

The Spring Migration

March 1–May 31, 1987

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

Bruce Mactavish

Wet, cloudy, low daytime temperature, and east winds describe the first two and one-half months of this three-month season. Migration was late and with few notable waves. The number of rarities did little to spice up the season. The main wave of warblers and other tropical migrants finally came to southern New England on May 17 and 23–24, but that was it. They came and went.

Complete reports were received from Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland. Incomplete reports came from Massachusetts, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. Nothing was heard from New Hampshire.

Several observers commented on the scarcity of tropical wintering migrants. Some called it serious and frightening. The general blame has been put on the loss of habitat due to clearing of forest in Central and South America. Before we all jump on this bandwagon, we should study the populations on our breeding grounds. There are so many variables such as weather and the timing of weekends that can determine the number of birds that will touch ground at any given point and be seen along their migration route. The general impression of birdwatchers in Newfoundland, just one of the places where many of these tropical wintering birds breed, is that there are still lots of them. Hopefully, critical studies addressing this problem in the near future will give us a better idea of the real situation.

ABBREVIATIONS — S.P.M. = St. Pierre et Miquelon.



LOONS THROUGH HERONS — The 402 Com. Loons flying E past Pt. Judith, R.I., Apr. 26 (RLF) and 140 from Halifax to Lawrencetown, N.S., Mar. 22 [fide JSC] were the highest counts of this species. Red-throated Loons were widely reported but no notable concentrations were seen. Nova Scotians

complained about the scarcity of Horned Grebes again this spring, with the only concentration being of 20 Mar. 22 at French Village (*vide* PP); however, 142 Mar. 20 at Moonstone Beach, R.I. (DLE), was encouraging. Red-necked Grebes were said to be very scarce at their traditional Dennis, Mass., location, but in very good numbers elsewhere in e. Massachusetts (BN). In Nova Scotia, 7 reports totalling 70 Red-necked Grebes represented a continuing decline in the province. At S.P.M. the maximum spring count was of a mere 28, Apr. 26 (RE), compared to 883 there in spring 1983. The wintering W. Grebe at Georgetown, Me., remained until Mar. 16 (*vide* WT).

An unusual situation caused by rapidly moving pack ice and a fish kill of unknown origin focused an impressive concentration of seabirds, including 5000+ N. Fulmars (5% dark phase), in close to the rocks at Cape Spear, Nfld., Apr. 11 (BM). Three hundred N. Fulmars on George's Bank Mar. 6 (*vide* RB) made a high count for the locality, and two on Cox's Ledge Mar. 7 (*vide* DLE) were of interest.

Early Greater Shearwaters were one Apr. 11 at Cape Spear, Nfld. (BM), one Apr. 21 & 25 on George's Bank (SD), and "several" May 1, 35 mi s. of Bar Harbor, Me. (*vide* WT). A very early Sooty Shearwater was on George's Bank Mar. 29 (*vide* RB) and they were already "numerous" there Apr. 21–May 5, with a peak count of 26 Apr. 23 (SD). Ten Manx Shearwaters near S.P.M., May 6 (RE) furnished the largest number reported. Early Wilson's Storm-Petrels were one Apr. 23 off Bar Harbor, Me. (WT), and a total of 226 Apr. 21–May 5 on George's Bank (SD).

The few comments on Double-crested Cormorants indicated that they are still doing very well in the Region. The rarity of the season was an **Anhinga**, soaring lazily over Nahant, Mass., May 25 (RAF, CS). This was the first documented Regional record. There are several recent sight records for s. New Jersey and one from Long Island, N.Y.

"Southern" herons were late and few in number in Massachusetts, possibly because of the prevailing E winds in April. There were just seven Tricolored Herons in the Region, with one Apr. 9 at South Ohio, N.S. (*vide* IM), being the northernmost. Nova Scotia had totals of one Great Egret, six Snowy Egrets, four Little Blue Herons, and two Cattle Egrets; New Brunswick, one Glossy Ibis and one Little Blue Heron; St. Pierre et Miquelon, one Great Egret; and Newfoundland, no "southern" herons. Good counts of Glossy Ibises were of 72 Apr. 8 at Middletown, R.I. (*vide* DLE), 68 Apr. 14 at Scarborough, Me. (*vide* JD), and 144 May 12 at Essex, Mass. (*vide* RAF).

WATERFOWL — Three **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks** at N. Stonington, Conn., May 16–26 provided the first documented state record (Nancy Weismuller *et al.*). Snow Geese were relatively scarce this spring, with 45 Apr. 11 at Westport, Conn. (FM), being the largest flock reported. In w. Massachusetts only 288 were reported all spring, down from the 5-year average of over 2000. Single "Eur." Green-winged Teal were seen Mar. 24 at White Brook, R.I., Mar. 17 at Seekonk, Mass. (*vide* DLE), Mar. 3 at Milford, Conn. (DV), and Apr. 9 at Matthews Lake, N.S. (*vide* PP). A spectacular 5000+ Am. Black Ducks were reported from Martinique and Conrad's Beach, N.S., Mar. 19 (FL). Out-of-range N. Shovelers were two males on the Gray Is., Nfld., in late May (IG) and a pair on S.P.M., May 17–22 (RE). Even without full reports from Massachusetts there were eight Eur. Wigeon (two in Connecticut, two in Rhode Island, one in Massachusetts, and three in Maine).

Heavy pack ice along the e. coast of Newfoundland dammed up the spring Com Eider migration. Two huge masses of eiders totalling 32,000 birds were seen waiting near the leading edge of the ice at Cape Race Apr. 17 (BM, JW). Only five King Eiders were noted among this flock. A late King Eider was a male at Plum I., Mass., May 26 (RAF). There were still 20 Harlequin Ducks at Sachuest Pt., R.I., Apr. 18 (*vide* DLE) and 32 at The Wolves, N.B., in late April (*vide* BD). A Ruddy Shelduck spent the first week of April feeding in flooded fields around Turner, Me. It was assumed to be an escapee. Will we know when we see a real one?

RAPTORS — A few Black Vultures are now expected in s. New England in spring. This spring sightings were of singles Mar. 8 at New Haven, Mar. 27 at North Guilford, May 16 at North Greenwich, Conn. (*vide* FM), and May 1 at Lincoln, Mass. (*vide* RAF). Thirty Turkey Vultures on outer Cape Cod in mid-May tripled the previous local high (BN). This species continues to be widely reported in Maine, with a few making it into New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. **Mississippi Kites** are becoming annual spring overshoots, with one May 27 at Crunston, R.I., furnishing a 2nd state record (*vide* DLE), and one Apr. 27 at Granville, Mass. (SK).

In New Brunswick, where Red-shouldered Hawk was recently confirmed as a breeding species, a pair was seen copulating near St. Stephen May 3 (BD). There was little information received on hawk migration. A late afternoon front on Apr. 30 produced a "large wave" of Broad-winged Hawks at Harwinton, Conn. (JK). This was followed by a record-breaking 288 Broad-winged Hawks at Truro, Mass., May 1, tripling the previous high for Cape Cod (BN). The only reports of Golden Eagle were of one Mar. 3 at Bristol, Conn. (*vide* DLE), and one Mar. 8 at E. Quabbin (M. Lynch).

The meager total of 11 Peregrine Falcons Regionwide can be largely attributed to the prevailing E winds in April and early May, and the lack of contributors. Gyrfalcons s. of their main wintering range were: one (gray phase) Mar. 8 at S. Monomoy (BN), one (dark phase) Apr. 12 at Wellfleet (SD), one having died from aspergillosis on Tuckernuck I., Mass. (*vide* SP), one Mar. 26 at Jonesport, Me. (NF), one (gray phase) Mar. 7–9 at Grand Pre, N.S. (*vide* IM), and one (white phase) dive-bombing a Snowy Owl Mar. 8 at St. John's, Nfld. (JW). The frequency of sightings from L'Anse-aux-Meadows at the n. tip of Newfoundland indicated a better-than-average spring migration there (*vide* BM).

RAILS, SHOREBIRDS — A ♂ Clapper Rail was seen copulating with a ♀ King Rail at Stonington, Conn. (LB). The only Purple Gallinule reported was May 28–30 at Sakonnet Pt., R.I., and it was thought to have been an escaped bird (DLE)! All of the Sandhill Crane reports came from Massachusetts: one May 3 at Concord, one May 16 at Middleboro, and one May 16 at Topsfield (*vide* RAF).

A typical spring for Lesser Golden-Plover was represented by singles Apr. 14 at N. Monomoy, Mass. (SD), Apr. 25 at Broad Cove, N.S. (SJJ), May 17 at Reid State Park, Me. (*vide* WT), and May 23 at Stonington, Conn. (FM). Now annual in late May somewhere in the Region, often at Cape Cod, a Wilson's Plover showed up on cue at S. Monomoy, May 31 (SD). The only comment on the plight of the Piping Plover was a slightly discouraging one from Nova Scotia where slightly fewer individuals arrived back to already depleted beaches. On the bright side, 15 were found at Cadden Beach, N.S., Apr. 15 (*vide* FS).

An **American Oystercatcher** photographed at Cherry Hill, N.S., May 16–20 furnished a 2nd confirmed provincial record (SJJ *et al.*). An Am. Avocet at Stonington, Conn., May 14–21 provided about the 12th state record, 3rd in spring (D. Houghton *et al.*). At least 15 Upland Sandpipers at Salisbury, N.B., May 31 represented good news from the n. edge of its breeding range (BD). Four Whimbrels were reported: one each in Rhode Island, Connecticut, Nova Scotia, and St. Pierre et Miquelon, the latter with a white rump, therefore of one of the European subspecies. It was the poorest flight of Pectoral Sandpipers in recent years. The earliest of several March arrivals was one Mar. 22 at Stewiacke, N.S. (*vide* FS). A Curlew Sandpiper was at Newburyport, Mass., May 19 (HW), a traditional location and time for the species. Less than annual in spring, a Stilt Sandpiper at Plum I., Mass., Apr. 9–11 was also early (SD). Single Ruffs were reported May 8 at Westport, Conn. (R. Soffer), early May at Newburyport, Mass. (RAF), May 30 at N. Monomoy, Mass. (BN), and May 31 at Pt. Verde, Nfld. (BM). One hundred Short-billed Dowitchers on N. Monomoy, Mass., May 18 were considered well above normal for spring (BN). A dowitcher at Hyannis, Mass., Mar. 25 was presumed to have been

the Long-billed Dowitcher that was present there in January (*vide* BN). Early migrant dowitchers were one said to be a Short-billed Apr. 11 at Cadden Beach, N.S. (*vide* FS), and an unidentified bird Apr. 12 at Richmond Pond, Mass. (*vide* DLE). Rounding out the poor shorebird season was a desperately low total of three Wilson's Phalaropes reported in the Region, one in Rhode Island and two in Massachusetts. Forty Red Phalaropes were on the S.W. part of George's Bank Apr. 23, an interesting date (SD).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — The most significant jaeger report came from George's Bank where Dinsmore had 83 Pomarine Jaegers, five Parasitic Jaegers, one Long-tailed Jaeger, and 33 unidentified jaegers Apr. 23–28. The Apr. 23 date of the critically identified ad. Long-tailed is 3 or 4 weeks earlier than the majority of records for this rarity. A more seasonal Long-tailed Jaeger was at St. Brides, Nfld., May 31 (BM). A presumed correctly-identified S. Polar Skua was at Oceanographer Canyon Apr. 23 and a probable Great Skua was at George's Bank Apr. 24 (SD). No details were received on a Great Skua reported from the Bluenose Apr. 2.

St. Pierre et Miquelon finally added Laughing Gull to its list when one was photographed May 3 (RE). Rare inland, especially in spring, were ad. Laughing Gulls at S. Quabbin, Mass., May 10 (Holyoke Club) and Concord, Mass., May 14 (SP). This spring's Franklin's Gull was at sea, 10 mi s. of Seal Is., N.S., May 24 (*vide* RB). Just four Little Gulls were reported: one adult from Connecticut in April, and two adults and one immature from Massachusetts in May. Eleven Com. Black-headed Gulls were reported in New England, including an adult through May at N. Monomoy, Mass., where a pair nested in 1984. The only Mew Gulls were the wintering adult that departed St. John's, Nfld., Mar. 17 and another adult May 11; both were identified as *canus*, the European race, by the wing-tip pattern (BM). A total of 11 Lesser Black-backed Gulls was seen: five in Massachusetts, two in New Brunswick, one in Nova Scotia, and three in Newfoundland, the Nova Scotia bird having completed its 17th consecutive winter at Digby Harbour! Unusually heavy ice conditions concentrated a record 850 Glaucous Gulls at St. John's, Nfld., Mar. 23 (BM). A herring dump at Jonesport, Me., attracted 12,000 Herring Gulls and 3000 Great Black-backed Gulls Mar. 8 (CD). Some 25,000 Black-legged Kittiwakes (60% first-winter) were feeding with N. Fulmars off Cape Spear, Nfld., Apr. 11 (BM). The always-exciting Sabine's Gull was seen in Bonavista Bay, Nfld., May 24 (RB). The much-looked-at Ivory Gull on Monhegan I., Me., finally departed Mar. 4.

