20 ± territorial pairs of Lark Sparrows was found in a 2.6-km² (1-mi²) coulee complex near Medicine Hat (RGa). The White-throated, White-crowned, and Harris' sparrow migration was poor in the s., the only major concentration being 50 ± Harris' in Moose Jaw May 16 (ML). A ♂ House Finch of the yellow variant was at a Winnipeg feeder Apr. 29 and constituted the province's 4th record (RT). Redpolls, both Common and Hoary, were present in good numbers across the prairies.

CORRIGENDUM — The four Whimbrels near Regina last year were reported May 19, not May 9.

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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Gordon B. Berkey

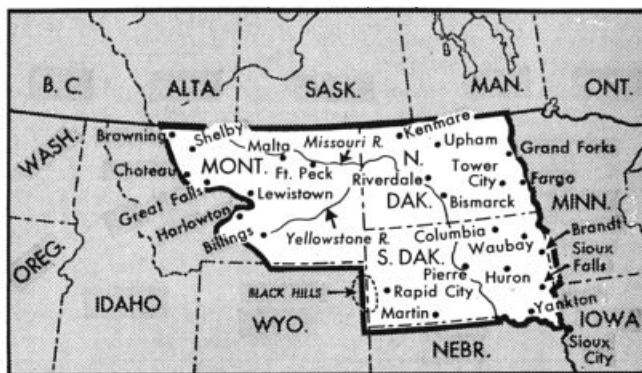
There are three dominant themes in this report: early arrival dates, very low numbers of many common species, and early nesting activity. Each of these could, by itself, fill the allotted space for this report. All were associated with warm, dry weather which pushed vegetation growth as much as two weeks ahead of normal in many locales. While good weather does not give birders ideal opportunities for observing spring migrants, it should be emphasized that it is excellent for migrating birds! This allows them to arrive at nesting territories early and with minimal energy expenditure. Worthy of mention were the two new state nesting records: Clark's Nutcracker for South Dakota and White-winged Crossbill for North Dakota.

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

GREBES THROUGH WATERFOWL — The 350 Horned Grebes at the Grand Forks lagoons Apr. 30 constituted an unusually large concentration (DOL). Three pairs of Red-necked Grebes were nesting at Waubay N.W.R. (MR). The Mar. 16 date for Eared Grebes in *Charles Mix* was the earliest ever for South Dakota (KK); an unusually large colony with thousands of nests is located at Minnewaukan in *Benson*, N.D. "Clark's" Grebe (also known as the light morph of W. Grebe) is a candidate for splitting by the A.O.U., so the 2nd North Dakota record at Fargo May 19 & 26 was of increased interest (GN). The many reports of Snowy Egrets included Apr. 21 at Chas. Russell N.W.R. (SK), five in North Dakota from Apr. 18 through May 27 (GS, RJ, SL), and an unspecified number from 6 e. South Dakota counties. Little Blue Herons reported were a "calico" in *McHenry* May 12 and single adults in *Ward*, N.D., May 31 (REM, GB), and May 18 & 19 at Waubay (BCH, JG, RB). A Cattle Egret at Bowdoin N.W.R., May 29 furnished the 13th Montana record (KS); 10 at Minnewaukan May 26 may have indicated a possible North Dakota nesting colony. A Green-backed Heron in *Sanborn*, S.D., Apr. 29 was very early (RGR), while one at Bowdoin May 23 provided the 8th Montana record (J & KS).

Large numbers of geese included 10,000 Greater White-fronts at Lostwood N.W.R., Apr. 3 & 4 (RKM), 450,000 Snow Geese in *Ransom* and *Sargent*, N.D., Apr. 5 & 6 (REM), and 255,000 Snows at Sand Lake N.W.R., Mar. 28 (WS). A Ross' Goose in *Turner* was the earliest ever for South Dakota, and 98 were seen in 10 flocks through Apr. 9 (LA). Hybrids included Mallard x N. Pintail in *Ward* May 29 (GB) and Mallard x Am. Wigeon s.w. of Malta, Mont., Apr. 9 (DPr). The total of nine Am. Black Ducks in e. North Dakota Mar. 30-May 30 was much above normal (DOL, MAB, RJ). A Cinnamon Teal in *Yankton*, S.D., Mar. 24 was the state's earliest ever (WH, JW). There were 2 Eurasian Wigeon sightings, a pair s. of Bismarck Apr. 17 (WB) and a male in Montana's Latilong L40 May 31 (LM). An estimated 6000 Red-heads were concentrated at Arrowwood N.W.R., N.D., Apr. 6 (REM). A ♀ White-winged and ♂ Black scoter were at the same location in *Yankton*, S.D., Apr. 26-28 (KK).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — Seven Turkey Vultures on 6 dates in e. North Dakota Apr. 17-May 17 was an unusually



high number (MAB, CS, DK, OJ). High counts of Bald Eagles on the Phillips Resource Area in s. Montana included 30 adults Mar. 22 and 33 immatures Mar. 29, for a minimum total of 63 birds. The feathers and skin on a tree trunk 2 ft above ground near a dead N. Goshawk found near Sturgis, S.D., indicated that the bird had collided while hunting (EM). A Red-shouldered Hawk was carefully observed at Fargo Apr. 18 (GN). Fifteen active Ferruginous Hawk nests were found in *Ward*, N.D., this year. A Rough-legged Hawk in *Deuel* May 17 was the latest ever for South Dakota, thus bucking the trend of earliest dates (BKH). A Merlin nest was found May 23 about 33 mi n. of Glasgow, Mont. (TS, MF). A total of 13 sightings of Peregrine Falcons included observations of feeding on a coot and a Ring-billed Gull. There were 4 Gyrfalcon reports from w. North Dakota, Mar. 1-Apr. 8 (DLi et al.). A Prairie Falcon at Waubay May 31 was extremely late.

The pair of Common Moorhens near Minnewaukan May 26-27 provided the 4th North Dakota record (SL, DOL); the area will be watched for a possible nesting. May observations of Sandhill Cranes at J. Clark Salyer N.W.R. (GE) and Minnewaukan were, hopefully, signs of nesting in North Dakota.

SHOREBIRDS — Sightings of birds in this group were not as scarce as among other strongly migratory birds. Some representative high counts of more common species included 50 Black-bellied Plovers at Lostwood May 10 & 22, 770 Lesser Golden-Plovers in *Ward* and *McHenry* May 18, 20 Semipalmated Plovers in *Ward* May 11, 45 Am. Avocets in *Fall River* May 2 (RP), several hundred Lesser Yellowlegs at Grand Forks Apr. 24, 15 Long-billed Curlews in *Custer* May 26 (MM), 29 Hudsonian Godwits in *Day* May 10, 25 Sanderlings at Minot May 18, 300 Semipalmated Sandpipers in *Marshall* Apr. 29, 135 Least in *Ward* May 11, 750 White-rumped in *Benson* May 27, 700 Baird's in *Ward* May 5, 250 Pectorals in *McHenry* May 18, several hundred Dunlins at Grand Forks May 18-19, 300 Still Sandpipers at Upper Souris N.W.R., May 22, 39 Short-billed and 107 Long-billed dowitchers in *Ward* May 11, 25 Com. Snipe s. of Bruce, S.D., Apr. 13 (NH, MBa), 500 Wilson's Phalaropes at Fargo May 20, and 750 Red-necked Phalaropes at Minot May 18.

The Killdeer in *Day* Mar. 6 tied the earliest South Dakota date. Black-necked Stilts appeared to be incubating at Bowdoin

by May 31, this would be the first nesting for Montana since 1977 (KS). American Avocets on nests May 19 in *Roberts* were the earliest nesters ever in South Dakota. Three **Whimbrels** in *Codington* Apr. 29 were the earliest ever for South Dakota (BKH, JJ, DS). The 1850 Ruddy Turnstones at 3 *Benson*, N.D., locations May 27 were an incredible concentration inland (GB *et al.*). Three W. Sandpipers in *Meade* May 12 (NW), one at Grand Forks May 18, and six in *Benson* May 26-27 were all carefully observed. Four Baird's Sandpipers at Fargo Mar. 25 were the earliest ever (MAB). The Am. Woodcock in *Charles Mix* Mar. 19 was South Dakota's earliest ever (KK).

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Herring x Glaucous Gull hybrid remained at Ft. Peck Mar. 19-Apr. 6 (CC, ph.). A sizable number of Forster's Terns were nesting May 26 with Franklin's Gulls at Minnewaukon (DOL, SL). Early Mourning Dove nests with eggs were in *Turner*, S.D., Apr. 17 (JA) and *Ward* Apr. 21. A Black-billed Cuckoo at *Waubay* May 8 was considered early; breeding densities appeared to be high in North Dakota. A fledgling E. Screech-Owl and its parents regularly bathed in the daytime in a Grand Forks yard May 20+ (*fide* DOL). Two N. Pygmy-Owls were heard Apr. 20 along the Yellowstone R. at Miles City, the only known e. outpost of the species in Montana (LM). There were 5 reports of N. Saw-whet Owls, from all 3 states, Mar. 24-Apr. 19; one was a road-kill at *Lewiston* Apr. 1.

The Com. Poorwill calling at *Rapid City* May 3 tied the earliest South Dakota date (NW). A Lewis' Woodpecker was at *Joliet*, Mont., in *L41* May 19 (BHi). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at *Fargo* Apr. 1 was the earliest ever for that city. Pileated Woodpeckers were observed in Grand Forks, Fargo, the Sheyenne R. Valley, and at *Sully's Hill Nat'l Game Preserve*, all in North Dakota.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES — Four Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen by an S.D.O.U. group in *Minnehaha* May 25 (WH). Early dates for *Empidonax* flycatchers were *Alder* May 16 and *Willow* May 9 in *Fargo* (LF) and *Least* in Grand Forks Apr. 29 (DOL). All were identified by voice. The only Yellow-bellieds were two in *Minot* May 29 (REM). An extremely early Say's Phoebe was at *Joliet*, Mont., s.w. of *Billings* Mar. 9 (BHi). A W. Kingbird was very early in *Sanborn* Apr. 30. A pair of Violet-green Swallows was seen entering a nesting hole in a cliff in the N. Cave Hills in *Harding* May 25 (REM, GB).

An active Gray Jay nest was observed Feb. 27 through Apr. 29, when young left the nest, at the *Burden* home in *Custer*. Twenty birds at *Pass Cr.* in *Custer* Mar. 20, and 10 adults and the observed feeding of five young Apr. 29, provided the first South Dakota breeding record for **Clark's Nutcracker** (RP). A Red-breasted Nuthatch was cleaning out a nest hole in *Bismarck* Apr. 27, and was apparently successfully completing the nesting at the end of the period (RNR). Hole-cleaning was also observed at Grand Forks, and a territorial pair was at *Minot*, but nesting was not confirmed at either place; in *Harding*, S.D., birds were observed carrying food into a nest hole May 25 (REM), and at a nest hole May 29 (MM). Pygmy Nuthatches came to the *Whitney* feeder in *Rapid City* daily through Apr. 19. Migration of Brown Creepers and Golden-crowned Kinglets was very poor.

A Rock Wren in a gravel pit May 5 furnished the first *Grand Forks* record. Observers in the e. Dakotas should check gravel pits and road cuts for this species; it has nested as far e. as *Bemidji*, Minn. A *Townsend's Solitaire* at *Tewaukon* N.W.R., Apr. 9 furnished an unusual spring record (DGP). Observed numbers of migrating Veeries and Gray-cheeked, Swainson's, and Hermit thrushes were all far below normal, with *Carlson* seeing only about one-tenth the normal number of Swainson's at Ft. Peck. A Hermit Thrush at *Lostwood* May 26 was very late considering the weather. A **Wood Thrush** sang vigorously at *Oak Park* May 19-21, providing a rare *Minot* area record (REM). A Varied Thrush was seen n. of *Chester* Apr. 25 (MK). Early nests of Brown Thrasher included eggs in *Newton Hill S.P.*,

S D, May 25, and half-grown young May 29 in *Ward*. The earliest ever South Dakota observation of Water Pipit was Mar. 21 in *McCook* (LA), and one in *Fargo* Mar. 25 established the earliest date there. No *Sprague's Pipits* have as yet been found in nesting surveys being carried out by South Dakota compiler *Harris* at *Ordway Prairie*.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — Except for 20+ birds at Grand Forks and Fargo, migration of Solitary Vireo was poor; only one Philadelphia Vireo was seen each in w. North Dakota and in South Dakota. Warbler migration was extremely poor. Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, Palm, Black-poll, Black-and-white, Am. Redstart, Ovenbird, N. Waterthrush, and Wilson's were all mentioned by one or more area compilers as being significantly below normal. As an example, only 15 Orange-crowned on 9 dates were seen in the *Minot* area; normally several days in a season will top that total! A few highlights were the singing N. Parula in Grand Forks May 22, a rare spring sighting of Black-throated Blue in *Fargo* May 18 (OJ, GN), a well-documented *Townsend's e.* of the normal range at *Bowdoin* May 8 (J & KS), and a **Cerulean Warbler** at *Newton Hills*, S.D., May 25-27 (BKH, PS *et al.*). On the other hand, good numbers of Connecticut and Mourning warblers were seen. Connecticut included eight on 5 dates from May 23 in *Ward*, and singles at *Fargo* May 10 & 23, and *Codington* May 21. A *MacGillivray's* was identified by wing-tail measurements and banded at *Aberdeen* May 15 (DT). A *Wilson's* at *Fargo* May 1 was the earliest ever there (MAB).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — The 3 **Summer Tanager** sightings in North Dakota matched the historical total for the state: males Apr. 21 in *Ward* (REM) and May 17 at *Fargo* (MAB), and a first-year male or reddish e. female at Grand Forks May 28 (DOL). A **Scarlet Tanager** May 7 in *Lincoln* (MS) and a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at *Aberdeen* Apr. 29 (DT) were early. A **Chipping Sparrow** at *Fargo* Mar. 26 was the earliest ever there (NZ). **Brewer's Sparrow** has a very restricted range in North Dakota, but as indicated by the estimate of 50 singing males in one black sage flat s. of *Marmath* May 25, they are abundant in the proper habitat. **Baird's Sparrows**, unlike *Sprague's Pipits*, have proven to be common at *Ordway Prairie*, with up to 10 singing males in a 1.25 mi transect (BKH). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** at *Waubay* Apr. 11 tied the earliest South Dakota date, and one at *Lostwood* Apr. 21 was very early for so far n. A singing **Le Conte's Sparrow** at *Newton Hills* May 25 may have indicated possible nesting (MS). A well-described **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** at *L. Elwell* (no date) would provide the 3rd Montana record of the species (HM). A **Fox Sparrow** May 17 in *Jackson*, S.D., was very late (KG).

Lincoln's Sparrows arrived at many locations Apr. 18, but migration was generally poor. **White-throated Sparrow** numbers were incredibly low, with a few observers missing this common species entirely! **White-crowned** made a strong showing, outnumbering **White-throateds** in many areas where the latter is normally the more abundant. *Harris' Sparrow* migration was spotty, with good totals in South Dakota but an incredibly low peak daily count of 17 in the *Minot* area. Several major movements of **Lapland Longspurs** were noted, with the highest total being the estimated 30,000 in *Ward* and *Renville* Apr. 13. A very early **Chestnut-collared Longspur** in molt was found dead at *Kadoka* Mar. 13 (KG).

Little Purple Finch migration was noted except in e. North Dakota, which leads to the question of where this species goes in the winters when it is nearly absent here. **Cassin's Finches** were present throughout at a *Rapid City* feeder (NW). Nesting of **Red Crossbill** occurred in *Minot*, *Bismarck*, *Fargo*, *Huron*, *Aberdeen*, and perhaps at other locations. The first nesting of **White-winged Crossbill** for North Dakota came as a mild surprise. **Birds** were present throughout at *Minot*, and on Apr. 26 three drab, undersized, short-tailed immatures with incompletely developed bills were seen at a *Minot* feeder (GB). On Apr. 28, adults were observed feeding two of the birds (MK). An imma-

ture was also seen by Joy Martin at another feeder, and it is quite likely that more than one pair successfully nested in Minot this year. Very late redpolls were a Common at a Grand Forks feeder through May 22 (SL), and a Hoary at a Minot feeder Apr. 16 (REM). Pine Siskins also engaged in major nesting activities through North Dakota and e. South Dakota.

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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Frances C. Williams

Spring migration was the poorest in the memory of plains observers. Clear skies and southerly winds kept birds moving north and birders waited in vain for a fallout. There was a good showing of shorebirds, but warblers and other small passerines were scarce. Low numbers of usually common species and few vagrants was the rule throughout the Region although a few observers with time, patience, and persistence did locate some interesting migrants.

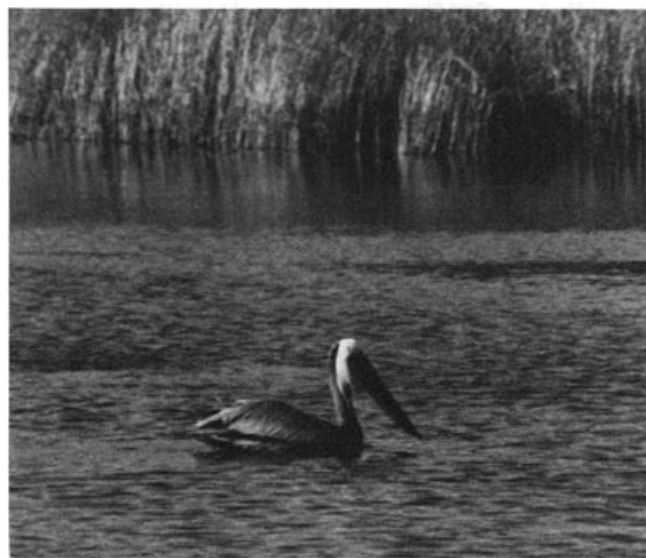
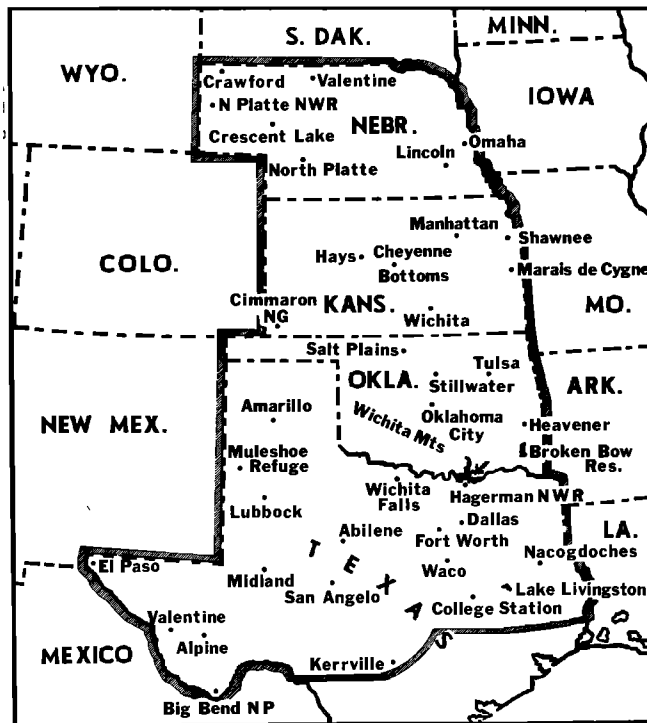
A special thanks is given to the reporters at El Paso, Fort Worth, Tulsa, and Omaha for the excellent details submitted for unusual sightings.

ABBREVIATIONS — B.B.N.P. = Big Bend Nat'l Park, Texas; Buffalo L. = Buffalo Lake Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Randall Co., Texas; F.F. = Fontenelle Forest Nature Center, Sarpy Co., Nebraska; G.M.N.P. = Guadalupe Mountains Nat'l Park, Texas. Place names in *italics* are counties.

GREBES THROUGH IBISES — A well-described Least Grebe in *El Paso*, Tex., provided a first county record and the first record up the Rio Grande from B.B.N.P. (BZ, JD). A W. Grebe in Nebraska City Apr. 19 was unusually far e. (DBr). Some peak numbers of Am. White Pelicans in the w. one-half of the Region included 165 at Abilene, Tex., Apr. 9, 6000 in *Comanche*, Okla., Apr. 16, and 750 in *Keith*, Neb., May 11. The 3rd confirmed **Brown Pelican** for Kansas was found at Meade State L., *Meade*, Apr. 21 (MGo, m.ob.). Up to nine Olivaceous Cormorants were counted in *Rains*, Tex., Apr. 27-June 3, and one provided a first spring record in *Tarrant*, Tex., Apr. 9-May 21 (CBH). An Anhinga appeared at the Ft. Worth Nature Center May 23 (JKa).

A Least Bittern in *Washington*, Okla., May 17-18 was the first there since 1980 (ED *et al.*). Some uncommon spring appearances were made by Great Egrets at Wichita, Kans., Apr. 3 (RLB), *Boone*, Neb., May 7 (WJM), and F.F., Apr. 17 (BJR). Little Blue Herons visited Midland, Tex., June 5, Buffalo L., May 11, and Wichita Mar. 20. Tricolored Herons moved up the Rio Grande to B.B.N.P., Apr. 21 (BMcK) and *El Paso* May 1 & 4 (BZ, JD). A Black-crowned Night-Heron in *Presidio*, Tex., June 2 was many miles from any known heronry (J & CM). A White-faced Ibis at *Muskogee*, Okla., May 13 furnished a new county record (JMcm).

WATERFOWL — Two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks arrived at San Angelo, Tex., May 11 and remained until May 31 (Mcr *et al.*). The species had not been seen there since 1887. Two were also seen at Dallas Apr. 27 (GG). A Tundra Swan visited Grand Island, Neb., Mar. 30-Apr. 30. Three Greater White-fronted Geese lingered at Albion, Neb., until May 29, two Snow Geese were still in *Hudspeth*, Tex., May 31, and two Canada Geese at Midland moved in with some domestic geese, apparently permanently. Ross' Geese provided new county rec-



Brown Pelican at Meade State Lake, Kans., Apr. 23, 1985. Third Kansas record. Photo/Scott Seltman.



Brown Pelican (see page 319). Photo/Scott Seltman.

ords in *Washington* and *Nowata*, Okla., Mar. 3 & 15 (MG, DV, MV), and were seen in *Osage*, Okla., Mar. 16-19. In Nebraska, Ross' Geese were discovered in *Hall* Mar. 10 and *Seward* Mar. 11 (BJR). At El Paso, four Wood Ducks remained past May 31. Wood Ducks at B.B.N.P., Mar. 30 provided one of the few spring records there. Mallards nested in *Jeff Davis*, Tex., for the first nesting record at the Miller ranch in 36 years of record-keeping. A Eur. Wigeon was found in *Hudspeth*, Tex., Mar. 18 and Apr. 11 (BZ, JD). Greater Scaup were seen in *Randall*, Tex., Mar. 22 (KS) and *Douglas*, Neb., Mar. 9 & 12 (BJR, RW). Oldsquaws visited Oklahoma City Mar. 14 & 15 (DB) and *Lancaster*, Neb., Mar. 10 (JGu). A late report noted that a White-winged Scoter was found dead at Muleshoe N.W.R., Tex., Jan. 2 (AJ). A live one was sighted in *Keith*, Neb., May 28 (L & BP). In *Linn*, Kans., a ♀ Hooded Merganser escorted 10 young Apr. 20. Red-breasted Mergansers were found at *Lubbock* May 4-6 (CS) and *Osage*, Okla., Apr. 13 (MG, DV).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — Only 12 Ospreys were reported, but perhaps they have increased to the point that they are no longer noteworthy. Bald Eagles had young in the nest in *Grimes*, Tex., May 30 (KA). A flight of Bald Eagles at F.F., Mar. 7-9 comprised about 20 birds. A single Bald Eagle soared over G.M.N.P., Mar. 5. The only N. Goshawk reported was in *Rush*, Kans., Mar. 11 (SS). A Gray Hawk was observed in B.B.N.P., Apr. 27-May 4 (CSi). In *Comanche*, Okla., single Red-shouldered Hawks were found Mar. 3 and May 11, and a pair was seen Mar. 5 (JKB, JDT). Broad-winged Hawk flights comprised 1085 birds at *Nacogdoches*, Tex., Mar. 28, and 500 in *Hardin*, Tex., Mar. 18. Two kettles of 75 sailed over *Rains* and *Van Zandt*, Tex., Apr. 21. A single bird was seen in *Comanche*, Okla., where the species is rare, Apr. 18 (JDT). Swainson's Hawks made no showing whatever, the largest reported group comprising 12 birds near Oklahoma City Apr. 20. A Swainson's Hawk sitting on a snowdrift at Quivira N.W.R., Kans., Mar. 31 seemed appropriately confused (SS). Zone-tailed Hawks were nesting at Black Gap W.M.A., *Brewster*, Tex., Apr. 14 (BMcK). A Ferruginous Hawk was seen in Boone, Neb., Mar. 14 (WJM). The resident Peregrine Falcons in B.B.N.P. and G.M.N.P. were on territory and presumed to be nesting. Elsewhere, only 10 Peregrines were reported. Prairie Falcons were e. of their breeding range in *Bosque* and *Potter*, Tex., and *Stafford*, Kans., during April and May. A pair seemed to be on an aerie in Hueco Tanks S.P., Tex., where they are not known to nest, May 25 (KA).

Four breeding pairs of Montezuma Quail were released in G.M.N.P., a continuation of the program to re-establish the species there. A small covey of Gambel's Quail was found in *w. Presidio*, Tex., where they have been scarce in recent years. Eight Virginia Rails were present in *El Paso* May 4 and five were in *Tarrant*, Tex., Mar. 31. At Lincoln, Neb., Com. Moorhens were nesting in May. One seen at Oklahoma City May 19 could not be found later, so perhaps the species did not breed there

this year. Single Sandhill Cranes were seen in Nebraska in *Saunders* Mar. 24 and *Madison* Apr. 20. Three color-banded Whooping Cranes which had left Aransas N.W.R., Apr. 4 rested at Quivira N.W.R., Kans., Apr. 6 (SS). Seventeen Whooping Cranes were observed near N. Platte, Neb., Apr. 7 & 8 (GL).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS — Black-bellied Plovers provided a first county record in *Boone*, Neb., May 7-24 (WJM). Unprecedented gatherings of Black-bellied Plovers comprised 22 birds in *Randall*, Tex., May 11 and 75 in *Keith*, Neb., May 19. But those numbers paled compared to the congregations of Lesser Golden-Plovers: 150 at Oklahoma City Apr. 16, 100 in *Mayer*, Okla., Apr. 20, 77 in *Rogers*, Okla., May 6. A Lesser Golden-Plover at *Sheridan*, Neb., provided the first spring record there in 12 years. The usually-rare Piping Plover was sighted at 7 localities Apr. 16-May 11. At *Kimball*, Neb., a Mountain Plover was found May 8 (RW, SZ). A Black-necked Stilt visited *Tarrant*, Tex., Apr. 26 (BL, JWS). Four Willets stopped in *Greer*, Okla., May 4 (JSS) and 26 gathered at Oklahoma City Apr. 20 (MO). Whimbrels appeared at 9 localities May 5-21. Hudsonian Godwits were seen at 10 localities Apr. 16-May 22, with a peak of 37 at Oklahoma City Apr. 16. Marbled Godwits were seen in *Hudspeth*, Tex., Apr. 11, *Randall*, Tex., May 5, and *Linn*, Kans., Apr. 7. Ruddy Turnstones in *Keith* May 11 & 19 provided a first spring record for w. Nebraska (PL, RCR). Turnstones were numerous at Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Kans., and Quivira N.W.R., Kans., with as many as 20 birds present at once.

The only Red Knot reported was in *Stafford*, Kans., May 10 (MC *et al.*). A Sanderling in *Hudspeth*, Tex., May 1 provided a first verified spring record for the El Paso area (BZ, JD). The peak of White-rumped Sandpiper migration occurred May 11-24. The largest flock comprised 236 birds in *Rogers*, Okla., May 19 (MG, DV). In *Taylor*, Tex., a group of 30 arrived on the very early date of Apr. 19 (WH), while eight in *Dawes*, Neb., May 1 were also early (RCR). Unusual numbers of Dunlins were counted: nine in *Nacogdoches*, Tex., May 14, 23 at Tulsa May 22, 50 at Quivira N.W.R., May 18, and 18 in *Keith*, Neb., May 19. A Stilt Sandpiper was photographed in *Hudspeth*, Tex. (BZ). About 200 Buff-breasted Sandpipers rested in *York*, Neb., May 11 (BJR), and one was seen as far w. as *Keith* the same day (PL). A ♀ Ruff was reported at Marais des Cygnes W.M.A., Kans., May 20, but documentation had not been received when this was written (DS, GP, RR). Short-billed Dowitchers were found in *Sheridan*, Neb., May 2 (DJR, RCR) and *Sarpy*, Neb., May 14 (RW, SZ). A ♀ Red-necked Phalarope in breeding plumage stood in a puddle on the highway in a fog in *Crosby*, Tex., Apr. 28 (ML). One was sighted at Quivira N.W.R., May 19 (SS).

A bird identified as an ad. Laughing Gull rested on a sandbar in the Arkansas R. at Tulsa May 21 (m.ob.). A California Gull was discovered in *Keith* May 11 (PL). Thayer's Gulls were reported in Kansas Mar. 17 in *Coffey* (MC, LM) and Mar. 4 in *Riley* (TC). The Lesser Black-backed Gulls reported at Oklahoma City this winter remained through Mar. 10 (JGN). A Caspian Tern at Midland June 5 provided a new county record (J & KC, m.ob.) and three were seen in *Caddo*, Okla., May 16. Least Terns were seen at *Lubbock*, Tex., *Muskogee*, Okla., *Rogers*, Okla., and *Sarpy*, Neb., but the only nests reported were 3 on the Arkansas R. at Tulsa May 28. Observers at Oklahoma City, Bartlesville, Okla., and w. Texas agreed on the scarcity of Black Terns.

DOVES THROUGH OWLS — A White-winged Dove at *Lubbock* Apr. 26-May 14 provided a first county record (LJ). A Monk Parakeet appeared at *Hico*, Tex., Apr. 6 (CE). Black-billed Cuckoos were seen at *Dallas* May 12 & 19, *Tulsa* May 11 & 19, *Rogers*, Okla., May 19, and *Muskogee*, Okla., May 22. At one of the visitors' centers in B.B.N.P., a Greater Roadrunner's nest is displayed in a window. A roadrunner was observed outside the window, trying to reach the nest. After numerous attempts to gain access to the nest, the roadrunner laid an egg on the one-inch windowsill and flew away (AB). A Groove-billed Ani visited the Ft. Worth Nature Center June 9.

While doing research at the Kerr W.M.A., Kerr, Tex., Joe A. Grzybowski and Joe T. Marshall, Jr., heard a **Western Screech-Owl** calling May 19, on May 31 saw and heard a pair duetting, and the following day found a 2nd female. This extended the range of the W. Screech-Owl e. about 120 mi. While birding May 11 in w. Kansas, in *Morton*, Seltman drove w. to the Colorado line on the n. side of the Cimarron R. He played a tape which contained a series of various owl calls. After several minutes, a W. Screech-Owl began to answer the taped call, and the owl flew from Colorado and landed in a dense stand of tamarisk about 10 m w. of the Kansas line. It then flew across the line and provided Kansas with a new state record (SS, LS).



Western Screech-Owl in Kerr County, Tex., May 31, 1985. Separation of this species from Eastern Screech-Owl is done mostly by voice, of course, but notice this bird's black bill (yellowish in Eastern) and the strong vertical element in the markings of the underparts (Eastern shows a little more emphasis on the horizontal crossbars). Photo/Joseph A. Grzybowski.

Visitors to G.M.N.P. who hope to see or hear the Spotted Owl are always discouraged when they learn of the long, arduous climb to get to the proper habitat. But May 31, one was heard in McKittrick Canyon near the lodge, a relatively easy hike. (Now if one could just get the Park Service to let one stay in this day-use area until dark to hear the owl!) Nesting Long-eared Owls were found in *Dixon, Neb.*, and *Morton, Kans.*

GOATSUCKERS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — A migration of Com. Poorwills through Oklahoma City Apr. 13 was indicated by three slightly injured birds found that day and turned in to a rehabilitator (LB). A Chuck-will's-widow heard in *Stanton, Neb.*, Apr. 20 was rather far n. (E & MB). Four Chuck-will's-widows calling in s. *Taylor, Tex.*, were w. of their usual range (TE). Blue-throated and Magnificent hummingbirds visited McKittrick Canyon, G.M.N.P., in May (GS). Two Lucifer Hummingbirds were frequenting a feeder and flowers at a ranch house in *Presidio, Tex.*, during May, and nesting was suspected (J & CM). Wintering Lewis' Woodpeckers remained at Midland and San Angelo until late April and one was seen in *Randall, Tex.*, May 4-5. A pair of Hairy Woodpeckers seen at a nest hole in *Tarrant* Apr. 16 provided one of the few recent records for the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. A Pileated Woodpecker was found at F.F., May 11.

Least, Dusky, and Hammond's flycatchers were all heard in B.B.N.P., Apr. 30 (CSI, AB). Gray Flycatchers were heard in *Jeff Davis, Tex.*, May 2 (E & KM), Hueco Tanks S.P., Apr. 30 (BZ) and El Paso May 4 (BZ). Say's Phoebes apparently summer in *Adams, Neb.*, every year (L & BP). A Vermilion Flycatcher brightened *Custer, Okla.*, May 7 (PWW). Two Ash-throated Flycatchers that had 5 eggs in a bluebird box in *Hood, Tex.*, May 26 were n. and e. of their usual range. Cassin's Kingbirds in *Sheridan, Neb.*, May 4 (RCR, DJR) and *Garden, Neb.*, May 11 (PL) were near the easternmost part of their range. In *Nacogdoches, Tex.*, a W. Kingbird provided a 2nd spring record May 23 (DW). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Oklahoma City Feb. 28 was very early.