Two Caspian Terns at Concord, Mass., May 6 made a very rare inland occurrence for the state (RAF). In Newfoundland, where the species is known to breed on the coast, there were 4 sightings of pairs at inland lakes, adding fuel to the idea that they nest inland as well (BM). The only Royal Tern was one at Watch Hill, R.I. (*vide* DLE). At the n. edge of their breeding range, Roseate Terns found in Nova Scotia were three May 17 at Cape Sable I. and 10–20 May 18 at Northern Twin I. (*vide* RB). Virtually unknown in the Region before early May, Least Terns were recorded twice in March at Coast Guard Beach on Cape Cod, Mass.: three Mar. 8 (Barbara Zamora, *vide* BN) and two Mar. 16 (Laurie MacIvor, *vide* BN). A May 2 Black Skimmer at Wellfleet, Mass., was possibly record-early for the state (R. Prescott, *vide* BN). A pair of skimmers was suspected to be nesting at Norwalk, Conn. (FM).

Seemingly late were seven Dovekies, three Com. Murres, and five Thick-billed Murres on George's Bank Apr. 26 (SD). A total of 45 Atlantic Puffins was counted on George's Bank Apr. 23–May 5 (SD).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Mourning Doves are slowly increasing as breeders in Atlantic Canada. Twelve on the Grand Manan, N.B., Breeding Bird Survey were up from none in 1973 (BD). Cuckoos were reported as scarce, but many do not arrive until June, after the reporting period.

After a winter invasion of Snowy Owls there was an unusual number of late spring sightings. Latest records were of one Apr. 21–26 at N. Monomoy, Mass. (R. Humphrey), one Apr. 5–19 at Bangor, Me. (*vide* WT), five May 5 and two May 20 at S.P.M. (RE), one May 31 at Cape Race, Nfld. (BM), and last but not least one June 1–3 at Halifax, N.S., seen clutching a snake(!) (*vide* IAM). The Boreal Owl invasion in s.e. Newfoundland continued into March and early April with four confirmed and five probables (*vide* BM). A N. Saw-whet Owl was calling at Naugatuck State Forest, Conn., on the suggestively late date of May 17 (*vide* FM).

No Chuck-will's-widows were reported. Red-headed Woodpeckers at the n. edge of their breeding range were five in Maine and one May 17–31 at Scotch Ridge, N.B. (BD). Extra-limital Red-bellied Woodpeckers were a wintering individual present until Mar. 16 at Machias, Me. (*vide* WT) and a female at Pubnico, N.S., May 9 (*vide* IAM).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES — Six Acadian Flycatchers were reported from e. Massachusetts. In Maine one was banded on Appledore I., May 25 (DWH) and two were at Bethel May 30 (PR). An annual vagrant to the s. one-half of the Region, the season's only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was to the north at Saint John, N.B., May 15 (*vide* BD).

Up to six Fish Crows were at Provincetown, Cape Cod, in early May, an area inexplicably ignored by the species in the past (BN). A pair of Com. Ravens was thought to be nesting at Westford, Conn. (LB). Both Sedge Wren sightings were from w. Massachusetts: singles May 16 at Chicopee (S. Johnson) and May 15 at Amherst (E. Marcum). Contrary to expectations following the severe winter, Carolina Wrens continued to be found in good numbers, in Massachusetts at least (BN). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were in their lowest numbers on Cape Cod, Mass., in at least a decade, and only one reached Atlantic Canada; they received little comment from elsewhere in the Region.

Eastern Bluebird reports were too numerous to list in e. Maine (WT), and 4 pairs at Pennfield Ridge, N.B., May 16 was good news (BD). **Townsend's Solitaires** on the move were one Mar. 19–22 on Sable I., N.S. (Zoe Lucas) and one Mar. 5 at Waldo Mt., Me. (*vide* WT). An overwintering Varied Thrush at Port Clyde, Me., departed in mid-April (M. Plymire). A N. Mockingbird at Cow Head, Nfld., May 25 was well beyond the usual breeding range (*vide* BMy). The species was widespread in s. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia where small numbers now regularly breed.

Large numbers of Bohemian Waxwings from the winter season lingered into early spring. There were several flocks of 10–60 in Maine during March, with a very large flock of 600 at Bangor Mar. 23 (M. Lucey). In Nova Scotia flocks of 50–200 were noted at 6 locations in March. The latest report for the season was of 200 Apr. 12 at Dartmouth, N.S. (*vide* JSC). Thirty-eight Mar. 20 at Adams, Mass., furnished the only sighting s. of Maine (R. Rancatti). Remnants of the good winter for N. Shrike were the 15 reports from Maine and 10 from Nova Scotia in March and early April. There were no reports of the now very rare Loggerhead Shrike.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A singing White-eyed Vireo at Grand Manan I., N.B., May 22–25 provided one of the few spring records for Atlantic Canada (ST *et al.*). Not as far off range was a Yellow-throated Vireo at the same location May 21 (*vide* BD). An extraordinarily early spring overshoot Red-eyed Vireo was found Apr. 14 at Swan Pt., R.I. (*vide* DLE).

Warblers were a week late in arriving in any numbers in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Good warbler waves were noted in Massachusetts May 17 and May 23–26. The only species reported in a high number was Magnolia Warbler, with 25–50 on several days starting May 17 in e. Massachusetts (RAF). North of the known breeding range were Blue-winged Warblers at Steep Falls, Me., May 23 and Gouldsboro, Me. (*vide* WT). More unusual were single Golden-winged Warblers May 24 at Monhegan I., Me. (W. Howes), and May 30 at W. Went-

worth, N.S. (*vide* DAC) The only Orange-crowned Warbler was seen May 9 at Petit Manan, Me. (*vide* WT) A total of six Yellow-throated Warblers was about average: four in Connecticut, one May 17 at Marblehead, Mass. (RAF), and one May 2 at Mt. Desert I., Me. (KJ). There were three Cerulean Warblers in Rhode Island and two in Massachusetts. "Southern" warblers from s. New England were two Prothonotary, six Hooded, and 11 Kentucky. A Kentucky Warbler was far n. at Petit Manan, Me., May 24 (*vide* WT), as was a Louisiana Waterthrush at Appledore I., Me., May 26 (DWH). Sixty-two singing ♂ Pine Warblers Apr. 15 at Miles Standish State Forest, Mass., made an impressive total (SD).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — Seven Summer Tanagers from Rhode Island to Nova Scotia made the lowest total in years. A total of seven Blue Grosbeaks (one in Rhode Island, two in Massachusetts, one in Maine, and three in Nova Scotia) was also low. In tune with the two previous species there were only six April reports of Indigo Buntings Region-wide. Rare as spring migrants in the Region, single Dickcissels were at Chatham, Mass., in May (W. Harrington) and on Monhegan I., Me., May 29 (PDV *et al.*). Average for spring were three Clay-colored Sparrows: one May 29 at Cheshire, Mass. (R. Rancatti), one singing, May 13–14 at Steep Falls, Me. (P. Jahn), and one May 31 at Pubnico Pt., N.S., for the 5th provincial spring record (*vide* DAC). A Lark Sparrow May 3 in Provincetown, Mass., was a good spring find (*vide* BN). No details were received on suspected "Ipswich" Savannah Sparrows breeding on Crow I., off Great Cranberry, Me. Three Seaside Sparrows May 22 at Scarborough Marsh, Me., furnished the first local spring record of more than one individual, raising possibilities of a northward breeding range extension (PDV). The sparrow with the most erratic migration through the Region, White-crowned Sparrow, appeared to have a "fairly good flight" through Massachusetts and Nova Scotia. An individual on Seal I., N.S., May 25–29 lacked the black line between the eye and the bill, and appeared to be of the more w. subspecies *Z. l. gambelii* (IAM).

Two unconfirmed Yellow-headed Blackbirds from Maine were the only reports. Four Boat-tailed Grackles returned Apr. 11 to Quonochontaug, R.I., where the first Regional breeding may happen soon (*vide* DLE). Beyond the present breeding range, up to six Orchard Orioles were on Grand Manan I., N.B., in late May (*vide* BD). Another was at Pubnico, N.S., May

21 (J. Kearney) A nest at Portland, Me., in June was thought to establish the 2nd state breeding record (*vide* WT)

Pine Siskins were the finches of the spring, common and widespread from Connecticut to Newfoundland. They were most numerous at feeders in April and May, with many juveniles noted in May as far s. as Connecticut and Massachusetts, strongly suggesting local nesting. Common Redpolls were abundant in Maine and Nova Scotia with flocks in the hundreds, a few lingering into late April. House Finches have not been in a rush to colonize Atlantic Canada since the first record back in 1978. Five in extreme s. New Brunswick at St. Stephen were perhaps the start of something. No House Finches were reported in Nova Scotia. Evening Grosbeaks were present in moderate numbers throughout the Region in April and May. A suspected nesting occurred in Connecticut, where it is a rare breeder (FM).

For reasons unknown, spring is the season for reports of Eurasian finches. It has been traditional to think of Eur. Goldfinches as escaped cage birds. There was a high of three seen this spring: one Apr. 18–22 at Port Mouton, N.S. (*vide* DAC), one May 2 at Westport, Conn. (*vide* FM), and one May 14 on Grand Manan I., N.B. (*vide* BD). Rarely reported in North America and perhaps a more likely candidate for a true vagrant was a Com. Chaffinch at R. Walker's feeder at Alma, N.B., in early April.

UNCONFIRMED REPORTS — A Greater Golden-Plover at Monomoy, Mass., May 31 lacked convincing details. A dark-phase Swainson's Hawk May 4 from Gray Meadows, Me., was accompanied by very suggestive but brief details. A "bright male" Painted Bunting May 24 at a feeder in Halifax, N.S., was unfortunately unaccompanied by any details.

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QUEBEC REGION

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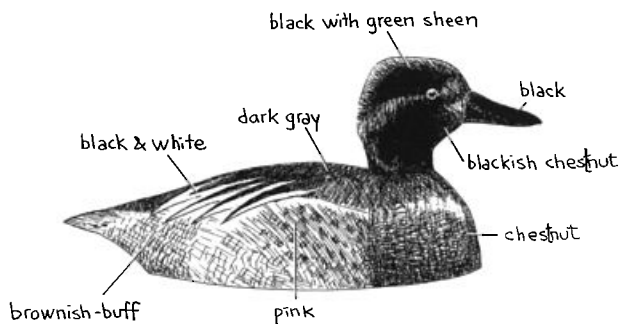
The mild, dry weather of the past winter extended through March and April across most of the province. Several early arrival records were broken as a result. May was more variable, averaging warmer than usual in the south and cooler in the north. Total precipitation was again less than normal but several violent thunderstorms hit southern Quebec during the last few days of the month.

BITTERNS THROUGH WATERFOWL — A Least Bittern discovered in the Cacouna marshes May 29 (JPO, MLf) was n. e. of its normal range and represented only the 2nd sighting of the species in this area. Southern waders overflowed into the Region in moderate numbers. During the period May 9–14, single Great Egrets reached 6 locations along the Lower St. Lawrence R. and Gaspé Peninsula. Also in May, lone Snowy

Egrets ranged to L'Islet-sur-Mer (AD, GBo), Bergeronnes (*vide* GCy), Rimouski (RP), and Sept-Iles (BD *et al.*), while two to three encountered near Sherbrooke (FS *et al.*) were much closer to recent breeding sites in the United States section of L. Champlain. Five Cattle Egret sightings were restricted to locales s.w. of Quebec City, suggesting a migration route different from that employed by the Great Egrets. Four Glossy Ibises were found at Sainte-Foy May 5 (JPO, MLf) and the same observers saw one at Cacouna May 12.

A Mute Swan that appeared with Canada Geese at Saint-Barthélemy Apr. 4–12 (MBL, v.o.) may have originated from established feral populations in nearby states and provinces. Greater White-fronted Geese, now regular vagrants, included three birds of the Greenland race at Sainte-Barbe Mar. 29 (GDU, FB) and one each at Baie-du-Febvre Apr. 12–26 (PPa, CD) and Pointe-Lebel May 8 (GCy); the race of one at Rimouski Mar 31 (GG) and another at Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré Apr. 22 (JMC)

was not determined. With the rapid growth of Snow Goose populations, previously marginal staging areas are becoming more heavily used; a record high total of 56,000± geese was censused at Baie-du-Febvre (fide Dja), while 10 at Kiamika Mar. 27 (EB et al.) were locally rare. A small Canada Goose of the race *hutchinsii* was noted at Cacouna Apr. 19 (MGo et al.) and nearby Trois-Pistoles May 7 (JPO, MLf). A Wood Duck on the North Shore, at Hauterive May 23 (MC), is now an annual event, and ♂ Green-winged Teal of the Eurasian subspecies were noted at Rimouski Apr. 17–29 (RP) and Sainte-Pétronille Apr. 28 (CV). One can only speculate on the parentage of two similar (or possibly the same) hybrid teal studied at Plaisance Apr. 17 (MGa) and Cap-Tourmente Apr. 22–May 17 (MS, CG, m.ob.—see illustration). Fourteen Eur. Wigeon were more than usual; most occurred along the St. Lawrence R., where regular, but one on L. Beauchamp near Amos May 4 (AGB) and one to two at Métabetchouan May 9–14 (NT et al.) were exceptional. Up to six Canvasbacks at Portneuf Mar. 25–Apr. 14 (CM) were e. of their normal migration route, as were three at Saint-Gédéon Apr. 22–26 (NT, m.ob.), a male at Cacouna Apr. 4 (MLf, JPO), and a female at Sainte-Pétronille Apr. 14 (CV). The Red-head is a very local nester in s.w. Quebec; consequently, it is worth noting that up to five lingered at Saint-Gédéon May 3–31+ (CC, GSa, m.ob.). Noteworthy Ruddy Ducks included a female at Plaisance May 3 (MGo), a pair at Cacouna May 11–24 (SLm, GCh, m.ob.), and a male at Saint-Gédéon May 17–27 (GSa, CC, m.ob.).