SWALLOWS THROUGH VIREOS — An overpass in *Hudspeth, Tex.*, contained 40 active Cave Swallow nests (BZ) and an overpass e. of Ft. Stockton, Tex., contained 9 active Cave Swallow nests (CE). The Blue Jay discovered during the Mule-shoe N.W.R., Tex., Christmas Bird Count was still present May 31. Fish Crows were common in *Washington, Okla.*, Apr. 14-May 11, with a peak of 15 Apr. 14 (m.ob.). A Bewick's Wren was found in *Sarpy, Neb.*, May 19, where it has never been regular. A **Black-capped Gnatcatcher** was independently found and identified by 2 expert tour leaders and their groups in B.B.N.P., Apr. 29 and May 2 (BF, RS). This lends credence to a report of the species there last year, which was rejected by the Texas Bird Records Committee.

A pair of E. Bluebirds nested in a Ladder-backed Woodpecker

hole at Midland after successfully fighting off Starlings and Ash-throated Flycatchers. This provided a new county nesting record (m.ob.). Mountain Bluebirds remained into May in *Potter* and *Culberson, Tex.*, and Townsend's Solitaires lingered late throughout w. Texas. Veeries were seen in Amarillo Apr. 28 (PA) and at Buffalo L., May 21 (KS). Two Gray-cheeked Thrushes were at Buffalo L., May 14 (KS), and one was sighted in *Morton, Kans.*, May 15 (LM). Swainson's Thrushes were unusually common at Midland and Amarillo. Wood Thrushes visited B.B.N.P., May 1-7 (m.ob.). A Varied Thrush delighted birders at Omaha Mar. 30-Apr. 12.

Single Sprague's Pipits were discovered in *Tarrant, Tex.*, Apr. 21 (JWS), *Douglas, Kans.*, Mar. 13 (MC), and *Stanton, Neb.*, Apr. 20 (E & MB). Two Cedar Waxwing nests in *Dundy, s.w. Nebraska*, May 31 provided a new nesting record there (*vide* WJM). Loggerhead Shrikes nested a month early in *Sheridan, Neb.* White-eyed Vireos were seen at B.B.N.P., Apr. 19 (LGO), Midland May 14 (FCW, JM), and Balmorhea S.P., Tex., Apr. 30 (E & KM). Bell's Vireos were more numerous in *Kerr* and surrounding counties than in the past few years, and two were at Buffalo L., May 23. Bell's Vireos were abundant as usual in riparian habitats in trans-Pecos Texas. Four observers spent 22 days searching for Black-capped Vireos in Oklahoma and found about 20 males at 9 locations in *Comanche, Caddo, Canadian, and Blaine (JAG)*. In s. *Kerr, Tex.*, 16 Black-capped Vireos were heard in an area near Hwy 16 Apr. 18 (E & KM), seven were seen in the *Dallas* cedar brakes May 19 (WP), and nine were heard along Hwy 647 in *Edwards, Tex.*, May 19 (FCW). They were easy to find throughout the period at Dinosaur Valley S.P., *Somervell, Tex.* Yellow-throated Vireos wandered w. to El Paso May 30 (BZ) and Buffalo L., May 6 (KS). One at Ft. Worth Apr. 21 was also noteworthy. A Philadelphia Vireo at Buffalo L., May 21 was the first at that locality since May 1970 (KS), and one in *Washington, Okla.*, May 15 was the first there since May 1981 (MD). In *Nacogdoches, Tex.*, Philadelphia Vireos were common May 7-15, with five or more seen most days (DW, JK). Six species of vireos were found at Buffalo L. during the period, an unusual number for that locality.

WARBLERS—Breeding species arrived on time and in their usual numbers, but transient warblers were scarce. A Blue-winged Warbler graced B.B.N.P., May 3 (CSi). Golden-winged Warblers visited F.F., May 15 (SZ). Tennessee Warblers were found w. to B.B.N.P., May 1 (CSi), Amarillo May 22 (KS), and *Cheyenne*, Kans., May 14 (PL). A Lucy's Warbler in *Hudspeth* May 28 appeared to be defending territory, but no female could be found (BZ). Northern Parulas were seen at Midland May 12 (RMS) and *Morton*, Kans., Apr. 27 (SS). Three Chestnut-sided Warblers visited *Comanche*, Okla., May 18 (S & RC), and one was seen at Buffalo L., May 16 (KS). Magnolia Warblers were out of range in *Sheridan*, Neb., May 4 (DJR) and Buffalo L., May 16 (KS). Cape May Warblers, which rarely migrate through Texas, were seen in B.B.N.P., Apr. 19 (LG, MJ), Tyler Apr. 27 (AMacK), and Nacogdoches May 14 (DW, JK). A Black-throated Blue Warbler was observed in Midland Apr. 13 (RMS). A Hermit Warbler was discovered in B.B.N.P., May 6 (BA).

The population of Golden-cheeked Warblers at Dinosaur Valley S.P. has been found to rival that of the more famous Meridian S.P., *Bosque*, Tex. A Golden-cheeked at Possum Kingdom S.P., *Palo Pinto*, Tex., Apr. 14 was at the n. edge of the range of the species. Blackpoll Warblers were found in *Cheyenne*, Kans., May 14 (PL) and *Collin*, Tex., May 4 (CG). Cerulean Warblers brightened Dallas Apr. 27 (MW), Ft. Worth May 4 (m.ob.), and Marais des Cygnes W.M.A., Kans., May 4 (SS). Prothonotary Warblers provided a first record in *Boone*, Neb., May 1 (WJM) and 2nd records in *Caddo*, Okla., May 6 (JAG) and B.B.N.P., May 5 (ES). Worm-eating Warblers were found in B.B.N.P., May 2 (CSi) and *Comanche*, Okla., Mar. 11 (AR). The seldom-reported Connecticut Warbler was found in Kansas in *Linn* May 9 (MC, SC) and *Norton* in late May (RLB). A Kentucky Warbler was discovered in G.M.N.P., June 1 (BJ). Hooded Warblers were seen in B.B.N.P., Apr. 30, *Johnson*, Kans., Apr. 21, *Pawnee*, Kans., May 15, and *Morton*, Kans., May 16.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES—A Hepatic Tanager was located at El Paso May 4 (BZ). A Summer Tanager Apr. 27 in *Morton*, Kans., was somewhat out of place. Scarlet Tanagers brightened B.B.N.P., Apr. 26 (CSi), Midland May 20 (m.ob.), and *Jackson*, Okla., May 4 (JDT, m.ob.). Northern Cardinals were seen in 6 locations in *Merrill*, Neb., where previously they had been found at only one site (RCR). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found in 6 localities in the w. one-third of the Region. A Black-headed Grosbeak visited *Saunders*, Neb., May 25 (BJR). A Lazuli Bunting provided a first county record in *Boone*, Neb., May 7 (WJM). Others were seen at Dallas Apr. 15 (PP), *Bailey*, Tex., Apr. 13 (LJ), *Greer*, Okla., May 5 (S & RC), and *Comanche*, Okla., May 26 (D & TC). Seltman commented that although the range maps show Lazuli Buntings breeding in the w. two-thirds of Kansas, he finds only few each year in spite of much time in the field.

There was an excellent flight of Chipping and Clay-colored sparrows in w. Kansas during the first 3 weeks of May. Bright ♂ Lark Buntings strayed to Oklahoma City May 12 (T & BP) and

Tulsa May 8 (m ob) In early May Lark Buntings ranged into c. Kansas and were common as far e. as Great Bend (SS). Henslow's Sparrows in *Pawnee*, Neb., May 6 & 19 appeared to be on territory on the fringe of a Greater Prairie-Chicken booming ground (RW). A Le Conte's Sparrow provided a first county record in *Jones*, Tex., Mar. 9 (WH). A Golden-crowned Sparrow in Palo Duro Canyon S.P., *Randall*, Tex., Mar. 17 & 24 provided the only spring record in the Panhandle (PA, m.ob.).

Bobolinks were scarce, the largest flock reported being of only 11 birds in *Muskogee*, Okla., May 10 (VJ). Yellow-headed Blackbirds visited 3 localities in n.e. Oklahoma. Great-tailed Grackles continued to increase in *Douglas* and *Lancaster*, Neb. Brown-headed and Bronzed cowbirds have greatly reduced the population of Hooded Orioles in B.B.N.P. Drastic control measures should be instituted. Orchard Orioles were virtually absent in c. and w.-c. Oklahoma (JAG). Could this also be a cowbird problem? A Hooded Oriole was found in G.M.N.P., May 22 (BJ). A "Baltimore" N. Oriole visited B.B.N.P., Apr. 24 (W & FE)

Northern finch invaders remained late and wandered into areas where they had not been found during the winter. Late records included Cassin's Finch at El Paso May 2, Red Crossbill at Oklahoma City May 15 and at Omaha May 19, Com. Redpoll in *Washington*, Neb., Mar. 27, and Evening Grosbeak at Amarillo May 10. A late report was received of a Com. Redpoll at Norman, Okla., Jan. 21-Feb. 2 (EC, JAG). Pine Siskins nested at F.F. in late March (AS). A Lesser Goldfinch visited a feeder at Irving, Tex., Apr. 17 (WP).

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SOUTH TEXAS REGION

Greg W. Lasley and Chuck Sexton

The disappointment voiced over this spring's poor passerine migration had an overtone of concern. Coming on the heels of a poor spring migration in 1984 (albeit packed with rarities), observers were primed with anticipation for some good fallouts. Last year, a lack of significant frontal passages was a ready-made explanation for the lack of birds. This year "there were some opportunities (for migrant fallouts) but nothing happened" (JM). Substantial rains and "classical" weather patterns conducive to fallouts punctuated March, April, and May. Nonetheless, observers

on the Upper Texas Coast, on the central coast, and at Austin described the passerine migration as one of the worst ever.

The concern arose because of the peculiar composition of the migration. Indeed, most observers reported an excellent shorebird migration as described below. Furthermore, edge species such as buntings and open country birds like kingbirds and swallows made respectable, if not spectacular, showings in some areas. However, the distressing aspect was the minimal number of *forest-dwelling* migrants, especially among the warblers. Pinkston and others noted that the diversity was not bad but the *numbers* were very low.

Morgan pointed out that the rainfall along the immediate Upper Texas Coast was far below normal even though official gauging stations showed near-normal amounts. However, that local weather quirk could not explain the widespread lack of small passerines Regionwide. The one notable exception to the above lack of birds was an extremely late, yet excellent fallout of warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and kingbirds at Rockport May 21. Some of the species present were two and three weeks later than they are normally seen in any numbers.

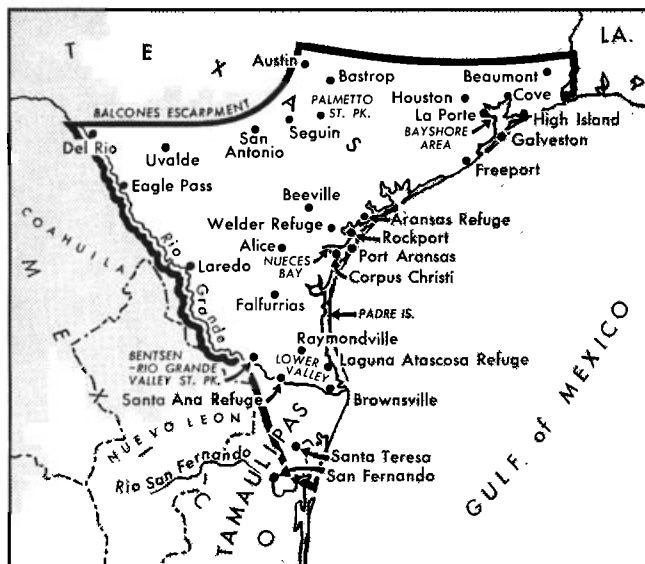
Clearly, the continuing loss of tropical forest wintering habitat was on the minds of many observers. Some were quick to link this cause-and-effect and offer the apparent results we are seeing on our migratory pathways as proof. Other cautious observers were hesitant to point the finger of guilt but admittedly came up short for any other satisfactory explanation for what several observers termed "our silent spring." A harder, quantitative look at all available data (beyond the scope we are able to compile and report here) will be essential for a better understanding of our long-term trends. And, of course, migration records, with their numerous uncontrollable variables, may never offer definitive answers.

ABBREVIATIONS — Anahuac = Anahuac Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; Attwater = Attwater Prairie Chicken Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; Bentsen = Bentsen Rio Grande Valley State Park; Laguna Atascosa = Laguna Atascosa Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; L.R.G.V. = Lower Rio Grande Valley; Santa Ana = Santa Ana Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; Sea Rim = Sea Rim State Park; U.T.C. = Upper Texas Coast. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Two Arctic Loons were seen Apr. 20 near Sea Rim (CE); this species is reported more frequently each year. Whether these increased reports reflect an actual increase in numbers or more careful observation of loons remains to be seen. Least Grebes were easy to find at most locations in the L.R.G.V. this spring, probably due to the presence of more ponds and wet areas from abundant winter and spring rains. As many as nine were seen displaying and courting at one small pond at Santa Ana during early April. A probable booby sp. was seen Mar. 9 off High I. (RPi, FC); no previous booby records exist for the U.T.C. in March. An ad. Brown Booby, carefully described, appeared in *Matagorda* Apr. 26 (DMA), for a very rare spring record. American White Pelicans moved N in impressive numbers during mid-April; 3500 were counted Apr. 10 near Mercedes (GL, SH *et al.*), and 2000+ were noted Apr. 12 & 13 near Riviera coming off Baffin Bay (WS, N & PP, SB *et al.*). Several contributors commented on the large numbers of Double-crested Cormorants seen early this spring at various coastal locations. As an example, Clark counted 3500 over Aransas Bay Mar. 2. Reports of Am Bitterns were scarce, although observers found Least Bitterns in good supply. A roost of 60 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in *Refugio* Mar. 30 was notable (CC). The wintering imm. White Ibis at San Antonio remained until at least May 5 (WS).

WATERFOWL — Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were reported regularly in above-normal numbers from many areas. More than 100 were at Attwater in early April (GL), and increases were noted in the Kingsville area (N & PP, SB). Sixty-two were at Riviera May 6 (AO). Like their cousins, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were reported in good numbers by most observers. This species again ranged as far w. as *Uvalde* and as far n. as Austin, A Tundra Swan in *Fayette* Mar. 1 (MH) was the first reported in the Region for several years. A blue-phase Ross' Goose was well-described near Seadrift Mar. 3 (CC), and several of the white or "normal" phase were reported in March with large flocks of Snow Geese on the U.T.C. and elsewhere.

One of the most exciting finds of the season was an ad. ♂ **Garganey** discovered Apr. 11 near Riviera (†AO). The bird remained at 2 small ponds in the immediate area until May 17



S.A.

Following on last winter's report of an imm. **Muscovy Duck**, two adults were seen regularly Mar. 4 through at least May 5 on the Rio Grande at Rancho Santa Margarita and Salineno in *Starr*. Although no photos have yet been obtained, the birds were well described by many observers familiar with the species in the tropics (SH, GL, TP *et al.*). The birds were glossy black overall with clear white forewings and wing linings. They were quite wary of humans and exceptionally fast fliers. They were often seen perched on dead tree branches as high as 35 ft above the river. The Mexican nest box program for the species, mentioned in the winter report, is apparently having continued success. Will we see increased observations this fall when post-nesting wanderers from the Mexican populations begin to disperse? Despite the relative ease of identification of wild adults of the species, the editors request *full* details of any Muscovy sighting in order to cull out reports of feral birds.

and was seen and photographed by many observers for the first state record. The bird was in the company of several Blue-winged Teal and left when the Blue-wingeds migrated N. The possibility of an escapee cannot be ruled out, but it is interest-



Male Garganey (with Blue-winged Teal) at Riviera, Tex., Apr. 13, 1985. First Texas record. Photo/Barbara Ribble.

ing to note than many of the recent North American records have been in April and May.

Twelve pairs of Cinnamon Teal in a flooded field near Bay-side Mar. 24 (E & NA) was an unusual concentration for that area. A ♀ Greater Scaup at San Antonio May 5 (WS, CB) was surprising. All 3 scoter species were present in unusually high numbers at various U.T.C. locations until late April. Easley counted eight Black, 30 Surf, and 85 White-winged scoters Apr. 20 at Sea Rim. As many as 175 additional scoters were too far away to be identified to species. Not content with finding the state's first Garganey, O'Neil also discovered a ♀ Masked Duck at Riviera Apr. 11. This bird was quite elusive and was seen by only a few observers.

RAPTORS — Hook-billed Kites were again present at Bentsen, Santa Ana, and the Falcon Dam area. By early May, a pair was seen building a nest near Falcon Dam (JC, TP *et al.*). The editors consider Hook-billed Kite to be one of the rarest resident birds in the state. Although many visiting birders have been fortunate enough to see one, the species can be extremely difficult to find. In addition, some reports are erroneous: Lasley watched as both a subad. Red-shouldered Hawk and a Broad-winged Hawk were misidentified as Hook-billeds in April at Santa Ana. Records of these rare birds should not be accepted without proper documentation. American Swallow-tailed Kites were reported from many areas in the Region Mar. 9-May 18. Three were in view simultaneously Mar. 31 in *Chambers* (DD), and five were in view at once Apr. 13 at Santa Ana (*vide* SL). Scattered flocks of Mississippi Kites were reported Region-wide during April; however, no more than 50 birds were reported in any one flock.

Gray Hawks were seen occasionally in the L.R.G.V., and an adult at Riviera Apr. 14 (+MA) provided a new *Kleberg* record. A possible Roadside Hawk was seen Apr. 11 and May 2 at Bentsen by several observers, but the details submitted were not conclusive. A Broad-winged Hawk over Houston Mar. 5 (RPi) was quite early, but by late March many sizable flocks appeared Regionwide. Dauphin counted 9600 Broad-winged over *Chambers* Mar. 31 and 14,000 were tallied at Santa Ana Mar. 21-Apr. 1 (*vide* SL). A subad. White-tailed Hawk near Concan Mar. 23 and Apr. 14 (VE, B & GL) provided a new *Uvalde* record. Excellent details were submitted on a report of an Aplomado Falcon at Laguna Atascosa Mar. 6 (G & NG); however, there were no additional reports. Peregrine Falcons harassed shorebirds and ducks at several U.T.C. locations in March and April. Several were also seen near Austin sewage ponds in May, apparently following the shorebird migration.

TURKEY THROUGH TERNS — A flock of 75 Wild Turkeys with 18 males "really gobbling and strutting" Mar. 3 in *Brooks* (AO) was an impressive sight. Two Yellow Rails were seen at Laguna Atascosa Mar. 25 (+RK *et al.*), and as many as 12 Yellows and two Blacks were reported regularly by birders on the Anahuac marsh buggy during April. Several observers near Austin independently noted an enormous migration of 10,000+ Sandhill Cranes Mar. 13 (GL, JW, RAR).

Observers all over the Region declared the spring shorebird migration the best in years. Counts of 16-19 species of migrant shorebirds at inland sewage ponds and flooded fields were commonplace.

Several Mountain Plovers occurred with large flocks of migrating Lesser Golden-Plovers: Four were near Rio Hondo Mar. 23 (*vide* TP), three near Aransas N.W.R., Mar. 30 (J & RH), and one in *Calhoun* May 3 (TL). Details suggestive of an Eskimo Curlew on Galveston I., Mar. 31 (DMr) were received. The observer (who has previous experience with the species) was alone at the time of the observation and the bird could not be located later. A Whimbrel at Austin May 5 (BF, GP, JS) was rare; and a group of four Hudsonian Godwits at Santa Ana May 11-13 (*vide* SL) furnished a new refuge record. Numerous White-rumped Sandpipers frequented the U.T.C. during late April, and flocks of up to 400 moved through San Antonio and Austin



Curlew Sandpiper at San Antonio, Tex., May 25, 1985. Second documented record for Texas. Photo/Tyrrell Harvey.

in May. Baird's and Pectoral sandpipers were particularly abundant Regionwide. Many observers reported more of those 2 species than they had ever seen in a season before. The state's 2nd documented **Curlew Sandpiper** visited a San Antonio sewer pond May 23-25 (+ph. TH, m.ob.). The bird was in breeding plumage, much more advanced than last spring's bird on the U.T.C. Over 100 Buff-breasted Sandpipers in a flooded field near Corpus Christi Apr. 7 (WS, CB) were a little early. A ♀ Ruff at an Austin sewage pond Apr. 11 (+EK, LB) provided the 2nd Austin area record. Tens (hundreds?) of thousands of Long-billed Dowitchers swarmed onto flooded rice fields on the U.T.C. in mid-April, supplemented by large numbers of Short-billeds in late April and early May. Red-necked Phalaropes, very rare in spring, showed up in Austin May 14-20 (BF, GP, ph. GL), and in *Galveston* May 18 (+AD).

A Thayer's Gull at the Brownsville Dump Mar. 21 was well described (JG), and another very late Thayer's was identified in *Calhoun* May 5 (+TTL). The Lesser Black-backed Gull on Mustang I. remained until at least Apr. 10, by which time it had acquired near ad. plumage. A Glaucous Gull was at Bolivar Flats Apr. 17-20 (JA, MA, CE), and a first-winter Black-legged Kittiwake was photographed in *Jefferson* Apr. 20 (CE). An **Arctic Tern**, apparently providing the 2nd documented Texas record, was discovered on the beach in *Jefferson* Apr. 17 (+JA, JC *et al.*). The bird was also seen in the same area Apr. 20 (RBe), and at Bolivar Flats Apr. 26 (+ph. RBe, JF). Several Sooty Terns were noted near their breeding islands off the c. coast in early April (EP, *vide* KMc), and one Sooty was identified Apr. 17 at High I. (M & RM), for a rare U.T.C. record.

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A pair of **Ruddy Ground-Doves** was carefully described at Bentsen Mar. 31 (+DB *et al.*), but the birds were not seen afterward. Another was reported without details Mar. 22 at Santa Ana (*vide* SL). Green Parakeets were again seen in Brownsville and McAllen at roost sites with small flocks of Red-crowned Parrots throughout the period (m.ob.). There were also reports of a few Red-lored, Lilac-crowned, White-fronted, Yellow-headed, and other unidentified *Amazona* parrots with those flocks of Red-crowned. The editors are currently researching the status of Red-crowned Parrots and Green Parakeets in the pet trade in the L.R.G.V. to see if some of these reported birds could actually be vagrants from Mexican populations. One interesting fact learned so far: Green Parakeets are virtually unknown in the pet trade in the area.

A Black-billed Cuckoo Mar. 31 in Corpus Christi (KMc) was early. The species was reported in low numbers the rest of the season in most areas, but two were banded at Driftwood May 16 & 25 (DC), for rare occurrences in the Austin area. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were in above-average numbers Regionwide. A pair of Ferruginous Pygmy-Owls was found sporadically at the tradi-

tonal spot below Falcon Dam throughout the period. Two more Ferruginous were heard Apr 5 at Santa Ana (*vide* SL), and one was heard there May 1 (RTP, JT, GL), for the first refuge records in many years. Thirty-nine Elf Owls were tallied at Santa Ana Apr 5 (*vide* SL), and three were heard at La Grulla Apr. 11 (GL, SH *et al.*). Numbers of Lesser Nighthawks were thought to be low in the Del Rio area (VH).

Buff-bellied Hummingbirds increase each year around Corpus Christi and Kingsville, locations that were formerly at the n. edge of the species' range. One Buff-bellied wandered N to Columbus May 13-14 (JD). A Ringed Kingfisher seen well on the Frio R. near Leakey Apr. 21 (†A & JB) was unexpected. The species is usually confined to the L.R.G.V., but there have been other hill country reports in recent years. Green Kingfishers have been scarce for several seasons in the Austin area; the species possibly suffered losses in the harsh winter of 1983-1984. A considerable number of Red-headed Woodpeckers remained in the c. coast area from last fall's invasion. As many as eight were seen regularly around Ingleside (E & NA) during the period, and two were seen in Rockport Apr. 8 (GL *et al.*).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH RAVENS — Northern Beardless-Tyrannulets were seen occasionally at Bentsen and in the Sarta area during the period. Graber noted lower numbers of migrant *Empidonax* flycatchers than usual in the Beaumont area. A late push of migrants May 21 at Rockport included 25 + Yellow-bellied, 10 Alder, 20 Willow, 25 "Traill's", and five Least flycatchers at one 10-acre area (VE, JA *et al.*). Keith Arnold reported 3 species of *Myiarchus* in late May in Del Rio: Ash-throated in brushlands, Great Crested in parklands and urban areas, and Brown-crested in riparian woodland. Silent Tropical/Couch's Kingbirds were noted at High I., Apr. 27 (BL, JN) and at Rockport May 21 (GL). Several observers were surprised at the late migration of kingbirds May 21 on the c. coast and at inland areas. Examples included 300 Easterns and 45 Westerns at Rockport (VE, JA *et al.*), and 240 Easterns and 60 Westerns at Falfurrias (AO).

Two Violet-green Swallows were seen near Sarita Apr. 13 (SBu), for an unusual spring record. Cave Swallows appeared to be re-occupying nesting areas from last year that represented dramatic range expansions; they were even showing up at new locations. Twenty Cave Swallows were seen at the dam at L. Corpus Christi Mar. 28 (DB), and over 100 had returned to a culvert at Riviera (CS, N & PP, SB). A pair was also apparently setting up housekeeping at a picnic shelter near Concan Apr. 22 (A & JB), a most unlikely nesting site.

The effects of last year's Blue Jay invasion into deep s. Texas were still being felt. Blue Jays remained in Kingsville, and in Corpus Christi McCracken commented that "I know of six pairs that should be heckling Inca Doves in Austin by now"; several there had already fledged young by mid-May. A surprisingly large flock of 170 Blue Jays startled Clark at Rockport May 1; and other observers near Rockport (VE, GL) noted jays carrying nesting material May 21. Graber continues to observe increases in the numbers of Fish Crows each year in the Beaumont area and on the coastal prairie near Sabine Pass. He predicts the birds will show up in the Trinity R. area and in Houston in the future. A Chihuahuan Raven Mar. 31 near Sea Rim provided a first *Jefferson* record (WG).

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS — Incredible numbers of migrant Marsh Wrens were counted at Anahuac Apr. 20-25 (RP1, GL, JC). At least 150 were singing along the edge of Shovel-er Pond on the refuge, but only two were present a week later. The *Catharus* thrush migration was described as only fair with few concentrations noted. A pair of Clay-colored Robins remained at Bentsen all period and the birds were incubating eggs by late April. A Phainopepla was e. of its typical range at Uvalde Mar. 16 (ML). A singing Bell's Vireo at High I., Mar. 22 (EAd) furnished a rare record for the U.T.C. The first U.T.C. record of the *plumbeus* race of the Solitary Vireo was provided by a bird studied Mar. 31 at High I. (JM, M & RB). Warbling and

Philadelphia vireos moved through later than normal, with numbers of both reported in the last week of May. Red-eyed Vireos showed up in late March and appeared to move steadily through the Region until late May; 150 migrant Red-eyeds were in a small woodlot in *Galveston* May 18 (MA) following a rain-storm.

The warbler migration in general was dismal, especially on the U.T.C. Nashville Warbler numbers were thought to be low in Austin and other interior areas where they are usually abundant migrants. A "Sutton's" Warbler (N. Parula x Yellow-throated) was described in detail (DW). It was found in cypress trees along the Sabinal R. near Utopia May 4. Its song, a curious combination of those of the presumed parent species, was later recorded (JA). Cape May Warblers and Blackpolls were in above-normal numbers on the U.T.C. In fact, the Blackpoll was "the most commonly seen warbler at High I., Apr. 19-21" (JM, N & PP, CE *et al.*), an indication of how poorly the other species were represented. Seven Palm Warblers at High I., Apr. 20 (CE) were late. The most notable concentration of warblers apparently occurred at Rockport May 21, a late date for numbers such as: 100+ Blackburnians, 75 Bay-breasteds, 75 Black-throated Greens, 25 Canadas, 25 Magnolias, and lesser numbers of Tennessees, Yellows, Chestnut-sideds, Black-and-whites, Am Redstarts, Mournings, and Com. Yellowthroats. This fallout was observed in about a 10-15 acre patch of live oaks following overnight and morning thunderstorms (VE, JA, GL, DW *et al.*)

TANAGERS THROUGH ORIOLES — A Summer Tanager at Port Lavaca Mar. 25 was early, as was a Scarlet there Apr. 1 (CC). Western Tanagers appeared at Falcon Dam Mar. 23 (*vide* TP) and at High I., Apr. 21 (CE *et al.*). O'Neil counted 600 Pyrrhuloxias near Falfurrias on a day's outing Mar. 10. The Blue Buntings at Bentsen reported during the winter were seen sporadically through Mar. 16 (BF *et al.*). Lazuli Buntings popped up all over the Region this spring. As many as 10 visited Bentsen feeders during March (TP), and individuals were seen in Corpus Christi during March (N & PP) and in Austin May 4 (JO). A pair of Varied Buntings was a good find at Falcon Mar. 16 (ML), and a flock of 1000+ Dickcissels leap-frogged their way across a Riviera field Apr. 14 (AO). A White-collared Seedeater was singing at San Ygnacio Apr. 13 (GL *et al.*), but apparently was not found later. A Baird's Sparrow was well described Mar 22 in *Hidalgo* (DJ), for a new county record. Bobolinks were sparse, but Yellow-headed Blackbirds were widely reported in good numbers. Clark found a dark-eyed Great-tailed Grackle May 18 at Bayside. With Morgan on the U.T.C. now turning up yellow-eyed Boat-tailed Grackles, we should all be in for some interesting discussions. Hooded and Audubon's orioles continued to be seen regularly in the L.R.G.V. Hoodeds were also fairly common in the Concan area in April and May (VE, GL). Both Orchard and N. orioles were described as being in low numbers Regionwide.

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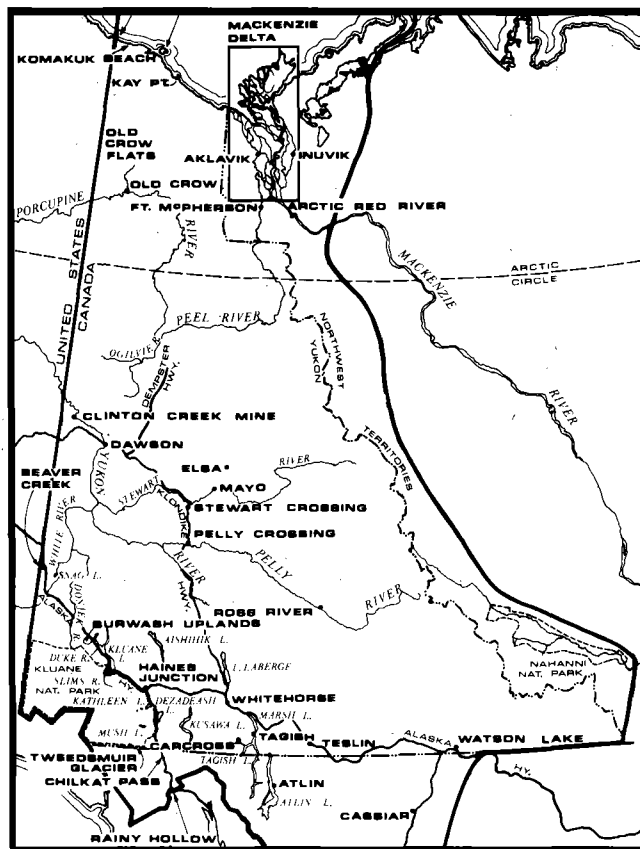
Spring came late to many parts of the Region. The heavy snow cover, left over from the winter, melted away slowly, and lakes opened up late. This might have had a detrimental effect especially on early migrants. Most species arrived late or on time. Some species did not get to the Yukon until after the end of the report period. However, our weather statistics told us that the temperatures and precipitation were about normal in most areas. At least 222 species were observed by contributors from many different areas of the Region. Some species that were missed were Brant, Swainson's Hawk, Gyrfalcon, Surfbird, Western Sandpiper, Mourning Dove, Northern Wheatear, and Red Crossbill.

ABBREVIATIONS—F.S.J. = Fort St. John, B.C.; H.R./F.P. = Hay River/Fort Providence area, s.w. Northwest Territories; Whse. = Whitehorse, Yukon.

PELICANS THROUGH RAPTORS—Up to 26 Am. White Pelicans were seen in Wood Buffalo N.P., Apr. 30 and May 3 (MB, IM). The first Am. Bittern of the season at H.R./F.P. was observed May 21 (PR). A high count of 2100 swans, mostly Tundra and some Trumpeter swans, was obtained Apr. 26 at M'Clintock Bay, Marsh L., one of the major waterfowl staging areas in the s. Yukon (PH). Seven Snow Geese were reported from Wood Buffalo N.P., May 2 (JT), and the first one at H.R./F.P. this season was seen May 6 (PR); one, a rare migrant, was noted near F.S.J., May 6-21 (MG, CS). Cinnamon Teals were recorded at least 5 times in May in the F.S.J. area and are no longer considered to be out of range (CS). Two males were also seen on a pond at Lubbock R., Atlin Rd., s. Yukon (WH). A rare Gadwall was sighted at Shallow Bay, s.w. end of L. Laberge, May 16 (GJ, TM, DP *et al.*), and the first one was noted at H.R./F.P. May 29 (PR). A Redhead was seen at M'Clintock Bay, Marsh L., Apr. 19, and two were observed near Carcross, s. Yukon, Apr. 20 (JH); in Whse., one was noted at Schwatka L., May 6 (RMcL); and a pair was reported at a pond near Lubbock R., Atlin Rd., May 16 (WH). The first Ruddy Duck of the season was recorded at H.R./F.P., May 15 (PR); a pair was observed at Wood Buffalo N.P., May 20-21 (D & IB); and one, quite rare for the Yukon, was seen on the Yukon R. near Lewes Dam May 21 (JH).