Hybrid teal at Cap-Tourmente, Que., Apr. 25, 1987. Drawing/Michel Gosselin.

VULTURES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Turkey Vultures are venturing beyond extreme s. Quebec with increasing frequency: one reached Chicoutimi Mar. 29–Apr. 2 (JHa et al.), two passed over Saint-Fabien Apr. 17 (JPO, MLf, GP), and one each were present at La Pocatière (CA), Saint-Augustin, Portneuf Co. (JPO, MLf), Cap-Tourmente (JPO), Hébertville (CC, GSa, JI, MBd), and Pointe-au-Père (HO) in mid-May. While few reports were received from elsewhere in the province, 28 Bald Eagles made an impressive season total at Saint-Fabien (RP). Tallies of 156 Sharp-shinned and 366 Broad-winged hawks were below average for the Valleyfield hawkwatch, but record high totals were reported for Red-tailed (454) and Rough-legged (82) hawks (MM, BB). Thirty Golden Eagle sightings were more than twice the usual total for this Region.

A search of suitable woodlots uncovered a number of Wild Turkeys on territory, beginning in early April. Three males called repeatedly near Hemmingford, where one was observed displaying before three presumed females Apr. 26 (PBa). At Lacolle, three males also called and females were seen Apr. 12 (one—PBa, MGo) & 14 (two—GSe). The Com. Moorhen has reached L. Saint-Jean during 3 of the last 4 years with one at Saint-Gédéon May 21–25 (CG, MS et al.), and an Am. Coot was noteworthy at Cacouna May 11–29 (SLm, GCh). A displaced Sandhill Crane rested at Cacouna May 4 (MLf, JPO) and in w. Quebec, two paused at Val-Senneville May 2 (SG) and one at Joutel May 10 (MLb). A carefully studied Lesser Golden-Plover



(of the expected race *dominica*), rare in spring, was recorded early at Isle-Verte Apr. 4 (JPO, MLf). A breeding-plumaged **American Avocet** at Bécancour May 23–24 (CD, JP) furnished Quebec's 11th record. Earliest ever was a Solitary Sandpiper at Sainte-Sophie, Mégantic Co., Apr. 10 (MD), and vagrant Willets were seen at Plaisance May 16 (fide DD) and Barachois May 30 (PPo et al.). A Hudsonian Godwit, uncommon in spring, appeared at La Pocatière May 20 (CA) and Saint-Gédéon May 23 (CC et al.), while single Marbled Godwits were rarities at Quebec City May 10 (LM), nearby Saint-Augustin May 12 (RBa), and Saint-Fulgence May 15–16 (JI et al.). A flock containing five Ruddy Turnstones and 34 Red Knots was grounded inland at L. Poulter, Pontiac Co., May 28 (FMB) and a carefully-identified Baird's Sandpiper at Berthier-sur-Mer May 24 (JLc) added to the few spring records for this migrant. Always exciting, Ruffs made a good showing with a record-early male at Saint-Gédéon Apr. 13–18 (MS et al.), another male on the Sorel Is., May 9 (KT et al.), a female at Saint-Romuald-d'Étchemin May 23 (GLE, PT), and one [sex?] at Cacouna May 29 (TAR, DR, GG). Wilson's Phalaropes are now well established along the St. Lawrence R., but still noteworthy was a male on L. Saint-Jean at Métabetchouan May 14–17 (CC, GSa).

GULLS THROUGH NIGHTJARS — On May 9, two Parasitic Jaegers were record-early by one day at Rivière-Ouelle (GBo). Rarer larids involved an ad. Laughing Gull at Cacouna May 26 (GBo, LM, CV), a Com. Black-headed Gull at Baie-Comeau Apr. 13 (GCy) and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, for which there are few spring records, at Victoriaville Apr. 4 (DJu) and Montmorency Apr. 5–6 (CV). The inland breeding of Great Black-backed Gulls was confirmed with the discovery of an active nest May 22 at Bromptonville (FS, SLs), where suspected in 1986 (see AB 40:1181). An ad. Caspian Tern wandered to Saint-Gédéon May 30 (CC, GSa), where a **White-winged Tern** returned May 26–27 (CG, MS, RBd) for the 3rd consecutive year. A Black Tern at Rivière-Ouelle May 12 (SLm, GCh) was slightly e. of its normal range. A Thick-billed Murre spotted from the Matane ferry May 29 (JPO, MLf) provided an unusual spring record from the St. Lawrence Estuary. Following last winter's invasion, lone Snowy Owls lingered at Trois-Pistoles (JPO, MLf) and Rouyn (JLp) until May 29. A N. Hawk-Owl was sighted at Bic May 15 (GG, DR) and a Boreal Owl was discovered at Rimouski Apr. 4 (RP). Two Boreal Owls found on the Gaspé Pen., along Rte. 198 Apr. 16 (DS, GCa, JG) and on Mt. Albert Apr. 25 (GCa, JG), may have been nesting locally. A Whip-poor-will calling at Chandler May 27–June 4 (GBe, fide PPo) provided the first record for the Gaspé Pen. since 1923.

WRENS THROUGH FINCHES — On Apr. 3, a Carolina Wren returned to the Boucherville backyard that harbored one last fall (FB). An extralimital Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

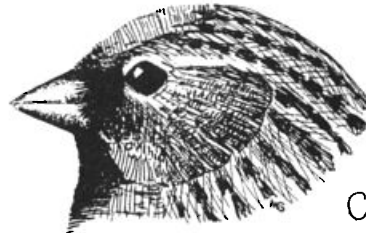
reached Sainte-Foy May 12–19 (SLv, CV, JPO), and a N. Wheatear stopped only briefly at La Baie Apr. 12 (JB). Beyond its known breeding range, a Brown Thrasher was observed at Pointe-Lebel May 29 (SM, GCy). A nesting pair of Loggerhead Shrikes was exceptional at Sainte-Croix Apr. 26 (LR). This was a disappointing spring for vagrant warblers, but a **Blue-winged Warbler** turned up at Westmount May 15 (MA, JHo, GSe) and a male returned May 20 to Fitch-Bay (FS, RS), where seen last year. Four sightings in the Quebec City area suggested that the N expansion of Golden-winged Warblers is still proceeding: a record-early male at Sainte-Pétronille Apr. 21 (RBr), a male and female at Cap-Tourmente May 16 & 22 (AG, CV), respectively, and a female at Saint-Augustin, Portneuf Co., May 20 (LM). A Pine Warbler was out-of-range at Rimouski May 15 (JRP), while six ♂ Cerulean Warblers on territory at Philipsburg May 16+ (FHi et al.) represented the largest concentration to be found in Quebec in recent years.

A ♀ **Blue Grosbeak** at Sainte-Foy May 3–6 (FHa) was about the 6th for the province and an Indigo Bunting appeared at Carleton May 17 (MP et al.), providing a rare Gaspé Pen. record. A Dark-eyed Junco of the "Oregon" type was observed at Templeton May 4 (EC). Flocks of 90 Lapland Longspurs at Quyon May 17 (JD, RBe) and 75 at Métabetchouan May 23 (CC et al.) were notable for such late dates, but truly astounding were the estimated 60,000 Snow Buntings at the latter locality Apr. 20 (CC, GSa). Occurring with increasing regularity, Yellow-headed Blackbirds (all singles) reached Val-Paradis in April (AA), Hauterive Apr. 29–May 2 (GDe, MC), and Cap-Tourmente May 15–18 (CV)—the latter two being described as immature males. Orchard Orioles may also be venturing into Quebec more frequently. Immature males at Sainte-Marthe May 18 (CS et al.), I. des Soeurs May 24 (GG et al.), and Saint-Benoît-du-Lac May 29 (HT, fide PLn) brought to 9 the number of records since 1983; by comparison, there were only 10 sightings prior to 1983.

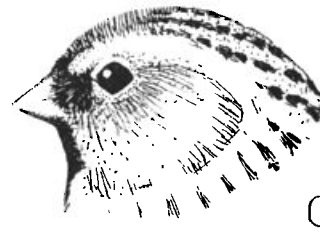
A ♂ House Finch feeding two fledglings at Hull May 31 (DSH, NG) confirmed the local nesting of this expanding species.



C. f. flammea



C. f. rostrata



C. h. exilipes

Heads of some North American redpolls. Drawing/Michel Gosselein.

S.A.

On Mar. 16–17, a large brown redpoll showed up at a Quebec City feeder; upon closer inspection, it appeared to differ in several ways from the average Com. Redpoll (DT). Its characters proved to match those of the Greater Redpoll, *C. f. rostrata*, the Baffin-Greenland subspecies of the Com. Redpoll, which is made up of larger, darker, more heavily streaked birds, and distinctly less red (which is a darker red) in their plumage (see illustration). Vigilant feeder watchers and banders should have no difficulty in identifying this redpoll, when comparison with the nominate subspecies is possible. For banders, wing measurements of more than 80 mm should indicate a Greater Redpoll (fide RMP). The breeding range of these two subspecies seems to be disjunct, and somewhat in parallel to the breeding range of the two subspecies of the Hoary Redpoll. Once considered a distinct species, the Greater Redpoll is not rare at the latitude of southern Quebec, and in some years is more common than the Hoary Redpoll (fide RMP). In contrast, the northern, nominate subspecies of the Hoary Redpoll, a huge and distinctive white bird, is a great rarity s. of the tundra at any season.

ADVENTIVES — Two Monk Parakeets were seen on I. Perrot Apr. 18 (RC et al.) and a pair apparently frequented a Laval building this spring (fide PBa). A Eur. Goldfinch brightened I. des Soeurs Mar. 16 (GLO).

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An unusual number of early arrivals and a few rarities helped to enliven what most observers felt was a generally unremarkable spring. A warm, wet March was followed by a mild, but very wet April, which seemed cooler than it really was because of the frequent rain. Temperatures in May were near normal, but precipitation was far below average. Although the vegetation was well ahead of schedule, the migration was markedly retarded, perhaps because of the frequent bad weather both here and in the south during April. A prevailing southeast to northwest wind pattern and lack of cold fronts combined to keep warbler fallout at a minimum during May.

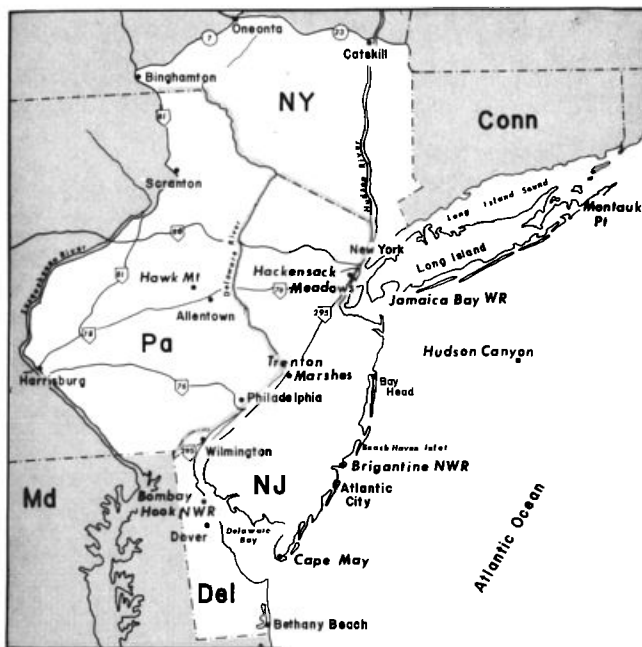
Although land-based birding was rather ordinary, several pelagic trips produced results that were nothing short of spectacular. Especially successful was the May 30 trip out of Barnegat Light, which ventured only 55 miles offshore, but encountered 5000+ *procellariidae* of six species and 23+ *stercorariinae* of three species. The highlight of the trip, however, was the pod of 100+ whales and 50+ dolphins that surrounded the boat for hours. Consisting mainly of Finback and Menke, but with a few Humpback Whales thrown in, the mass of cetaceans created a scene which, in the words of veteran pelagic birder Alan Brady, made "it look like the ocean was erupting! I've never even read of this happening since the whaling days of the 1700s."