A pair of Ospreys with a nest was found at Squanga L., May 2 (BS); one individual was observed near Lubbock R., May 17 (WH); and one was seen in the H.R./F.P. area May 26 and thereafter (PR). From the middle of April on, the s. Yukon was "swamped" with N. Harriers. We received 68 records of this species, and up to 15 individuals were seen in one area. Two individuals of the rare Broad-winged Hawk were observed in the F.S.J. area May 12 (MG, CS); one of the birds was attacking a Red-tailed Hawk. Only one Peregrine Falcon sighting was reported all season, that one coming from the F.S.J. area Apr. 24 (MG, JJ, CS). A new species for the Peace R. area in British Columbia, and for the Region, was a **Prairie Falcon**: one adult was seen near North Pine, n. of F.S.J. (CS).

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS—Several Blue Grouse were observed near the Klondike Hwy in the Dempster area in early May (Gbr, *vide* RF). The only White-tailed Ptarmigan observation was made near Whse. at the Coal L. pass to Fish L. in late April (HJO). The first Sharp-tailed Grouse of the season were observed at H.R./F.P., May 13 (PR); 14 were seen in the Snag area near Beaver Creek May 21, and three were observed at km 3 Dempster Hwy May 22 (RF). A Sora was noted at Wood Buffalo N.P., May 11 (D & IB), and the first one at H.R./F.P. was recorded May 13 (PR).



Two Greater Yellowlegs observations were noteworthy: one at Teslin, Yukon, in May (BS) and one along the Yukon R. near Lewes Dam May 22 (JH). At least two Whimbrels were seen in the N. Fork Pass of the Ogilvie Mts., c. Yukon, May 18-19 (HG, TH, TMcL *et al.*). A Whimbrel and a Hudsonian Godwit were seen at km 490 Klondike Hwy in the 3rd week of May (Gbu, *vide* RF). The latter species was also noted at H.R./F.P., May 24 (PR). A Ruddy Turnstone was reported from H.R./F.P., May 22 (PR), and one was seen in Yellowknife May 26 (KS). A Red Knot was observed at H.R./F.P., May 25, and a Sanderling was recorded there May 24 (PR); single Sanderlings were seen a record-breaking 6 times in the F.S.J. area May 24-29 (CS). Up to 12 White-rumped Sandpipers, a species that is usually quite rare, were reported from the F.S.J. area May 24-31 (CS); at least one was also observed at H.R./F.P., May 24 (PR).

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—A Thayer's Gull was seen and photographed at Hay River dump May 29 (PR). An imm. Glaucous Gull was observed at the Dezadeash R., s w Yukon, May 26 (TH), and one was noted at Hay River dump May 29 (PR). A Snowy Owl was spotted near Aishihik L., Mar 9 (RC). Great Gray Owls, usually rare in the F.S.J. area, were seen in fair numbers this season as seven or more were noted Mar 24-Apr. 8 (RA, CS *et al.*). Populations of Boreal Owls seemed to have been low this season in the Yukon as none was reported from here; one was noted at Wood Buffalo N.P., Mar. 31 (IM) and another one Apr. 4 (MB); one was also reported at H.R./F.P., May 21 (PR). A N. Saw-whet-Owl was heard calling in the F.S.J. area Mar. 25 (CS).

A ♀ **Calliope Hummingbird** was found dying in a greenhouse s.e. of F.S.J. The owner gave the specimen to CS who confirmed the identification. This species is new to our Region. A Rufous Hummingbird was observed at km 8.5 Carcross Rd., s. Yukon,

May 20 (BB, CB, KMCK), and one was noted at Telegraph Cr., n.w. British Columbia, May 22 (TMu). The only Black-backed Woodpecker sighting this season was reported from Wood Buffalo N.P., May 10 (IM). The same area had one Pileated Woodpecker each on Apr. 28 & 29 (HT, KE), and one was sighted at H.R./F.P., May 22 (PR).

PERCHING BIRDS — Hammond's Flycatchers were observed at the Klondike R., May 1 (GB, *vide* RF). They were heard frequently at km 10 Dempster Hwy and neighboring areas May 20 + (RF). A "probable" N. Rough-winged Swallow was seen at Lewes L., Carcross Rd., May 30 (CB, KMCK). At feeders in Whse.-Porter Creek, a Mountain Chickadee was observed Apr. 28 (LS); this species was seen at Tagish, s. Yukon, throughout the season (WH). A Gray-cheeked Thrush was observed at km 72 Dempster Hwy May 18 (HG, TMcl *et al.*). From mid-May on, several Townsend's Warblers were noted at the s. Dempster Hwy (RF), and one was seen at Tagish May 21 (WH). A ♂ Am. Redstart was observed at Tagish May 19 (WH); this species was

observed at H.R./F.P. from May 22 on (PR). In the F.S.J. area, a Connecticut Warbler was heard singing May 29 (CS). Le Conte's Sparrows were first observed at H.R./F.P. on May 26 (PR).

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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

Thomas H. Rogers

The spring season in the Region was one of the driest on record. Partly compensating for this was a cool March in most localities, delaying snow melt and evaporation. An exception was the Salmon, Idaho, area, which had an early spring and many record-early arrivals. Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Burns, Oregon, had more normal precipitation and appeared to be avoiding the disastrous flooding of 1984. April and May were warmer than normal in most areas. Highlights of the season included the big increase in numbers of Black-necked Stilts and their appearance in unusual localities, and the many Rose-breasted Grosbeak sightings.

ABBREVIATIONS — I.N.E.L. = Idaho Nat'l Engineering Laboratory site, w. of Idaho Falls; Malheur (unmodified) = Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Burns, Ore. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Migrating Com. Loons numbered 21 on Dickey L., n.e. Lincoln, Mont., May 1. A trip into n. Idaho to look for this species found only 11, none breeding (CHT). Elsewhere in Idaho Redfish L., Custer, had two (HR), and Mountain Home Res., one (KBP). Two at Malheur and three at Malheur Res., Malheur, Ore., were locally rare (GMC). Red-necked Grebes reached a peak of 43 on Pend Oreille L. at Sunnyside, Ida. (PRS). The species' numbers were down at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., with only one known breeding pair (RD). Two were sighted at Henrys L., Fremont, Ida., May 21 (JMS) and one on the Snake R. at Lewiston, Ida., was unusual (LL, MK). A W. Grebe, "Clark's" form, was observed at Malheur Apr. 7 (M & AA).

Large numbers of Am. White Pelicans were at Malheur in May but no breeding was noted. At Nicola L. n.e. of Merritt, B.C., 51 were counted Apr. 14 (JG). Much less expected were one at Wilmer, B.C., for the first sighting since 1972 (LH), three on Pend Oreille L. at the Pack R. delta Apr. 16 (PRS), four at Lewiston Mar. 10 (JP), and 35 at the Walla Walla R. mouth, Wallula, Wash., Apr. 12 (DHe). About 650 pairs of Double-crested Cormorants were nesting in the Harney Basin around and at Malheur, down from last year's record number. The species had 70 active nests at Camas N.W.R., Hamer, Ida. Two were on the Snake R. near Weiser, Ida., Apr. 10 (GMC), and sightings of one on the I.N.E.L. (TDR), two at Lewiston (RN), and an unspecified number at Umatilla N.W.R., Umatilla, Ore. (B.M.A.S.) were noteworthy.

Eight pairs of Am. Bitterns were present into the breeding



season at Kootenai N.W.R., compared to only one or two birds in previous years. One or two pairs of Great Egrets were again nesting at Mud Lake W.M.A., Jefferson, Ida., and one was sighted at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., Apr. 30 (BH). Nesting pairs of the species at Malheur were expected to top the record high of 1984. A Great Egret, extremely rare in *Deschutes*, Ore., appeared at Sunriver Apr. 4 (TC, DD, CM). Camas N.W.R. had 28 active nests of Snowy Egrets. Rupert, Ida., had two Cattle Egrets (WHS) and one was sighted near Camas N.W.R. (DH). Snowy Egret and Black-crowned Night-Heron numbers were down in the Pocatello, Ida., area (CHT). Camas N.W.R. reported a Green-backed Heron.

Malheur saw the development of a new nesting colony of about 200 pairs of White-faced Ibis in the Blitzen Valley. A flock of 19 was observed flying over Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., May 11 for the latilong's first record (DB, ER), and one bird appeared w. of Richland, Wash., May 18 (REW). Metcalf

N W R , Stevensville, Mont , had one May 16 (PLW) and a single bird was sighted at Knutsford, B.C., May 22 & 31 (EE).

WATERFOWL — The largest concentration of Tundra Swans was of 3000 at Calispell L., Usk, Wash. A shallow pond near Fortine, Mont., attracted up to 144, unusually high for that area, and Kootenai N.W.R. had a peak of 330, more than double last year's high. The May 22 aerial survey of the Centennial Valley in s.w. Montana revealed 109 Trumpeter Swans in Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. and 84 elsewhere in the valley (TM). In the Harney Basin 15 pairs were present but only 5 pairs were known to be nesting. Three swans on the Columbia R. at Wenatchee, Wash., were thought to be Trumpeters (RO).

Greater White-fronted Geese peaked at a phenomenal 320 at Kootenai N.W.R., and Brownlee Res., Baker, Ore., had an unusual sighting of nine (GMC). Two appeared at Creston, B.C. (GD, LV) and at Springfield Bottoms near Springfield, Ida. (CHT). Wallula, Wash., had one (BH). Several thousand Snow Geese were on the Snake R., Malheur, Ore., in early April. A few blue-phase birds were with Snow Geese at Malheur. Large flocks of Ross' Geese (including two blue-phase individuals) visited the Harney Basin and one Ross' was at Vernon, B.C., Apr. 15-May 1 (MC, m.ob.). A Brant at Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, Mont., May 7 & 9 was the latilong's first (SS, m.ob.). A Barnacle Goose, assumed to be an escape, was observed Apr. 15 with Greater White-fronted and "Cackling" geese at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Klamath, Ore. (MR). At least 15 "Cackling" Geese appeared in a field near Spangle, Wash. (AP, S.A.S.). Canada Goose numbers reached 5000 at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. Peak numbers at Kootenai N.W.R. were 1600—the usual is 200-300. Canadas nested late at Malheur and suffered high predation losses. Twelve Cackling Geese were at Burns, Ore., Mar. 27 (M & AA).

A Green-winged Teal of the *crecca* group was identified near Walla Walla Apr. 8 (BH, m.ob.). A very few Eur. Wigeons appeared, scattered through every state and province (except Alberta) in the Region. A carefully-described ♂ Red-crested Pochard near Colville, Wash., Mar. 30-31 was likely an escape (TS, DHu). Columbia N.W.R. had up to 300 Canvasbacks and Helena Valley Res. had 80-90, high for that area (GH). Greater Scaup were reported on the Columbia R. near Umatilla (B.M.A.S.), and a pair on Mountain Home Res., Ida., was very unusual there (KBP). Two Oldsquaws appeared at Savona, B.C., Apr. 28 (BC), two were at Vernon Mar. 19 (TH), and one was at Sunriver, Ore., May 5 (CM). In Idaho a female was spotted at Palisades Res., Bonneville, in late April (ACr), and a male was at Brundage Res. near McCall May 28 (CHT). A ♀ Red-breasted Merganser appeared at the delta near Clark Fork, Ida., May 20 for a rare sighting (PRS).

HAWKS THROUGH CRANES — A Black-shouldered Kite was sighted near Merrill, Ore., Mar. 15 (MR). Five active Bald Eagle nests were found in *Boundary*, Ida. (PRS, SHS). The species reached a peak of 151 on roost counts in late March in the Harney Basin. The number of successful nesting pairs of Golden Eagles in the Basin remained low, due to low jackrabbit numbers. Total falcon sightings were: Merlin four, Peregrine Falcon three, Gyrfalcon two, and Prairie Falcon six.

Sage Grouse numbered 58 at Yakima Firing Range, Wash., but the population s. of Creston, Wash., may have been wiped out by the intentional burning of their sagebrush habitat; none was found there on a visit Apr. 6 (BW). Wild Turkeys were sighted in fields along Wenas Cr., n.w. of Yakima; 17 were seen at Armstrong, B.C. (JG), and five at Creston, B.C. (GD, LV). Scaled Quail were reported near McAdam, Wash. (SA, FS).

Toppenish N.W.R., Yakima, yielded four Virginia Rails and the Yakima area one (Y.A.S.). A Com. Moorhen was identified at Camas N.W.R., May 30; this would be Idaho's 2nd record (refuge personnel). The Whooping Crane flock that has been built up at Grays L. in s.e. Idaho by placing eggs in Sandhill Crane nests now numbers about 30. Eight returned to Grays L. from their New Mexico wintering grounds during the period and others were summering in scattered localities in that area.

Twenty-three Whooping Crane eggs were placed in Sandhill nests at Grays L. in late May (ECB).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS — A Black-bellied Plover was at Springfield Bottoms Apr. 28 and a Snowy Plover was sighted there Apr. 18 (JMS). Another showed up at Malheur May 1. Up to eight Semipalmated Plovers appeared at Springfield Bottoms (JMS). Singles of the species appeared at the I.N.E.L., Apr. 26 (TDR), at Pend Oreille L. (CHT), at Burns (M & AA), at McNary N.W.R. (DHe, ref. pers.), and at Vernon (MC). Up to 36 Black-necked Stilts were sighted in the N. Potholes s.w. of Moses Lake, Wash. (RK, BH, Y.A.S., DP) and they were "locally common" in the Frenchman Hills area to the w. (ML, DE). Up to 21 were noted at McNary N.W.R. (LRM, DHe, BH), and the Yakima R. delta at Richland, Wash., had 16 for the 2nd record there (REW *et al.*). Eight appeared at Bend, Ore. (TC, CM), and in Montana single birds showed up at Frenchtown and Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville (PLW). Two rare sightings of Am. Avocets in the Vernon area were obtained (PR, P & PM).

A Solitary Sandpiper appeared near Cle Elum, Wash., where the species is rare (TS). Single Willets, very rare in interior British Columbia, were seen at Osoyoos May 4 (RC) and Knutsford May 23-24 (JG). The species also appeared at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. (TM). A few Upland Sandpipers had returned to Bear Valley near Seneca, Ore. (AC), as had a few to their nesting grounds in the Spokane Valley. Malheur had a rare visit from a Ruddy Turnstone May 16 (ref. pers.). A Pectoral Sandpiper was at Walla Walla Apr. 23-25 (BH). The N. Potholes had two molting Dunlins Apr. 14 (DP, LF), and a few passed through Springfield Bottoms (JMS, CHT). Five Short-billed Dowitchers appeared at Malheur for a rare sighting (MA). Short-billeds were also sighted at McNary N.W.R. (SM), and at W. Medical L., Spokane, Wash. (BW).

Two Long-tailed Jaegers appeared at the Walla Walla R. mouth Apr. 26 (DFS *et al.*). Two Franklin's Gulls visited Metcalf N.W.R. for an unusual record (PLW). Kelowna, B.C., had a Franklin's Gull May 26 (MC *et al.*) and a Thayer's Gull Mar 9 (PR). A Bonaparte's Gull was at Malheur May 27 (M & AA) and four appeared at Mountain Home Res., May 17 (KBP). Wallula had a Mew Gull Apr. 2 (DFS, BH). A Ring-billed Gull near Leadore, Ida., Mar. 21 established a latilong first (HR). A Glaucous Gull accompanied Glaucous-winged Gulls at Wallula Mar 2-8 (BH, LRM) and was again seen Mar. 17 (B.M.A.S.). A Caspian Tern at Metcalf N.W.R., May 2 was notable (PLW). Two Forster's Terns appeared at Sunnyside, Pend Oreille L., May 19 (PRS). A pair of Black Terns was at Mountain Home Res., May 17 for the 2nd record there (KBP).

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Common Barn-Owls are showing up in the Rexburg, Ida., area (DH). Four Flammulated Owls were calling at Lac du Bois near Kamloops (RH), one was sighted at Malheur (M & AA), and one was near Newport, Wash. (EJL). Up to seven of the species were found at Old Blewett Pass in the North Cascades, Wash. (BW). A N. Hawk-Owl voicing its "whistled trill" in the Selkirk Mts. n.w. of Creston, B.C., suggested possible breeding there (PRS, GS). A pair of Spotted Owls, the female incubating, was observed in *Kittitas*, Wash., Apr. 14-May 27 (BW). Six or 7 pairs of Barred Owls, two or three Boreal Owls, and 2 pairs and one lone bird of N. Saw-whet Owls were discovered during surveys in *Ferry, Stevens*, and *Pend Oreille* in n.e. Washington (BW, BO). A Boreal Owl was mist-netted at Vaseux L., s. of Penticton, B.C., Mar. 19 (EJ), and another was seen e. of Penticton Mar. 20 (RC, SC). Single N Saw-whet Owls were found at Fishhook S.P. near Pasco, Wash (B.M.A.S.), at Malheur, at Rupert, Ida. (WHS), and near Newman L. (EJL).

A ♀ *Archilochus* hummingbird (presumed to be Black-chinned) was carefully described in the N. Potholes area May 25 (SA) and one appeared at a Sunriver feeder May 9 (DD). A ♂ Costa's Hummingbird again appeared in Bend May 10 (G & CR, TC). Wenas Cr. had a Red-breasted Sapsucker May 27 for the latilong's first (RK). Single White-headed Woodpeckers were

sighted at 2 localities in *Ferry*, Wash (BW) The only Three-toed Woodpecker report was of a male in the Selkirk Mts. (PRS). A "yellow-shafted" N. Flicker appeared at Salmon, Ida. (HR).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAGTAILS — An Alder Flycatcher was reported at Malheur May 25 (M & AA). At least two Least Flycatchers were back at their regular breeding locality just e. of Mt. Vernon, Ore. (AC). The Wenas Cr. area had an Ash-throated Flycatcher May 30 (Y.A.S.). The Blue Jay that wintered at Copeland, Ida., remained into April (WP). The Selkirks near Creston had a Boreal Chickadee Mar. 19 (PRS). Chestnut-backed Chickadees lingered in the Lewiston-Asotin vicinity as late as Mar. 16, at Libby until Apr. 5, and at Walla Walla until mid-April. Three Rock Wrens were spotted in the Kootenai R. Canyon near Moyie Springs—the species is rare in n. Idaho (PRS). The Bewick's Wren population in the Walla Walla valley is continuing its expansion (SM). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Market Lake W.M.A., May 12 afforded the first spring record there, where it is very rare (BJ).

Two W. Bluebirds, very rare in e. Idaho, were sighted near Pocatello Mar. 27 (*vide* CHT). Mountain Bluebirds appear to be increasing in the valley around Fortine as a result of a nest box program. A Varied Thrush appeared at the Argonne National Laboratory-West site near Idaho Falls Apr. 1 (ADM). Two sightings of the species came from the Salmon area (HR), one from Blackfoot (JT) and one from Mountain Home (KBP). They are rare in this part of Idaho. Single N. Mockingbirds appeared at Mountain Home (KBP) and Libby (DEL) for latilong firsts, and others were near Idaho Falls (GP) and Rupert (*vide* WHS). A Sage Thrasher in *Ferry*, Wash., was the latilong's first (BW). A Brown Thrasher showed up at the confluence of the Clearwater and Blackfoot rivers s. of Seeley L., Mont., May 18 (SF, JB, WH). An ad. **Black-backed Wagtail** was tentatively identified near Azwell, Wash., May 19. This would apparently be the first record away from the Pacific coast (VM), aside from one reported in North Carolina.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — Malheur had a well-described Bell's Vireo May 26 (RS, OS, TC, JGn *et al.*). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was identified at Camas N.W.R., Ida., May 18 for the first state record (EC, KS, BJ, DR, LP). A ♂ Tennessee Warbler was reported at Malheur May 31 (GMC) and a female May 25 (AC). A N Parula was photographed at Malheur May 25 (AC, MP). A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was photographed near Oliver, B.C., for the Okanogan Valley's first record (EJ). A Magnolia Warbler was at Malheur May 31 and a Black-throated Blue Warbler appeared at Fields, Ore., the same day (GMC). A Palm Warbler was reported at Malheur May 19 (GMC) and a ♂ Blackpoll Warbler was sighted there May 16-19 (GMC, M & AA). Four observations of Black-and-white Warblers came from the Malheur-Fields area (AC, GMC). A singing **Ovenbird** along the W. Fork of the Bitterroot R., *Ravalli*, made Montana's first record w. of the Continental Divide (PH). One or two were observed May 24-31 at Malheur and another was sighted at Fields May 25 (AC, M & AA).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES — Single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks appeared in Idaho at Idaho Falls (ADM), in Shelley (DS), at Camas N.W.R. (DH), at Sun Valley (BS), in Twin Falls (*vide* CHT), and at Rupert (WHS), all in May. Frenchglen, Ore., had one May 24 (TC, JGn *et al.*), and Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. had one May 20 (TM). Single Lark Sparrow sightings at Kamloops (RH) and Trail, B.C. (*vide* JG) were very unusual. About five singing Grasshopper Sparrows were found near Okanogan, Wash. (ML *et al.*). The species was locally common in the N. Potholes and Washtucna, Wash., vicinities (ML, DE, BW). Noteworthy were sightings of single Lincoln's Sparrows in Burns (M & AA) and in Walla Walla (SM, m.ob.). The White-throated Sparrow that wintered near Missoula remained until at least Apr. 9 (PLW). Single Golden-crowned Sparrows were sighted at Coulee City, Wash. (BW), Walla Walla (DHe, SM), and Coeur d'Alene (BD). The species was considered a regular migrant in

the Okanogan Valley, Wash (GB) Lone Harris' Sparrows were noted in Idaho at Mountain Home (MN) and at Kootenai (PRS), and single birds appeared at Richland (REW) and Walla Walla (LG). The Harris' that wintered near Missoula stayed at least until Apr. 26 (PLW). At least three Lapland Longspurs visited near Burns Airport Mar. 5 (M & AA) for the only report.

Two Rusty Blackbirds, possibly breeding, were at a swamp at 4000 ft elevation e. of Oliver, B.C., May 26. This is far s. of known nesting sites (MC, RC, RH). A **Great-tailed Grackle** photographed s. of Downey, Ida., May 5 reportedly established the first state record (CHT, TDR). It was still there May 24. Singles of the species were observed regularly May 9-31 at Malheur Field Station, May 24-30 at Malheur headquarters, and May 26 in Hines (MA, BH, m.ob.). A colony of Com. Grackles has become established at Rexburg, Ida. (DH). The species also appeared at Dubois, Soda Springs, and Pocatello (CHT) and at Salmon (HR), all in Idaho. A "Baltimore" N. Oriole was sighted in late May at Malheur (M & AA, BH, AC, m.ob.).

Purple Finches were reported at Libby until May 28 (DHR). A Cassin's Finch visited a Richland feeder for a rare sighting (REW). Red and White-winged crossbills were abundant in the Pocatello-Blackfoot-Idaho Falls area, and a few of both species visited Twin Falls. The latter species was sighted near Newport also. A few Red Crossbills frequented feeders in Richland, an unusual locality (MN). A Com. Redpoll used a Bend feeder for most of March for the first documented *Deschutes* record (TC), and a flock of 50 visited Kimberly, B.C., March to early April (MVW). Wawawai and Chief Kamiakan S.P., *Whitman*, Wash, each had a single bird around mid-March for unusual sightings (J & DP).

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Hugh E. Kingery and C. S. Lawson

[REGIONAL EDITOR'S NOTE — In anticipation of an extended vacation, I persuaded Chuck Lawson to write up the spring migration. After he had plunged wholeheartedly into the project, he took an unscheduled plunge into the hospital for ten days. I picked up the remnants, and have written the column from Waterfowl on, using Chuck's notes. My contribution is hurried and cursory but the Region's contributors provided a substantial number of interesting records.—HEK]

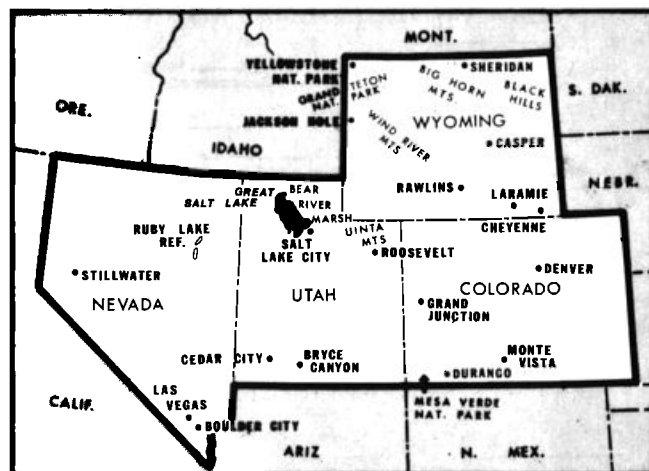
Fools rush in, it has been said. In making the commitment to step in for Hugh this spring, my mouth was off and running before my brain was engaged. As an observer who in the past has made complaints about some of the coverage in *American Birds*, the experience has been enlightening. There were problems that I did not know existed. My hat is off, not only to Hugh, but to all the Regional Editors for their fine efforts.

Almost every observer reporting either asked where the birds were or stated it was one of the poorest spring migrations they had seen. With the exception of waterfowl and raptors, every species group was markedly down in numbers of both species and individuals. The fact that fewer species or individuals were observed probably was a function of the weather, as the Region enjoyed an early and very moderate spring. At Jackson, Wyoming, rivers crested four weeks early, plant buds were three weeks early, and aspens were two weeks early (BR). Migrants either overflowed the Region due to the mild weather and lack of storm fronts to impede progress or they migrated higher along the cordillera and did not drop into the usual migrant traps on the valley floors. Yellow-rumped Warblers were already singing on breeding grounds high in the mountains by May 4 but were almost absent on the plains in Boulder County, Colorado (MF). High waters inundated mud flat areas normally found at the Region's impoundments, and the shorebirds pushed on through.

Despite the seeming lack of birds, there were several interesting findings. Colorado had a second record of King Rail; a new Peregrine Falcon eyrie was discovered in Utah; the known distributional range of the Boreal Owl was pushed southward to within 35 miles of the New Mexico state line; Utah produced its first Acorn Woodpecker; the state's fifth sighting of Black Phoebe was recorded in southwestern Colorado; warblers of interest included Wyoming's first two Golden-winged and Utah's first Kentucky; despite the moderate weather of the spring, both Rosy Finches and Common Redpolls remained well into the season; and northwestern Wyoming had rare House Finches, Yellowstone for only the second time.

ABBREVIATIONS — † = written description on file; †† = written description submitted to state records committee; # = no written description submitted; 1st Lat = first record for that Latilong.

LOONS TO IBISES — Common Loons were found in numbers only in Wyoming and Utah. Delta, Colo., had its earliest spring record Mar. 25, April brought one to Denver and one to Illipah, Nev., and three were present at Kirch W.M.A., Nev., well into May. In Wyoming two were at Rock Springs, six at Cody, and 31 at Sheridan in April, with three at Yellowstone in May. Quail Creek L., Washington Co., Utah, had 100 in mid-April (BD), and the 65 found near Orem the same month was the highest number in 4 years (MW). For the most part, numbers of



grebes were low. There were only scattered reports of Pied-billed. Sheridan with six and Cortez, Colo., with 13 had the highest numbers of Horned Grebes. At Casper the 50-60 Eared Grebe nests contrasted with the 150-225 found in 1984. Sheridan produced 47-87 over the period. Western Grebes began to arrive as early as Mar. 13 at Delta, Denver had the Region high of 100-150, and numbers peaked at 38 at Boulder, 22 at Penrose, and 71 at Sheridan. Individuals of the *clarkii* form were at L Mead and Zion N.P.

In Nevada, Overton W.M.A. hosted 800-1000 Am. White Pelicans Mar. 23 and Kirch W.M.A. had 320 May 12. Ogden Bay, Utah, had a normal 20-25 in April and May; 33 were at Yellowstone in late May, and 10 were seen along the Platte R. in Wyoming where last year 200 were found. Double-crested Cormorant populations seemed normal, although there were increases in some areas. Casper, Wyo., had 200 compared with 100 last year, 144 were found on the Sheridan spring count, 100+ were present March to May at Utah L., and 138 nests were counted at Chatfield S.P., Colo., in comparison with 116 in 1984.

There were 142 Great Blue Heron nests at Chatfield and 47 at the Cokeville, Wyo., heronry on the Bear River. From other locations, 37 birds were at Jackson, Wyo., by Apr. 21, 61 at Sheridan by Apr. 25, and Dugway, Utah, had a peak of 26 May 3. Three Great Egrets at Zion Apr. 9 provided the 4th record for the park and one at Durango, Colo., May 15 furnished the first record for that area. Although there were scattered reports of small numbers of Snowy Egrets Regionwide, Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo., had 61 nesting pairs. Fort Collins and Fruita, Colo., reported Little Blue Herons May 18 & 30 respectively (#BG, #BT *et al.*). There were four Cattle Egrets at Las Vegas Apr. 29, six at Fallon, Nev., May 3, 12 at Dyer, Nev., May 30 (LP), and Monte Vista N.W.R. had one nest. In Utah, Hedges felt the species was increasing to the extent that numbers were 200% of normal. A Black-crowned Night-Heron at Zion was the first since 1976; others included 40-55 in late May at Dugway, Utah, a colony of 20 near Farson, Wyo., 111 nests at Monte Vista N.W.R., and 200 at City P. in Denver. Individual Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were at City P. in Denver Apr. 21+ and Boulder May 12.

White-faced Ibises continue to suffer extreme nesting pressures. At Fallon 150-200 were found where formerly thousands nested. At Ruby Lakes N.W.R. a small new rookery was discovered in flooded baltic rush, and near the refuge Nevada Dept. of Wildlife personnel discovered 125 nests in flooded greasewood! How vulnerable will these small colonies be to predators when the waters recede in the heat of summer? Ogden Bay had 65 birds May 31.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS — The continuing overabundance of water at breeding areas probably will adversely affect waterfowl production further. Ruby Lake N.W.R. had 22 Trumpeter Swans Apr. 26 (but no nests, and on a later aerial census, no birds!), and 12 were present at Yellowstone from mid-April to late May. A Greater White-fronted Goose stayed at Las Vegas Mar. 9-Apr. 10 (VM) and five were at Lamar, Colo., Mar. 23 (DB). Crook, Colo., boasted 20 Ross' Geese Mar. 24, with 2000 Snows (both white and blue—LH). Delta, Colo., had three Ross' Geese Mar. 26, and Wyoming's 3rd record came May 10 from Huntley (†PLE, OKS). A Wood Duck spent the spring at Reno (JB). The Region reported three Eur. Wigeons: Mar 5 at Elko, Nev. (†CE), Apr. 14 at Denver (D.F.O.#), and Apr 18 at LaSalle, Colo. (†JC). Although infrequently reported, Harlequin Ducks probably still nest at Yellowstone, as suggested by three seen May 5-13 (JZ). The 395 Barrow's Goldeneyes observed in Yellowstone Apr. 5+ evidenced its status as the park's most widespread duck (JZ).

An early Turkey Vulture soared over Pueblo Mar. 28 (LH). Among the reported Ospreys, one May 30 at Dyer, Nev., seemed lost over the desert (LP), as did one near downtown Salt Lake City (DJ). Mississippi Kites arrived at Lamar May 8 (PL). After no records for several years, a Com. Black-Hawk returned to Zion Apr. 19-26, also seen May 31 (JG). Las Vegas had a Red-shouldered Hawk Apr. 7 (VM). The Region reported only 11 Broad-winged Hawks, including one in Casper May 12 (JH) and a dark-phase bird at Denver Apr. 20 (HEK). Ferruginous Hawks declined at Sheridan, Wyo. (absent from a usual site) and at Pawnee Nat'l Grassland, Colo. (One nest anyway: before the eyes of the Board of Directors of the A.B.A. on May 4 a 40 mph gale blew a Ferruginous nest out of a lone tree in the prairie). Despite the advanced spring, Rough-legged Hawks stayed 6 weeks late at Jackson, to May 8. The 4 Peregrine Falcon observations in s.w. Utah included discovery of a new aerie. Sheridan had its Gyrfalcon Mar. 20 (HD, BB).

GROUSE TO CRANES — At Evanston, Wyo., recreational pressures, especially from RVs, received the blame for a drastic decline at a Sage Grouse lek, with only four to 15 counted May 12-30 (CK). Wild Turkeys bred at Bonny Res., Colo., where the D O W. probably introduced them: D.A.S. saw a hen with nine chicks May 18. Also at Bonny, N. Bobwhites seemed to have spread into several new locations during May. In residential Denver on May 21, far from the site of any recent sightings of bobwhites, Stokes reported, "We awoke at 5:30 a.m. to the sound of a Bobwhite; we heard it call for about an hour. We were skeptics, thinking it was a starling-mimicking-a-bobwhite until our neighbor said he saw a quail in his yard under the low branches of a spruce tree. It was the day after that horrendous wind/rain storm, so perhaps it was blown off course." Colorado's 2nd **King Rail** inhabited a marsh near Greeley May 12+, and answered to tape recordings played at dusk (†JC, VZ). At desert Dyer, LP found a Com. Moorhen. Hedges and Webb report moorhens as declining in c. and s.w. Utah because of loss of habitat. Lund, Nev., reported that the 600 Sandhill Cranes present Mar. 2 soon left, but that numbers increased again in a few days—possibly because of a reverse migration (CS). Delta, Colo., enjoyed a remarkable crane migration. From a trickle of six Mar. 18, overnighting Sandhills increased to 4515 Apr. 7 and 4800 Apr. 8. With them were nine Whooping Cranes (MJ).