ABBREVIATIONS — Bombay Hook = Bombay Hook Nat'l Wildlife Ref., near Smyrna, Del.; Brig = Brigantine Unit, Forsythe Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Atlantic Co., N.J.; J.B.W.R. = Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref., New York City; Little Creek = Little Creek Wildlife Area, near Dover, Del.; L.I. = Long Island, N.Y. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — As usual, there was a scattering of loons of both species along the coast through the end of the period, but five Com. Loons at Whitesbog, in the New Jersey Pine Barrens, May 31, were out of place (LL); at least two Commons lingered into June at Culvers Lake, Sussex, N.J. (FT). Following a respectable showing in early winter, Red-necked Grebes were reported in modest numbers. A few were at Montauk, L.I., in early March, but the one that spent the last one-half of the month at Central Park in New York City was the most widely seen. One was at the Bashakill, Sullivan, N.Y., Apr. 4 (S.C.A.S.), and another was at Budd Lake, Morris, N.J., the same day (CK); a flock of up to nine was at Culvers Lake, Apr. 6–13 (FT).

Dinsmore, censusing seabirds for Manomet Bird Observatory in late March–early April, found eight N. Fulmars at Hudson Canyon, ca. 100 mi off New Jersey, Apr. 2 (SD). Among the many seabirds seen on the previously-noted pelagic trip out of Barnegat Light May 31 were three Manx, five Cory's, and many Sooty and Greater shearwaters, plus two Leach's and many Wilson's storm-petrels. Additional Manx and Sooty shearwaters were noted by Dinsmore in early April.

The highlight of the spring hawk watch at Hook Mt., Rockland, N.Y., was not a raptor, but the subad. N. Gannet seen flying up the Hudson, Apr. 26 (PF *et al.*), for only the 3rd county record. Brown Pelicans began to appear in the Cape May, N.J., area in early May, harbingers of another large summer influx from Indian R. Inlet, Del., n. to Island Beach, Ocean, N.J. Great Cormorants, on the other hand, were left over from the winter, with up to 12 at Riverton, Burlington, N.J., Apr. 12, and two immatures still in Cape May, May 10 (RM).



Another modest increase in the number of reports of Am. Bittern was encouraging; most unusual was the pair that spent the day in Central Park, N.Y.C., May 6. Two to three pairs of Great Egrets were in the Rookery I., Lancaster, Pa., heronry May 11 and thereafter, for only the 3rd confirmed nesting location in the state. Two Snowy Egrets were very early at Howard Beach, Queens, N.Y., Mar. 2, while others were inland at Beltzville L., Carbon, Pa., May 2 (RW), Ravine L., Somerset (SS), and Sandyston, Sussex (JZ), both in N.J., May 13. A Little Blue Heron at J.B.W.R., Apr. 1, was unusually early, while another at Tyler Arboretum, Chester, Pa., May 13 was new for the area (AG).

WATERFOWL — Snow Geese made a good showing inland in Pennsylvania; 150 "Blue" Geese were at Green Lane Res., Montgomery, Mar. 7 (KC), while 700 were in Revere, Bucks, Mar. 25 (SF). These numbers pale beside the total of 3100 Snow Geese, including 3050 Blues, at Muddy Run, Lancaster, Mar. 4–14 (HM, RMS). A Ross' Goose was found among Snow Geese near Kitt's Hummock, Kent, Del., Mar. 22 (APE, JS), and four were there Mar. 28 (C. Perry, ph.). This was the largest number of this now-annual migrant ever recorded in the Region, and may be the highest for the East Coast. Flocks of 3500 and 5500 Brant migrating along the Hudson R. at Cornwall Bay, Orange, N.Y., May 18 were unusually large counts away from the species' coastal wintering grounds.

Five Eur. Wigeon for the spring included three at the usual spots on western L.I., one at Mannington Marsh, Salem, for the 2nd year in a row (G. Bleiweiss, m.ob.), and one at Little Creek, also for the 2nd year in a row. An impressive flock of 750 Ring-necked Ducks at Spruce Run, Hunterdon, N.J., Mar. 21 was probably the largest flock ever found in the state (RK). Lingering waterfowl included two Greater Scaup at Longport, Atlantic, N.J., into the summer (RM), two Lesser Scaup at Piermont Pier, Rockland, N.Y., through May (PDe), and a King Eider at Montauk, L.I., May 30.

Thirty-five Oldsquaws at Green Lane Res., Apr. 6 (GAF) and 17 at Beltzville L., Carbon, the next day (RW) were excellent counts for these inland Pennsylvania locations. A ♀ Hooded Merganser at Green Lane May 9 was suspiciously late, while nesting birds were found at Great Swamp N.W.R., Morris

(m ob.), and 2 Sussex, N.J., sites (JZ, Sussex Bird Club). The top concentration of Com. Mergansers (1500) was at Rockland L., Rockland, N.Y., Mar. 22 (CH), and 330 Ruddy Ducks at nearby Piermont Pier Mar. 7 made an encouraging count (CH).

VULTURES THROUGH CRANES — Black Vultures again appeared, at the n.e. limit of their range, in s.e. New York. One was in Blauvelt, Rockland, Apr. 2 (P. Harten), another e. of the Hudson at Ossining, Westchester, Apr. 23 (J. Keil), and pairs were seen on 3 dates at 3 locales in Orange in late April and May (fide JPT). A Turkey Vulture at Montauk Mar. 7 was both early and unusual.

It was an off year for kites. Just two Am. Swallow-tailed Kites were reported, one in Cape May, May 17 (fide PS) and another at Camp Arrowhead, Sussex, Del., May 24 (R. McWhorter), providing only the 5th record for that state. Up to six Mississippi Kites were in Cape May in late May, well below last year's tally, and no others were detected elsewhere. Bald Eagle numbers were again encouraging, with reports from many part of the Region. A new pair again made a preliminary attempt at nesting in Salem, N.J., and were easily seen from a nearby highway, but abandoned the effort, apparently without laying eggs.

Regularly manned hawk watches at Sandy Hook, N.J. (JBo), and at Morgan Hill, Northampton, Pa. (DD), produced totals of 6156 and 3106, respectively. As usual, these were mainly Sharp-shinned Hawks (3283) and Am. Kestrels (1124) at the former site and Broad-winged Hawks (2376) at the latter. There were about 10 reports of N. Goshawk, including 2 nesting pairs in Sussex, N.J. (JZ, RK et al.), and one in Dutchess, N.Y. (R.T.W.B.C.).

A Rough-legged Hawk in Gloucester, N.J., Apr. 12 was rather late (B. Nixdorf), while spring reports of Golden Eagle included one at Bombay Hook Mar. 23 (A. Heggarty), one at Trenton Marsh, Mercer, N.J., Apr. 7 (RJB), one at Summitville, Sullivan, N.Y., Apr. 23 (JPT), and an even later bird at Hook Mt., Apr. 30 (PF et al.). Merlins were widely reported from all parts of the Region except s.e. New York, including several from the 2nd one-half of May.

Four Black Rails were heard at Bombay Hook May 20 (APE, B. Russell, D. Shock), while others were at Turkey Pt., Cumberland, N.J., as usual (m.ob.). A King Rail found alive at 53rd St. and Third Ave. in midtown Manhattan had apparently hit a building on the morning of May 26, an unusually late date for an apparent migrant (TL). A Sandhill Crane, presumably the same one found there in January, was discovered at Mannington Marsh Mar. 11 and stayed until mid-April (JHa, m.ob.).

SHOREBIRDS — The bulk of the shorebird migration seems to have bypassed the Region, perhaps due to the lack of migrant-grounding fronts in May; numbers of the seven most



Curlew Sandpiper (with Semipalmated Sandpipers) at Port Mahon, Del., May 23, 1987. Photo/David Czaplak.

common species were down 42% from the 4-year average at J.B.W.R. (AMo), the only site with consistent annual coverage. Lesser Golden-Plovers were hard to come by, except at Bombay Hook, where there were up to 26 in April. Two Am. Avocets at Brig May 12 were the only ones detected n. of their Bombay Hook stronghold (PP).

Upland Sandpipers were at 2 traditional Salem, N.J., nesting sites in April, but were not seen thereafter; they continue at selected locations in n. New Jersey, New York, and Gilbertsville, Montgomery, Pa., the latter their only breeding site in s.e. Pennsylvania. A Hudsonian Godwit at Wildwood Apr. 30 was the only one reported this spring (J. & J. Siebert).

A W. Sandpiper at Green Lane Res., May 16, furnished an excellent spring record for inland Pennsylvania (GAF, BLM, SS), as did three White-rumped Sandpipers at Middle Creek W.M.A., Lancaster, Pa., May 14–19 (RMS et al.). Pectoral Sandpipers were inexplicably scarce this spring, especially at Pedricktown, Salem, N.J., which always has the highest concentrations in the Region, and at J.B.W.R., where there were none all season. Curlew Sandpipers, on the other hand, did much better than last year, with two in Delaware (Kitt's Hummock May 21, NH, and Bombay Hook May 23, ph. D. Czaplak, M. Todd), and five in New Jersey, including one in the Hackensack Meadowlands, Lyndhurst, May 30 (J. & B. Murray, D. Smith).

Ruffs were widely reported again this spring, especially from the traditional Pedricktown marshes, where about seven different birds were seen between Mar. 21 and late April, with a maximum one-day count of four Apr. 1 (BT, EM, m.ob.). Three others were at nearby Mannington Marsh, including one found dead May 8, and individuals were at 3 other New Jersey locations, one being a rain pool in Robbinsville, Mercer, May 13–16 (JH, m.ob.). Three different Ruffs were at Bombay Hook Apr. 11–May 1 (NH et al.), one was at Mecox, L.I., May 17 (TL, JDi, A. Shaw), and another was an excellent find at Middle Creek W.M.A., May 7 (J. Book). Fifty-three Short-billed Dowitchers at Green Lane Res. and one at Beltzville Lake May 19 were notable spring finds for these locations.

Only about 10 Wilson's Phalaropes were reported, all in New Jersey and New York, but we suspect that many observers do not bother to report this uncommon, but regular, species. Two of the four New York records were inland at Chester, Orange, May 11 (M.B.C.), and Dutchess, May 11–12 (A. Gingert, T. Strauss). A Red-necked Phalarope at Middle Creek W.M.A., May 19, was an excellent find (HM); one was at Brown's Shoals, in Delaware Bay, May 24 (BF), and at least three were seen in New Jersey in May. About 200 Red Phalaropes were at Hudson Canyon Apr. 2 (SD), but much more obliging was the individual in changing plumage that was present in the S. Cape May Meadows Apr. 23–May 29, to the joy of big day teams and casual birders alike (VE, m.ob.).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — A pelagic trip out of Montauk May 28–29, sponsored by the Okeanos Foundation, found an extraordinary four species of stercorariinae, including two S. Polar Skuas and a Long-tailed Jaeger, in addition to the expected Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers. As previously noted, the annual pelagic trip out of Barnegat Light also did well, with at least seven S. Polar Skuas.

Seven ad. Laughing Gulls at Wales, Montgomery, Pa., May 17 (AMi) were an extension of a recent trend in which large numbers of Laughing Gulls have been appearing far inland in New Jersey in spring and early summer, from Salem n. to Mercer and Monmouth, although they do not nest away from the coastal bays. Little Gull reports hit a modern low, with only a single adult at Jones Inlet, L.I., Mar. 7–Apr. 14; gone are days when one could hope to see small flocks in spring at S. Amboy or Indian R. Inlet. A Com. Black-headed Gull at the Hackensack Meadowlands, N.J., Mar. 7 (RK), another at Jones Inlet, Mar. 7–15, and a 3rd at Patchogue, L.I., Mar. 21 (J. & C. Hastings) provided the only seasonal records.

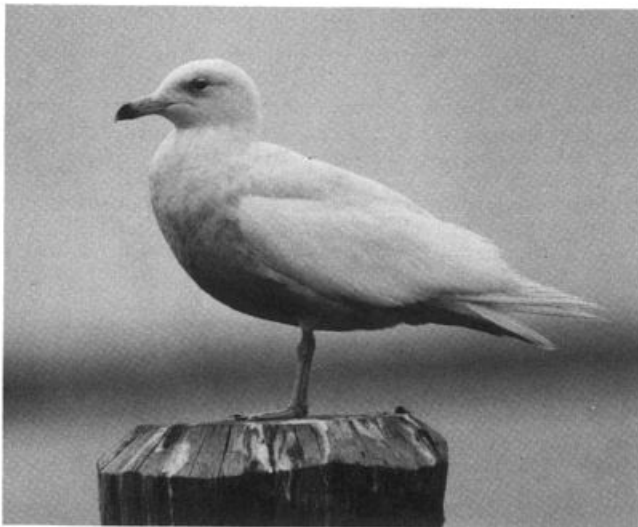
A big inland movement of Bonaparte's Gull Apr. 13 produced



South Polar Skua 68 miles e. of Barnegat, N.J., May 30, 1987. The obvious two-toned effect (uniformly dark mantle contrasting with uniformly pale head) makes it easy to identify this individual as a South Polar. Photo/Alan Brady.

flocks of 70 at Green Lane Res., 150 at Leaser L., Lehigh, and 300 at Beltzville L., all in e. Pennsylvania (RW), and 66 at Spruce Run, Hunterdon, N.J. (EP). Numerous Iceland Gulls were found in coastal New Jersey and Long Island, including a few in mid-May. The ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull at Hatfield, Montgomery, Pa., back for a 3rd year, was present to at least Mar. 30 (GLF); elsewhere, there were at least six in New Jersey and three in New York, but many go unreported.