SHOREBIRDS TO TERNS — With high waters all over the Region, observers found few shorebirds. Utah's immense numbers of other years must have found other stopovers. Even the 300 Black-bellied Plovers at Ogden Bay Apr. 23 were fewer than the 500 seen in 1984 (JN). Away from the Utah flyway, near Lamar, Colo., 28 Black-bellieds stopped May 12 (D.F.O.). Notable Snowy Plovers were at Zion Mar. 28-29 (JG) and Julesburg, Colo., May 11 (PLE). Kirch W.M.A., Nev., had a peak of 188 Black-necked Stilts May 20, double last year's (CS), and Fish Springs N.W.R., Utah, counted 250 May 3 (CD). At Las Vegas

Apr 25 a car flushed a Willet from a dirt road into a sagebrush field (VM). Las Vegas also had an Upland Sandpiper May 2 about the time one appeared at Death Valley (VM). Sixteen Regional Whimbrels included one at Las Vegas Apr. 10-16, and in Colorado May 11-20, one on the Boulder Spring Count, three at Last Chance, three at Bonny and five at Loveland. In n.e. Colorado, D.F.O. groups found 64 Marbled Godwits at 3 locations Apr. 27.

Fifty Red Knots accompanied the Black-bellied Plovers at Ogden Bay Apr. 23 (200 in 1984—JN). Casper reported one May 5 (VH). Seventy White-rumped Sandpipers May 27 at Lamar made an impressive number (BS), as did 800 Stilt Sandpipers in n.e. Colorado May 17 (JR). Numbers of Long-billed Dowitchers dropped substantially throughout the Region, e.g., 240 at Kirch W.M.A., Apr. 29 (half the number seen in 1984), and only 59 reported from Colorado and Wyoming together. Rock Springs, Wyo., saw 200 Wilson's and 250 Red-necked phalaropes May 11 (FL).

Franklin's Gulls, unusual in s.w. Utah, appeared at Zion Apr 28 and Minersville May 8. Denver and Boulder noted fewer Franklin's Gulls and more Bonaparte's during the migration. Logan, Utah, and Rock Springs, Wyo., reported more Bonaparte's (e.g., seven at Logan Apr. 30, 13 at Rock Springs May 11—KD, MT, FL). The last Thayer's Gull was Apr. 13 at Longmont, Colo. (LH). At Provo, U.F.O. reported a Glaucous-winged Gull Mar. 30 (MW#); it may have been a straggler from the gulls wintering in the area. Two early Caspian Terns reached Evanston, Wyo., Apr. 12 (CK). May 11 found a Com. Tern at Las Vegas (CC) and May 29 found one at Delta (MJ).

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS — Rock Doves rarely elicit comments, but Serr found them scarce at Devils Tower N.M., Wyo., a goal for rock climbers. She asked, "Do you suppose the climbers (1700 in 1984) are carrying poisoned grain with them? A climber from Denver said he had climbed Devils Tower many times and pigeons had pooped all over the climbers." A count of 400 Band-tailed Pigeons came from Florence, Colo., May 24 (MP).

Flammulated Owl reports came from Glendale, Utah, May 7 (two—SH), Grand Jct., Colo., May 25 (two—A.S.W.C.), and Florissant, Colo., May 25 (DM—one this year, four last year). Observers found E. Screech-Owls at Bonny and Boulder, W. Screech-Owls at Sheridan, Colorado Springs (at a site mentioned in the Marshall monograph), Grand Jct., and s.w. Utah. A good description confirmed a Snowy Owl at Gillette, Wyo., Mar. 11 (PK). Jones led a 50-observer study of owls in Boulder Co., Colo., which found 20 calling N. Pygmy-Owls (3 nests) and 20 calling N. Saw-whets (2 nests). He estimated one pair/sq. mi of both Pygmies and Saw-whets in the foothills close to the city of Boulder. The survey found one calling Boreal Owl. Burrowing Owls lead a mobile existence, it seems. At least 2 Denver-area state parks support expanding populations, but they or their prairie dog companions abandon sites as well. Near Cope, Colo., this spring a 40-owl colony lay vacant of both owls and dogs, while 10 mi away a pair (of owls) set up housekeeping in a culvert. Plowing, unfriendly ranchers, and disease all contribute to their demise. Two Boreal Owls called Mar. 17 on Wolf Creek Pass, Colo., 35 mi n. of New Mexico, but only one responded to the tape on Slumgullion Pass near Lake City (JJR). Two Black Swifts flashed over Colorado Springs May 12 (EW), and a Chimney Swift fluttered into the foothills at Evergreen May 11 (DK).

A Magnificent Hummingbird visited a Durango, Colo., feeder May 23-26 (†GC) and one returned May 29 for the 3rd year to a Bailey, Colo., feeder (DM). A Black-chinned Hummingbird occupied a perch May 12 at the edge of the foothills near Denver, n. of its usual range (HEK). Las Vegas reported two to three Anna's Hummingbirds Mar. 3-Apr. 16 (VM, CC). Hummingbirds arrived early: three Costa's Hummingbirds at Beaver Dam Wash, s.w. Utah, Mar. 9, a Calliope at Ogden Apr. 15, and Broad-tailed to Denver and Boulder in mid-April. Boulder had an impressive 107 Broad-taileds on its May 11 Spring Count

The hummingbird identified as a ♀ Rufous May 4 gave Logan its 3rd spring record (KD).

Utah observers have found a few Lewis' Woodpeckers over the last few years, dispelling an impression of rarity, although this spring's only report came of one May 2 at St. George. Durango, not far from Utah, counted 15 on its May 11 Spring Count. From Glenwood Springs, Colo., came a report explaining a drop there: "Cutting the tops out of old cottonwoods (in a park where they have nested) causes great competition for nest holes. Lewis' Woodpeckers do poorly against flickers and starlings" (VZ). Utah achieved its first record of an **Acorn Woodpecker**, a bird May 8 at Zion (+SH, RB, JT). Reno had a Red-breasted Sapsucker Mar. 13 (FR).

FLYCATCHERS TO VIREOS — A shy Black Phoebe that hunted insects at a shallow boggy pond at Ridgway May 20 provided a first Latilong and 5th Colorado record (+JRG, +MJ). A Vermilion Flycatcher was found nesting at Beaver Dam Wash in May (DJ), and one reportedly was seen at Ramah, Colo., Apr. 27 (*vide* RB#). An Ash-throated Flycatcher reached Casper May 27 (the same date one appeared there in 1984—LR). Conventional wisdom dictates that Dusky-capped Flycatchers do not stray N of s.e. Arizona; a 19th Century specimen from Colorado has been dismissed as being mislabeled as to collection site. Hence the 19 observers who saw, May 4 at Towaoc in the Colorado Ute reservation, three birds they described as Dusky-capped expect to meet a stiff review of their descriptions from the state records committee (+JRG, ++TM). Two Great Crested Flycatchers were at Mesa de Mayo, s.e. Colorado, May 11 (DB). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher spent at least 2 weeks at Denver May 17+ (AS *et al.*). Grand Jct. had two Purple Martins May 11 and three May 21.

Few Mountain West bird populations receive such intensive scrutiny as those in Boulder County, Colo., a microcosm of Colorado, one-half mountains and one-half plains. The mountain contingent noted that "primary seedeaters," although numerous in the foothills, declined significantly in the high mountains (8300'-12,000'). They reported the following drops from 1984: Clark's Nutcracker down 75%, Mountain Chickadee 40%, Red-breasted Nuthatch 65%, Pine Grosbeak 85%, Red Crossbill 80%, and Pine Siskin 60%. Apparently cone crops have crashed (DH, MF).

Mountain Chickadees remained in Denver through Apr. 8 (D.A.S.) and Red-breasted Nuthatches stayed through April in Boulder, Cheyenne, Sheridan, Durango, and Salt Lake City, and into June at Denver. Golden-crowned Kinglets made April appearances on the plains at Cheyenne, Denver, and Boulder. Cheyenne and Casper had Blue-gray Gnatcatchers May 10 & 27 (JH, PLe). Black-tailed Gnatcatchers returned to the scene of last year's breeding at Beaver Dam Wash, with one pair Mar. 9+ and a 2nd pair found May 11; they favored a habitat of creosote bush with scattered catclaw acacia, cholla, and burro bush (SH, DJ). An E. Bluebird visited Buffalo, Wyo., May 18 (+HD, Sjo). "Never so many here," commented Janos on 345 Mountain Bluebirds he counted along a 6.5 mi stretch of road Mar. 30. Observers reported Gray-cheeked Thrushes at Bonny May 14 (++PLe, VZ) and Crook May 15 (++JW).

Riparian surveys at Sheridan continued to reflect mortality from an April 1984 snowstorm—this year the surveys counted one-fourth the average of the past 10 years (HD). Over the Region N. Mockingbirds showed signs of expanding N. A pair nested for the 2nd year at Eureka, Nev. (JE), and observations came from Ruby L., Fish Springs, Sheridan, Casper, Cheyenne, and many Colorado sites. A Sage Thrasher came to a feeder at the Snowbird ski area e. of Salt Lake City Mar. 27 (OK). A Brown Thrasher sang regularly at Rock Springs May 25-June 9+, a westerly record (FL), and a singing Le Conte's Thrasher at Beaver Dam Wash Mar. 9-16 aroused interest, as Utah has no nesting record (SH). Bohemian Waxwings waned through the spring; Reno had 20 Mar. 6, Logan had its last Apr. 4, and Colorado reported its last May 8 in Grand Jct.—long after Wyoming's last reports Apr. 17 in Sheridan. Colorado had several



Kentucky Warbler banded at Ogden, U., May 13, 1985. First state record. Photo/Merlin Killpack.

notable records: Eagle's first record, 10 present Mar. 28-Apr. 30, 15 on Genessee Mt. near Evergreen Mar. 16, and 2000 at Denver Apr. 4. Observers noted 2 disparate populations of Bell's Vireos: at least 4 pairs at Beaver Dam Wash and at Bonny. Denver had a Yellow-throated Vireo Apr. 20 (JJ).

WARBLERS — The Regional plaint about scarce migrants manifested itself most strikingly in the numbers of warblers—*e.g.*, 8 species in May at Boulder, 21 migrants of 4 species on a D.A.S. trip to Bonny May 18-19. Observers at Bonny May 14-15 found several other species, suggesting that some warblers passed through between weekends. Variety did not suffer the way numbers did—the Region reported 30 warbler species. The following litany mentions the rare finds. Blue-winged, one Apr. 28 at Colorado Springs (EW); Wyoming's first two **Golden-winged Warblers**, one May 18-20 at Cheyenne (+FL, OKS) and one May 19 at Lander (+SF); also one at Bonny May 11-12; 17 Tennessees; one N. Parula in Las Vegas and six in e. Colorado; one Colorado Chestnut-sided; a Magnolia at Fontanelle, Wyo., May 25 (+FL—1st Lat) and one in Greeley, Colo.; four Black-throated Blues in Colorado; a Blackburnian banded in Denver May 23; two Palms in Las Vegas and two in e. Colorado; a Bay-breasted at Colorado Springs May 22; a Blackpoll in Casper May 18 (LR) and four in Colorado (low); Black-and-whites at Las Vegas and Beatty (VM, JA), two in Casper, and five in Colorado (low); Am. Redstarts at Las Vegas, Beaver Dam Wash, and Jackson, Wyo.; a Prothonotary at Boulder May 11 (B.A.S.#); three Worm-eatings in Colorado—Prewitt May 7, Greeley May 8, and Colorado Springs May 18-19; an Ovenbird at Las Vegas; two N. Waterthrushes in the Las Vegas area, three in Wyoming, and 20 in e. Colorado; a Hooded at Las Vegas and three in Colorado. Four **Kentucky Warblers** appeared in 3 states. One banded and photographed at Ogden gave Utah its first record, by markings and wing measurements a male (+MK). Casper had one May 17 (JH#). Boulder had one Apr. 19-23 (LH *et al.*, ph.) and Colorado Springs reported a singing male seen by 8 observers May 27-29 (RB, RW#).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — A pair of Hepatic Tanagers graced Mesa de Mayo, s.e. Colorado, May 11 near the nesting site of a few years ago (DB). Summer Tanagers for the 3rd summer nested at Rockville, Utah (JG). Along the Front Range, the W. Tanager migration did not materialize; *e.g.*, D.A.S. watchers in urban Denver yards reported only one bird. Among the many Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, a notable one visited Stagecoach, Nev., May 16-18 for a first county record (+AP, JW1, ph.). In Ogden, Killpack banded 500 Lazuli Buntings and estimated that 800-900 passed through his yard. At the Colorado Springs

Wildlife Area, Bunn counted 12 Indigo Buntings May 18. Rufous-crowned Sparrows brought two fledglings to a Zion-area feeder May 18, a date earlier than Phillips reports for nesting in Arizona, establishing a 1st Lat and 2nd Utah breeding record (JG). An early Chipping Sparrow reached a feeder in the mountains above Sheridan Mar. 30 (+MR). Monte Vista N.W.R. reported two Sage Sparrows Mar. 31 (JJR—1st Lat). An early Lincoln's Sparrow visited an Evanston feeder Mar. 27 (+CK). Delta had a 1st Lat Swamp Sparrow Apr. 6 (MJ). Zion's White-throated Sparrow, seen 200 days in the last 2 years, stayed to Apr. 24 (JG), and A.B.A. found Pawnee Nat'l Grassland's first one May 4 (AK, HEK). A Harris' Sparrow spent April at Kirch W.M.A. (CS). A breeding-plumaged ♂ Chestnut-collared Longspur gave Rock Springs its 1st Lat record Apr. 15 (FL).

That April 1984 snowstorm at Sheridan decimated the W. Meadowlark population too. The Spring Count tallied 214 May 19, cf. 213 in 1984 and 392, 445, and 350 in 1980-1982; they disappeared totally from one roadside survey where formerly numerous. Roadside counts May 11-12 from the South Dakota line to Devils Tower and back counted a measly four (ES). Great-tailed Grackles continued to expand: 5 nesting sites in s.w. Utah, probable nesting at Grand Jct. and Durango, and reports from Ruby Lakes and Lamar. A Com. Grackle appeared May 14 at Eureka, Nev., for the 2nd record (AB).

Rosy Finches stayed in the lowlands into April in Casper, Rock Springs, and Durango, and to Mar. 31 in Cheyenne. Pine Grosbeaks strayed out of the mountains into Glenwood Springs and Cody, Wyo. Counts of Cassin's Finches in urban Denver exceeded any previous counts, with groups of 10-15 seen in many yards up to May 14, and a peak of 41 Apr. 9 in one yard (D.A.S.). The House Finch at a Jackson feeder May 2 (BSm) and one in Yellowstone May 30 (for the park's 2nd record—JZ) showed them pushing, perhaps southerly, into one of their few unoccupied corners in the country. Red Crossbills continued to roam away from their mountain conifers, with small flocks seen

in Las Vegas, Eureka, Salt Lake City, Logan, and in valley and plains towns throughout Wyoming and Colorado. Also roaming were occasional White-winged Crossbills at Salt Lake City, Logan, Sheridan, Boulder, and Ft. Morgan. The Com. Redpoll invasion lingered, with 40 at Rock Springs Mar. 12, the last in Logan Mar. 24, in Greeley Mar. 16, and the Region's last at Cody Apr. 16. Evening Grosbeaks stayed in the lowlands late, at Las Vegas to May 20, Reno to Apr. 17, Cody to May 27, and even nesting in Cheyenne and possibly in Colorado Springs. Pawnee Nat'l Grassland had its first record, with three May 11 (A.B.A.).

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SOUTHWEST REGION

Arizona, Sonora

David Stejskal, Janet Witzeman

Weather this spring was about normal across the state with April being the wettest month in many areas. April also did heat up in many areas with some temperatures exceeding 100°F, mirroring the pattern of last year.

Migration was unremarkable in most areas of the state. A few species were notably scarce this spring including Ruby-crowned Kinglet (true also for the winter), Western Wood-pewee, and Brown-headed Cowbird. Eastern vagrant landbirds (especially warblers) put in a particularly poor showing. Again, we received very few reports from the Lower Colorado River as birders tended to concentrate their efforts in the southeastern corner of the state. Resident birders should try to expand their coverage to include other parts of the state to better our understanding of the avifauna of poorly-covered areas. They might find that other areas are just as rewarding as, if not more so than, the southeastern corner.

ABBREVIATIONS — L.C.R. = Lower Colorado River.

GREBES THROUGH HERONS — Horned Grebe is a very sparse spring migrant throughout the state, and was previously unrecorded in the n.e. corner in spring until two breeding-plumaged birds were found Mar. 22 at Round Rock L. (Brj). A



flock of 60 W. Grebes, containing both light and dark morphs, was found at Willow L., Prescott, Apr. 19. Numbers diminished through the period but the remaining birds [morph?] were performing courtship displays in May (CT, BT, H & AG). The W. Grebe (either morph) is not known to breed anywhere in the state away from the L.C.R. and the ephemeral Painted Rock Res.

A flock of 20+ Am. White Pelicans was at Willow L., Apr. 4-5 (CT, BT, H & AG). This was a larger than usual number for the Prescott area. An ad. Brown Pelican found at Painted Rock Dam

Mar 10 may have wintered there (RN) There are still only a handful of records of adults in the state, and very few winter records. An Arizona Game & Fish Dept. nesting survey along the L.C.R., Mar. 21 counted at least 37 active Double-crested Cormorant nests, the majority (27) located at Goose L. in Topock Marsh (DT). An imm. Olivaceous Cormorant at Willcox from at least Apr. 12 through May might have furnished the first record for the Willcox area (+G. McCaskie, DS *et al.*). An imm. cormorant there Mar. 22 may have been this individual (+). & A. Price).

A Least Bittern was seen at a marsh near St. David May 6 (AM). This species is a sparse transient in s.e. Arizona. The Arizona Game & Fish Dept. nesting survey mentioned above also located 155 active Great Blue Heron nests and 40 Great Egret nests (DT). Large concentrations of Cattle Egrets away from the L.C.R. and the Lower Gila R. are rare, so a flock of 160 in a field near Chandler Mar. 8 was noteworthy (B. Aylesworth).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS — No fewer than 76 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were reported this spring from s.e. Arizona n. to the Phoenix region, about the same number as last spring (m.ob.). A Greater White-fronted Goose was at the Bisbee-Douglas airport sewage ponds until Mar. 25 (AM). Recently, the s.e. corner of the state seems to have been the most reliable area to find this species. A ♂ Wood Duck was at Round Rock L. in the extreme n.e. part of the state, where it is rarely reported, Apr. 14 (BrJ). Extremely unusual were the two Hooded Mergansers at Many Farms L. which arrived Dec. 23, 1984 and were last seen Mar. 22 (BrJ). There had been 2 previous sight records for this species in n. Arizona. A bird that baffled a few birders was the black-faced ♂ Ruddy Duck at Willcox Apr. 19-21. Thought at first to be possibly a Masked Duck (for which there is no Arizona record), the bird was seen not to have white secondary patches upon taking flight.

The number of reported Black-shouldered Kites was down to 15 this spring, with an active nest e. of Douglas (AM, R. Glinski *et al.*), but this decrease in reported individuals is probably due to Arizona birders starting to take the species for granted. An ad. Bald Eagle was photographed at the Hyannis Cattle Co. pond Mar. 8-9 (AM, K. Husmann). Bald Eagle is unusual in the s.e. part of the state during winter away from the San Rafael Valley. The unique desert-nesting Bald Eagle population n. and e. of Phoenix fledged 22 birds this spring. An unusual sight was that of an ad. N. Goshawk Mar. 18 eating a freshly killed Great Horned Owl near Rock Point on the Navajo Indian Reservation in n.e. Arizona. When startled, the hawk flew off with the owl held in one foot (BrJ).

North of their usual range were three Harris' Hawks near Bumblebee Apr. 3 (CT). A pair of Harris' Hawks nested for the first time near Roosevelt L., Apr. 17 (J. Poë). The first major victory in the 6-year-old Harris' Hawk reintroduction program along the L.C.R. happened this spring when a pair successfully nested and fledged two young May 25-26 n. of Yuma. Over 100 Harris' Hawks from captive stock have been released on the L.C.R. since 1979 with very little apparent success until this year. Harris' Hawks have been locally extinct on the L.C.R. since the mid-1950s, with the last reported nesting in 1952 (*fide* G. Ferrier). A late Ferruginous Hawk was seen at Elfrida May 7 (AM, RT, CG), and a late Rough-legged Hawk at Douglas Apr. 19 (AM). Crested Caracara has been reported with more regularity in the Tucson vicinity recently. This spring, one was seen along the Oracle Hwy n. of Tucson Mar. 23 (DD, T. Deecken *et al.*), one near the Snyder Hill sewage ponds w. of Tucson Mar. 29 (SSu), and a few others were reported from the Tucson foothills (*fide* SSu).

GROUSE THROUGH TERNS — Blue Grouse has only recently been introduced into the San Francisco Peaks region, so a ♀ Blue Grouse near the top of Kendrick's Peak n.w. of Flagstaff May 19 was noteworthy (R. Dummer).

A late (or breeding?) Virginia Rail was heard near St. David May 6 (AM). Breeding has been suspected here but has never

been confirmed. The only Whimbrel reported this spring was one at the Hyannis Pond Mar. 25 (AM). This furnished only the 2nd record for Cochise County. Large flocks of Marbled Godwits were downed by bad weather in n. Arizona in late April. A flock of 80+ was found near Prescott Apr. 26 during a snowstorm (CT, H & AG), and on Apr. 28 more than 150 were at Many Farms L. and another 50+ at Round Rock L. (BrJ). Marbled Godwit is usually a sparse spring migrant throughout the state, being especially scarce in the n.e. corner. Two Sanderlings were at Prescott Apr. 26 (CT, BT, H & AG) and three more were at Willcox May 10 (RBa, DH). A very early Pectoral Sandpiper (without supporting details) was seen near McNeal Mar. 24 (JS). There are about one-half dozen previous spring records for the state.

The first spring records of Dunlin for n.e. Arizona were obtained this year with one Apr. 16 at Round Rock L. and another there Apr. 17, and two birds at Many Farms L., Apr. 21 (BrJ). Dunlin was unrecorded in n.e. Arizona until the fall of 1984. Two Stilt Sandpipers, sparse spring migrants in the state, showed up at Willcox May 10 (RBa, DH). Rarely reported in spring, two Short-billed Dowitchers were seen and heard at Moaning L. in n.e. Arizona May 27 (BrJ). This may have furnished only the 4th record for the n.e. part of the state. Unusual was a Com. Snipe "winnowing" near a small marsh near Pine-top, e. of Show Low (J. Hubbard). The only breeding locality for the state is near Springerville on the other side of the White Mts.

One dozen Franklin's Gulls were reported during the period across the state, which included five adults at Many Farms L., Mar. 30-Apr. 28 (BrJ). The only report of California Gull away from the L.C.R. was of two at Tucson Mar. 21 (SG, JS). A single Caspian Tern was at Prescott Apr. 16 where it is considered uncommon (BT, H & AG, CT).

OWLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Ferruginous Pygmy-Owls were detected in their usual n.w. Tucson locations from early March (*fide* SSu), and another was found n. of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum May 20 (*fide* SSu). Reports of this owl seem to be increasing as more people look for it in the more extensive saguaro forests in the state. Long-eared Owl was found nesting in the n.e. corner of the state for the first time. A flock of 10+ roosted near Rock Point this past winter with two individuals remaining and nesting in May. Four young birds were still on the nest through the end of the period (BrJ). On May 21, along the Barfoot Rd. near Rustler Park, Chiricahua Mts., a bird that had been misidentified by many birders as a N. Pygmy-Owl was found to be a N. Saw-whet Owl (R. Stallcup, RBo). Two birds were observed exchanging places in a tree cavity on the night of the 24th, and young were finally seen in the cavity May 31 (RBo, SSu). This was the first confirmed nesting for the Chiricahuas in more than 50 years. Interestingly, another bird had been found dead in the same area in June 1976 (*fide* JW). The Aravaipa Canyon Buff-collared Nightjars returned May 6 for the 6th straight year. In mid-May, at least four Buff-collared Nightjars were found at the base of the Santa Rita Mts. along Madera Canyon Rd., and they were seen and heard there through the period and into the summer (H. McGuiness, SSu, RBo *et al.*). This was a new locality for this species in the state.

Chimney Swifts were found again in Tucson near the Univ. of Arizona campus. This time, three were found in a neighborhood e. of campus May 13+ (m.ob.). A Broad-billed Hummingbird, an uncommon species in the Chiricahuas, was at Portal Apr. 9-10 (L. Gunn, *fide* SSu). Only one Lucifer Hummingbird, a female, was reported from Portal this spring Apr. 27 (SSu). Costa's Hummingbird is a sparse visitor to the Chiricahuas, so a male at Portal through May was noteworthy (B. Schaughency).

KINGFISHERS THROUGH MAGPIES — After last year's plethora of Green Kingfisher records in the Nogales region, there was only one report all period from the state, of a female at Kino Springs Mar. 2 (AM, DD, T. Deecken).

Reports of lingering Lewis' Woodpeckers were received from

scattered locations into April, and even to May 2 (two) e. of the Rincon Mts. at Happy Valley (CG). Surprising was a ♀ *varius* Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Seven Springs, n. of Phoenix, May 20 (DS *et al.*). This was the latest spring date for any sapsucker in the lowlands in the state. A Downy Woodpecker was found Mar. 12 at Prescott, where rarely reported (H & AG, CT).

Buff-breasted Flycatchers had not been reported in potential breeding habitat in the Santa Rita Mts. for more than 65 years, so the two found on the n.e. slope of Mt. Hopkins Apr. 19 were a true surprise (GM). Migrating Buff-breasted in the Chiricahuas (destination unknown) this spring included one Apr. 18 near Portal (CG, RM), one Apr. 30 in S. Fork, Cave Cr. Canyon (M. Collie, F. Knoll, *fide* SSu), and another near there May 12 (SSu). A surprise was the E. Phoebe found on the Univ. of Arizona campus Mar. 24 (TH, *U. of A.). Thick-billed Kingbirds away from their usual summer locations included one bird on Silver Cr. near Portal May 23 (AM) and another in Chino Canyon May 25 (DS, J. Sunder).

One of the Univ. of Arizona Cave Swallows returned for the 7th straight year on the early date of Mar. 7 and might have been there since late February (TH). A very early Barn Swallow was found at Willcox Mar. 9 (AM *et al.*). Probably lingering from this winter's invasion of montane species, two Clark's Nutcrackers were seen in the Pinal Mts. near Globe May 14-15 (R. Hefferon). Perplexing were the 2 reports of Black-billed Magpie s. of Tucson where one was seen near Canoa Pond in mid-March (G. Porter) and another, or the same, May 6 s. of Tumacacori (G. Porter, I. Ritch). Surely, these must pertain to wandering escaped birds.

TITMICE THROUGH WARBLERS — Unusual was a Plain Titmouse along the Santa Maria R. in saguaro habitat Mar. 4 (CT). Single Red-breasted Nuthatches lingered at 2 spots in s.e. Arizona until mid to late April.

At least one pair of Black-capped Gnatcatchers returned to Chino Canyon Apr. 4 and was seen through the period (m.ob.). In mid-May, no fewer than *eight* Black-capped Gnatcatchers were found in Sycamore Canyon w. of Nogales and were seen through the period (H. McGuinness *et al.*). This species was recorded here for the first time in June 1984. A late ♀ Mountain Bluebird was found near Willcox May 7 (AM, CG, RT), and a late Townsend's Solitaire was in Madera Canyon May 13 (RBa, DH). Swainson's Thrush is extremely rare in n.e. Arizona during spring migration, so two birds singing in cottonwoods at the Canyon de Chelly campground May 21 were noteworthy (BrJ). A Varied Thrush at the Idlewild campground in Cave Cr. Canyon, Chiricahuas, Mar. 9 provided the 5th record for this area since 1977 (RM). Bendire's Thrasher was finally confirmed as a breeder in the Sulphur Springs Valley when 2 nests were found, one May 6 near Elfrida and the other near Double Adobe (AM). Individual birds have been found singing in the valley in past springs, but no evidence of nesting had been found until this year.

Gray Vireos were found again near the e. end of Redington Pass e. of Tucson (RBo, JBa), and two migrating individuals were found w. of Tumacacori (B. Buttery). The only Red-eyed Vireo reported this spring was one near Many Farms L., May 22 (BrJ).

The assortment of e. vagrant warblers this spring was much lower than average. *No* Am. Redstarts and *no* Tennessees were reported. Only 7 species were represented, and this includes Black-and-white, N. Waterthrush, and the Cape May that wintered in Tucson.

A N. Parula was found at Kino Springs May 28 (R. Stallcup). The Cape May Warbler, mentioned above, remained in n.w. Tucson until Apr. 11 (B. Meteer). This was about the 7th record overall and the 3rd individual to winter. A ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler, rare in the west in spring, was seen briefly at S. Fork, Cave Cr. Canyon, May 21 (H. McGuinness). The vast majority of spring records for the state have been in the Chiricahuas. Even rarer in the state in spring is Blackpoll Warbler, which was seen May 24 at S. Fork campground, Cave Cr. Canyon (†M.

Gavit). Three individual Black-and-white Warblers were reported, about an average number. Only one N. Waterthrush was reported this spring, at Seven Springs May 20. Hooded Warblers put in a good showing again this year with three reported. The ♂ Hooded Warbler returned to Page Springs w. of Sedona for the 3rd consecutive summer Apr. 12 (V. Gilmore *et al.*). A male was seen along the San Pedro R. e. of Sierra Vista May 25 (†M. Haraway *et al.*) and another was in Scheelite Canyon May 29 (ph. RBo). Certainly out of place was a Painted Redstart at Tinajas Altas, w. of Cabeza Prieta N.W.R., Apr. 17-18 (D. & L. Ruh, *fide* GM). There are about one-half dozen records for the s.w. corner of the state. A real surprise was the **Rufous-capped Warbler** near Comfort Spring, Carr Canyon, Huachuca Mts., Apr. 7 (†D. & L. Ruh). Two of the 3 previous records for the state were also from spring, with one having been found Apr. 8, 1978.



Male Flame-colored Tanager in South Fork, Cave Creek Canyon, Ariz., May 13, 1985. Photo/L. Page Brown.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — Without any doubt, the best bird of the season was the ♂ **Flame-colored** (formerly Stripe-backed) **Tanager** (*Piranga bidentata*) found by RM in S. Fork, Cave Cr. Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., on the morning of Apr. 11. It was seen and photographed by hundreds of birders through the period. In May, the bird paired with an apparent ♀ W. Tanager and this mixed pair successfully nested and fledged two young on May 29-30. Details of this remarkable record will be published elsewhere. This was the first recorded sighting of Flame-colored Tanager for the United States.

A ♀ N. Cardinal found at Prescott Apr. 8 (H & AG, CT) was unusual at this elevation. A singing ♂ Pyrrhuloxia at Gila Bend Apr. 29 was at the w. limit of that species' normal range in the state (DS). Only three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported, all from s.e. Arizona.

A Five-striped Sparrow in Chino Canyon May 13 provided the only report from that canyon this year (B. Brokaw). In the Atascosa Mts. w. of Nogales, the reports were more favorable with 10 singing males in Sycamore Canyon May 23 (JBa, JBo) and at least two more in California Gulch May 31 (SSu, RBo). The only Fox Sparrows reported were one or two bright rusty individuals at Patagonia Mar. 9 (JS, B. Sutton). Swamp Sparrow is unusual in the Prescott area, so one there Mar. 12-13 was noteworthy (BT, CT). A Golden-crowned Sparrow at Many Farms Spring Apr. 19 provided the 2nd spring record for n.e. Arizona (BrJ). The flock of McCown's Longspurs (25) w. of McNeal was last seen Mar. 13 (AM).

A ♀ "Baltimore" N. Oriole, a very sparse transient in the state, was seen at the S.W. Research Station in the Chiricahua Mts., May 25 (DS).

Small numbers of Purple Finches remained at various locations in s.e. Arizona well into April with the latest individuals (two) reported with Cassin's Finches Apr. 19 at Canoa (SSu).

Larger numbers of Cassin's Finches also remained in s e Arizona and in the Prescott area well into April with small flocks still being reported at various localities to the first week of May (e.g., at Portal to May 3). The latest individual reported was on Mt. Lemmon, Santa Catalina Mts., May 13 (RBa, DH). Red Crossbills departed most lowland areas by late March, but a male was still at Globe Apr. 24 (BeJ). Lawrence's Goldfinches were still being reported at a few places in s.e. Arizona in early to mid-March, with a few into April, such as two with 300+ Lessers at Organ Pipe Cactus N.M., Apr. 7 (GM, S. Russell). Small flocks of Evening Grosbeaks at scattered locations across the state remained until the first week of May and to mid-May in the Prescott area (m.ob.).

CORRIGENDA—There are now at least one dozen records of Black-necked Stilt for n.e. Arizona (AB 37:943). There have been at least 7 spring records of Forster's Tern in n.e. Arizona (AB 37:943). The Sonoita pair of Black-shouldered Kites fledged four young, not five (AB 38:1048).

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New Mexico

John P. Hubbard

ABBREVIATIONS—Bosque Ref. = Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; E.B.L. = Elephant Butte Lake; W.I.P.P. = Waste Isolation Pilot Project site, Eddy Co. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS—Only one loon was reported, a Common in winter plumage at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Apr. 6-23; also present there Mar. 1-15 was the season's only reported Horned Grebe (KW). Western Grebes made an excellent showing at E.B.L. and Caballo L., Mar. 23-24, with 300+ counted (JH *et al.*). Light-phase birds dominated at the former locality, which is unusual for the state. Most birds on the 2 lakes were apparently paired, and some were doing breeding displays. Reports of the species in areas where less frequent included one to three near Las Vegas May 24-28 (JP), Bitter Lake N.W.R., Apr. 12-May 17 (KW), near Cliff Mar. 24-May 4 (RF *et al.*), and L. McMillan May 3 (WH).

Two nesting colonies of Double-crested Cormorants, totalling over 300 birds, were present at E.B.L. and Caballo L., Mar. 23-24 (JH *et al.*). A small colony was also nesting at Santa Rosa Res. (R. Hayes), for a local first. Rising waters inundated old nests of the species at Abiquiu L., but a few birds were observed building nests elsewhere on that reservoir (D. Domenici). Finally, the 20+ birds at L. McMillan Mar. 7-8 showed signs of breeding, but the likely nesting area could not be approached (JH *et al.*); up to 17 birds were still present there May 3 (WH). At least 30 Olivaceous Cormorants were present at E.B.L. and three or more at Caballo L., Mar. 23-24, but no nesting colony could be found (JH *et al.*). An Olivaceous Cormorant was at Las Cruces Mar. 23 (RH), and an almost certain one was at L. McMillan Mar. 7 (JH *et al.*) and Apr. 26 (WH).

HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL—Unusual was a Least Bittern at Cochiti L., *Sandoval*, Apr. 23 (JDo). A 2nd Great Blue Heron nesting colony in the San Francisco basin was established at Glenwood, with 10-15 nests there in the period (R. Skaggs). At least one hundred nests were active in the Gila Valley, these being in 4 colonies between the Gila Cliff Dwellings and Redrock (RF). The only Little Blue Heron reported was an adult at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Apr. 20-27 (KW *et al.*). Outside the expected range were a Cattle Egret near Las Vegas May 24-28 (JP) and two at Pleasanton, *Catron*, Apr. 26 (L. & M. Sumner), while one was seen at the Artesia heronry Apr. 28 and five at the Loving heronry Apr. 21 (WH). Species known to be breeding at these 2 heronries were Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night-Herons (WH). East of the usual range in New Mexico was a Green-backed Heron at the W.I.P.P. site Apr. 30 (WH), while one near Las Vegas May 24-28 (JP) was also noteworthy.

Late Snow Geese were 10 at Bosque Ref., Apr. 19 (WE, J. Shipman), and four at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Apr. 12—plus a blue-phase bird at the latter locality Apr. 13-27 (KW). Also late were three Ross' Geese at L. McMillan Apr. 15 & 20 (WH), plus a cripple at Bitter Lake N.W.R. through May 17 (KW). Outside the normal range was one at Morgan L., *San Juan*, Mar. 26 (HHL) and Apr. 1 (G. Fox). Late was a pair of Wood Ducks at Percha Dam, *Sierra*, May 7, these perching in a cottonwood (BZ, KZ) North of the usual range was a Mexican-like Mallard near Bluewater L., Apr. 20 and earlier, this being an apparent male paired with a ♀ northern-type Mallard (D. Bolster, AM). Also worth noting was a single bird of the Mexican type at Caballo L., Mar. 24 (JH), plus a pair in the period at Holloman L. (RH). A ♂ **Eurasian Wigeon** was well-described at L. McMillan Apr. 26 (WH) for one of the few convincing records for the state. A **Surf Scoter** was reported at Evans L., *Grant*, Apr. 16 (D. & M. Zimmerman); this species is very rare in spring.

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS—A systematic count of raptors from a point in the Sandia Mts. tallied 2806 birds of 16 species in the period Feb. 17-May 13 (J. Daly *et al.*). Highlights included 643 Turkey Vultures (earliest Mar. 25), 26 Ospreys (Mar. 31-May 9), 20 Bald Eagles (last Apr. 7), 55 N. Harriers (last May 5), 474 Sharp-shinned (Feb. 19-May 13), 454 Cooper's Hawks (Mar. 7-May 11), 22 N. Goshawks (Feb. 27-May 9), a very early ad. Broad-winged Hawk (Mar. 10), 47 Swainson's (earliest Apr. 2), a Zone-tailed (Apr. 2), 283 Red-tailed, 11 Ferruginous Hawks (last Apr. 24), an astounding 443 Golden Eagles, 148 Am. Kestrels, and 28 Prairie Falcons. Unusual was a Black-shouldered Kite at Hobbs Apr. 8-9 (CL *et al.*), as were single N. Goshawks reported at Albuquerque Mar. 25 (RT) and in the Gila Valley May 4 (RF *et al.*). A Com. Black-Hawk near El Pueblo, *San Miguel*, Apr. 14-15 (WE, G. Schmitt) was photographed for the northernmost documented record in the state—some 65 mi e.n.e. of the next nearest station. Also notable was another bird near La Mesa, *Dona Ana*, Apr. 1 (C. Anderson, EW). A **Crested Caracara** reported at Malaga Mar. 15 (KE, *vide* WH) apparently furnished the 2nd reliable record for the s.e.

Northern Bobwhites were numerous in the period at the W.I.P.P. site, typically associated with shinny oak (*Quercus havardii*) (WH). A high count was of 25 Virginia Rails at Zuni May 31 (JT). The last Whooping Cranes reported at Bosque Ref. were three Mar. 5 (*vide* RT). Worthy of note were one to two Black-bellied Plovers at Bitter Lake N.W.R., May 11-17 (KW) and Holloman L., May 7-24 (BZ *et al.*). A Lesser Golden-Plover was at L. McMillan Apr. 8-20 (GH, WH); the species is very rare in the state, occurring mainly in autumn. Early Snowy Plovers were singles at Bitter Lake N.W.R. (KW) and Laguna Grande, *Eddy* (JH), Mar. 8; out of the normal range were two at Morgan L., Apr. 19 (HHL). Semipalmated Plovers were more widespread and numerous than usual, with 20-25 in the e. two-thirds of the state Apr. 5-May 18 (v.o.).

Single Spotted Sandpipers at the W.I.P.P. site Apr. 30 and May 2 (WH) were e. of the usual range in the state. Also notable was a Whimbrel at Holloman L., May 18 & 24 (RH *et al.*). Marbled Godwits made a good showing, with 40-45 from the Pecos

Valley w. Apr. 13-May 10 (v.o.) Spring Sanderlings are rather infrequent in the state, so notable were three at Hollomon L., May 18 (RH) and two in the Carlsbad area Apr. 15 & 21 (WH). Spring Baird's Sandpipers were reported only in the Pecos Valley, except for three-plus at Hollomon L., Apr. 20 (RH). Also worth noting were a Semipalmated Sandpiper reported at L. McMillan Apr. 15 (WH) and a Dunlin at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Apr. 30 (KW). Also reported at the latter area were seven Pectorals Apr. 13-19 (KW), plus one at Bosque Ref., Apr. 17 (RT). Three-plus Com. Snipe were calling May 18 at the apparent breeding locality of Los Ojos, *Rio Arriba* (RD, JH).

GULLS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — An ad. **Heermann's Gull** was fairly well-described at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Mar. 28 (L. Marlatt, KW), for the 3rd state record. *Three* imm. Thayer's Gulls were recorded on E.B.L. and Caballo L., Mar. 23-24 (JH *et al.*), for a very high count for the state. East of the normal range was a Band-tailed Pigeon near Estancia Apr. 19 (AM *et al.*). North of the usual range were single White-winged Doves at Farmington Apr. 2-3 (A. Williams *et al.*) and at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Apr. 22 (KW) and May 29 (RT), while two at Mangas Springs, *Grant*, Mar. 2 (RF) were early for the area. Chimney Swifts were reported only in Carlsbad, where there were four May 3 and two May 11 (WH). Early were 25 White-throated Swifts in the Sandia Mts., Mar. 10 (HS). Unexpected was a ♂ **Magnificent Hummingbird** at Truth or Consequences May 1 & 12 (DM), plus a pair in Dog Canyon, Guadalupe Mts., in April and May (T. Smith, *vide* WH).

Lewis' Woodpeckers in unusual places were singles near Socorro Apr. 27 (RT), near Las Cruces Apr. 20 (L. Schulte *et al.*) and May 2 (JDI, BZ), and the W.I.P.P. site May 25 (J. Bednarz, WH), plus two near Cliff May 4 (PI *et al.*). Were these birds returning from an exodus to the s. last autumn? An Acorn Woodpecker at Cedar Crest May 6 (DL) and another on the Three-Gun Spring Trail May 22-24 (T. Huning, B. Ostyn) were among the very few ever recorded from the Sandia Mts. Also notable was a pair near Los Alamos Mar. 21-May 31 (BL). Unusual were two Williamson's Sapsuckers near Mesilla Mar. 23 (RH). Well n. of the normal range was a Ladder-backed Woodpecker at Farmington Mar. 15 (HHL), while at the n. limits was one near Villanueva, *San Miguel*, Apr. 14 (WE). Southerly was a Downy Woodpecker at Roswell Apr. 20-26 (S. Bixler), while also notable was a lowland riparian nest of Hairy Woodpecker along lower Las Animas Cr., *Sierra*, Apr. 21 (RH).

A singing Hammond's Flycatcher was reported in Juan Tabo Canyon, Sandia Mts., May 28—but not later (HS). Northern limits of the Black Phoebe continue to be indicated by such records as these: one at Zuni May 31 (JT), one w. of Arroyo Hondo, *Taos*, May 17 (RD, JH), and three in the El Pueblo-Sena area, *San Miguel*, Apr. 14 (WE). The only E. Phoebe seen in the latter area, where the species has been more numerous in the past, was one on a nest May 4 (JH). East of the usual range was a Vermilion Flycatcher at the W.I.P.P. site Apr. 9 (WH). Two E. Kingbirds were seen May 18 near Rutheron, *Rio Arriba* (JD, JH), where the species is local.

JAYS THROUGH VIREOS — A Blue Jay remained at Clayton through at least Mar. 26 (MM). Pecos Valley populations of this species persisted, being recorded from Roswell to Carlsbad in the period (v.o.). Two Scrub Jays near Mesilla Mar. 16 (PI) may have been remnants from last winter's minor lowland influx. Clark's Nutcracker remained in Los Alamos through the period (BL). Lowland reports of Mountain Chickadees included singles near La Joya, *Socorro*, Mar. 13 (WH) and Bosque Ref., Mar. 23 (PI). Northerly was a Verdin at the former site and date (GH, WH).

Most unusual were four singing Sedge Wrens at L. McMillan Apr. 15, with one there Apr. 26 (WH). Unusual was an Am. Dipper near Española May 12 (BL *et al.*). The only acceptable report of E. Bluebird w. of the Pecos Valley in the period was of

a male at Belen Mar. 4 (WH). About six W. Bluebirds reported near Hobbs Mar. 5 (CL) were well e. of the usual range. Apparent remnants of last winter's invasion were small numbers of Mountain Bluebirds at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Mar. 9-15 (KW) and the W.I.P.P. site Apr. 10 (WH).

The only Brown Thrasher report was of a bird singing at the W.I.P.P. site Apr. 8-27 (WH). Well e. of the normal range were several Bendire's Thrashers reported near Estancia Apr. 19 (AM *et al.*). Is this species still spreading E? Cedar Waxwings were rather widespread, with moderate numbers reported; late dates included a bird at the W.I.P.P. site May 17 (WH), five near Las Vegas May 24-28 (JP), and several near La Union, *Dona Ana*, in late May (JDI, BZ). An early nest for Phainopepla was one at Durling's Farm, *Dona Ana*, Mar. 23—but it was abandoned Apr. 3 (BZ). Noteworthy were two singing Bell's Vireos May 23 at Bosque Ref. (WH), where seldom reported. Four Gray Vireos were at Zuni May 31 (JT), and single singing birds were near Quemado May 20-23 and in Carlsbad Caverns N.P., Apr. 20 (WH *et al.*). Most unusual was a **Yellow-throated Vireo** in Embudito Canyon Apr. 24 (HS), for apparently the first record in the Sandia Mts.

WARBLERS THROUGH SPARROWS — Unusual records were of a single ♀ **Blue-winged Warbler** at Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy*, Apr. 28 (WH, A. Wilson), a ♂ **Golden-winged Warbler** at Cedar Crest May 6 (DL), a ♂ Chestnut-sided Warbler at Albuquerque May 18-19 (JH, D. Niles), a ♂ **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at Hobbs May 1 (CL), a ♀ Hermit Warbler at Durling's Farm May 2 (JDI, BZ), a Palm Warbler at Albuquerque May 12 (C.N.M.A.S.) and a ♂ **Blackpoll Warbler** there May 18 (W. Sykora), and a Worm-eating Warbler at Tesuque, *Santa Fe*, May 6 (JD). Reports of species such as Tennessee and Nashville warblers, N. Parula, N. Waterthrush, and Ovenbird were down, Black-and-white Warblers were average, and Townsend's Warblers were up. At Rattlesnake Springs, Myrtle (Yellow-rumped) Warblers outnumbered Audubon's Apr. 8 & 15, but this was reversed Apr. 20 (WH). Common Yellowthroats reported at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Mar. 8-15 (KW) were extremely early. Two pairs of Olive Warblers in Spring Canyon May 14 (H. & R. Williams) represented only the 2nd report of the species from that part of the Black Range; even more unusual—in fact, extraordinary—was the same observers' report of a male of this species in the s. lowlands at Columbus May 6.

Most unusual were a ♂ N. Cardinal at Truth or Consequences May 6-19 (DM) and a female at Rattlesnake Springs Apr. 8-27 (WH). Three pairs at Mangas Springs in the period (RF) suggested that the species is now well-established there—the easternmost such locality in the state. Reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were down from recent springs, whereas Indigo Bunting reports were about normal. East of the usual range, but in the right habitat and probably regular there, were 3 pairs of Brown Towhees e. of Laguna Grande May 17 (WH, DL). Early was a fledgling Cassin's Sparrow at the W.I.P.P. site May 8 (WH). Acceptable spring records of Clay-colored Sparrows were several in s. *Dona Ana* Apr. 1-29 (BZ *et al.*), at the W.I.P.P. site Apr. 19-May 7 (WH), and probably at Bitter Lake N.W.R., May 11-17 (KW); possible was a singing bird in Albuquerque Apr. 22 (HS).

Eight Field Sparrows were at the W.I.P.P. site Apr. 7-16, including three birds that sang (WH)—perhaps the first such report for the state. Also singing were five Grasshopper Sparrows near Laguna Grande Apr. 17 (WH); song in spring migrants of this species has been noted before in the s.e. A Swamp Sparrow was reported at Hobbs Apr. 8 (CL); otherwise, all reports were from the lower Pecos Valley areas. Except for a single bird at Rattlesnake Springs Apr. 8 (WH), all reports of White-throated Sparrows were in the lower Rio Grande Valley—where the species was observed as late as May 7 (BZ *et al.*). Two Golden-crowned Sparrows were recorded, one in the Sandia Mts., Mar. 5 (HS) and another at Las Cruces Mar. 9-26 (EW) and Apr. 29 (G. Ewing). Both Harris' Sparrow reports were from Santa Fe, one Mar. 24-25 and the other Apr. 12 (J. Vance).

ICTERIDS THROUGH FINCHES—The E. Meadowlark continued to occur in the Zuni area, with two heard May 31 (JT); another was to the e. at Bluewater L., Apr. 20 (AM). A straggling Great-tailed Grackle was at the W.I.P.P. site May 12, while Com. Grackles were paired and present at Carlsbad through May (WH). The Bronzed Cowbird appears to be consolidating its e. range in the state, as evidenced by reports of a pair at Percha Dam May 7 (BZ, KZ) and one there May 9 (P. Steel), plus a male at Rattlesnake Springs May 18 (KE, WH). A report of two or more at Las Cruces Mar. 21 (R. Castetter, *vide* RH) was very early, if correct. A ♂ oriole, apparently a hybrid Orchard x Hooded, was at Rattlesnake Springs Apr. 15 and later (WH). It was paired with a ♀ Hooded, which is the rarer of the 2 species as a breeder in the area. Six nests of Scott's Orioles were found in the Sandia Mts. in the period (HS), suggesting a larger population there than previously suspected. A singing bird near Quemado May 23 (WH) was in an area where the species is local.

On Apr. 10, two ♀ Pine Grosbeaks were in the Sandia Mts. (HS)—which may be the s. limit of regular occurrence of the species in the state. A ♂ **Purple Finch** w. of Continental Divide, McKinley, Mar. 3-30 (ph. A. Schmierer) was most unexpected. Cassin's Finches remained in such places as Los Alamos, Santa

Fe, and the Sandia Mts. until mid-May (v.o.), with several in the Gila Valley May 4 (RF *et al.*). Red Crossbills in out-of-the-way places included a female at Farmington Apr. 8 (HHL), six birds at Clayton Mar. 1 (W. Cook, MM), and two-plus in Santa Fe May 2-14 (JH). Pine Siskins continued their lowland sojourn into the period, with the last at Bitter Lake N.W.R. (KW) and the W.I.P.P. site (WH) in mid-May—plus through May 29 in s. *Dona Ana* American Goldfinches showed similarly extended stays, but with none past mid-May (v.o.). Finally, the Evening Grosbeak influx of the winter was reflected in numerous reports in the n mountains and foothills—plus in the area around Albuquerque (v.o.). Latest of the records in the latter area was of 100 birds May 12 (C.N.M.A.S.), while 3 pairs persisted in Santa Fe as late as May 31 (JH).

OBSERVERS—Central New Mexico Audubon Society (C.N.M.A.S.), Robert Dickerman, Jim Dominic (JDo), Jeff Donaldson (JDl), Karl Elers, William Eley, Ralph Fisher, Geof Hill, Randy Hill, William Howe, John Hubbard, Pat Insley, H.H. Lesperance, Carol Levine, Burt Lewis, David Ligon, Marty Mayfield, Arch McCallum, Doris Miller, Jeff Perry, Hart Schwarz, Ross Teuber, John Trochet, Kathy Wood, Eleanor Wootten, Barry Zimmer, Kevin Zimmer.—**JOHN P. HUBBARD, 655 Galisteo, Santa Fe, NM 87501.**

ALASKA REGION

D. D. Gibson

Spring 1985 was cold, wet, and late in Alaska, an often-stormy, start-and-stop season that produced an impressive body of interesting timing, distribution, and abundance records. Most widespread migrants, from the Nearctic or the Neotropics, were one to two weeks late, but timing of different groups of birds varied (*i.e.*, some were on time reaching the Alaska perimeter, where they were *then* held up; others were held up *before* they reached us at all). A deep snow cover inland (*e.g.*, still 30 inches at Fairbanks April 23) and persistent ice pack and wintry conditions on the Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean coasts blocked timely movement of many species. The numbers of at least several widespread passerines dropped noticeably (*e.g.*, territorial Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Fairbanks fell to a 10-year low [BK], Golden-crowned Sparrows were few or absent in many localities where expected [v.o.]), and production of coastal swans, geese, and ducks was expected to fare badly (BC, JIH). On another hand, migrants through the western Aleutian Islands, from the Orient or the eastern Palearctic, and such species at St. Lawrence Island, were early or on time and included some startling records.

Hallmarks of an exceptional season in this regard, six additions to the Alaska List, including *four* species (and one family) new to North America, are mentioned herein. Details will be published elsewhere. And one species was added to the Alaska Unsubstantiated List. Not since spring 1977, when six species were found for the first time, has there been such a season. Some of the highlights are outlined below.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS—Seven Whooper Swans at Shemya I., w. Aleutians, Apr. 26-May 4 (VV, *vide* CFZ) were late departing. A Barnacle Goose studied amid Canadas at Palmer Apr. 22 (+MTB)-May 12 (+REG, CMH) was more likely an intracontinental escape than a bird that reached North America as a wild visitant (see Ryff 1984, *Birding* 16:146-154). A buildup of 8000-10,000 Canada Geese took place at Clearwater L., Delta, Apr. 20-24 (BAC, PDM, BAA *et al.*), as the birds



were waited for weather conditions to allow them farther n. and w. For similar reasons, 50,000+ Canada and 10,000+ Snow geese were concentrated at Palmer during the first few days of May (TGT). Three ♂ Cinnamon Teal, all accompanying congeners, were recorded in SE this season: at Skagway in mid-May (JSH), at Mitkof I., May 17 (PW); and at Klawock, Prince of Wales I., May 27 (TEK, ph.). Common Pochards were seen in the w. Aleutians in the usual small numbers, and one male was found as far e. as St. Paul I., Pribilofs, June 8-11 (JLD *et al.*). Single ad ♂ Tufted Ducks at Unalaska I., e. Aleutians, in March (JL, ph.) and at Kodiak May 8-10 (+RAM, +JBA) added to few Alaska

records e. of the c. Aleutians. Maximum was 22 at Shemya in late May (DWS). A ♂ Tufted Duck x scaup hybrid was observed at Anchorage May 18-31 (DWS *et al.*, ph.). Spectacled Eiders provided a show at Gambell, St. Lawrence I., in early June, as steady movement N took place, maximum 110 birds June 1 (JLD *et al.*). An imm. ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye at Shemya May 22-28 (+DWS) was a first for the w. Aleutians. Up to five ♀-plumaged Smeews at Attu May 12-24 provided maximum count this spring.

Since there were only 2 prior Aleutian sightings, an Osprey at Attu May 14 (CFZ) and again June 4 was of much interest—likely Palearctic *P. h. haliaetus*, which is known in the Commander Islands as a “regular visitor from Kamchatka in the spring and summer” (Johansen 1961, *Auk* 78:44-56). White-tailed Eagle did not breed at Attu this year.

SHOREBIRDS—Most species in these families were on time or slightly late reaching the Alaska perimeter, but migration peaks in most areas were 7-10 days late. Perhaps in most cases weather-blocked aggregations, high counts of shorebirds e. of the Bering Sea included 500+ Lesser Golden-Plovers at Palmer May 12 (DFD), 400+ Lesser Yellowlegs at Fairbanks May 4 (DDG, PDM), 150+ Whimbrels at Palmer May 12 (DFD) and 50+ at Anchorage May 12-13 (TGT), 255 Short-billed Dowitchers at Anchorage May 4 (TGT), and 370+ Long-billed Dowitchers at Anchorage May 12 (TGT); 1500+ Western and 120 Pectoral sandpipers at Womens Bay May 15 (JBA) were phenomenal spring counts at Kodiak Island. Mostly on time and in *small* numbers in the w. Aleutians were Mongolian Plover, Wood Sandpiper, Gray-tailed Tattler, Com. and Terek sandpipers, Black-tailed Godwit, Long-toed Stint, and Ruff.

In its 5th consecutive year in the Aleutians, Far Eastern Curlew was seen at Shemya (one May 22 and another May 27-28, DWS) and Attu (one June 1-3). Earliest Bristle-thighed Curlew at St. Marys was not seen until May 14 (BJM); one was seen May 15 in the Baby Islands (FD, VK *et al.*), where it provided a first e. Aleutian record. Marbled Godwits were seen at Kodiak (three May 3, RAM) and at Klawock (one May 17; TEK, ph.). Maximum count at Ugashik Bay, Alaska Pen., the inferred breeding ground of the species in Alaska, was 300-400 birds June 15-16 (MEI). Of interest at Gambell were a Com. Sandpiper May 31, a Temminck's Stint May 29, and a Curlew Sandpiper May 29 (all +JLD *et al.*). Rufous-necked Stints were seen at Gambell in small numbers (JLD), but the species was missed entirely in the Aleutians this spring. A Long-toed Stint at St. Paul June 8-9 (+JLD *et al.*, ph.) added to few Pribilof records.

A Stilt Sandpiper at Deering, Seward Peninsula, May 29 (+JW) was probably a bird, put off by conditions to the n., that had crossed Alaska. Single Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Gambell May 29 (JLD, SIT) and at Kotzebue May 30 (TJD) might have been birds arriving from Asia/the South Pacific rather than from the Neotropics via a trans-Alaska route. The species is a rare straggler in Japan, and there have been enough recent records in the w. Aleutians to suggest the possibility that some winter in the s.w. Pacific on a more than casual basis. Now apparently annual, Wilson's Phalarope was seen at Juneau (pair May 25-26; DEM, RHA, ph.) and at Anchorage (one May 26-27; MLA, DFD *et al.*).

Of the many exciting visitants this season, unquestionably the most exotic-looking was a ♂ **Oriental Pratincole** (*Glareola maldivarum*) at Attu May 19-20 (m.ob., ph.*). The occurrence of this bizarre genus added a *family* (Glareolidae) to the Alaskan and North American avifauna. The species is uncommon in Japan and is an irregular visitant as far n.e. as the Kurile Islands.

LARIDS—Twelve hundred Pomarine and 300 Parasitic jaegers on the sea ice just off Kotzebue June 4 (TJD) were birds stacked up by weather/ice conditions to the n. Single imm. California Gulls at Kodiak Apr. 21 & 30 (+JBA) and May 12 (+RAM, DM, MMM) furnished the westernmost Alaska records.

A yellow-legged, dark-mantled, ad. gull at Kodiak Apr. 20. was judged by the observers to be a Lesser Black-backed



Oriental Pratincole on Attu I., Alaska, May 19-20, 1985. First North American record. Photo/C. F. Zeillemaker.

(+RAM, +JBA). Alaska's only prior record of such a phenotype [AB 35:970, 36:322] was also identified in the field as that species (m.ob., ph.), but photos were subsequently assessed as possibly of a yellow-legged Herring Gull (+PJG). Because “the colour of the legs and feet [yellow or pink] . . . is often emphasized as a ‘group character’ [within Herring Gull], but this character varies in widely separated populations . . .” (Vaurie 1965, *Birds of the Palearctic Fauna*) and because taxonomists disagree, at a basic level, on whether to treat several yellow-legged taxa as Herring Gulls or as Lesser Black-backed [e.g., compare treatment by Vaurie [1965] with that of Cramp and Simmons [1983, *Birds of the Western Palearctic*, Vol. III]], it seems wise to wait until specimen evidence provides us the direction to take with these yellow-legged birds before proceeding in either.

Late-departing Ivory Gulls moved N past Gambell May 29-June 3, maximum 20 birds May 30 (JLD). One Ivory Gull was noted on the beach at Deering May 19-22 (JW). Common Terns (*longipennis*) occurred in large numbers this spring—an amazing flock of 21 at Attu June 12 (+PWS, GFW), five at St. Paul June 10 (+JLD).

PIGEONS THROUGH THRUSHES—Two Band-tailed Pigeons at Mitkof I., May 11 (PW) numbered among few ever in that month. A Mourning Dove at Anchorage Mar. 13-Apr. 15 (DFD *et al.*) furnished a peculiar seasonal record (but see the winter 1984-1985 report). Either Common or Oriental cuckoos, single gray-plumaged *Cuculus* were seen at Shemya May 22-28 (+DWS, ph.) and at Attu May 31 (m.ob.) and June 11 (+PWS, GFW), but none could be identified with certainty to species. Alaska's 4th record of **White-throated Needletail**, provided by one at Shemya May 25-26 (+DWS, ph.), fit a tight pattern of occurrence: all May 21-27, in the Near Islands.

Passerine migration was widely described on the mainland as unexciting, but out west there were many exciting records in this order. Alaska's 4th **Western Kingbird**, at Juneau May 17-18 (ACW, MWS, RHA, ph.), was the *earliest*, the first one in May. Two Gray-spotted Flycatchers were seen at Attu May 23 (m.ob.), and one was seen at Shemya May 24-25 (DWS). But a ♀ **Mugimaki Flycatcher** (*Ficedula mugimaki*) observed at Shemya May 24 (+DWS, ph.) and a ♀ **Brown Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa latirostris*) at Attu May 25 (m.ob.,*) were both species new to Alaska and North America. The former is a migrant throughout Japan, breeding as far n.e. as the w. Sea of Okhotsk and Sakhalin I.; the latter breeds as far n.e. as n. Japan and the s. Kurile Islands.

Siberian Rubythroats arrived almost record-early at Attu May 22 (m.ob.) and Shemya May 23 (DWS). Maximum count was 15+, including singing males, at Attu June 3. Bluethroats were



Male Stonechat at Gambell, St. Lawrence I., Alaska, June 5, 1985. Second North American record and first for Alaska. Photo/W. S. Davidson.

first reported at Gambell May 30 (MJA), on schedule. A ♀ **Siberian Blue Robin** (*Luscinia cyane*) at Attu May 21 (m.ob.,*) provided yet another species new to Alaska and North America. It is a common breeder as far n.e. as n. Japan. Furnishing a first substantiated Alaska record, a ♂ **Stonechat** was studied at Gambell June 5 (+WSD ph., +MJA *et al.*). A convincing single-observer sighting there on June 6, 1978 (+AHR), had placed this species on the Alaska Unsubstantiated List.

Stonechat has a wide range in n.e. Asia. The synchronous dates of the occurrences at Gambell, and no report from the Aleutians, point to the likelihood that these records were of birds moving N and E on an overland route (with, perhaps, the entire Alaska-breeding populations of Arctic Warbler, Blue-throat, N. Wheatear, and White Wagtail), rather than of birds moving N and E on the Japan-Kurile Islands-Kamchatka flyway, the route that provides most of the numerous Asiatics known in the Aleutians (where, similarly, Alaska-breeding Arctic Warblers *et al.* [above] are not known, at least not in spring).

Mountain Bluebirds were probably on time, arriving Juneau Apr. 10 (*vide* RJG); in the Interior they were first reported Apr. 27 at Delta (RHD, BEL, DJH) and Apr. 28 at Fairbanks (BAC *et al.*). Eye-browed Thrushes were numerous May 19-29, up to 12/day at Shemya (DWS) and up to 11/day at Attu. One Dusky Thrush was reported, at Attu May 22 (m.ob.). A **Fieldfare** observed at Gambell June 2 (+JLD *et al.*, ph.) was Alaska's 3rd. The prior records, from Barrow and Gambell, both in spring, and the range of the species in the e. Palearctic, suggest that this visitor's path to Alaska has paralleled that described above for Stonechat.

EMBERIZIDS, FINCHES—A well-described ♂ **Lazuli Bunting** at Kake, Kupreanof I., SE, June 6 (+DJK) added a bird to the Alaska Unsubstantiated List. A Rustic Bunting visited a **Homer feeder** Mar. 21-Apr. 14 (GCW, ph.). No doubt a bird that had wintered in North America, this individual provided Alaska's first mainland record. Rustic Buntings were seen in high, but not record-setting, numbers in the w. Aleutians—up to 37/day at Attu May 21-29 (compare spring 1982). Elsewhere, a female was picked up aboard ship in the c. Bering Sea (at 58°36'N 176°41'W) June 2 (+DB), and a male was seen as far e. as **Sf Paul**, June 7-10 (JF, KF, BJR; +JLD ph.), where it provided a first for the Pribilofs.

Bramblings were on time in the w. Aleutians (earliest May 14, and up to 10/day, Attu). As it does in relation to a few other Holarctic genera, Alaska lies between the breeding ranges of the Old World and the New World *Carpodacus* species, and not within any. One from Asia and, now, two from North America are casual visitants here. The ♂, **Purple Finch** at Homer Feb. 10-Mar. 29 (GVB *et al.*—see winter) was followed by a ♀ *Carpodacus* at another Homer feeder Apr. 7 (GCW) and, subsequently, by a ♂ **Cassin's Finch**—new to Alaska—at the latter feeder Apr. 20-May 14 (GCW *et al.*, ph.). Single Hawfinches at Attu May 22, 23, & 26 (TGT) were the only Palearctic finches besides Bramblings this season.

CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS (Subregional editors in boldface) — [Unattributed Attu Island observations are by ATTOUR (T.G. Tobish, N.S. Proctor, T.L. Savaloja, M.E. Isleib *et al.*)] M.L. Abby, J.B. Allen, B.A. Anderson, R.H. Armstrong, M.J. Austin, D. Baker, M.T. Bronson, G.V. Byrd, B. Conant, B.A. Cooper, W.S. Davidson, R.H. Day, F. Deines, D.F. DeLap, T.J. Doyle, J.L. Dunn, J. Friar, K. Friar, R.E. Gill, R.J. Gordon, P.J. Grant, C.M. Handel, J.S. Hawkings, D.J. Haynes, J.I. Hodges, M.E. Isleib, B. Kessel, V. Klett, T.E. Kogut, D.J. Krueper, B.E. Lawhead, J. Low, M.M. MacIntosh, R.A. MacIntosh, P.D. Martin, B.J. McCaffery, D.E. McKnight, D. Menke, A.H. Rider, B.J. Rose, M.W. Schwan, D.W. Sonneborn, P.W. Sykes, S.I. Tingley, T.G. Tobish, V. Van der Noort, G.F. Wagner, P. Walsh, J. Walters, A.C. Wertheimer, G.C. West, C.F. Zeille-maker.—D.D. GIBSON, University of Alaska Museum, 907 Yukon Drive, Fairbanks, AK 99775.



NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.