For the 3rd spring in a row, Roseate Tern was found in Delaware, with singles at Assawoman May 9 (E & SSp) and Hellenopen May 23 (WWF). Black Terns were very scarce, with only two in coastal New Jersey and two in Lancaster, Pa.: one at the Conejohela Flats May 11 (RMS, DH), and another at Middle Creek W.M.A., May 14 (RMS et al.).



This white-winged gull at Shinnecock Inlet, Long Island, stirred some debate. The two-toned bill suggests Glaucous Gull, but the overall proportions (bill size, head shape, wing length, etc.) of the bird seemed intermediate between Glaucous and Iceland. Photo/Arthur Morris.

A pelagic trip out of Cape May Mar. 8 found numbers of alcids, including one Com. Murre, two Thick-billed Murres, 81 Razorbills, and a similar number unidentified. An Atlantic Puffin was found dead on a s. Long Island beach in late May (fide BS); there are fewer than one dozen records for New York, although the species must occur regularly far offshore.

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Sandy Hook Apr. 13 was unusually early (JBo); both cuckoos were hard to find and were apparently still near the low point in their population cycle, although some observers noted an improvement in Black-billed Cuckoo numbers. Two Snowy Owls were at Jones Beach as late as Mar. 21 (fide TWB). Long-eared Owls remained at a number of wintering locations into late March and April, including Green Lane Res. (GLF), Middle Creek W.M.A. and Muddy Run, Lancaster, Pa. (RMS), Tallman S.P., Rockland, N.Y. (PDe), and Thorofare, Gloucester, N.J. (EM), but a calling bird at Troy Meadows, Morris, N.J., May 15, was probably nesting (RK, PAB). A Short-eared Owl was migrating N at Hawk Mt., Apr. 11 (fide LG). Northern Saw-whet Owls could not be relocated at last year's sites in the Pequannock Watershed, N.J., but one flew in to a birder's whistled imitation of its call in Stokes State Forest, Sussex, N.J., May 23 (RK). More exciting still was the successful nesting of a pair of Saw-whets in a nest box in Revere, Bucks, Pa.; the four young left the box in late May (SF, ph. AB).



Family of juvenile N. Saw-whet Owls in Bucks County, Pa., May 21, 1987. Photo/Alan Brady.

A Chuck-will's-widow and a Whip-poor-will in the same binocular field was a rare sight for Central Park, N.Y.C., May 6 (TL et al.). Other Chucks were at several L.I. locations in May, and single Whip-poor-wills were at Millington and Great Swamp N.W.R., Morris, N.J., an area where they are seldom recorded. A Chimney Swift was very early at Sandy Hook Mar. 29 (JBo), as was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Howell, Monmouth, N.J., Apr. 15 (B. Knorr); another Ruby-throated came aboard a boat in Delaware Bay May 24, then departed after a few minutes' rest (BF).

A pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers was at Tobay, L.I., for several weeks in April and May (ROP), while a single was at Forest Park, Queens, May 17 (GT); the species is not known to nest on Long Island. A Pileated Woodpecker at Bombay Hook Apr. 19 provided only the 3rd record for the refuge (AH).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GNATCATCHER — An E. Kingbird was early at Sandy Hook Apr. 10 (JBo), while a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher banded at Gilgo, L.I., June 6 was a typically late migrant (ROP). Two Least Flycatchers found on the Delaware Ornithological Society Spring Roundup, May 9, were noteworthy; the species is a rare spring migrant through the state. For the same reason, six Cliff Swallows near Dover May 1 (APE) and a single on the spring roundup were significant. A Bank Swallow at Harmony, Warren, N.J., Mar. 30 was well ahead of schedule (GH, JE).

The increasing Com. Raven population continued to result in sightings away from known nesting areas; one passed the Hook Mt. hawk watch Mar. 22 for the first spring record (PF), while several individuals were at the Bashakill May 9 (M.B.C.). Two near Pottsville, Schuylkill, Pa., May 4 were closer to home (TC). A Brown-headed Nuthatch at Cape Henlopen, Del., May 9 was just n. of a known nesting spot at Henlopen Acres (J. Freiberg, W. Manning).

A Golden-crowned Kinglet singing in a mature spruce planting at Safe Harbor, Lancaster, Pa., May 14 was far from any known nesting area (fide RMS), as was another near Allentown, Lehigh, May 16 (SS, BLM), while a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher that visited a Ewing Township, Mercer, N.J., feeder for several weeks in late March and early April was a bit premature even for this normally early migrant (I. Krisanda, G. Rouba).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Among the many early migrants reported this season were a White-eyed Vireo at Easton, Northampton, Pa., Apr. 21 (AK) and a Yellow-throated Vireo at Sandy Hook Apr. 18 (JBo). Eight reports of Philadelphia Vireo were received, with dates from May 7–24; as usual none was accompanied by details, although most were by experienced, knowledgeable birders.

Except for a number of remarkably early individuals, warblers were late and scarce, although most places had one or 2 fairly good flights between May 2 & 24. A ♂ Golden-winged Warbler, with no obvious plumage aberrations was tape-recorded and photographed while singing a typical Blue-winged Warbler song at Locust Lake S.P., Schuylkill, Pa., May 28–29 (RW). Good numbers of both “Brewster’s” and “Lawrence’s” type hybrids were reported from New York and New Jersey, but especially interesting was the presence of the two hybrid forms plus both parent Golden-winged and Blue-winged warbler species in the same place at Flatbrook W.M.A., Sussex, N.J., during late May (S. Angus, JZ, FT).

Three Orange-crowned Warblers were more than is normal for spring; one was in Valley Forge, Pa., Mar. 14 (RG), another at Rifle Camp Reservation, Passaic, N.J., Apr. 14 (PBo et al.), and the last at Higbee Beach, Cape May, May 7 (RM, JDo). A N. Parula was at Allentown, Pa., Apr. 6, a record-early date for that location (C. Elwell). One of the real rarities of the season was a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** reported from Vincentown, Burlington, N.J., May 12 (K. Tischner); there are only about one dozen acceptable records for the state.

Two Black-and-white Warblers at Easton, Pa., Mar. 9 were more than a month earlier than the previous area record, while a Prothonotary Warbler at Scherman-Hoffman Sanctuary, Somerset, N.J., Apr. 12 was a couple of weeks ahead of the s. Jersey arrivals (JBU). At least five Prothonotaries were in the N.Y.C. area during May, and one at Rookery I., Lancaster, Pa., May 14 was a good find for a big day team (RMS et al.). A Worm-eating Warbler at Harvey Cedars, on Long Beach Island, Ocean, N.J., Apr. 18, was both early and unusual (J & LH).

The birding highlight of the season in the New York City area was the singing ♂ **Swainson’s Warbler** discovered by Burke in Forest Park; unlike most previous representatives of

the species, this one stayed an additional day, much to the delight of local birders (TWB, m ob) This was only about the 11th record for the state, and the first in 5 years; neighboring New Jersey has had far fewer. A Kentucky Warbler at Pawling, Dutchess, N.Y., was a bit n. of its normal range (R.T.W.B.C.)

A Connecticut Warbler, very rare in the Region in spring, was seen and heard in full song by 3 experienced observers at Wading River, L.I., on the early date of May 9 (R. Adamo, A. Baldelli, J. Clinton, Jr.). Mourning Warblers were widely reported, including one at Greenwood Cemetery, N.Y.C., May 9 and another in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, the next day (fide TWB); the Mahlers banded nine at Island Beach S.P., N.J., May 23–24 (E & GM). A possible nesting pair of Hooded Warblers at the Bashakill May 16 was at the n. limit of the species’ range in our Region (M.B.C.).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — A Summer Tanager was in Carpenter’s Woods, Philadelphia, May 10 (K. Russell), and about five were on Long Island in May; they were also back at the usual New Jersey breeding locations during the month. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at Harvey Cedars Apr. 18 & 19 were unusually early (J & LH), as were the several Blue Grosbeaks at Jones Beach, L.I., that arrived with an early flock of Indigo Buntings Apr. 19 (E. Levine, R. Sloss). Slightly earlier were Blue Grosbeaks at Port Republic, Atlantic, N.J., Apr 17 (fide PS), and Sandy Hook Apr. 18 (RK, RD, JBo).

Two Dickcissels were reported, one at Sparta, Sussex, N.J., Mar. 8 (M. Brenzel, fide JZ) and another at Freehold, Monmouth, N.J., May 12 (RD), but neither lingered. A Clay-colored Sparrow was found feeding with a flock of Savannah Sparrows at Mercer County Park, N.J., May 2 (RJB, D. Roche); another was seen the next day at Sandy Hook, making it 4 Mays in a row for the species there (JBo). Unlike in previous years, this one did not stay. Two Grasshopper Sparrows, rare in Montgomery, Pa., were at Chukker Valley Golf Course May 31 (GLF).

One to two ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbirds were in the Manington Marsh area Mar. 29–Apr. 11, and a female was there Apr. 11 (m.ob.). Three ♂ Brewer’s Blackbirds were in a field near Goshen, Orange, N.Y., Mar. 30, an area where they have been found in the past (F. & W. Abbott).

Up to five Pine Grosbeaks at Schuylkill Haven, Schuylkill, Pa., Apr. 6–14, were late in departing (TC), as were three Red Crossbills at Bearfort Waters, Passaic, N.J., Mar. 23 (RK). Many Pine Siskins were in New Jersey into late May, and one was at Jones Beach May 28; some may have nested and headed N, as has happened in other invasion years. Evening Grosbeaks were also widespread in May; this is another species that may someday stay to nest in the Region.

OBSERVERS (Subregional compilers in boldface) — **Peter Balcinski** (PBa) (coastal NJ: 511 Prospect Place, Lyndhurst, NJ 07071), Tom Bailey, Robert Barber, M.V. Barnhill, **Irving Black** (n.e. NJ Eagle Rock Village, Bldg. 26, Apt. 8B, Budd Lake, NJ 07828), **R.J. Blicharz** (n.c. NJ: 827 Pennsylvania Ave., Trenton, NJ 08638), Pete Both (PBo), Jeff Bouton (JBo), Alan Brady, Joe Broschart (JBr), P A Buckley, Joe Burgiel (JBU), **T.W. Burke** (s.e. NY: 234 Highland Ave., Rye, NY 10580), Tom Clauser, Kevin Crillen, Dave DeReamus, **Peter Derven** (PDe) (Rockland, NY: 70 Third Ave., Nyack, NY 10960), Joe DiCostanzo (JDi), Steve Dinsmore, Rich Ditch, Jim Dowdell (JDo), Peter Dunne (PDu), John Ebner, **A.P. Ednie** (New Castle and Kent, DE: 21 N. Wells Ave., Glenolden, PA 19036), Vincent Elia, Steve Farbotnick, Bill Fintel, G.A. Franchois, **W.W. Frech** (Sussex, DE: Carr. Rt. 3, Box 1144, Lewes, DE 19958), G.L. Freed, Don Freiday, Padraic French, Laurie Goodrich, Ron Grubb, Al Guarente, Jerry Haag (JHa), **Greg Hanisek** (n.w. NJ: RD 3, Box 263, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865), Chuck Harten, Dorothy Hartmann (DHm), Jeffrey Hawk (JHk), Dan Heathcote, Otto Heck, Armas Hill, Joyce & Larry Hilton, N. Holgerson, Phyllis Hurlock, Rich Kane, Dale & Kevin Karlson (D & KKa), Charlene Kelly, Arlene Koch, Don Kunkle (DKu), **Tony Leukering** (L.I. NY: American Birds, 950 Third Ave., NY, NY 10022), Len Little (LLi), Eileen & Glen Mahler, Edward Manners, Robert Maurer, E.A. Mearns Bird Club (M.B.C.), **J.K. Meritt** (s.w. NJ: 809 Saratoga Terrace, Turnersville, NJ 08012), Au-

gust Mirabella (AMi), Harold Morrin, Arthur Morris (AMo), **B.L. Morris** (e. PA: 825 Muhlenberg St., Allentown, PA 18104), Brian Moscatello, Bill & Naomi Murphy, Michael O'Brien, Ed Patten (EPa), Eleanor Pink (EPi), Peter Plage, **William Reid** (n.e. PA: 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702), John Ruscica, Keith Russell, R.M. Schutsky, Jana Skolnicki (JSk), Steve Smith (SSM), Steve Sobosinski (SSo), Esther & Stan Speck (E & SSp), Barbara Spencer, Sullivan County Audubon Society, Clay & Pat Sutton (C & PSu),

Bill Tannery, Fred Tetlow, **J.P. Tramontano** (Orange and Sullivan, NY: Orange Co. Community College, Middletown, NY 10940), Guy Tudor, Marion Van Wagner, **John Walsh** (L.I., NY: c/o American Birds), **R.T. Waterman Bird Club** (Dutchess, NY), W.J. Wayne, Rick Wiltraut, Jim Zamos.—**WILLIAM J. BOYLE, JR., 13A Kensington Rd., Chatham, NJ 07928; ROBERT O. PAXTON, 460 Riverside Dr., Apt. 72, New York, NY 10027; and DAVID A. CUTLER, 1110 Rock Creek Dr., Wyncote, PA 19095.**

MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

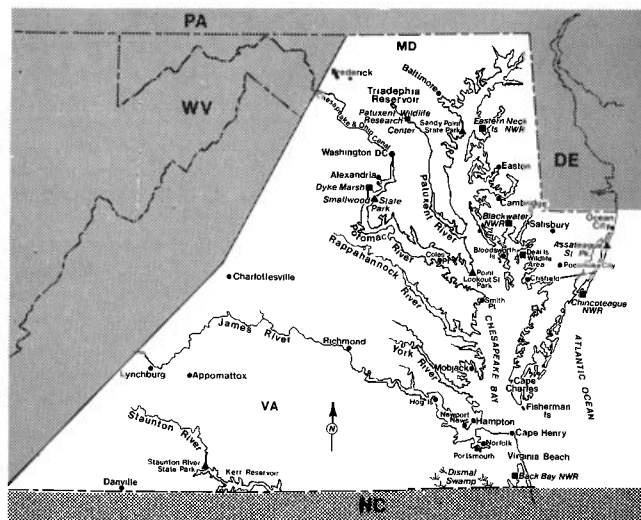
Henry T. Armistead

The most striking feature of this spring was the very poor thrush, vireo, and warbler migration, owing primarily to unfavorable winds and a lack of suitable fronts. There was a smattering of pelagic reports to add spice, somewhat better raptor reporting, and good coverage for rails, shorebirds, diving ducks, gulls, terns, pelicans, and cormorants. As usual, herons, flycatchers, and woodpeckers drew little attention here. The shorebird migration was late and more winter landbirds and finches lingered well into May than is usual. Deviation from normal of temperature: +0.73°F in March; -2.4° in April; +1.6° in May; of rain: -1.7 inches in March; +1.36 inches in April; +0.3 inches in May.

ABBREVIATIONS — Balt. = Baltimore, Md.; the Bay = Chesapeake Bay; C.B.B.T. = Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel, Va.; Chinc. = Chincoteague Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Va.; D.C. = Washington, D.C.; Hart = Hart and Miller Islands, a large dredge spoil area in the Chesapeake Bay east of Baltimore. Place names in *italics* are counties. Dates in *italics* indicate that birds were banded.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Red-throated Loon was more widely reported than usual with one inland at Kerr Res., Va., Apr. 5 in company with 25 Horned Grebes (AB), three in D.C., Apr. 25 (DC), and 65 at C.B.B.T., Mar. 14 (GLA, HTA, MDM). There were notable numbers of lingering Red-throateds, such as five in the Hampton Roads, Va., area May 2 (D & MM), one 27 mi e. of Virginia Beach May 23 (DFA, BrP, NB), two at Dameron Marsh, Northumberland, Va., May 27 and another at Watts I., Va., the same day (BP). High counts of Com. Loon were of 81 at Hart Apr. 19 (RFR, RD, PW), 54 at Ft. Smallwood Park, Anne Arundel, Md., Apr. 20 (BM), and 45 at Stevenson, Balt., Apr. 22 (BR). As many as 10 were still present May 23, seen on a trip to Norfolk Canyon off Virginia Beach (DFA et al.), and seven were at Seneca, Md., May 21 (MSG). The high Horned Grebe count was of 360 at Bellevue, Talbot, Mar. 28 (HTA, GLA), and 250 were on the Chester R., Mar. 25 (JG) with 214 at N. Beach, Calvert, Apr. 21 (JLS), these all in Maryland. Making up somewhat for these unexceptional loon and grebe counts were reports of Red-necked Grebes from 4 places, such as one at Washington's Birthplace N.M., Westmoreland, Va., Mar. 18 (HLB), and at least one Eared Grebe at N. Beach Apr. 13-May 2 (JLS, EB).

Truitt found a dead Sooty Shearwater on Cobb I., Va., May 31, and Dinsmore saw a Manx Shearwater just 3 mi e. of Ocean City, Md., Mar. 29. Off Virginia Beach May 23 were two Leach's and 139 Wilson's storm-petrels, 32 Sooty and 58 Greater shearwaters (BrP, DFA, NB), plus three imm. N. Gannets (as many as 83 gannets had been there May 3). An Am. White Pelican was at Chinc. during April (CPW et al.) but more unusual was a Maryland bird at Pt. Lookout, St. Mary's, Apr. 19 (LD, HLW).



Brown Pelicans were reported in small numbers (15 or fewer) from Virginia at Back Bay N.W.R., Fisherman's Island N.W.R., Chinc., and Wallop's I. (GTH, EMW, CPW, CRV, DFA), beginning in mid-March, but the only Maryland reports were of up to four in the Ocean City area in mid-May (MR, RW). Up to 13 Great Cormorants were at C.B.B.T., Mar. 14 (MDM, GLA, HTA), the last birds being singles at Ocean City Apr. 27 (RFR) and Hart May 17 (HK, RD); one at Chesapeake Beach, Calvert,



A wild Black-crowned Night-Heron on a nest outside the flight cage at the National Zoo, Washington, D.C., May 1987. For an account of the same species doing the same thing here many years ago, see *Wild America* by Fisher and Peterson. Photo/David Czaplak.

Md., Mar. 3 was also notable (JLS). The highest Double-crested Cormorant totals were unexceptional counts of 1070 at Chinc., Apr. 30–May 1 (CPW) and 1275 at Hampton Roads and the Nansemond R., Va., Mar. 18 (BP). An Am. Bittern at Dismal Swamp N.W.R., Va., Apr. 29 was a bit surprising (EMW) and five Least Bitterns at the Cove Pt. marshes, Calvert, Md., May 10 were nice for this relatively unexplored county (JLS). A Cattle Egret at Elm Hill M.A., Mecklenburg, Va., Apr. 25 was notable for this Piedmont area (AB). Good local counts were of 70 Black-crowned Night-Herons at Deal Island W.M.A., Md., Apr. 27 (RFR) and 15 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at Locustville, Accomack, Va., May 5 (GR). Twelve nests of Black-crowned Night-Herons were found at the National Zoo in D.C., May 9 (DC). Early Glossy Ibises were 43 at Cove Pt., Mar. 14 (JLS) and four at Bozman, Talbot, Md., Mar. 31 (EBs), while 86 made an excellent count for s. Dorchester, Md., Apr. 11 (PRS, HTA).

WATERFOWL — Major Tundra Swan flights took place in s.e. Virginia Mar. 5–7 (GMW), Kent, Md., Mar. 1 (JG), and Howard, Md., Mar. 15 (JS). At Curles Neck, Henrico, Va., three Greater White-fronted Geese were seen Mar. 3 with four there Mar. 2 (BrP, DB). Eighteen Brant at Back R., e. of Balt., May 2 were most unusual for the upper Bay (BR, *fide* JLS). Of uncertain origin was a ♂ Cinnamon Teal at Chinc., May 31–June 1 (JHB, JM). A ♂ Eur. Wigeon was at Deal Island W.M.A., Md., Mar. 8–Apr. 5 (MSG, PW), a locality favored by this species. At Patuxent W.R.C., Md., 220 Ring-necked Ducks were seen Mar. 21 (POs). The only King Eider report was of two ad. males at Fisherman's Island N.W.R., Mar. 14 (HTA, GLA, MDM), no doubt the same birds that had wintered there. Nearby at C.B.B.T., up to six Harlequin Ducks (five females, one male)



Three female Harlequin Ducks at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge/Tunnel, Va., Apr. 11, 1987. Photo/Bill Portlock.

were seen through March (m.ob.), with three still there Apr. 11 (BP, ph.). Oldsquaw massed as usual on the Bay in Maryland with 4500 near Swan Pt., Kent, Mar. 11 (JG), 3000 at Love Pt., Queen Annes, Mar. 24 (JG), 1000 at N. Beach Mar. 30 (JLS), and 6480 at the mouth of the Choptank R., Mar. 28, carefully estimated from a boat in their midst on a dead calm day (HTA, GLA). Ten Oldsquaws at D.C., Apr. 7 were also notable (DC). At Loch Raven Res., n. of Balt., 450 Red-breasted Mergansers made an exceptional number for this inland location Mar. 15 (HK). Good waterfowl counts included 6000 Ruddy Ducks and 4000 Lesser Scaups at Hart Apr. 12 (RD, HK, PW), and 1000 Ruddies were still there as late as May 2 (PW *et al.*). At Hollis Marsh in the lower Potomac R., Va., 1150 Ruddies Mar. 27 were notable for this seldom-visited location (BP). Twenty-five were still at Hart May 31 (RFR *et al.*) when a very late Green-winged Teal was also noted.

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — Ospreys arrived a few days later than their usual expected advent, which is just past mid-March, although there were at least four premature ones reported Mar. 4–8 (v.o.). There were 2 reports of Am. Swallow-tailed Kites, both lacking details, one at Williamsburg, Va., May 3 (*fide* BTa) and one a mile s. of Lily Pons, Frederick, Md., over the Monocacy R., May 17 (SS). Bald Eagle reports continue to be encouraging with several persons seeing 20 or more in one day at Blackwater N.W.R., Md., up to seven immatures and two adults at Kerr Res., Va., during March (MM, AB), and a nest on the Gunpowder R. near Balt. with two young, for the first Balt. breeding since 1935 (*fide* RFR). Three young in a nest on the lower Susquehanna R., outfitted with solar backpack radios May 31, were from the first Harford, Md., nest off of Aberdeen Proving Grounds in 30+ years (*fide* RMS, DK). In s. Dorchester, Md., 28 were seen Mar. 22 along with 19 Red-tailed Hawks and 30 N. Harriers (HTA). A N. Harrier nest with 5 eggs was found at Grand View, Hampton, Va., May 1 (BrP). An imm. N. Goshawk at Mt. Vernon, Va., Mar. 21 was well described (DFA). In the Laurel, Md., area, Red-shouldered Hawks averaged 2.2 young per nest, the best ever in a study encompassing 17 consecutive years (EM, "healthy population"). A Rough-legged Hawk at Seneca Creek S.P., Montgomery, Md., May 2 was extremely late (*fide* JLS). Stasz recorded 10 Merlins at N. Beach Mar. 23–Apr. 11. The best Merlin total at the prime hawk flyway of Ft. Smallwood Park, Md., was 11 on Apr. 26, when 294 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 105 Am. Kestrels were also seen (BM). Another good day there was Apr. 29, with 368 Sharp-shinned and 303 Broad-winged hawks and eight Merlins (BM).

A Black Rail was at Saxis, Va., May 15 (BTa, BW) and 28 were heard in the Elliott I., Md., area May 9 in company with 65 Virginia Rails (CPy, HTA, FLP *et al.*) with six Black and 54 Virginia rails and seven Com. Moorhens there May 2 (DJC, WM, HTA). An ad. King Rail with four downy young was at Huntley Meadows County P., Fairfax, Va., May 23 (EPW). Eight King Rails plus a Virginia, two Soras, and a Clapper Rail and five Least Bitterns were at Back Bay N.W.R., Va., May 2 (GTH). In Kent, Md., May 2, Parks *et al.* detected two Soras, two King, and 19 Virginia rails plus two Com. Moorhens, good totals for a county without major marshes. A Virginia Rail was heard in night migration over Rockville, Md., May 22 (MO), and a dead one May 1 furnished only the 4th record for Howard, Md. (DH). At Loch Raven Res., Balt., 490 Am. Coots were counted Mar. 20 (SWS). A Sandhill Crane at Little Bennett Regional P., Montgomery, Md., May 2 was one of the few Regional rarities this spring (ED, CP).

SHOREBIRDS — Eight bird censuses were made at Hart and Miller Is. e. of Balt., a large fill area in the Bay, with these highlights (RFR, HK, JGs, PW, RD *et al.*): two Lesser Golden-Plovers Mar 16; 300 Dunlin, 600 Semipalmated Sandpipers, and a Red-necked Phalarope May 17; 24 Whimbrels, 34 Ruddy Turnstones, 11 White-rumped Sandpipers, 66 Short-billed Dowitchers, one Wilson's Phalarope, and two Red-necked Phalaropes May 24; and an Am. Oystercatcher (first Balt. record) and a Red Knot May 31. Although it is a changeable dredge spoil area which must be visited by boat, Hart continues to be extremely productive.

Wilds continued her intensive shorebird surveys at Chinc., completing 10 surveys Mar. 23–May 29, most of these 2-day surveys as usual. Impoundments held too much water for good shorebirding and the horseshoe crab egg-laying was late, but at least conditions on the Wash Flats there were optimal. Some of her peak counts were: 1025 Sanderlings Apr. 2, a curious time for them to be in high numbers!; three Long-billed Dowitchers Apr. 16; a Lesser Golden-Plover, 121 Black-bellied Plovers, 102 Willets, and 160 Least Sandpipers Apr. 30–May 1; 968 Semipalmated Plovers, 12 Lesser Yellowlegs, 908 Short-billed Dowitchers, nine Stilt Sandpipers, 7000 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 2787 Dunlin, three Am. Avocets, and a Black-necked Stilt May 14–15; 328 Whimbrels and a Ruff May 21–



Curlew Sandpiper (with Semipalmated Plover) at Chincoteague N.W.R., Va., May 16, 1987. This was the 7th consecutive spring that Curlew Sandpiper had appeared at Chincoteague. Photo/David Czaplak.