The weather continued generally drier than usual. Observers waited in vain for storm fronts during March and April, hoping they would bring Mottled Petrels onshore. Instead, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels came and stayed. This move was not obviously correlated with the weather and only a few individuals were found dead on the beaches.

For several migrant species a regular flow of first arrival dates from many locales was apparent. Some other species could be shown to have arrived throughout the entire Region within just a few days. Waves of migrant passerines were detected in mid-April by daily censuses in Eugene, and were noted on May 1-2 in Seattle.

There are 142 observers mentioned in this report, and at least that many whose sightings are not specifically cited. This is the network of birding contributors upon whom this report depends.

LOONS THROUGH STORM-PETRELS—Arctic Loons were concentrated as usual in Active Pass, V.I., with 1600-1800 present Mar. 19-Apr. 18 (Michael Shepard, BW). There were reports of eight Yellow-billed Loons, a normal number, including one found dead at Neah Bay, Wash., Mar. 13 (GG, spec. to U.W. Burke Museum). Single "Clark's" W. Grebes were found Apr. 23 on Fulford Harbour, Saltspring I., V.I. (DFr, ph.-Tracee Geernaert) and May 3 off Catala spit, Ocean Shores, Wash. (G & WH)

Three **Mottled Petrels** were found dead on the beach in late

March at Ocean Shores (Ralph & Florence Carlson), Leadbetter Pt. (GL) and near the North jetty of the Columbia R. (Ralph Widrig), all in s.w. Wash. These furnished the 4th-6th records for the state. Then on Apr. 19 on a transect from 25 miles off La Push, Wash., to 97 miles off Cape Lookout, Oreg., Bob Pitman found 62 Mottled Petrels. They were spread out over the route, 34 off Washington, 28 off Oregon, with the closest to shore being 44 miles off Cape Elizabeth, near Taholah, Wash. (*vide* TW).

Pelagic trips went out of Garibaldi, Oreg., Apr. 28 (JGa *et al.*), Westport, Wash., May 12 (TW *et al.*), to the La Perouse Bank, B.C., May 16 (DA), and to the South Bank off Ucluelet, V.I., May 29 (DA). The 3000 N. Fulmars seen off Westport was the highest count there for any season (TW *et al.*). The high report elsewhere was only 10 birds. Two Flesh-footed Shearwaters were seen off Garibaldi and two were off Westport. No Mottled Petrels were seen.

Observers this season were treated to the largest and most extensive onshore presence of Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels ever. The Fork-taileds were concentrated primarily in Yaquina Bay, Newport, Oreg., Neah Bay, northwest Wash., and in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, with counts of 100-400 obtained throughout March and April (Tom & Alison Mickel, R & JK, Bpa, KT, MC). There were also 50 at Port Orford, Oreg., Mar. 10 (JR), 400 out of Garibaldi, Apr. 28, a dozen at Grays Harbor Wash., Apr. 28 (Tom Weir *et al.*), and many reports of one-ten from other coastal locations. The only penetration into Puget Sound noted was by one bird seen Apr. 6 from the Edmonds-Kingston ferry (DP). A few at Yaquina Bay May 11 (Range Bayer) and one at Westport, Wash., May 11 (DH) were the last reports from shore. The boat out of Westport May 12 recorded 600 well offshore (TW *et al.*). Also, as of the relatively late date of May 12, no Fork-taileds had been heard at their nesting burrows on Tatoosh I., Wash. (BPa). This delay in the normal onset of breeding, plus the unusual onshore sightings of this pelagic species, was believed to indicate very poor feeding conditions farther offshore.

EGRETS THROUGH EIDERS — One-two Great Egrets were seen in the Vancouver, B.C., area Apr. 23-27 (+Duanne Vandenberg, +MF, +WW *et al.*) for the first sighting there since October 1980. At about the same time two others were found north of Oregon; singles May 4-11 in Kent, near Seattle (TB *et al.*) and



May 5 near Tacoma (Jim & Barbara Haight). A **Snowy Egret** appeared Apr. 17 on the Serpentine Fen, Surrey, B.C. (+Lindsay Jones, +Jack Evans, +Ken Summers) and May 12 at nearby Gibsons, B.C. (+Vince Bracewell *et al.*) for the third Vancouver area sighting. Single Cattle Egrets, unusual in spring, were as far north as near Portland, Oreg., Mar. 10 (JE), in Surrey, B.C., Apr. 20 (RP), and along the Waatch R., near Cape Flattery, Wash., May 2-3 (TK). Most unusual of all this concentration of heron records was the appearance of an adult **Little Blue Heron** in breeding plumage May 16-18 along the Willamette R. near the



Emperor Goose at Neah Bay, Wash., March 10, 1985. Photo/Stan Smith.

Ankeny N.W.R., Oreg. (Greg Anderson, EE-photos, m.ob.). This was the first documented record for the state.

Pairs of Mute Swans were noted incubating Apr. 26+ at several locations on s. V.I. (M & VG *et al.*). Almost daily counts of the Snow Geese wintering at Reifel Refuge, B.C., held steady at 4-7000 until Apr. 24. On Apr. 28 only 500 were present, and by May 4 only 55 remained (JI). Three Emperor Geese stopped over Mar. 9-16 on the shores of Neah Bay (MC *et al.*, photo-Stan Smith), and others were seen Mar. 20 at Newport, Oreg. (*fide* DFi), and Mar. 22 on Willapa Bay, Wash. (GL). A **Ross' Goose** seen Apr. 18 at Reifel I., Delta, B.C. (†Janet Hudson, BM) was only the fourth record for the Vancouver area.

There were reports of nine "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal from throughout the Region. Also a hybrid male Eur. x Am. Green-winged Teal remained in Eugene until Apr. 11 (†SH *et al.*) and another was found Apr. 11-27 in Saanich, V.I. (J & RS). The Am. Black Duck seen Mar. 20 at Battleground, near Vancouver, Wash. (Roger Baker) presumably originated from the several introduced populations farther north, but we can now never be sure. A Blue-winged Teal at Medford, Oreg., Mar. 16 was early (Otis Swisher) as were three at Iona I., near Vancouver, B.C., Apr. 2 (RP). Otherwise reports indicated an arrival in early May, about two weeks later than usual. In similar fashion, a few Cinnamon Teal arrived in early March throughout the Region, but larger numbers and more widespread reports occurred in mid-April. Hybrid male Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal were noted May 15-17 in Seattle (†ER, †DB) and May 20 at Iona I., B.C. (†MF), and a hybrid male Am. Wigeon x Gadwall was found Apr. 23-May 19 at Iona I. (†MP, †BK *et al.*). The five male Eur. Wigeons at Dungeness, Wash., Apr. 6 were all clearly unmated (DP, LF). Detection of either hybrid or conspecific pairing would be of considerable interest.

The female Tufted Duck that wintered in Stanley Park, Vancouver, B.C., was last seen Mar. 14 (MF). The male King Eider that wintered nearby was last seen Apr. 5 & 6 in Ambleside Park, W. Vancouver, B.C. (Bobbie Pastrick, MF *et al.*).

KITES THROUGH CRANES — A daily hawk watch at Cape Flattery, on the n.w. tip of Washington, from Apr. 1-May 15 recorded the passage of several thousand raptors (BA). Included in this is an amazing count of 1742 raptors on Apr. 6 alone! The data are still being analyzed for publication and are unavailable at this writing. Obviously from this effort and that of seasons to come our knowledge of migration patterns here will be greatly increased.

The pair of Black-shouldered Kites that wintered near Hoquiam, Wash., was observed in mating display flights Apr. 25 (GG, MM), but they were last seen Apr. 27 (DH). Hopefully this means the birds nested nearby. There were eight sightings of single Black-shouldered Kites at separate locations in Oregon



Hudsonian Godwit at Cordova spit, Vancouver Island, May 11-12, 1985. Photo/Tim Zurowski.

during April and May. Were they migrants or the non-incubating member of nesting pairs? Nest-building by Cooper's Hawks was noted at two locations in Saanich (Mark Nyhof) and one in Victoria (DFr). One of the Red-shouldered Hawks found Mar 19-May 2 around the Winchuk R. harbor was observed breaking off sticks, but no nest was found (DiE). A "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk seen Apr. 6 at Dungeness, Wash., was a late migrant (DP, LF). A **Ferruginous Hawk** seen at Cape Flattery Apr. 6 was only the second well-documented record from w. Wash. (†BA). Two Rough-legged Hawks in the Grays Harbor, Wash., area Apr. 20-May 6 were very late (DP, LF, DB, ER, Diann MacRae). Other Rough-legged lingered at Monmouth, Oreg., until May 6 (Roy Gerig) and in Delta, B.C., until May 20-22 (MF; MP *et al.*). A pair of Am. Kestrels, a scarce breeder in w. Wash., were nest-building at Dungeness Apr. 6 & 7 (DP, LF). Those observers and area compilers reporting for the last several years noted about the usual number of Merlins (32+), but many more Peregrines (38+) than usual. Five Gyrfalcons were sighted. Four of these were during March and the one in Delta, B.C., Apr. 20 was the latest (KE). A very late Prairie Falcon was at Ankeny N.W.R., near Corvallis, Apr. 5 (Barb Bellin). This is within the regular wintering area for this species in the Willamette Valley of Oregon.

Over 400 Wild Turkeys counted Mar. 10 near Glide, east of Roseburg, Oreg., were reported to have been present for years, but generally unknown and uncounted (JGa, KK). Over 1000 Sandhill Cranes were present on Sauvie I., near Portland, during March (David Bailey *et al.*) and many remained into early April (HN). Accounting for all of these, and more, the Cape Flattery hawk watch teams recorded 3500 Sandhill Cranes passing their post this spring. There have been sizable flocks of migratory cranes sighted along the outer coast for years, but no one imagined there were these numbers involved.

SHOREBIRDS — The "thousands" of Black-bellied Plovers at Tokeland, Wash., Mar. 10 (TB, PK) and 5000 on Mud Bay, Delta, B.C., Apr. 24 (MP; KE, C. Aitchison) were higher than the usual numbers of this migrant. Likewise for the 21+ sightings of Lesser Golden-Plovers on dates from Apr. 5 at Grays Harbor, Wash. (G & WH) and Apr. 18 at Blackie Spit, Surrey, B.C. (H & JM) to May 31 in Grays Harbor (JSk). Individuals identified as the race *fulva* Pacific Golden-Plovers, were in Delta, B.C., May 5 (MF, TP), at West Pt., Seattle, May 11-12 (†EH, †Tom Schooley), and May 18 a Ocean Shores, Wash. (EH, GG, †PM). A female **Snowy Plover** found May 31 at Iona I. was only the third record for B.C. (†Glen Thomson, H & †JM, †WW *et al.*). A Semipalmated Plover Apr. 10 in C. Saanich was the earliest ever for s. V.I. (M & VG). Elsewhere arrival dates were Apr. 16-18.

Again this year Black-necked Stilts invaded w. Oregon. The earliest were seven at the Medford sewage ponds (Ray Ekstrom, MR) and eight at Brownsville, near Corvallis (JGi *et al.*), both Apr. 6. About 70 individuals were reported from 10 locations. The high count was 21 at Waldport Apr. 28 (Lola Landis, *fide* EE) and three near Salem May 3 were the latest (JGi, VT). Four at Bowerman Basin, Hoquiam, Apr. 24 was the only report from Washington (Robert Ashbaugh).

An Am. Avocet seen May 4-7 at Reifel I., Delta, B.C., was about the 13th record for the Vancouver area (JI, †MF *et al.*, ph - Harvey Elbe). Flocks of 100+ Greater Yellowlegs were noted Apr. 6 at Finley N.W.R., Oreg. (R & JK, *fide* EE), Apr. 20 on Reifel I., B.C. (JI), and Apr. 24 at Beaver Creek, s. of Newport, Oreg. (JGi). Reports of about 28 Solitary Sandpipers, a few more than during the last few springs, were spread out Apr. 11-May 20. Small groups of 13-18 wintering Willets were last reported during early March at the North R. near Raymond, Wash. (CC, TB, PK) and on the Kentuck slough at Coos Bay, Oreg. (*fide* DFi). Also at the North R. in early March were 40+ Long-billed Curlews, which diminished to 21 present Mar. 27 (CC, TB, PK). A **Hudsonian Godwit** was discovered May 11-12 at Cordova spit lagoon, C. Saanich (Gladys Anderson, †BW, †RS *et al.*, ph - Tim Zurowski) for the 4th record for V.I.

A Surf-bird on Sand I. in Grays Harbor, Wash., May 31 was

very late (JSk) Red Knots again demonstrated the site-specificity of their migratory stopovers. The only reported flocks of more than 20 birds were around Grays Harbor, Wash. The 400+ seen Apr. 21 at favored Bottle Beach on the south shore was the high count (CC). Sightings of one-eight birds were widespread in coastal Oregon and the Vancouver, B.C., area. Nine+ reports of Semipalmated Sandpipers Apr. 30-May 22 was about normal. Two were in Oregon, one in Seattle May 6 (†DB), and the remainder in the Vancouver, B.C., area. Seven Baird's Sandpipers were found, a normal number, Apr. 15-May 15. This season's total of about 36 Pectoral Sandpipers reported, all May 5-20, is several times as many as the range of 4-13 over the last five years. The latest Rock Sandpipers reported from all areas were Apr. 14-28.

A huge flock of 15,000 Red-necked Phalaropes plus 2000 more scattered individuals were encountered May 5 in the Strait of Juan de Fuca about a mile east of Port San Juan, Pacific Rim N.P., V.I. (DA). Elsewhere only a few singles and groups of up to 20 were found. About 50 Wilson's Phalaropes, all but three during May, were more than the usual number reported.

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — Counts of 10 Pomarine and 15 Parasitic jaegers May 16 on La Perouse Bank off s.w. V.I. were high numbers for these migrants (DA). An adult Long-tailed Jaeger, rarest of the three in spring, was seen 94 miles off Cape Lookout, near Tillamook, Oreg., Apr. 19 (BPI, *fide* TW) and two were on South Bank, 10 miles s.e. of Ucluelet, V.I., May 29 (DA). A Little Gull seen Apr. 6 off Port Townsend, Wash., was the 7th Regional spring record (Doug Wechsler). Flocks of hundreds of Bonaparte's Gulls had just arrived in many areas during the first few days of April. The high count was about 10,000 noted Apr. 8 at Porlier Pass, s. V.I. (DFr *et al.*). A single Thayer's Gull at Siletz Bay, Oreg., May 11 (DFI *et al.*) and 25 at Iona I., B.C., also May 11 (MF) were the last reported. The first-winter "Kumlien's" Iceland Gull that wintered at the Hartland Ave landfill, Highland Land District, V.I., was last seen there Mar 3 (KT). Another first-winter "Kumlien's", also at a site where a few were found this winter, was seen Mar. 5 at Iona I., B.C. (†MF, KE). The 13 Glaucous Gulls reported this spring was back down from last year's high number. One first-year and two second-year birds at the Richmond landfill, Lulu I., B.C., Mar. 17 was the only concentration (MF, KE). Thirty Sabine's Gulls and 150 Black-legged Kittiwakes at La Perouse Bank, off V.I., May 16 were high counts (DA), but may reflect a regular concentration at this productive area.

Single Caspian Terns at Manzanita, Oreg., Mar. 25 (Tom Crabtree) and at Tokeland, Wash., Mar. 29 (CC) were early. Five had arrived in Vancouver, B.C., by Apr. 17 (MP) and reports of non-breeding birds were widespread thereafter. A few small flocks of Com. Terns passed through, as usual, between Apr. 24 at Stanwood, Wash. (Richard Rowlett, MM) and May 16 at Everett, Wash. (KR, AC). Ten Arctic Terns were moving north Apr. 28 off Garibaldi, Oreg. (JGa) and 200 were off Westport, Wash., May 12 for their highest ever spring count (TW). Four Arctic Terns had arrived at their southernmost nesting outpost in Everett, Wash., by May 16 (KR, AC) and three pairs on nests were found May 26 (DB). A Black Tern, rare in spring, was seen May 16 at Port Townsend, Wash. (Dick Johnson) and two were at Iona I., B.C., May 31 (H & JM *et al.*).

OWLS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — At least one Flammulated Owl was calling on territory May 20+ about five miles n w of Toketee Ranger Station, east of Roseburg, Oreg. (DFi). Ten Snowy Owls remained at Delta, B.C., as late as Apr. 1 (RP). The last were seen at Ocean Shores Apr. 21 (DB) and in Burnaby, B.C., May 2 (Joan Foster). On Apr. 20 at Ocean Shores beneath the still active Snowy Owl perch Wayne Crill found a pellet that contained a Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel skull (*fide* DP)! A survey for Spotted Owls was carried out by Eric Forsman this spring in s.w. B.C. The confidential report to the B.C. Wildlife Branch is said to indicate that four owls were located, for the first sightings for B.C. since 1978. Nine Barred Owls were reported, including individuals at the now usual locations near

Glide, Oreg (KK *et al.*), Seattle, Wash., and on s. V.I. The only reported nest fledged two young May 22 in Discovery Park, Seattle (DB).

The Great Gray Owl found this winter in Saanich, V.I., stayed until Mar. 9 (Anne Knowles, Barbara & Mike McGreener). Another V.I. bird was found in January through Feb. 28 in Pacific Rim N.P. (†Dan Vedova *et al.*). One was found Mar. 20-24 in Snohomish, Wash. (Grace Reece) very near the sighting in Monroe during February. There were sightings at four locations in the Vancouver, B.C., area to Apr. 14 (*fide* DK). Two Saw-whet Owls were heard on Vashon I., near Seattle, repeatedly between Mar. 8-May 5 (PM).

A female Com. Nighthawk in Philmath, Oreg., May 10 (R & JK, *fide* EE) and a Black Swift among Vaux's May 10 in West Linn, near Portland, Oreg., (Mark Koninendyke, *fide* HN, DF1) were both extremely early. Elsewhere, 300+ Black Swifts arrived in Vancouver, B.C., on schedule May 26 (MP *et al.*). Migratory flocks of 1000+ Vaux's Swifts were found in Glide and Eugene, Oreg., Apr. 28-May 5 (KK, Dave Irons, SH). Several Calliope Hummingbirds in the Vancouver, B.C., area Apr. 28-May 14 (†MF, †BK *et al.*) is becoming an almost annual spring occurrence. Red-naped Sapsuckers, casual migrants in the Region, appeared Mar. 8 and Apr. 11-15 in Vancouver, B.C. (†BK, †MF *et al.*) and Apr. 9 in Seattle (†DB).

The arrival of Olive-sided Flycatchers and W. Wood-Pewees throughout the Region was accomplished during a typically brief period, May 4-12. Willow Flycatchers noted May 3 at Toketee Ranger Station, Oreg. (DFi), May 9 in Eugene (SH), May 10 in Saanich, V.I. (Giff Calvert), May 11 in Seattle (EH, GG, Kevin Aanerud), and May 19 on Reifel I., B.C. (JI) were each very early or the earliest ever for those locations. Hammond's Flycatchers were also found earlier than usual. First arrivals were Apr. 13 at Carnation, Wash. (EH), Apr. 15 in Seattle (Scott Atkinson), and Apr. 14 in Langley, B.C. (TP, Linda Koch). Several Dusky Flycatchers were present Apr. 28+ at Thorn Prairie, e. Douglas Co., where the species was discovered nesting last year (DFi). A single Gray Flycatcher found May 4 near Grants Pass, Oreg., provided the 4th record for w. Oregon (JE, Steve Summers). Spring arrival of W. Flycatchers through Puget Sound and in the San Juan Is. was Apr. 10-13 (CC, EH, CE), but in nearby B.C. it was not until Apr. 20-21 (Jeff Gaskin, Ray Prior, H & JM). Seven W. Kingbirds in the Vancouver, B.C., area Apr. 27-May 19 followed last year's high count of six sightings there (*fide* DK). One-two were observed May 3-10 at three adjacent locations on s. V.I. (*fide* VG).

SKYLARK THROUGH WARBLERS — The third annual spring census of Eur. Skylarks on the Saanich Peninsula, V.I., yielded 42 singing males (BW, Alan MacLeod). This compares to 45 and 42 in previous years. The observers are reluctant to assume a constant population because numerous areas are abandoned and new sites are colonized each year, and such turnover could result in incomplete censusing. A Purple Martin at Coos Bay Mar. 14 tied the earliest arrival date for Oregon (DFi). A Cliff Swallow Mar. 22 at Iona I., B.C., was also very early (JI). Elsewhere Cliff and Barn swallows arrived Apr. 2-8. A Gray Jay seen May 11 on Tiger Mt., near Seattle, was an unusual find away from the Cascades (EH *et al.*). Very surprising away from the east slope of the Cascades was a Canyon Wren singing during May at the Callahans, in the Coast Range w. of Roseburg (Martha Sawyer, KK *et al.*). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher seen Apr. 21 on the south bank of the Rogue R. at Gold Beach, Oreg., was at a new location (MR, DE, AB).

A Veery seen well at Carnation May 11 (DP) was the sixth record for w. Wash. Three N. Mockingbirds noted this season was about the usual number. These were seen May 6 near Neah Bay, Wash. (TK), May 22 near Newport, Oreg. (CW), and May 25 near Brookings, Oreg. (AB). A Loggerhead Shrike seen May 6-7 in Delta, B.C., was about the ninth Vancouver area sighting (Joe Bartel, †MF, ph. H & JM). Another was reported May 6 from Cannon Beach, Oreg. (Durrel Kapan, *fide* HN).

A detailed survey of Crested Mynas in the Vancouver, B.C.,

area found only 98 birds and estimated the population at 350 + (Vanc. Nat. Hist. Soc.). This is sharply down from 606 counted and an estimated population of 1500 + in spring 1980.

Single Warbling Vireos were early at Port Orford, Oreg., Apr. 11 (JR) and Saanich, V.I., Apr. 18 (J & RS). Widespread arrival was reported Apr. 27-May 1. Almost daily censuses on Spencer Butte in Eugene indicated major influxes of Orange-crowned Warblers on Apr. 3, 12, & 16 (DFi). A less intensive survey on Reifel I., B.C., found a sharp peak of numbers on Apr. 13 (JI). Many more than usual Nashville Warblers were noted in Eugene (DFi) and the Vancouver, B.C., area (m.ob., *vide* DK). First arrivals of Black-throated Gray Warblers in the Willamette Valley were Apr. 4-8 (DFi *et al.*), somewhat earlier than usual, at Vashon I., near Seattle Apr. 11 (CE), and in the San Juan Is., at Reifel I. and Vancouver, B.C., and Saanich, V.I., Apr. 13 (Ward Beecher, JI, BM, KT). The migratory peak at Skinner Butte, Eugene, was 125 + on Apr. 16 (DFi). Townsend's Warblers appeared throughout the Region, at locations where they had not wintered, from Mar. 28, a record early date in Vancouver, B.C., (BK), through Apr. 8. DFi counted 94 singing male Hermit Warblers along 11 miles of Hwy. 138 in the Umpqua N.F. east of Roseburg, Oreg., on May 19. Singing male Com. Yellowthroats were first noted in the Willamette Valley Apr. 1-3, in Washington Apr. 4-7, and in Saanich, V.I., Apr. 6-8 (DFr, RS). Their arrival was recorded Apr. 9-15 in Oregon, Apr. 17-26 in Washington, and Apr. 28-30 elsewhere on s. V.I. and in Vancouver, B.C. A Yellow-breasted Chat present briefly on Vashon I., May 29 (CE) was early for w. Washington.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES— Western Tanagers appeared throughout the Region Apr. 28-May 3, which is slightly earlier than usual. First arrivals of Black-headed Grosbeaks were Apr. 22-May 1 in Oregon, May 1-5 in Washington, and May 5-9 on V.I. and in Vancouver, B.C. A male Lazuli Bunting found May 25 in C. Saanich, V.I. (†Jeremy Tatum) was the first sighting for s. V.I. since May 1977. The species arrived on schedule in Ashland, Oreg., Apr. 28 (Marjorie Moore) and in Corvallis, Oreg., May 1 (Al McGie, *vide* EE).

An Am. Tree Sparrow found May 11 at Bay City, on Tillamook Bay, Oreg., was extremely late (Jim Johnson, Rob Ferguson-photos, *vide* HN, SH). A Chipping Sparrow at Reifel I., B.C., Apr. 6 was very early (JI). A Clay-colored Sparrow wintered at a feeder in Gold Beach, Oreg., and was last seen Mar. 16 (Dorothy Sevey, *vide* SH).

An echo of last spring's **Black-throated Sparrow** invasion occurred. Single birds were found at three coastal Oregon localities: Waldport, Apr. 17-19 (Delanne Villegas, *vide* DFi), Baker Beach, n. of Florence, May 15 (D & CW), and near Port Orford May 21 (Mary Peterson, Merle Woodward, *vide* HN). Others were found May 19 at White Pass, in the Washington Cascades

May 19 (†Susan Dixon, photos) and May 19 at Pitt Meadows, B.C. (†Dale & Evelyn Jensen) for the third Vancouver and fifth Canadian record.

Four apparently migrant White-throated Sparrows were noted on V.I. and in Vancouver, B.C., Apr. 11-23. One that wintered in Seattle was last seen Apr. 9 (Hanna Atkins) and the last of about nine sightings in Oregon was in Portland May 11 (Richard Smith). A dark-lore White-crowned Sparrow found Apr. 13 at Hood River, Oreg. (MH), was most likely a migrant *orianta*, the Rocky Mt. form. Single Snow Buntings were late Apr. 6 at Newport, Oreg. (Kevin & Angie Cromack, *vide* EE), Apr. 21 in Seattle (Eugene Smirnov), and until Apr. 23 at Iona I., B.C. (MP *et al.*).

Four male Tricolored Blackbirds were found again this spring Mar. 27+ at their northern outpost on the St. John's landfill in Portland (MH, VT). Four pairs of Yellow-headed Blackbirds stayed near Washougal, Wash., May 15+, but no nesting was observed (Wilson Cady). Arrival of Brown-headed Cowbirds to breeding areas was widely noted Apr. 6-11. The first N. Orioles returned Apr. 9-15 to s. Oregon, May 1 to Portland, and May 7-13 to Puget Sound, V.I., and Vancouver, B.C.

A female Pine Grosbeak seen Mar. 19 with Evening Grosbeaks in Victoria (†DFr) and single male Cassin's Finches seen Mar. 28-29 at a Eugene feeder (D & CW) and Apr. 10 at Pitt Meadows, B.C. (†MP, KE) were the only reports for these scarce species. Red Crossbills were abundant and widespread throughout the Region. Two White-winged Crossbills observed Apr. 28 in Lighthouse Park, W. Vancouver, B.C. (BK) and one May 18 in Saanich (Mike Bentley), only the third record for s. V.I., presaged a summer irruption into adjacent mountainous areas. Pine Siskins were found in "very high numbers" in Oregon (HN) and were in their usual presence elsewhere. Small flocks of Evening Grosbeaks were noted throughout the season.

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MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

Kurt F. Campbell and Stephen F. Bailey

The Region generally experienced a balmy, if arid, spring. Ocean conditions were clearly post-El Niño, while on land the reports on breeding success were nearly all encouraging; see especially Cattle Egret, White-faced Ibis, California Gull, Tricolored Blackbird, and Hooded Oriole. Migrants seemed mostly early, with an average vagrant season (except in Del Norte County, where it was superb), the many irrupting species enjoyed over the past year wanting to near-normal numbers.

Documentation of vagrants was generally very good, and observers are also showing more interest in breeding records (reflected in this report). Still, little contribution is

being made toward quantification of migrant passage (spans, peaks, volume, etc.—something which can only be done by keeping a journal). Statements made here about migration must therefore be taken with a grain of salt, as mostly-valid inferences and impressions only.

ABBREVIATIONS— C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.V. = Central Valley; F.I. = Southeast Farallon Island; O.S.P. = Open Space Preserve; P.R.B.O. = Point Reyes Bird Observatory; S.F. = San Francisco; W.A. = Wildlife Area; ph. = photo on file with the Regional Editors. All sightings from Palomarin and Southeast Farallon Island should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory. References to the *Gull* refer to Golden Gate Audubon Society's publication, whose observations column is currently written by SFB. Italicized names refer to counties.

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS — An Arctic Loon was inland on Solano L., *Solano & Yolo*, May 10-11 (SAL *et al.*). A Red-necked Grebe lingered late at Fish Docks, *Marin*, May 25-29 (HG *et al.*). The albino Eared Grebe at Salinas sewage ponds May 18 (DR) was a real surprise because the date showed prolonged survival.

At Monterey and offshore, there were still 90 N. Fulmars Mar. 9 (SFB, DLS), but only 14 by Apr. 6 (AB, DLS), the last report. Pink-footed Shearwaters were scarce, with only four the highest count all spring. The last Black-vented Shearwaters of the season were 20 off Monterey Mar. 9 (AB, SFB, DLS). Early March brought an unprecedented wreck of Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels to Monterey. The harbor had 100 Mar. 2, but 1000 were there and along the shore to Pt. Joe Mar. 3 (S & JH). A survey of one mi of Monterey Beach Mar. 7 found 129 dead (RLB). All 57 collected for California Academy of Sciences were emaciated (SFB). Off Monterey only one was seen Mar. 9 (SFB *et al.*) and four Apr. 26 (DLS). "Judging from the known mortality it is likely that most of the birds died" (AB). This event was not limited to Monterey. Five Fork-tailed were inside Bodega Harbor Mar. 8 (JW). In Crescent City Harbor, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were seen Mar. 7-28 and Apr. 28, with a peak of 20 + Mar. 12 (RAE, ADB *et al.*). Six Leach's Storm-Petrels were found dead under wires, etc., at Crescent City during May (ADB, RAE).

Most Am. White Pelicans depart S.F. Bay for the C.V. and beyond by mid-winter; 140 over Palo Alto Mar. 7 seemed late (WGB). However, flocks such as the 40 at Alviso, *Santa Clara*, May 12 were considered the normal return of non-breeding birds (RWL). Only one Brown Pelican was reported (immature on F.I.) before the return of large numbers in early May, with a very high proportion of juveniles (AB *et al.*).

EGRETS THROUGH HAWKS — A Snowy Egret on the Smith R. estuary May 18 was joined by another the next day, giving us first May records for *Del Norte* (RAE *et al.*). Cattle Egrets are obviously still increasing through the Region, with first nestings at the Alviso heronry, *Santa Clara*, May 22 (10 nests—RWL), and the Woodland sugar ponds, *Yolo*, May 30 (3+ nest building—SAL, TB). Breeding was reported 2nd-hand for the Oroville W.A., and a report of 100-150 at Hwy 162 and the Tehama-Colusa Canal, *Glenn*, through April and May (ASE) was interesting, although they may not have bred. Many other reports brought comments, such as the three Apr. 25 at Smith R. ("latest records ever"—RAE). White-faced Ibises have also been clearly increasing through the Region for the last several years (see *Condor* 86:492-493, 1984), with this perhaps the most dramatic season yet. At least 239 were reported for May [vs. 15-16 for spring 1983] with breeding at Colusa N.W.R. (60 ± nesting—G. Menzik, *fide* MRH) and Mendota W.A. (67+ nesting, May 17—BED), and probable nesting at the Woodland sugar ponds (4+, May 30—SAL, TB). A flock of 22 flying S May 16 over Smith R. estuary (RAE) and Crescent City (GSL) was seasonally unprecedented there. There has been speculation that the increase may reflect displacement from outside the Region, but the evidence contradicts this strongly (*e.g.*, AB 38:1045) and I suspect a genuine widespread increase.

Three Eurasian-type Green-winged Teal were noted: Sacramento N.W.R., Mar. 24 (*fide* Gull), Hunter-Liggett Military Reservation, *Monterey*, Mar. 24-30 (†AB), and near Ft. Dick Mar. 25 (an "overdue first for *Del Norte*"—RAE). A ♂ *Garganey* was intermittently cooperative Apr. 10-28 at Modoc N.W.R. (†BED, †JML, KLH, BY *et al.*); if accepted, it would be California's 4th. Blue-winged Teal continued to give an impression of increase in the Region (we hope observers are keeping long-term records on this, and looking for nesting). Another sign of this was the observation of two to three ♂ Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal: Fresno sewage ponds Mar. 13 (KH *et al.*), near Ft. Dick Mar. 25 (D. Scott *et al.*, *fide* RAE), and L. Earl, Apr. 12-May 14 (RAE *et al.*).

A single ♂ Greater Scaup was well seen on Indian Creek Res., *Alpine*, May 18 (JL); the species is much scarcer in spring than



S.A.

A record certain to add fuel to a continent-wide controversy (see *Birding* 16:146-154, 1984, and subsequent letters to the editor) was this winter's Barnacle Goose (not mentioned here previously). First found in "early November" at Tulelake N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, by refuge personnel (seen Nov. 18—RE, ph. MR), it moved to near Colusa Dec. 7-10, and then to the Modesto area, *Stanislaus*, Dec. 12-21. It was seen again by RE and MR Apr. 5-15, this time back n. at Lower Klamath N.W.R. The bird was last seen Apr. 15-17 "in nearby Oregon." It associated with "Cackling" Canada Geese and Greater White-fronted Geese. Although no written documentation has been received, the poor photo allows blue-morph Ross' Goose to be ruled out; hybridization with Canada Goose also seems to be ruled out. We are clearly in need of a major, thoroughly-researched article reviewing temporal and geographic patterns (as well as I.D.) of all North American records. Lacking such erudition, I consider the record very possibly valid, but not beyond reasonable doubt (and so, hypothetical). Godspeed to the C.B.R.C.

fall, inland, but more startling was the high mountain location. A ♂ Tufted Duck was seen Apr. 7 near the Shasta R. and Grenada (RE), then refound May 2-11 at Lava Lakes Nature Center, 4 ± mi away (RE, †MR, †SFB *et al.*). This was apparently the latest of 19+ California records by nearly a month. One Red-breasted Merganser Mar. 3 and five Mar. 16 at Tulelake N.W.R. were called typical for migrants there (MR). An ad. male at Mono L., Apr. 27 (BED) was reportedly the Mono Basin's 3rd; one near the same spot May 27 (JLo) was reported as female/immature, but was most likely the same bird, as eclipse plumage in males of this species is attained exceptionally early. After an irruption winter it was perhaps not surprising that Rough-legged Hawks lingered in good numbers; 17 were reported Apr. 7-May 12 (only three aged/sexed).

QUAIL THROUGH PHALAROPES — At the same locale as *Santa Clara*'s first record 10 years ago, two ♂ Mountain Quail in Stevens Creek Canyon Apr. 20 (DSt) provided only the 2nd record. A male on Coal Mine Ridge May 22 (WGB), however,

was *San Mateo's* first Sandhill Cranes again bred at McArthur/Glenburn, *Shasta*, with a fledgling noted May 8 (BY, BV). An impressive concentration of Black-bellied Plovers was 1200+ at the Lodi Sewage ponds Apr. 14 (DY); all were gone by Apr. 16. A Lesser Golden-Plover May 3 at Lower Klamath N.W.R. (RE *et al.*) provided a first *Siskiyou* record for the race *fulva*. A Black Oystercatcher visited Alameda Naval Air Station May 10 (*fide Gull*) for the southernmost record yet in S.F. Bay. Moderately extralimital Black-necked Stilts were noted at a number of locales, and appeared on the immediate coast in 4 of 5 counties n. of the Golden Gate, but *no one* reported on breeding in the Region. An Am. Avocet Apr. 28 at L. Earl, *Del Norte* (PFS), had only one spring precedent for the county.

The Region's first (California's 2nd) **Spotted Redshank** appeared in full breeding dress May 14 at the Crescent City harbor (†RAE) and was refound the next day at L. Earl (†ADB, †GSL *et al.*). It could easily have been the same individual as the Salton Sea bird (AB 37:912), but cannot be assumed so. Twelve of the Region's 15± Solitary Sandpipers, Apr. 10-May 6, were on the n. coast, the others in interior hill country; a good showing in the expected pattern. Moderate-sized flocks of Whimbrels are regular in the C.V. in spring (*e.g.*, this year's high: 45 s. of Colusa N.W.R., May 5—SAL), but we are still short on detailed, cautious data on the exact timing and size of migrations through the interior. A Sanderling on Stockton's sewage ponds May 13 (DY) was in basic plumage but one in Lower Klamath N.W.R., May 3 (RE *et al.*) was undescribed; they are quite rare away from the coast. Single Semipalmated Sandpipers were at Lodi's sewage ponds May 2-3 (†DY) and Vigo St. Marsh, *Humboldt*, May 15-18 (†JSt); they are likely a little more numerous in spring in the interior than the preceding species. Four Pectoral Sandpipers May 16 (two through May 17) near Ft. Dick (GSL *et al.*) were twice the Regional average for the period. At Merced N.W.R., the ♀ Ruff stayed to Mar. 25, while the male was not seen after Mar. 4 (*not* to Mar. 9 as stated in winter's report) (both RJB; †BLaB). A molting male Apr. 13-16 at Lower Klamath N.W.R. (RE, †MR, BED) furnished a 3rd *Siskiyou* record. Of 20± Wilson's Phalaropes on the n. coast May 14-21, ¼ were in *Del Norte* ("only 3 previous county records"—RAE) and copulation was observed at L. Earl May 15-16 (GSL *et al.*).

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS — At Stockton sewage ponds, the single wintering Franklin's, Little, and Com. Black-headed gulls were last seen Mar. 4, Apr. 24, and Apr. 12, respectively (all DY). Unlike the past 3 springs, no additional Little Gulls were found there. Clearly a new visitor to this gull Mecca was the *first-year* Com. Black-headed Gull seen Mar. 24 (†BDP, JP) and Apr. 12-13 (†DY). Two Franklin's Gulls were over Mad R. mouth May 25 (SH). A very worn imm. Mew Gull was very late at Stockton sewage ponds May 17-19 (DY). The 3 California Gull colonies around South S.F. Bay continued to expand. Their nest totals on May 17-18 (and 1984's numbers) were: Knapp Unit 1100 (900), Pond A-9 near Alviso 200 (39), Leslie Salt Newark Plant 270 (18)—(RWL). A Glaucous Gull Mar. 4 on F.I. was the last in central California, but both individuals at Freshwater Lagoon, *Humboldt*, and two of three at Crescent City occurred in mid-May (RAE *et al.*). An adult at Freshwater Lagoon Mar. 4-May 19 was considered the same as last year's but its primaries appeared longer this year (†RAE *et al.*), adding to the controversy over identification of last winter's probable Iceland Gull. In Monterey Bay, 2000 Black-legged Kittiwakes attended an anchovy feast with other gulls Mar. 9 (AB, SFB, DLS), but only two were there Apr. 6 (AB, DLS); a first-year bird was at Drakes Beach, *Marin*, May 25-29 (JM *et al.*).

A new Caspian Tern colony at Alameda Naval Air Station had over 92 nests by May 29 (LDC). Five very early Elegant Terns were well-described from Elkhorn Slough, *Monterey*, Apr. 14 (†DGe). Least Terns were again late in nesting, but somewhat more numerous than in last year's disaster (LDC).

Common Murres were holding at about 1% of their pre-1980 numbers in *Monterey* waters (m.ob.—see winter report). Eighty Marbled Murrelets off Crescent City Apr. 30 (GSL) was a large

concentration for this species. Nine Ancient Murrelets in Monterey Bay Apr. 6 were the only ones reported since Feb. 3 (AB, DLS). Auklets remained extremely scarce except for 1000 Rhinoceros Auklets off Monterey Mar. 9 (SFB, AB, DLS). Two Tufted Puffins in Monterey Bay May 31 were surprising, but the **Horned Puffin** 6 mi w.n.w. of Pt. Pinos the same day eclipsed them (DLS, ph. RLB). These and most other puffins are generally reported as "adults," but given the very long and gradual acquisition of mature plumage and bill sheath in puffins I wonder if our spring/summer stray puffins are really subadults; pre-breeders can look virtually adult.

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — A White-winged Dove near Rodeo Lagoon, *Marin*, May 14 (†MP) provided the Region's first spring record. A pair of Mourning Doves at Chester, *Plumas*, Mar. 7 (DAA) was the first to arrive at that breeding area. Although most populations of Mourning Doves in the Region clearly undergo complex seasonal movements, they are given scant attention by many observers, and so our understanding remains perfunctory. Two calling Flammulated Owls 7 mi w. of Paskenta at 4240 ft elevation May 16-18 (CB *et al.*) were in the general area of 2 of the 3 previous *Tehama* records. Their status on the w. edge of the Sacramento Valley needs study. The Spotted Owl at Merced N.W.R. remained to Apr. 10 (RJB); reports conflicted as to its age, while RS commented that it "seemed really pallid compared to *S.o.caurina* of the coast. I believe it was of nominate race and slid down the Sierra."

S.A.

Previously-discovered Barred Owls were singles at Howland Hill, *Del Norte*, through May 12 (RAE, JML, SFB; no details—how quickly we become jaded!) and one 3 mi n. of Willow Cr. Golf Course, *Humboldt*, all period (JSt; no details). Our 6th for the Region was a newly-found bird May 6-25 on Walker Rd., Jedediah Smith Redwoods S.P., *Del Norte* (GGo, †RAE *et al.*). There has been a tentative assumption by some that since Spotted Owls require old-growth (uncut) forest and Barred Owls do not, little competition was likely. The new bird, however, was apparently territorial in an old-growth forest where Spotted Owls had previously been found, and it is clear that there is yet room for concern. There is much evidence already of a population collapse in Spotted Owls due to timber management practices.

Tuolumne hosted the first nesting of Great Gray Owls in a man-made nest structure for California, with 2 eggs Apr. 18, while another pair nested in Yosemite N.P. (both JW)—this species "may average nesting only (once) every 3-4 years." Three Short-eared Owl nests were found on Grizzly I., *Solano*, Apr. 18-22 (BED). A report of 78 Black Swifts over Fairhaven, *Humboldt*, in one hour May 29 (JSt; no details) was quite unprecedented in size for spring in the Region. An ad. ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird at a feeder in Yreka for its 2nd year, Mar. 31+ (RE *et al.*) was both early and a little northerly. Two other males out of place were at Monte Bello O.S.P., *Santa Clara*, May 14 (DSu) and Lafayette Apr. 24+ (LF). Eight extralimital Costa's Hummingbirds Mar. 31-May 28 was a very strong showing compared to any but last year's irruption spring. The most far-flung was *Del Norte's* 2nd, in Gasquet May 15 (MR *et al.*), but none was noted to try breeding outside the usual range. Migrant Calliope Hummingbirds were also well-reported Apr. 3-May 10 (½ last year's numbers), with one near Summit Valley May 5 (T. McKay, *fide* RAE) called an "overdue first record" for *Del Norte*. Numbers of both Rufous and Allen's hummingbirds were called average or low in contrast to last year.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — A Lewis' Woodpecker was noted carrying food to a tree cavity in Blue

Oak woodland in Bear Valley, w *Colusa*, May 3 (SAL *et al*)—don't tell the starlings! Coastally-wintering Nuttall's Woodpeckers remained at Olema Marsh to May 11 + (DS, JE) instead of departing in early April, with strong indications of nesting. The previous *Marin* breeding bird atlas work establishes this to be a new pattern. An Olive-sided Flycatcher on Mt. Tamalpais, *Marin*, Apr. 3 (RS) tied the Region's earliest acceptable record. Eight Willow Flycatchers May 11-29 was an expected timing and strength of passage. The Region's earliest-ever Least Flycatcher was banded on F.I., May 17 (†JPe—P.R.B.O.). This year's first Hammond's Flycatcher was exceptionally early (Apr. 6, F.I.), and the last lowland migrant was exceptionally late (May 29, Reichmuth P., Sacramento—TM); nevertheless, the five migrants made the lowest total in 6+ years. In contrast, Gray Flycatchers were again reported in good numbers, with the species found "commonplace" in *Madera's* foothills Apr. 24-May 1 (JLo *et al.*). The n. coast showing this year was "poor" (*fide* RAE).

The timing of first arrivals is probably only loosely correlated with the timing of the bulk of migrants in most species. An array of first arrival records is better, however, as shown by this season's well-documented Ash-throated Flycatcher movement. Six birds were found on or before the Region's average first arrival date for the species (Apr. 9), and there were many subjective comments that overall Ash-throateds were early and numerous. (This is of course no substitute for the thorough census data which some observers are keeping locally.) Cassin's Kingbirds went unreported. Western Kingbirds showed well on the immediate coast, with 22, Apr. 9-May 23; the interior's first was early even for there: Mar. 14 at Los Banos Detention Res. (LJB). For the first spring in 6, we had E. Kingbirds, and three at that: Fairhaven, *Humboldt*, May 16 (J. Gast, *fide* JSt), Palomarin May 31, and Pt. St. George, also May 31 (GSL). Two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported. One was in the Carmel Valley May 3-5 (†A. Yost, *fide* DR), the other on outer Pt. Reyes May 29-June 8 (†DAH, †PeG, †LCB, and *fide* Gull); details of both will be reviewed by the C.B.R.C.

Tree Swallows were reported breeding along the Kings R., with eight w. of Dinuba, *Tulare*, May 6, and four by Reedley, *Fresno*, May 8 (both RHG). These were the first such nests ever reported to *Am. Birds* for the San Joaquin Valley floor s. of *Merced*, and corrected last summer's statement (*AB* 38:1059). We hope their exact status there will be uncovered more fully soon. An amazing concentration for spring was 5500 ± Violet-green Swallows over Stafford L., *Marin*, Mar. 24 (RS). Bank Swallows were widely and well-reported Mar. 25+. Especially encouraging were 100 ± pairs at the new Smith R. estuary colony May 15 (ADB *et al.*), twice last year's number.

JAYS THROUGH SHRIKES—A group of six Scrub Jays flew E across Sierra Valley, *Sierra*, 3 mi n.e. of Sattley May 27 (SAL *et al*)—what is their status here? Either Great Basin or cismontane populations can account for high elevation records, and the 2 forms can be distinguished afield, with a little experience. Clark's Nutcrackers continued their local invasion of the Chester area, with 100+ through the period (DAA). The only other report was coastward, of 20+ (!) near Loch Lomand, *Lake*, Apr. 26-28 (JiM). A Yellow-billed Magpie in S.F., Mar. 1 (*fide* Gull) probably furnished a valid record despite the locale, as a clear pattern of winter coastward vagrancy is evident. Observers are encouraged to report *all* extralimital magpies. A Pygmy Nuthatch on outer Pt. Reyes May 25 (HG) was wandering at an unexpected time of year. An unusual concentration was of seven Winter Wrens Mar. 28 at Lodi L., *San Joaquin* (DY), probably migrants.

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were more heavily reported than in any previous spring, especially from the east S.F. Bay area; JM stated that "this species has exploded in dry 'hard chaparral' in the interior of the East Bay over the last 5 years. Formerly rare throughout this area, it is now locally common. A similar expansion occurred in the Great Basin region in the mid-1970s." Of 10 lowland Townsend's Solitaires reported this spring (a little above average), the latest was also Palomarin's 2nd-ever,

Apr 28 A singing Varied Thrush at Inverness May 11 (RS) was by 2 weeks the latest winterer/migrant reported this period. A **Gray Catbird** May 29 gave F.I. its 3rd (first spring) record, and the Region about its 8th. A Sage Thrasher was at the Little R mouth, *Humboldt*, May 13 (GSL *et al.*). The Region's first **Black-backed Wagtail** in nearly 5 years was a fancy yard-bird at the Mad R. estuary May 13 (†RLeV).

It is perhaps the rule rather than the exception in spring's migrant passerines that first-year birds move N a little later on average than adults (as well as wandering more). This may in part explain the late and straggling quality to the pattern of spring records for many species on F.I. An example is Water Pipit: the average date of the island's 10 March-May records is May 1, while the average *last* date for the entire Region's lowlands is a close May 10. This year's last was May 12, on F.I. A ♀ Phainopepla appeared far n. and w. near the mouth of Smith R., May 18-19 (†ADB, †GSL), and was a first for *Del Norte*. The winter's large crop of N. Shrikes disappeared early, with the latest of spring's 7 reports Mar. 17 (n. of L. Talawa—JAR), the same date as last year.

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS—The Region's 5th **White-eyed Vireo** was found singing on a brushy hillside in Frank's Valley, *Marin*, May 26 (†DAH, †JM, †HG, †KFC *et al.*) where it remained, vociferous and aggressive, to June 15 (*fide* Gull), it was California's 2nd clearly territorial White-eyed Vireo. A *plumbeus* Solitary Vireo was noted at Pacific Grove Apr. 7 (RS *et al.*), for only our 2nd Regional spring record away from the Great Basin. A Hutton's Vireo at the mouth of Tenaya Canyon, Yosemite N.P., Mar. 9 (JLo) was surely one of last winter's many wanderers. A Red-eyed Vireo in Tomales Bay S.P., May 27 (*fide* Gull) did not linger.

Five Tennessee Warblers (May 5-28) was an average coastal movement. Fledged Orange-crowned Warblers were noted in Lafayette on the early (?) date of Apr. 25 (LF). Nest, egg, and fledging dates and locales are rarely reported to us for *any* species, to the detriment of both birders and conservation. We do want all such information, whether it sees publication or not. The C.V. movement of Nashville Warblers, Mar. 28-May 6, was early and strong, while birds on the central coast Apr. 20-May 19 were late and in usual small numbers (12 ± reported) Three N. Parulas were coastal May 22-28, with a 4th at Mono L County P., May 24 (JWh) being the 4th ever for Mono Basin. At Palomarin, Yellow Warblers were proclaimed in "excellent spring numbers—highest in recent years," while F.I. folks joined in with a report of 51 May 17. Do reports of ♂ Chestnut-sided Warblers May 26 on F.I. and May 27 on outer Pt. Reyes (HG, m.ob.) add up to two birds or one (the mainland bird was unbanded)? A ♂ Magnolia Warbler on outer Pt. Reyes (JM, m.ob.) was more helpful, remaining May 26-28 while another male was at Bodega Harbor May 28 (LCB). A Cape May Warbler stopped in at outer Pt. Reyes May 28-29 (JR, m.ob.).

In a pattern similar to that of last spring, the penultimate Myrtle Warbler was at Oak Grove P., *San Joaquin*, May 3 (DY), the last on F.I., May 27. There are still too few such late records on hand to identify any definite pattern, however, making last spring's claim of vagrant e. Myrtles premature. A singing ♂ Audubon's Warbler on outer Pt. Reyes May 26-27 (JM, m.ob.) had still less precedent. Black-throated Gray Warbler movement was notably early, Mar. 28-Apr. 28. Five C.V. Hermit Warblers May 2-11 were usual; a break in coastal sightings, Mar 23-Apr. 26, separated winter and migrant birds. A ♀ Black-throated Green Warbler was examined on outer Pt. Reyes May 26-29 (JM, †HG, †KFC, m.ob.). An *albilora* Yellow-throated Warbler was singing May 25 by the Samoa airstrip, *Humboldt* (†GSL, †BRo); we have had one each spring for 4 years now Reports of two others of this C.B.R.C.-reviewed species lacked documentation. Four Black-and-white Warblers May 26-30 (coastal, S.F. to *Del Norte*) was ⅓ the average show. An Ovenbird on F.I. (one of three coastal birds) May 16 established the earliest Regional record by 4 days, surprisingly. Two N. Waterthrushes May 17 near Ft. Dick (GSL *et al.*) provided 3rd and 4th *Del Norte* records.

A singing **Kentucky Warbler** was enjoyed May 19-20 at the Yurok Experimental Forest, *Del Norte* (†RAE, †GSL). Ten of our 11 reports have been in spring (only one or two have been reviewed by the C.B.R.C.I.). A MacGillivray's Warbler in the Sutter Buttes Apr. 10 (WA) provided the earliest-ever Sacramento Valley record, based on the data at hand. Similarly, an Apr. 6 MacGillivray's on F.I. was one of the earliest for the coast, but there were no comments on the overall timing of migration for the species. Five Com. Yellowthroats singing in a small marsh just n.w. of Sacramento Metro Airport May 23 (SAL) were encouraging; just where this species does and does not breed in the C.V. still needs much checking. **Four Hooded Warblers** was a good spring crop. A singing male was at San Pedro Valley P., *San Mateo*, May 20 and another was on outer Pt Reyes May 27 (both *fide Gull*). A female was on F.I., May 21, and another female on Pt. St. George May 30 (†ADB *et al.*) was a first for *Del Norte*. Two Wilson's Warblers were very early for the interior Mar. 28 at Ancil Hoffman P., Sacramento (DSh), while nine coastally Mar. 22-29 were nearly as good for that district.

TANAGERS THROUGH LONGSPURS — Summer Tanagers were an imm. male well-described at Bodega Harbor May 28 (†LCB), and a male at Coyote Hills Regional P., *Alameda*, May 21-22 (*fide Gull*). Our first W. Tanager, Apr. 9 in the n. Sacramento Valley (NRG, PBS), was about a week early for such. The seven Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were just twice the period's average. All were coastal, May 26-29, with four reported as females indicating good scrutiny (and reporting). Reports of Blue Grosbeaks in the interior, 1970-1985, indicate average first arrival is the last week of April (*contra Birds of Northern California*, McCaskie *et al.*, 1979); one at Hollister, *San Benito*, Apr. 22 (DY) thus seemed a little early. A Lazuli Bunting on F.I., Apr. 6 was, if acceptable, the earliest record for the Region by 6 days (sex?—no details). Half of our six Indigo Buntings were on F.I., while one May 17-18 near Ft. Dick (RST *et al.*) was only the 2nd for *Del Norte*.

Four Clay-colored Sparrows on F.I., May 13-28, were more than the average there, but as usual none was noted on the mainland. At Round Mt. in the Mountain Meadows area of *Lassen* a disjunct population of Brewer's Sparrows apparently exists; four were noted May 17 (HG) and again May 27 (DAA); we await breeding confirmation. A Brewer's Sparrow near Ft. Dick May 17 (GSL *et al.*) furnished a 2nd county record there. Black-chinned Sparrows were again conspicuous, with "as many as eight males" May 4-25 on Carson Ridge and Pine Mt., both *Marin* (DAH), and about eight Apr. 28 on the Folsom Pen., *El Dorado* (TM *et al.*), both areas of occurrence last year. At 4 sites in *Glenn*, 20 ± singing males (ASE) were again n. of known regular occurrence. Two singing on Pine Mt., Apr. 18 (*fide Gull*) were decidedly early. A Vesper Sparrow nest May 27 confirmed breeding at Round Mt., *Lassen* (DAA). Two Black-throated Sparrows at the Mad R. estuary (one to two seen Apr. 30-May 16, RLeV) were *Humboldt's* 3rd and 4th; the species was again noted on Folsom Pen., May 5 + (G. Ewing, m.ob., *fide TM*). Two Sage Sparrows Mar. 17 were in the Rancho San Antonio O.S.P. area of *Santa Clara* (JY *et al.*); they are said to be "very rare in the Santa Cruz Mts." (WGB). Breeding was confirmed for the species in *Sonoma*, with a nest and 3 eggs May 19 on Ida Clayton Rd (LCB, BDP).

A ♂ Lark Bunting was noted Apr. 6-12 at the s.e. edge of the Sutter Buttes (WA, TB *et al.*), the same site as last year's pair. A Grasshopper Sparrow Apr. 1 at Garin P., *Alameda* (BR) provided the early report by 9 days, and tied the Region's earliest-ever record. Thirty-plus singing Fox Sparrows on Goat Mt., *Colusa*, May 4 (SAL) were 20 mi s. of their known coastal mountains breeding range; singles on F.I., May 21 & 26 were exceptionally late (no comments on racial group). A Lincoln's Sparrow near Ft. Dick May 17 (GSL *et al.*) was, unsurprisingly, *Del Norte's* latest ever. A badly underappreciated field-problem in the Region is confusion between juv. Song Sparrows and Lin-

coln's Sparrows, there are many casually-made reports on file for Lincoln's Sparrows on the coast, mid-May through summer, without documentation, this pattern cannot be evaluated critically. Well outside expected patterns of occurrence was a breeding-plumaged ad. Swamp Sparrow at Lava Lakes Nature Center, *Siskiyou*, May 26-27 (†RE, †MR), said to be the county's first ever. Six White-throated Sparrows were reported Mar 1-Apr. 26. Palomarin had an all-time low of breeding White-crowned Sparrows (*Z. l. nuttalli*) for a 2nd year. An ad. Harris' Sparrow was in Greenbrae, *Marin*, Mar. 31-Apr. 27 (*fide Gull*, JWh *et al.*). A ♀ (or imm. ♂?) Lapland Longspur on outer Pt Reyes May 13 (JE—details said to be forthcoming) was in *basic* plumage, and tied the late date for the Region.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH GROSBILLS — Tricolored Blackbirds continued to be well-reported from most but not all areas; large colonies were 10,000 ± in *Butte* s. of Chico May 25 (T & AM) and 73,000 nests ("more than last year") at Sacramento N.W.R., May 30 (MRH). Outside the C.V., colonies are never so large. A report of 520 nests in one loose colony in Fremont was good news; RWL stated, "Nest success appears excellent (in thistles on upland areas!). As far as I know this is the first significant breeding by this species in this area in 12 years" Extremely unseasonal was a ♂ Rusty Blackbird Apr. 15 on F I (†S)—P.R.B.O.); the only later report on file for the Region was also of a male on F.I. (Apr. 22, 1973—not previously published here). Hot on the heels (or halluces?) of last season's records was the Region's 8th **Great-tailed Grackle**, a male Apr. 27 and June 10 at the Nature Conservancy's Creighton Ranch Preserve, *Tulare* (RH, †KH). Hooded Orioles made news, with several impressions voiced of continued increase in the C.V., "topped" by 24 discovered in a search of the Anderson/Redding area of *Shasta* May 26-31 (BY, BV *et al.*). Also of interest were the 2nd Mono Basin record (imm. male, Apr. 1 at Lee Vining—DS *et al.*) and what was felt to be the "1st ever (Regionally?) on the coast n. of the Humboldt Bay area:" a female at Westhaven, *Del Norte*, Apr. 30 (RAE). Our first Bullock's N. Orioles (Mar. 24; Menlo Park—WGB, and Fairfax—DAH) were the latest such in 7 years A ♂ Baltimore Oriole at Manila, *Humboldt*, May 18-19 (P. Paton, *fide JSt*) was seen well; we average nearly one per spring migration.

Purple Finches departed most lowland areas by late April, an exception being Palomarin, where the excellent thistle crop brought them out into open scrub areas in high numbers through the period. Cassin's Finches continued their unprecedented invasion of lowland cismontane areas in small numbers, with two remaining to Mar. 15 at Louis P., Stockton (DY), two at the low and coastward Lord Ellis Summit, *Humboldt*, Apr. 3 (JSt), and one in Oakland May 23 (†JL). A consensus was apparent that the Red Crossbill irruption declined through the spring, at least in lowlands, although the reports themselves did not reflect this (more reports, and more birds reported, for May than for March and April). Evidence of breeding was noted Mar. 2-May 17 in *Plumas* (DAA), *Monterey* (AB), and S.F. (JM) Pine Siskins continued in excellent numbers, e.g., birds remaining at several locales in the San Joaquin Valley well into May (KH, RJB, DY), but no breeding was reported in the Region Lawrence's Goldfinches were back down to near normal numbers, with 15 ± reported away from areas of regular occurrence Scattered, small flocks of Evening Grosbeaks continued to be found through the Region all spring; the largest concentrations reported were of 50 + in Sacramento Mar. 24 (B. Heacox, *fide TM*), and 300 along U.S. 395 in *Mono* Apr. 27 (BED).

ADDENDUM — A ♀ Blackpoll Warbler was observed May 18, 1984 at Grass L. (20 mi n. of Weed on Hwy 97), *Siskiyou* (†PFS, SH); this was the 2nd interior spring record for the Region.

CORRIGENDA — AB 36(5):892, the Am. Redstart at Antelope L., *Plumas* May 27 should be credited to BED. AB 38(5):953, delete the Fulvous Whistling-Duck at Los Banos W.A., Apr. 2 (should be Merced N.W.R., as other sightings). AB 38(5):956, the sentence on Indigo Buntings *should* read, "... the 1979-'83 Regional average for March-May is 3-4."

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Guy McCaskie

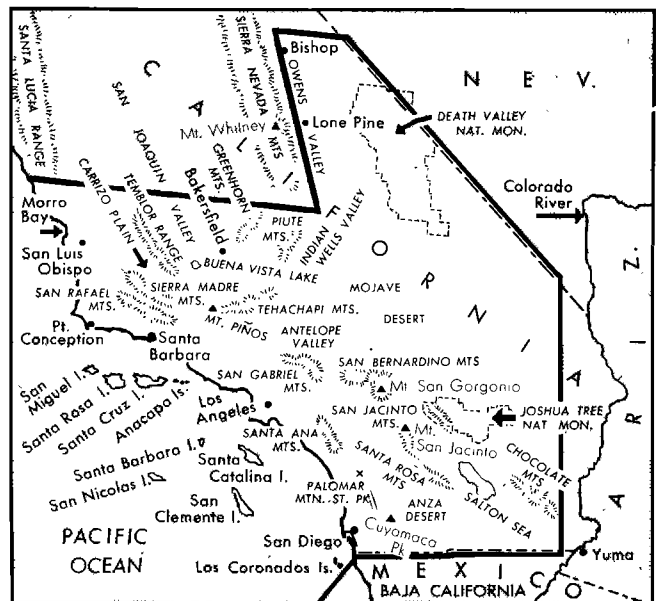
The spring migration period was somewhat dull and uneventful with no major storms to ground migrant waterbirds moving northward out of the Gulf of California, and no concentrations of landbirds encountered either along the coast or inland. Migrants were scarce after the first week of May, and vagrants tended to remain in one location for only short periods of time, thus being seen by only a few fortunate observers.

ABBREVIATIONS — F.C.R. = Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley, Inyo Co.; L.A.C.M.N.H. = Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History; N.E.S.S. = north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.; S.E.S.S. = south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.; U.C.S.B. = University of California in Santa Barbara; W.F.V.Z. = Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology. As most rarities found in s. California are seen by numerous observers, only the observer initially identifying the bird is included. Documentation is on file for all rarities listed in the report.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — Eighteen Com. Loons at N.E.S.S., May 4 (EAC) was the largest concentration found inland this spring, and nine on the Whitewater Flood Plain ponds near Palm Springs May 3 (MMcC) were at an interesting locality. A Horned Grebe at N.E.S.S., Apr. 21-June 1 (JO) was late. A wintering Red-necked Grebe remained on Morro Bay to Apr. 13 (GPS) and another was in Malibu Mar. 1-10 (AK).

A Laysan Albatross that was seen to collide with power lines in the San Geronio Pass n. of Palm Springs May 6 (BaC, *L.A.C.M.N.H.) was the 6th to have been found inland in this general area during spring [see AB 38:957, 1984]. Three Black-vented Shearwaters off Morro Bay Mar. 9 (TME) were late for this far n. A few Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels evidently ventured into s. California waters as indicated by single birds seen off Morro Bay May 18 (BS) and off Santa Barbara Apr. 5 (LB, *U.C.S.B.), and dead individuals found near Morro Bay Apr. 13 (GPS), on Refugio State Beach near Santa Barbara Apr. 7 (KLG, *L.A.C.M.N.H.), in Ventura Mar. 21 (KLG, *W.F.V.Z.), and 10 mi w.s.w. of Santa Catalina I., Mar. 17 (KLG, *L.A.C.M.N.H.).

A Red-billed Tropicbird seen off San Diego May 18 (DP) was among very few ever found in s. California waters in May. An ad. **Red-footed Booby** (white phase) well seen in flight around Morro Rock at the entrance to Morro Bay May 27 (JS) was the first to be found in s. California, although two have been found on the Farallon Is. to the n. (DeSante and Ainley, *Studies in Avian Biology* No. 4, 1980). Single Brown Pelicans at N.E.S.S., Apr. 6 (RRV), Apr. 22-29 (BED), and May 11 (GMcC) were unusually early for this inland locality and an immature on L. Henshaw, San Diego Co., May 31 (RH) was at an unusual locality.



An ad. Little Blue Heron in Carpinteria May 22-24 (JC) and another at Baker May 27 (JO) were both part of a small but regular N May movement of these birds that has scattered individuals throughout s. California in the last 10 years. An ad Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in La Jolla Mar. 19-31 (JN) was believed to be the individual frequenting nearby San Elijo Lagoon off and on since October 1981, and was undoubtedly the same bird present at this exact location (perched on same branch in same tree) May 23-June 1, 1983.

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS — Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were exceptionally scarce with three to seven at Ramer/Finney lakes near S.E.S.S., Apr. 3-4 (REW, JML) being the only ones reported. A Ross' Goose on L. Henshaw Apr. 5-7 (RH) and another at N.E.S.S., Apr. 13 (REW) were both late. A Brant in California City, Kern Co., Mar. 30-31 (MH) was part of the movement of Brant out of the Gulf of California that regularly occurs each spring, and results in small flocks being found on the Salton Sea and other such bodies of water in the extreme s. portion of the Region. A ♀ Wood Duck at N.E.S.S., May 31 (REW) was at an unusual locality. A ♂ Eur. Wigeon at S.E.S.S., Apr. 3 (REW) was the latest of the wintering birds. Four Greater Scaup on L. Henshaw Mar. 2 (RH) were the first to be found on this well-covered lake. The two wintering Harlequin Ducks near San Simeon, San Luis Obispo Co., remained through Apr. 3 (CAM) and the male

at Bolsa Chica was still present at the end of the period (SJR). An Oldsquaw at Oceano May 26 (PEL) was exceptionally late if not attempting to summer locally, and another at N.E.S.S., Apr. 3 (REW) was inland. A ♂ Black Scoter at Newport Beach Apr. 20-21 (LRH) was on the late side. A flock of 105 Surf Scoters on L. Henshaw Mar. 2 (RH) and 19 there Apr. 17 (RH) were the only ones found inland this spring. Nine Red-breasted Mergansers on the Whitewater Flood Plain ponds near Palm Springs Apr. 22 (BaC) were at an interesting location.

Single Ospreys at F.C.R., May 12 & 15 (REM) were at an unusual locality. A Black-shouldered Kite at Finney L., Apr. 3 (REW) was outside the species' normal range. A **Common Black-Hawk** well seen at Thousand Palms Oasis, Riverside Co., Apr. 13 (BED, LRH) provided the first record for California, and what appears to have been another from the description was at Barker Dam in Joshua Tree N.M., Apr. 23 (JM). A Swainson's Hawk over Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo Co., May 19 (BS) was along the coast where now exceptionally rare. A Ferruginous Hawk over Lone Pine May 24 (DR) was exceptionally late. A Golden Eagle over F.C.R., May 18 (REM) was among very few ever to be seen at this locality. Single Peregrine Falcons at Soboba Springs, Riverside Co., Mar. 20 (BW), at L. Henshaw May 15-16 (RH), and near Borrego Springs May 21 (RH) were away from the coast and the Salton Sea.