22; and 1155 Ruddy Turnstones, 25 Greater Yellowlegs, 63 Red Knots, and 17 White-rumped Sandpipers May 28–29. A Curlew Sandpiper was there for the 7th consecutive year May 16–26. Wilds' forthcoming book on shorebirds of Chinc. is eagerly anticipated.

Farther s. on the E. Shore of Virginia, e. of Mockhorn I., these birds were seen on the vast flats at Thoms Creek Mar. 15: 50 Marbled Godwits, 90 Willets, a Red Knot, 470 W. Sandpipers, 4200 Dunlin, 40 Short-billed Dowitchers, and 260 Black-bellied Plovers, many of these probably birds which had overwintered (LH, GLA, HTA, MDM). Nearby at Smith I., Va., Portlock saw 14 Marbled Godwits and 135 Willets Apr. 22, plus 109 more Willets at Mockhorn I. A Black-bellied Plover was seen on top of an office building in Lanham, Md., May 29 (DS). Single Lesser Golden-Plovers were at Back Bay May 2 (DFA) and Hog I., Northampton, Va., May 14 (BT). A Semipalmated Plover in Rockville, Md., May 21–22 was unusual at this inland location (MO, ph.). Extraordinary was a Piping Plover at Cove Pt., Calvert, Md., May 2 (JLS, EB), and Vaughn found a flock of 25 at Wallops I., Va., Apr. 22. Wilds' Piping Plover highs at Chinc. were of 27 Apr. 2 and Apr. 9–10. Ringler found an Am. Oystercatcher with three early chicks at Ocean City May 23, and 5 pairs were at Watts I., Va., in the central Bay May 27 (BP). Stray Black-necked Stilts were at Cove Pt., Md., May 17 (JLS), and Williamsburg, Va., Apr. 27 (BTa, FD), but more expected were two at Deal I., Md., May 16 (LD, MO, PO) and two at Blackwater N.W.R., Md., late April to May 2 (HN, HTA et al.). An Am. Avocet at L. Elkhorn, Columbia, Md., was a first for Howard Mar. 15 (DH, RFR, ph.). A Willet May 30 was the 4th for D.C. (DC, ph.). Upland Sandpipers were reported only from Lucketts, Va., May 13–23 (EMW et al.) and Patuxent Naval Air Station, St. Mary's, Md., May 6 (KR). An early Pectoral Sandpiper was at Back R. Sewage Treatment Plant e. of Balt., Mar. 29 (LD). Purple Sandpipers lingered at C.B.B.T. until May 23, when there were 15 (DFA). A Stilt Sandpiper was at Transquaking R., Dorchester, Md., May 9 (FLP, CPy, JP). Single Wilson's Phalaropes were at Ocean City May 23 (RFR) and Swan Creek, Kent, Md., May 31 (JG). Three Red Phalaropes were 30 mi e. of Virginia Beach May 3 (DFA).



American Avocet at Lake Elkhorn, Columbia, Md., Mar. 15, 1987. The fairly straight bill (with relatively little upturn) marks this bird as a male. First record for Howard County. Photo/Robert P. Solem.

SKUAS THROUGH ALCIDS — A Great Skua was seen 70 mi e. of Cedar I., Va., Mar. 25 during a survey of the Manomet Bird Observatory Marine Mammal and Seabird Program (SD). At inland Kerr Res., Va., single Laughing Gulls were seen Apr. 18 and May 16, with 75 Bonaparte's Gulls there Apr. 26 and 22 Caspian Terns Apr. 25 (AB). Fifteen Laughing Gulls were at Back R., Md., e. of Balt., as early as Mar. 29 (LD). Single Little Gulls were at Calvert, Md., Apr. 13 (JLS), Back River S.T.P., Apr. 12 (HK), and Virginia Beach Apr. 4 (BrP, DFA). At inland Amherst, Va., 70 Bonaparte's Gulls were observed Apr. 17 (BrP), and 121 were at D.C., Apr. 4 (DC). Unique were singles of Iceland Gull at Ocean City Apr. 25 (RFR) and Glaucous Gull at Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, Calvert, Md., May 2 (JLS, EB). Only individual Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen, some of the less usual locations for them being Calvert, Md., Mar. 11 (JLS), Bellevue, Talbot, Md., Mar. 21 (HTA), and Bivalve, Wicomico, Md., Apr. 12 (RFR), but with other sightings in Balt. (RH, RFR), C.B.B.T. (DFA, BrP), Virginia Beach (BrP, HTA), and Hunting Creek, Va. (DFA). At inland Denton, Md.,

15 Great Black-backed Gulls were found Mar 24 (MWH) A sickly Glaucous Gull was at Chinc., Apr 23–May 1 (CPW)

The season's first Caspian Terns were two in D.C., Apr. 3 (DC), one at Lynnhaven Inlet, Va., Apr. 4 (DFA), one in Balt., Apr. 4 (DFA), and one at Patuxent Naval Air Station Apr. 6 (KR). Caspians peaked at Hart May 9 when 240 were there (RFR *et al.*), and the best day for larids there was May 31 with 7500 Ring-billed, 1000 Herring, and 200 Great Black-backed gulls, with 75 Caspian Terns still present (RFR, HK, RD *et al.*). Davidson found 67 Caspian Terns at Sandy Point S.P., Md., Apr. 15. A Gull-billed Tern at D.C., May 6 provided the 4th record for the District (DC). Among the rarer terns reported were a Roseate at Chinc., May 17 (HE) and an Arctic 25 mi e. of Virginia Beach May 3 (BrP, DFA). The only records of Black Terns were from Richmond (PB), Chinc. (CPW), and Hooper's I, Md. (HTA *et al.*) during May. At Barren I., Dorchester, Md., 30 Black Skimmer nests, all with eggs, were found May 24 (CW, GLA, HTA), this being the only locality in the Maryland part of the Bay where they have ever been found nesting. A Dovekie was seen Mar. 29, 13 mi s. of Chincoteague Shoals, and two murrelets (sp.) were 65 mi e. of Cedar I., Va., the same date (SD).

CUCKOOS THROUGH SHRIKES — Black-billed Cuckoos were slightly more common on the Coastal Plain, where they are usually rare in spring (v.o.). Two Long-eared Owls and a N. Saw-whet Owl were at the National Arboretum, D.C., Feb. 16–Mar. 14 (DC *et al.*), and another Saw-whet was at Church Hill, Queen Annes, Md., during March (JGR, BF *et al.*). Seldom-visited locations along the Rappahannock R. in tidewater Virginia yielded five Short-eared Owls at Cat Point Creek Mar. 11 and three from Tappahannock to Port Royal, Mar. 24 (BP), and a migrant was at Cove Pt., Md., Apr. 11 (JLS). Early arrivals Mar. 29 were a Whip-poor-will at Sparta, Va. (BP), and two Chimney Swifts at Richmond, Va. (PB). Three Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were reported Apr. 4 near Waverly, Va. (BrP, DFA). The only two Olive-sided Flycatchers were singles in the greater D.C. area May 16 (*vide* EMW) and May 24 (PD). A Willow Flycatcher at Tuckahoe S.P., Caroline, Md., May 24–26 may have been a late migrant (SF *et al.*). Unconfirmed reports were received for E. Kingbirds on extremely early dates such as Mar. 24 and Apr. 2 in Maryland. First arrivals of swallows included a Purple Martin at Denton, Md., Mar. 19 (NSM), a N. Rough-winged Swallow at Curles Neck, Va., Mar. 22 (PB), a Bank Swallow at Chestertown, Md., Mar. 29 (JG), and a Barn Swallow at Patuxent Naval Air Station Mar. 23 (KR). Good flights at Ft. Smallwood P., Md., were of 100 E. Kingbirds and 8200 Blue Jays May 5 (BM). Unexpected was a Com. Raven May 8 near the intersection of Rts. 30 and 301 in Caroline, Va., n. of Richmond (BP).

Extremely late were single Winter Wrens in Montgomery, Md., May 2 (*vide* JLS) and another captured near Balt., May 1 (BR). Sedge Wrens were found only during May and at Kent, Md. (JG), Calvert, Md. (JLS, EB), Back Bay N.W.R. (BrP, DFA), Chinc. (BrP *et al.*), and Saxis, Va. (DFA), only the last 2 sites representing possible breeders. This species has almost disappeared as a Regional breeder. Eastern Bluebirds still seem to be gradually increasing, especially in the Coastal Plain where only a few years ago they were almost rare. The May 2 spring bird count in Caroline, Md., recorded 146 (WR *et al.*). A female was seen carrying nesting material into a Wood Duck box May 15 at Munden Pt., Virginia Beach (GTH). Late Hermit Thrushes were at Stevenson, Md., May 10 (BR) and Adventure Sanctuary near Potomac, Md., May 9 (MD). A Gray Catbird at Stevenson May 3 had been banded Aug. 30, 1980. Late Water Pipit singles were at C.B.B.T., May 9 (EMW) and in D.C. the same date (DC). Cedar Waxwing was in fair to good numbers, with some high counts such as 409 in the Hampton Roads, Va., area May 2 (D & MM), 150 at Columbia, Md., May 21 (JF), and 147 in Westmoreland, Va., May 11 (JEJ *et al.*). Loggerhead Shrikes were seen at Nokesville, Va. (RAA), Caroline, Md. (EE, CS), Lily Pons, Md. (EMW), and Lucketts, Va. (EMW).

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES — The warbler/vireo flight as well as that of most other landbirds evoked a litany of comments such as "poor," "record low numbers of warblers," "dull as any I can remember," etc. Poor flight weather, including much NE wind, was as much to blame as anything Early even for Dismal Swamp N.W.R., Va., were eight White-eyed Vireos and a Hooded Warbler Mar. 29 (GTH). May 9 produced some good flights including two Cerulean and five Blackburnian warblers, rare on the Lower E. Shore, in Talbot, Md. (JGR), while Czaplak in D.C. recorded six Warbling and 58 Red-eyed vireos and six Blue-winged, 16 N. Parula, 10 Chestnut-sided, 20 Black-throated Blue, 12 Black-throated Green, six Blackburnian, one Mourning and six Worm-eating warblers. A "Brewster's" Warbler was seen at Great Falls, Va., May 2 (DS). Rarer warblers included a Golden-winged in Talbot May 7 (JGR), an Orange-crowned at Adventure May 2 (MD), and a Swainson's at Phoenix, Balt., May 3 into June (SWS, RFR, m.ob., ph.), for a 2nd county record, possibly the same bird seen there last year. Yellow-rumped Warblers left late in some places such as one in Talbot, Md., May 23 seen by Reese, one at Adventure May 15 (MD), and an extremely late bird, a singing male at Queenstown, Queen Annes, Md., May 31 (SR, CB). A Black-and-white Warbler at a Virginia Beach feeder Mar. 8 may have overwintered (RH). A major warbler flight also took place in Alexandria May 9 with good numbers of Tennessee, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Green, and Blackburnian warblers (DFA). Palm Warblers usually dribble through in small numbers in spring, but 40 were seen along the Potomac R. at the Fraser Reserve in Fairfax, Va., Apr. 25 (SE). A total of 51 N. Waterthrushes was captured at Adventure Apr. 23–May 27 (MD), a traditionally good area for them. Reese found an earlyish Yellow-throated Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush in Talbot, Md., Mar. 29, and Ringler had two of the latter along the Patapsco R. at the Howard/Balt. border the same day.

A ♂ Scarlet Tanager in Worcester, Md., May 2 was carefully observed while it gave a perfect combination Summer x Scarlet Tanager call note described as "picky-tuck, chip-burr," repeated several times (RFR). Twenty Scarlets were in D.C., May 9 (DC), the same date 3 active observers had their season high counts of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in Talbot, Md. (JGR), D C. (DC), and Alexandria (DFA). Indigo Buntings are normally very scarce before May but this spring there was a little incursion of them including nine males and five females at Chinc., Apr. 25 feeding in grass with Chipping Sparrows along the road shoulder (BP), one n. of Balt., Apr. 18 (RFR), one at Pt. Lookout, Md., Apr. 19 (LD, HLW), and singles at feeders in Howard, Md., Apr. 20 (MK) & 25 (GM) plus one at Adventure Apr. 28 (MD).

Single Bachman's Sparrows returned for another breeding season in Brunswick, Va., in the Lawrenceville area where they were found May 9 (AB), 11 (BrP), 16 (BTa), & 24 (AB), having been rediscovered there last summer after a Regional absence of 20± years. Henslow's Sparrows were reported only from their traditional Elliott I., Md., redoubt with six May 2 and five May 9 (GLA, JP, DJC *et al.*), their Regional status continuing to be most precarious. A count of 22 Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Cove Pt., Md., May 2 was excellent for the w. shore of the Bay (JLS, EB), and 11 were at Dameron Marsh, Northumberland, Va., May 27 (BP). In Howard, Md., a major influx of 100 Fox Sparrows took place Mar. 19–21 (JSh), encouraging for this declining species. Three Lincoln's Sparrows were at Oakton, Va., May 9 (KHW), and at Adventure six were caught Apr. 21–May 23 (including two May 19), plus a late Swamp Sparrow May 24 and a lingering White-throated Sparrow May 21 (MD). Later still were single White-throateds at Concord, Md., May 27 (CS) and Bowie May 29 (MO), and a late Dark-eyed Junco was also at Concord May 13 (CS).