PLOVERS THROUGH SKIMMER — Wintering Lesser Golden-Plovers remained into April with one *fulva* near Santa Maria Apr. 30 (NC); single birds at N.E.S.S., Apr. 6 (RRV), on Pt. Loma May 10 (REW), and near Lancaster May 12 (TM) were migrant *dominica*. Two Black Oystercatchers in Malibu Apr. 6 (KLG) and another in La Jolla Mar. 4 (BoC) were away from areas of regular occurrence. A Solitary Sandpiper, rare in spring, was at S.E.S.S., Apr. 27 (GMcC) and another was at F.C.R., May 12 (REM). A Wandering Tattler, casual inland, was on the Salton Sea at Salton City June 1 (JML). An Upland Sandpiper at F.C.R., May 17-18 (REM) was the 5th to have been found at that location in May and the 10th ever to be found in the Region. Single Whimbrels near Bishop Mar. 25 (JLD) and at F.C.R., May 19 (REM) were in the n.e. portion of the Region where rarely recorded. Ruddy Turnstones were present on the Salton Sea Apr. 13-May 11 with 23 counted May 11 (GMcC). A Black Turnstone, casual inland, was at N.E.S.S., Apr. 20 (GMcC). A Surfbird, also casual inland, was at Salton City Apr. 22 (CAM) and two were there Apr. 27 (GMcC). As usual large numbers of Red Knots passed through the Salton Sea during April with 250 counted Apr. 27 (GMcC). One hundred Sanderlings at Salton City May 5 (GMcC) was a large concentration for inland, and 27 at N.E.S.S., May 30-31 (REW) were late. At least five Semipalmated Sandpipers found on the Salton Sea during May (GMcC, REW), one near Lancaster May 5 (REM), and another near Rosamond, Kern Co., Apr. 27 (MH) gave us an average number for spring. A real rarity was the **White-rumped Sandpiper** at N.E.S.S., May 30 (REW), this being only the 4th to have been found in s. California. A Baird's Sandpiper, extremely rare in spring, was in Goleta Mar. 23 (PEL), and a Pectoral Sandpiper, equally rare in spring, was in Corona, Riverside Co., Apr. 28 (CMcG). Up to 42 Stilt Sandpipers were present at S.E.S.S., Apr. 1-May 3 (BWK, PEL), this being the only locality in California where this species can be found regularly in such numbers. A ♀ Ruff near San Jacinto Mar. 17 (BWK) was inland. A winter-plumaged Red-necked Phalarope off San Pedro Mar. 17 (KLG) was thought to have wintered locally, since spring migrants do not normally occur before the end of April.

A S. Polar Skua, rare in s. California waters, was 15 mi n.n.w. of Santa Barbara I., May 29 (CD). An ad. Laughing Gull at Salton City May 5 (GMcC) was unseasonable, and another at Malibu May 28 (JKA) was along the coast where casual. An ad. Franklin's Gull at S.E.S.S., May 4 (EAC), two together at Oceano May 23 (CAM), and another at Oasis May 26 (CAM) were the only ones reported. A Yellow-footed Gull well-studied in La Jolla May 21 (JN) was one of a very few ever to be found along the California coast. Fifteen Sabine's Gulls off San Diego May 18

(PU) were spring migrants. An Elegant Tern at N.E.S.S., May 20-June 1 (HL) was the first ever to be found on the Salton Sea and the 2nd ever to be found inland. A subad. (winter-plumaged?) Com. Tern in Goleta Apr. 1 (PEL) was extremely early if a spring migrant, and three adults at N.E.S.S., May 5 (GMcC) were early for that area. A Least Tern, casual inland, was at N.E.S.S., May 31 (REW). A Black Skimmer at Playa del Rey Mar. 14 (MC) was at an unusual locality.

PIGEONS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — A Band-tailed Pigeon on Pt. Loma Apr. 20 (REW) was outside the species' normal range. A wintering White-winged Dove remained in Los Osos Mar. 16-Apr. 5 (J & KH), and another in Goleta remained through Apr. 10 (PEL); up to five near L. Henshaw May 25+ (RH) were w. of the species' breeding range. A Com. Ground-Dove in Carpinteria Apr. 7 (ST) was at the extreme n. limit of the species' expanding range along the coast. Single Yellow-billed Cuckoos at Ft. Piute, San Bernardino Co., May 26 (PU) and at Oasis May 26 (JO) were spring migrants. Four W. Screech-Owls calling around Finney L., Apr. 4 (JML) and one found perched in a tree at Oasis May 30 (REM) were at interesting localities in areas where few previous records are known.

Five migrant Black Swifts were noted over L. Henshaw between May 3 & 7 (RH). Up to seven Chimney Swifts over downtown Los Angeles May 6+ (KLG) were unusually early; one seen with Vaux's Swifts and heard calling over California City May 10 (MOC) was the first to be found in Kern County, and two in Big Pine May 19+ (BED) appeared to be a mated pair nesting in a chimney. A ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbird in Alta Mesa near Whitewater Canyon, Riverside Co., Apr. 9 (BaC) and another near Valermo Apr. 14 (KLG) were both w. of the species' normal range. A Lewis' Woodpecker on Pt. Loma Apr. 14 (GMcC) was at an unusual locality, and an Acorn Woodpecker at Ft. Piute May 22 (BWK) was far from the nearest oaks.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher in the Santa Ynez Mts. of Santa Barbara County Mar. 21 (JLD) was extremely early. The wintering Greater Pewee in San Diego remained through Apr. 14 (EC). Brown-crested Flycatchers were first noted at Morongo Valley, at the extreme w. edge of the species' breeding range, May 1 (EAC), one in Victorville May 24 (REW) was in suitable breeding habitat, and one was again at F.C.R., May 10+ (REM). The wintering Thick-billed Kingbird near Tustin was last seen Apr. 6 (HL) and the one in Claremont remained through May 10 (DG). The only E. Kingbirds reported were one at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley N.M., May 25 (GT), and another at nearby Mesquite Springs May 24-27 (DG). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a casual straggler to California, was at Oasis May 25-27 (BLaB)

JAYS THROUGH WOOD WARBLERS — A Pinyon Jay at Morongo Valley Apr. 28 (RRV) was at a most unusual locality. A Townsend's Solitaire on Pt. Loma Mar. 18-25 (REW) was on the coast where rare. A Varied Thrush near Laguna Dam Apr. 7 (ML) was one of a very few ever to be found in Imperial County. A Gray Catbird, a casual straggler to California, was at Oasis May 30 (REW). A ♀ White-eyed Vireo in Huntington Beach May 21-28 (BED) was the first to be found in Orange County and only the 6th for s. California. A Bell's Vireo at Oasis May 31 (REM) was exceptionally far n., and may have been a vagrant from the e. Three Yellow-throated Vireos, far more than normally found, were reported with an exceptionally early individual in Los Osos Apr. 14-19 (DW), one along the coast in Huntington Beach May 25-27 (LRH), and the 3rd inland at Oasis May 18 (LK). The only Red-eyed Vireo reported was a single bird at Ft. Piute May 26 (PU).

A ♂ Golden-winged Warbler, one of the rarer vagrants to reach California, was at Oasis May 23 (JLD). Eighteen Tennessee Warblers in May was fewer than usual. A ♂ Lucy's Warbler at Oasis May 23-31 (JLD) was unusually far n. Fifteen N. Parulas between Apr. 15 and June 2 were more than expected. The only Chestnut-sided Warbler to be found was a female at Oasis May 24 (JLD). A ♂ Black-throated Green Warbler on San Miguel I., June 3-6 (CD) was only the 7th to have been found in s. Califor-

nia in spring, and a ♂ Blackburnian Warbler on Pt. Loma June 4 (REW) was the 5th. A ♀ Yellow-throated Warbler, a casual straggler to California, was at Oasis May 29-30 (REW). A Prairie Warbler in Pismo Beach Mar. 16-23 (CAM) was undoubtedly wintering locally, and one of a very few ever known to do so in California. A wintering Palm Warbler at Doheney S.P. was still present on the late date of May 3 (LRH) and one on San Miguel I., Mar. 23-27 (CD) was undoubtedly wintering. The wintering Pine Warbler in Coronado was last seen Mar. 12 (REM). Two Blackpoll Warblers, exceptionally rare in spring, were found with an exceptionally early male on Pt. Loma May 8 (REW) and a female at Oasis May 25 (ML). A ♂ **Cerulean Warbler** in California City May 17 (MOC) was only the 6th ever to be found in s. California.

Black-and-white Warblers and Am. Redstarts were scarcer than normal, with reports of only 15 and 10, respectively. Two Prothonotary Warblers were found with a female at F.C.R., May 14 (REM) and a male on Pt. Loma May 18 (EB). A ♂ Worm-eating Warbler on Pt. Loma May 27 (EC) was only the 7th ever to be found in s. California in spring. Eight Ovenbirds between May 19 and June 1 was about average, but five N. Waterthrushes between May 5 & 25 was below average. Five Kentucky Warblers were unprecedented, with an early male in Claremont May 9 (DG, * L.A.C.M.N.H.), a male in California City May 19 (MH), a female in nearby Mojave May 25 (JWi), and single males at Ft. Piute and Iron Mt. Pump Station May 22 (BWK, BH); there were only 6 previous spring records for the Region. A ♂ Mourning Warbler at Mesquite Springs May 25 (JWh) was the 5th to be found in s. California in spring. Four ♂ Hooded Warblers were reported with one at Cottonwood Springs in Joshua Tree N.M., Apr. 21 (BSt), another on Pt. Loma May 5 (RRV), a 3rd in California City May 25 (MH), and the 4th in Moro Canyon, Orange Co., June 12-13 (SJR). A Painted Redstart at Charlton flats in the San Gabriel Mts., May 18-19 (AB) was in suitable breeding habitat, but could not be found on subsequent dates.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES—The wintering Hepatic Tanager in Santa Barbara was last seen Apr. 9 (PEL) and the one on Pt. Loma remained through Apr. 8 (REW). As usual, a few Summer Tanagers reached the coast and the n.e. corner of the Region during May and early June with 10 reported; these were all believed to be vagrant *rubra* from the e., rather than *cooperi* that breeds in the s.e. corner of the Region. Fifteen Rose-breasted Grosbeaks May 17-30 was about average, but five Indigo Buntings May 15-30 was far below normal. A pair of Dickcissels, casual in spring, at Oasis May 22-25 (REM) appeared to be on territory, but disappeared when the alfalfa they were frequenting was cut. A Black-throated Sparrow on Pt. Loma May 22 (REW) was along the coast where rare to casual. A Swamp Sparrow at F.C.R., May 19 (REM) was late. A ♂ Lapland Longspur on Santa Barbara I., May 30 (CD) was exceptionally late,

there being only one previous recorded occurrence after March the totally out-of-season occurrence of one in Kelso June 9, 1977.

The only Bobolinks reported were three to four at F.C.R., May 24-27 (GMcC), and a male on San Clemente I., May 21 (JZ). Three Orchard Orioles in Goleta since Dec. 27 were still present Apr. 22 (HR), and a male on Pt. Loma Mar. 23-Apr. 21 (CGE) undoubtedly wintered locally, but a female in Mojave Mar. 23 (MH) was judged to be migrating. The imm. ♂ **Streak-backed Oriole** that wintered in La Jolla was last seen Apr. 29 (DE). A ♂ Scott's Oriole on Pt. Loma Apr. 14 (GMcC) was right along the coast where rare. A Cassin's Finch at F.C.R., May 24-25 (GMcC) was late for such a location. Red Crossbills remained numerous and widespread well into May, with 10 in Oceano May 5-23 (BS), up to 50 in Long Beach during March and April with one or two remaining through May (BED), and up to 25 on Pt. Loma during March and April with the last seen June 3 (REW) being the largest concentrations along the coast; up to 18 in Hart Park near Bakersfield to Apr. 20 (MOC), up to 20 in California City through May (MOC), and up to 10 in Brawley Mar. 23-May 3 (BED, PEL) were the most significant concentrations inland away from the mountains.

CORRIGENDUM—The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper on the Kern N.W.R., Kern Co., was present Apr. 8-10, and not May 8-10 as reported (*AB* 38:960, 1984).

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HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

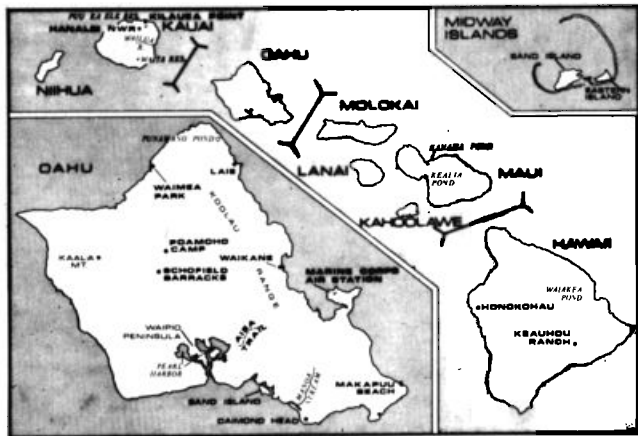
Robert L. Pyle

Although the multi-year drought conditions were broken by above-average rainfall late last fall and winter, dry weather returned in spring bringing less than 40% of normal rainfall at Honolulu during March-April-May. The northern islands of Kauai, Oahu, and Molokai were particularly dry, suffering parched vegetation and renewed pleas for water conservation.

ABBREVIATIONS—H. = Hawaii I.; K. = Kauai I.; L. = Lanai I.; M = Maui I.; O. = Oahu I.; J.C.N.W.R. = James Campbell Nat'l Wildlife Ref. on Oahu; K.M.C.A.S. = Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station on Oahu; P.H.N.W.R. = Pearl Harbor Nat'l Wildlife Ref. on Oahu.

GREBES THROUGH ALBATROSSES—On Mar. 31 RD was startled to see a juv. **Pied-billed Grebe** swimming close to an adult at Aimakapa Pond, H. A nest was found with 3 eggs tended by the other adult. No more than one chick was seen thereafter, but it was fully fledged and still present at the end of May (RD). Pied-billeds are rare stragglers to Hawaii, first recorded here in 1974. Two wintered at Aimakapa in both 1983-1984 and 1984-1985, the latter evidently remaining this year to breed. This is only the 3rd species of visiting waterbird known to have bred in Hawaii, the others having been Blue-winged Teal and Fulvous Whistling-Duck. All recorded nestings have been since 1982.

On Kauai, at the Laysan Albatross nesting site reported last season, runway construction activity required removing all remaining chicks. Three were taken to Sea Life P., O., where two



soon died. But one was raised successfully, was banded, and flew off to sea about July 5 (IK). Also on Kauai, Laysans nested for the first time in a newly fenced area especially protected from dog predation at Kilauea N.W.R. Both of the 2 nests were unsuccessful: one egg broken by an adult and one chick lost in a heavy rainstorm (KB). But if the birds will return to nest there in future years the problem of dog predation (see numerous past season reports) will have been successfully countered at last.

S.A.

An ornithological highlight of this spring was the appearance of Laysan Albatrosses in the main Hawaiian Islands at numerous unprecedented localities. Five birds were reported regularly at Kaena Pt., the w. tip of Oahu, from Mar. 16 (CL, AZ) through April until May 18 (TS, DH, RS). Seven Laysans were at Dillingham airstrip, 10 km e. of Kaena Pt., Apr. 9 (PS). On Oahu's e. shore at K.M.C.A.S., one or two birds were reported repeatedly from Mar. 23 (DD, JK) through April (BD, CW), and also flying over nearby Kaneohe Bay May 14 (CM). All are new localities on Oahu for Laysans. In the Kahuku area at Oahu's n. tip, where a few birds have appeared in recent years in late winter and spring, up to 10 were reported through this spring and two remained until June 6 (*vide* JK). At all localities, birds on the ground were often observed in abbreviated courtship dancing.

The influx also reached other islands, where Laysans are very rarely recorded. Reports included one off Kalaupapa Pen., Molokai, Mar. 30 (LP), two seen Mar. 16 at Waianapanapa P. near the s.e. end of Maui (CC), two later in spring off the n.e. tip of Maui (CK), and two off Keokea Beach P. at the n. tip of Hawaii I., May 5 (PH).

There is speculation that this appearance of Laysan Albatrosses in the main Hawaiian Islands in annually increasing numbers may signal a saturation of the breeding colony areas in the Northwest Hawaiian Is., forcing younger birds returning for the first time at age 6 or 7 to explore elsewhere for potential nesting grounds.

STORM-PETRELS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — More than one dozen Sooty Storm-Petrels were counted in 1½ hrs. coming into their nesting colony near the n.w. end of the lake on Laysan I., Apr. 9 (SC, RLP). The Lesser Frigatebird reported at Tern I., French Frigate Shoals, in early February was later joined by a 2nd male; both remained until mid-May (BE, RLP).

A Canada Goose first reported at Amorient Prawn Farm near Kahuku, O., Apr. 1 (PD) was still there through May (B), AE, BB). At Laysan I., several counts of **Laysan Duck** (Endangered)

in early April yielded 25-50 adults each and several broods of young chicks (RLP *et al.*). Two Blue-winged Teal were still at Aimakapa Pond, H., into early June, but with no signs of nesting (RD). Northern Pintails and Lesser Scaup departed Aimakapa during the 3rd week of March, and the last 40 N. Shovelers had departed by month's end (RD). Thirteen Lesser Scaup and a ♀ Tufted Duck were at Punamano Unit, J.C.N.W.R., Apr. 1 (PD).

Oahu's Osprey remained at Waiawa Unit, P.H.N.W.R. until late March (SB), then appeared at Kahuku Apr. 1 (PD), and was seen again Apr. 29 at K.M.C.A.S., *being harassed by a Great Frigatebird!* (RN).

A Semipalmated-type Plover in good spring plumage was at Kaluapuhi Pond, K.M.C.A.S., May 25 (RLP). At Waipio, O., four to five Lesser Yellowlegs seen only from early March to Apr. 1 (PD) were probably spring transients rather than winter visitors to the islands. Also at Waipio, the Least, Baird's, and Pectoral sandpipers, Ruff, and Red-necked Phalarope were last seen Apr. 1, but the Dunlin and dowitchers were still there Apr. 17 (PD). A Pectoral Sandpiper was found at Waikoloa, H., Mar. 8 to late April (PB, DP).

At Laysan I., island-wide surveys on 3 days during early April yielded average counts of 1800 Lesser Golden-Plovers, 1750 Ruddy Turnstones, 160 Wandering Tattlers, 80 Bristle-thighed Curlews, 10 Sanderlings and three Bar-tailed Godwits (RLP).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — Hawaii's first documented **Long-tailed Jaeger** was seen closely, well-described and photographed 3½ mi off Keahole Pt., H., May 5 (RD). Two Laughing Gulls were still at Kanaha Pond, M., Mar. 29 (FS). A Franklin's Gull in full breeding plumage (head and wing pattern seen well) was observed May 10 flying around the entrance to Kewalo Basin, O. (BE). What may have been the same bird was reported at Aimakapa Pond, H., May 18 and was photographed at nearby Kailua-Kona the next day (RD).

The two Caspian Terns wintering on Oahu remained at K.M.C.A.S. until May 17 (BD, JK, RN), after which one was seen from May 18 into June. A Com. Tern in full breeding plumage was seen on the sand at K.M.C.A.S., May 17 (RLP), and might have been the same bird described as a Common/Arctic type seen at some distance May 12 at Ala Moana P. (PD) on the other side of Oahu. Three Arctic Terns seen with the Long-tailed Jaeger off Keahole Pt., H., May 5 also were well-described and photographed (RD). Two Least/Little Terns were at Waipio May 15 (SB), an interesting spring record for the islands. During late afternoon May 25, hundreds of Gray-backed Terns were streaming by just offshore of the skeet range at Ulupau Crater, K.M.C.A.S., enroute back to their nesting colony on Moku Manu islet (AE, BB, RLP). The species is very difficult to see well in the main Hawaiian Islands.

Blue-gray Noddies were seen commonly Apr. 13-14 within 15 km. of Necker I. and Nihoa I. where they nest, but nowhere else on the sea cruise between Laysan I. and Kauai (RLP).

OWLS THROUGH ESTRILDIDS — Two Pueo (Hawaiian Short-eared Owl) were seen again Mar. 1 at Waipio (PD), one of the very few localities on Oahu where the species is still occasionally seen. A Short-eared Owl flushed from the ground on Laysan I., Apr. 8 (SC), could have been of either the Hawaiian or the Asiatic race. A Red-vented Bulbul near Anahola, K., seen well as it flew in front of the car June 1 (AE), provided the first report of this species on Kauai. It is now abundant throughout Oahu and, regrettably, may be starting to colonize other islands. Several Japanese Bush-Warblers were heard calling May 26 at Lanai Hale, in the mountains behind Lanai City, L. (LP). The species has been only recently reported from that island. A Yellow-fronted Canary seen well at Magic I. in Ala Moana P., O., May 12 (GC) was unusual at that locality.

The super-rare **Nuku-pu'u** (Endangered) was reported *twice* this season in the Alakai area of Kauai. One was seen well and excellently-described along Koaie Stream downstream from the gauge station March 10 (JT). Another was found June 11-13 by

several members of a U S F & W S survey party, seen on all 3 dates (CK). Five Maui Parrotbills (Endangered) and an estimated 25 Crested Honeycreepers (Endangered) were found Mar. 17 on the n. slope of Haleakala, M. (JT). An 'Iwi was seen well May 27 on Aiea Ridge Trail, O. (AE), an unusual location for this species that is very rare on Oahu.

Orange-cheeked Waxbills are still hanging on in Kapiolani P., O. Two were found there Mar. 18 (DP *et al.*). One ♂ and two ♀ Red Avadavats studied closely along Waimea Canyon Road, K., Mar. 14 (JT) suggested that this species may have crossed the channel from Oahu. The only previous record from Kauai was an unconfirmed report of a male on the opposite side of the island. Also on Kauai, seven Chestnut Mannikins feeding in a yard in Kapaa represented a range expansion from their original colonization in the Lawai-Poipu region (WS).

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WEST INDIES REGION

Robert L. Norton

Precipitation measured at Cruz Bay, St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands, is an indication of climatic trends in the north-eastern Caribbean. Rainfall in March was 14% above the 60-year POR mean, but began to lag behind the monthly averages for April (-26%) and May (-13%).

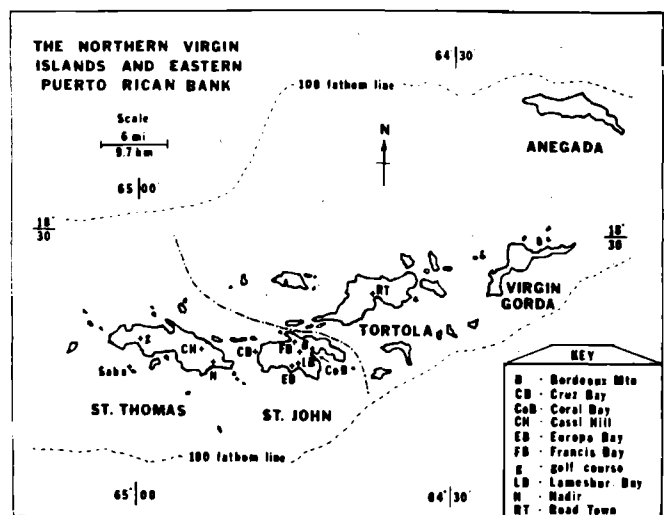
Rain of a different sort, however, may be on the increase. Acid rain, as a result of increased car populations and/or power plants permitted to burn high-sulfur fuels, is causing concern among scientists in Puerto Rico (*San Juan Star*, May 6, 1985). Other industrialized areas of the Caribbean may experience similar localized acidification affecting forest growth and terrestrial, aquatic, and marine fauna.

On another front, chemical pollutants, *i.e.* mercury contamination, are seeping into watersheds in Puerto Rico. Frontera Creek near Humacao in eastern Puerto Rico, designated one of eight sites on Puerto Rico, is listed as one of the most contaminated in the nation (*San Juan Star*, March 1985). The Humacao wetland has boasted small populations of Masked Duck and West Indian Whistling-Duck (Rafaele 1983), both species of concern in the Region, and groups of Brown Pelicans, listed as endangered in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Habitat loss, whether from deforestation in Haiti, road-building for subdivisions in the Bahamas and other locations, or over-exploitation of the coastal zone (Virgin Islands and other locations), portends reduced populations of resident birds and elimination of traditional stop-over areas for migrant species in the West Indies.

ABBREVIATIONS— Ba. = Bahamas; P.R. = Puerto Rico; St. C. = St. Croix; St. J. = St. John; St. T. = St. Thomas; U.S.V.I. = United States Virgin Islands.

GREBES THROUGH TERNS— A Least Grebe was noted at a farm pond near Cabo Rojo N.W.R., P.R., Mar. 13-24 (DS). A Least Grebe was also seen at a small industrial pond n. of Matthewtown, Great Inagua, Ba., Apr. 20 (EH, RLN). Two Black-capped Petrels were observed from the Schooner APPLIEDORE, one about 60 km s. of Great Inagua and the other within sight of that island, Apr. 16. The latter sighting may have furnished the first record for the territorial waters of the Bahamas (RLN). Unidentified storm-petrels were noted near the 100 fathom isobath, 19 km n. of St. T., Mar. 17 (MB). Forty Olivaceous Cormorants were observed at the extensive inland ponds of Great Inagua, one of the great wetland areas of the West Indies, Apr. 17 (RLN).



Two Least Bitterns were seen at Grand Bahama Apr. 23 (RW). A *juv.* Great Blue Heron was observed at St. C. in May by FS, who has conducted surveys of nesting ardeids there. More details are expected later. The ratio of dark to light morphs of the Reddish Egret at Providenciales, Turks & Caicos, May 11 was 3:3 (BA) while at Great Inagua it was 3:32 Apr. 18 (RLN). Roseate Spoonbills numbered 59 Apr. 18 (RLN, JN) at Great Inagua, where poachers take advantage of limited protection provided by the Ba. National Trust which supervises approximately 460 sq. km of wilderness. Nesting of Great Inagua's 30,000+ Greater Flamingos had not commenced by Apr. 18 and was considered late (JN) due to lack of rain. Poachers take their toll of this flock as well. It was reported that only 2 in. of rain had been recorded since November (*vide* EH). On May 5, 40 Greater Flamingos were noted at W. Caicos (BA). Also at Great Inagua Apr. 18, RLN and JN noted six West Indian Whistling-Ducks. Within days of each other, local populations of White-cheeked Pintails were censused on Mar. 6 at Vieques (four—DG) and Mar. 8 at St. C. (109—FS). Also at St. C., FS observed two N. Shovelers Mar. 3 and three Ring-necked Ducks Mar. 13.

Resident Ospreys (*ridgwayi*) at Great Inagua may number as high as 12 pairs (*vide* EH). Some pairs nest on the ground, making a complete survey difficult. Nevertheless, 2 pairs were noted near Matthewtown, Great Inagua, Apr. 17 (RLN) and three individuals were reported from Providenciales May 15 (BA). A N. Harrier was observed at Cabo Rojo, P.R., Mar. 13-24 (DS). Two migrant Sharp-shinned Hawks were noted at Grand

Table 1. Numbers/dates for the last sighting in May for selected migrant shorebirds at St. Croix (FS) and Providenciales (BA).

<i>Species</i>	<i>St. C. (17°N 64' W)</i>	<i>P. (22°N 72' W)</i>
Black-bellied Plover	67/26th	35/15th
Semipalmated Plover	20/11th	6/20th
Greater Yellowlegs	24/11th	1/15th
Lesser Yellowlegs	44/26th	—
Willet	*10/18th	2/10th
Red Knot	1/18th	—
Semipalmated Sandpiper	181/11th	2/10th
Western Sandpiper	209/11th	—
Least Sandpiper	69/26th	—
Stilt Sandpiper	92/11th	1/28th
Short-billed Dowitcher	51/11th	6/16th

*Nesting

Bahama Apr. 22-23 (RW), representing one of few late spring records. Peregrine Falcons are regular visitors to St. C., where FS recorded three Mar. 3, and at least two Peregrines were noted at Cabo Rojo, P.R., Mar. 13-24 (DS). One Peregrine was noted at Grand Bahama Apr. 25 (RW).

Table 1 offers a glimpse of the shorebird migration from 2 locations having active observers (FS, BA) who censused in May. Notable sightings of Snowy Plover during the spring included one at Cabo Rojo, P.R., Mar. 13-24 (DS), six Apr. 16 at Great Inagua (RLN), and two at Providenciales May 9-15 (BA). An Upland Sandpiper was carefully noted at Great Inagua Apr. 18 (RLN), providing one of the few spring records from the Ba. Whimbrels were noted at Vieques Mar. 2-10 (DG, DH), documenting the first record from that island. Sladen recorded three Whimbrels May 21 at St. C. A **Wilson's Phalarope** was observed at Cabo Rojo Mar. 17 (DS) for the first spring occurrence and 4th record for P.R. (Raffaele 1983).

A jaeger (sp.) was seen from the APPLEDORE harassing Sooty Terns off the s. coast of Great Inagua Apr. 16 (RLN). A first-winter Herring Gull was noted Apr. 23 at Grand Bahama (RW). Breeding Laughing Gulls returned to St. J. by Apr. 2 (RLN) and to St. C. by Apr. 15 (FS). Twenty Gull-billed Terns were noted at Milot, Haiti, Apr. 13 (RLN), roosting in a flooded rice field. This may have been a transient group of terns still on their way to breeding areas elsewhere in the Region. However, 12 Gull-billeds were already present Apr. 17 at Great Inagua, where they have been reported to nest (*vide* JN, EH). The largest numbers of Royal Terns (46 pairs) to nest in the U.S.V.I. in recent years were found at Flat Cay (KH, RLN) May 30. A small group of Sandwich Terns there (23 pairs) included one bird with a mottled yellow and black bill, indicating that Sandwich x Cayenne Terns are established breeders (Norton 1984) on the P.R. Bank. As of May 30, Roseate Terns nested in the U.S.V.I. in the largest numbers seen by RLN. Further details will be forthcoming in the summer report. Five Com. Terns were noted from the APPLEDORE feeding with Sandwich and Sooty terns off the s. coast of Great Inagua Apr. 16 (RLN). Sladen recorded the Least Tern's arrival (16 birds) at St. C., Apr. 17, and counted 182 nests by May 26. Least Terns were also noted (18 birds) at Great Inagua Apr. 17 (RLN). At Providenciales, Least Terns arrived by Apr. 27 (BA) and were nesting (15+ pairs) May 11.

PIGEONS THROUGH ORIOLES — A White-crowned Pigeon, considered rare at Providenciales (BA), was noted there May 12. Burrowing Owls were found to be fairly common nesters at Matthewtown Apr. 20 (EH, RLN) with young birds near their burrows. Short-eared Owls (residents?) were fairly common (DS) in southwestern P.R. near Cabo Rojo, at least Mar. 13-24. Five Antillean Nighthawks were noted May 17 at Providenciales (BA) where they are reported to be abundant residents in

summer. A Chuck-will's-widow was heard calling (DS) Mar. 22 at Cabo Rojo. One of the very few reports of **Purple Martin** from the Greater Antilles came from St. C., Mar. 12 (FS), and oddly the first record of Caribbean Martin from Great Inagua was of one seen Apr. 20 (RLN); this species nests in the U.S.V.I. and is very familiar to RLN. A single **Cliff Swallow** was seen feeding over open water with Barn Swallows at Cap Haitien, Haiti, Apr. 13 (RLN), providing perhaps the first occurrence there. About 500+ Cave Swallows are now garrisoned at the Citadel, Cap Haitien, Haiti, as noted Apr. 13 (RLN). A pair of Cuban Crows, resident at Providenciales (BA), was noted throughout the period. A White-necked Crow was easily heard and seen at Cap Haitien Apr. 12 (RLN).

A flock of 15 Cedar Waxwings was seen Apr. 24 at Grand Bahama (RW), providing one of the few spring records from the Ba. and the Region. Two Eur. Starlings were noted at Grand Bahama Apr. 23 (RW) and one was at St. C., Apr. 24 (FS). Aldridge reported the occurrence of a White-eyed Vireo and two Red-eyed Vireos from Providenciales on or about Apr. 18, providing rare spring documentation of these species in the s. Ba. region. A **Nashville Warbler** was also seen at Providenciales (BA) Mar. 25-31, for one of the very few occurrences from the Region. A Magnolia Warbler was noted at Cabo Rojo, P.R., Mar. 24 (DS). A carefully-observed **Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler** seen Mar. 23 & 30 was new at Providenciales (BA). There are sight records from Florida of this form (A.O.U. 1983), but this sighting would represent the first from the West Indies. On Apr. 25, BA also observed a **Blackburnian Warbler** at Providenciales, providing the first spring record for the s. Ba. region. Olive-capped Warblers were fairly common among pine forests at Grand Bahama Apr. 23-25 (RW). A White-winged Warbler was seen near the base of the Citadel, Cap Haitien, Apr. 13 (RLN). A Scarlet Tanager was noted at St. J. (HS), Apr. 28. On Mar. 14, BA observed a Rose-breasted Grosbeak for one of the few spring records from Providenciales where two Blue Grosbeaks were also noted Mar. 25 (BA). Webster also observed a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Grand Bahama Apr. 25; a **Lincoln's Sparrow** there the same day provided one of the few records from the West Indies and also extended the late spring date Northern "Baltimore" Orioles were widespread this spring with sightings from St. J., Apr. 4 & 20 (JD, CR); Vieques Mar. 9 for the first record there (DG, DH); Great Inagua Apr. 17 for perhaps the first record (RLN); and Grand Bahama Apr. 24-25 (RW).

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