Thousands of Bobolinks were in s. Frederick, Md., May 7 (LD), and 350 were in Talbot, Md., May 10 (JGR), but in many areas, especially on the Coastal Plain, they were scarce. A late Purple Finch was in Howard, Md., May 14 (JBN). House Finches continue to boom, and A. Bryan found a nest with 5 eggs at

South Hill, Mecklenburg, Va., May 23–25, which is almost in the e. North Carolina Piedmont. In the Hampton Roads, Va., area 142 were counted May 2, a record for their annual spring bird count (D & MM *et al.*). There was a little flurry of sightings of Com. Redpolls, the most remarkable being of one with 60 Am. Goldfinches in Virginia Beach Apr. 5 (GTH), but with others during March in Maryland at Caroline (CS), Balt. (SWS), and Bethesda (AH). Pine Siskins lingered again well into May with a misguided individual 30 mi e. of Virginia Beach May 3 (BrP, DFA), 110 (plus 16 Evening Grosbeaks) in Caroline, Md., May 2 (WR *et al.*), 22 (and 10 Evening Grosbeaks) in Howard, Md., May 2 (GBW *et al.*), 21 in Wicomico, Md., May 2 (CRV *et al.*), and the latest report of a single at Greensboro, Md., May 17 (MWH). A major Am. Goldfinch flight transpired May 5 at Ft. Smallwood Park, Md., with thousands of birds passing through (BM). The last Evening Grosbeak report was of two at Greensboro, Md., May 13 (BS).

OBSERVERS — D.F. Abbott, Margaret Abbott, Terry Allen, R.A. Anderson, G.L. Armistead, Chris Beaton, Paul Bedell, J.A. Bjerke, Eirik Blom (EBm), H.L. Bohn, Jon Boone (JBn), Ed Boyd, Dana Bradshaw, Ned Brinkley, Judy Bromley, Allen Bryan, Mike Bryan, J.H. Buckalew, Ernie Burns (EBs), Gladys Cole, Barry Cooper,

D.J. Cristol, David Czaplak, Lynn Davidson, Fenton Day, Edward DeMoll, Steve Dinsmore, Robert Dixon, Margaret Donald, Paul DuMont, Stephen Eccles, Howard Eliztak, Ethel Engle, Jane Farrell, **A.J. Fletcher** (Caroline, Md.), Bob Folker, Steve Ford, M.S. Garland, Jim Gossweiler (JGs), James Gruber, Alex Hammer, G.T. Harris, Ruth Harris, Dick Hegner, M.W. Hewitt, Robert Hilton (RH), Lynwood Horner, J.E. Johnson, Hank Kaestner, Dennis Kirkwood, Margie Kupiec, Harry LeGrand, Wendy Malpass, Elwood Martin, Peter Martin, M.D. McCaffery, Grazina McClure, J. E. McKernan, John McLung, Keith McMullen, Dorothy & Mike Mitchell, Myriam Moore, N.S. Morgan, Bill Murphy, Heather Nicklas, Paul Nistico, Marianna Nuttle, Michael O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, Peter Osenton (POs), F.L. Parks, Jared Parks, Brian Patteson (BrP), Elizabeth Peacock, Carl Perry (CPy), Carol Pickett, Bill Portlock, Kyle Rambo, **J.G. Reese** (Talbot, Md.), George Reiger, Mike Resch, Sue Ricciardi, **R.F. Ringler** (Maryland), Wilbur Rittenhouse, Barbara Ross, R.R. Runkles, Bill Scudder, Carol Scudder, R.M. Schutsky, Jay Sheppard (JSh), L.T. Shortt, S.W. Simon, Don Simonson, Steven Sober, **Jo Solem** (Howard, Md.), P.R. Spitzer, **J.L. Stasz** (statewide Maryland spring count of May 2), Don Stein (DSt), Brian Taber (BTa), John Tonkin, R.J. Tripician, Barry Truitt, **C.R. Vaughn** (lower E. Shore of Maryland), Pete Webb, K.H. Weber, E.P. Weigel, Ron White, H.L. Wierenga, **C.P. Wilds** (Chinc.), Bill Williams, G.M. Williamson, G.B. Wilmot, **E.M. Wilson** (greater D.C. area), Chris Witt.—**HENRY T. ARMISTEAD, 523 E. Durham St., Philadelphia, PA 19119.**

SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

March and April in the Region were very cool, and one or two snowfalls occurred in March. These months tended to be quite wet, whereas May became warm and dry. Frontal activity, cold and warm, was unfortunately infrequent in the critical late April to mid-May period of passerine migration.

The overall migration season was lackluster for passerines, again. Thrushes continued to be in very low numbers, possibly suggesting a continental decline in populations of several species, and most observers complained about low warbler numbers, as well. However, birding activity on the North Carolina Outer Banks has never been greater in the spring than in 1987, and waterbird sightings in this area salvaged the season. The rarities found at Cape Hatteras point alone could have provided one-quarter of this report! A remarkable flurry of gulls was present in March, and two first or second Regional records were made in mid-May. The Spotted Redshank started a "Patagonia Rest Stop Effect" that yielded a Pacific Loon and other rarities, not to mention valuable onshore data for pelagic species. And an interesting question developed from this field work: Why are there so many records of migrant species, such as warblers, from May 20 to early June on the Banks, when these species have essentially passed through inland areas by May 15?

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — Seldom seen in n. Georgia was a Red-throated Loon May 4 at Toccoa (RC, DF). One of the many highlights of the season at Cape Hatteras point, N.C., was a **Pacific Loon** carefully studied in the surf May 15 (MT, JF, HL, RD, LC; ph. MO). The head, in full breeding plumage, showed a very pale "dirty blonde" nape and crown, and the body—mostly in winter plumage—showed no white flank patch. Discounting an undocumented record of "Arctic Loon" previously in North Carolina, this is the first good report



of an "Arctic" for the Carolinas; Georgia has one poorly-documented sight record. One of the few records of a breeding-plumaged Red-necked Grebe for the Southeast was furnished by an individual near Corolla on the Outer Banks of North Carolina Apr. 7–8 (JF). Even more unusual was a group of three Eared Grebes Mar. 17 near Sumter, S.C. (EDa, LG); one remained to Apr. 21. Quite notable were the 100+ N. Fulmars found by Lee Mar. 7 off Oregon Inlet, N.C., although he has had 2 or 3 higher counts in spring in previous years. For comparison, three fulmars provided a fairly good count Mar. 8 farther s. off Morehead City, N.C. (HL, MT, WI). Another fulmar was caught in a balloon string and washed ashore on Portsmouth I., N.C., Apr. 26 (JR); fortunately, it was able to fly away when released from its shackles. The best Black-capped Petrel count received was of 16, off Cape Hatteras Mar. 27 (SD). Each year during the last one-half of May and early June, large

Table 1. Pelagic observations in North Carolina, Spring 1987

Species	off M.C. ¹ (HL et al.)	off M.C. (DC)	C.H. shore ² (DC)	C.H. shore (HL, RD)	C.H. shore (DC)	C.H. shore (HL, WI, DW)	C.H. shore (HL, WI, DW)	off M.C. (JN)	C.H. shore (HL, WI, DW)	C.H. shore (JF)	off M.C. (DC)
	3/8	3/23-24	5/14	5/15	5/16	5/23	5/24	5/24	5/25	5/28	5/29
Northern Fulmar	3										
Black-capped Petrel											1
Cory's Shearwater				1		2	12	5	14	8	15
Greater Shearwater							2	3		1	8
Sooty Shearwater				10	12	55	35	20	20	35	3
Manx Shearwater	1	2									
Audubon's Shearwater	7	28							1	3	3
Wilson's Storm-Petrel			8	25	8	150	75	85	50	25	465
Leach's Storm-Petrel			1								
Red-necked Phalarope				30		15		10			16
Red Phalarope	10										
Pomarine Jaeger	1							3		4	12
Parasitic Jaeger			1	3				3	1	7	19
Long-tailed Jaeger								1		12	3+
South Polar Skua								1		2	4
Skua, sp.		1									
Black-legged Kittiwake	1	1									

¹ Pelagic trip off Morehead City

² Shore of Cape Hatteras Point

numbers of northbound pelagic birds pass off our coastline. By patiently watching at Cape Hatteras, especially immediately after E winds, an observer can see over 100 birds from shore in a day. Such was the case there in late May, as consistent NE, E, and SE winds pushed the birds farther to the west. As the winds calmed and turned more southerly, the birds resumed their northward heading and "bumped" into the s. shore of the coast (see Table 1).

S.A.

A serious identification problem may be surfacing in North Carolina concerning Manx and Audubon's shearwaters. For the past 2 winters (November into March), Audubon's have been seen regularly, as well as collected, in small numbers out of both Oregon and Beaufort inlets. Formerly, only Manx was reported during this time frame. I wonder now if any of those Manxes were actually Audubon's. The problem rose to a head in late March, when one birder reported 28 Audubon's and two Manxes out of Beaufort Inlet Mar. 23-24, whereas another reported 26 Manxes and no Audubon's off Cape Hatteras Mar. 27. I suspect that many or most of those Manxes were Audubon's. Manx is still scarce enough in the Southeast that no one should assume a cold water/winter season, small, black-and-white shearwater to be of that species.

Single Am. White Pelicans were seen at Charleston, S.C., Mar. 2-16 (StC) and Hatteras Inlet, N.C., Mar. 20 (BM), both sites of frequent occurrence in recent winters. In Georgia, singles were at Ft. Pulaski N.M., Mar. 22 (RP) and inland at Macon Mar. 10-27 (TI). Great Cormorants lingered until late April at several places in s.e. North Carolina (GM, MB, JN); whereas excellent inland counts for the increasing Double-crested Cormorant were of 79 at Macon Apr. 4 (TI) and 485 at Falls L. near Durham, N.C., Apr. 17 (RD). Another exceptional count was of 25+ Anhingas in c. Halifax County, N.C., where nesting has been suspected in the past but not proven, Apr. 23 (JBE, *vide FE*). The "Patagonia Rest Stop Effect" at Cape Hatteras produced a Magnificent Frigatebird May 17 (RA *et al.*), for the only seasonal report.

WADERS — A white phase Great Blue Heron was rare and early at Jekyll I., Ga., Mar. 30-Apr. 8 (EM). The Great Egret is appearing well inland in spring more regularly each year, 10 years ago it was a rarity in the Piedmont before late June Snowy Egrets, formerly casual well inland prior to late June, appeared near Durham, N.C., Apr. 16-17 (BW, MW, JPay), at Goldsboro, N.C., May 21 (ED), and at Commerce L., Ga., May 25 (JP). Even more unusual at this season was a Tricolored Heron Apr. 16 near Greensboro, N.C. (HH, PF). Inland records of Cattle Egrets were far too numerous to cite. However, the frequent reports near the Roanoke R., N.C., in Halifax and Martin counties made Lynch believe that the birds are nesting near the river (where Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets presently nest). Cattle Egrets currently are known to nest in that state only the coast. There was just one inland record each for Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned night-herons. Glossy Ibises were encountered several times in c. North Carolina—one at Goldsboro Apr. 25 and two there May 21-22 (ED), and several in the Butner-Falls L. area Apr. 17-27 (RD *et al.*). A flamingo was in n.e. Pamlico County, N.C., Mar. 28 and Apr. 26 (PJC party). Not only must Regional Editors and state records committees struggle with whether such birds are escapees or not, but also with the nagging problem of species identification within the flamingo group.

WATERFOWL — Not often reported in spring, four Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were seen Apr. 25 in n.e. Pamlico County, N.C. (PJC, WI, MEW, SB). The best-studied **Cinnamon Teal** ever for North Carolina, and about the 5th for the state, was a breeding-plumaged male at Mackay Island N.W.R., N.C., Mar. 29-Apr. 11 (JF, RD, WI, DC *et al.*). The bird was wary and appeared to be wild, always factors to be considered in the East. Late waterfowl in Georgia included a N. Shoveler on L. Juliette, Monroe Co., May 3 (TI), a Redhead at L. Lanier Apr. 15-19 (JP), a Bufflehead at Peachtree City L., May 23-31+ (PM, TM), and a Hooded Merganser at Augusta May 29 (AW, VW). Excellent numbers of Ring-necked Ducks were present on Jordan L., N.C., this spring, with 900+ Mar. 14 (BW, MW). Several months late was a ♀ Com. Eider at Cape Hatteras May 22 (JF, SC, AB, RB). The very rare Harlequin Duck was encountered twice: a male Mar. 1 at Huntington Beach S.P., S.C. (TS) and two males Mar. 4 next to Cape Hatteras lighthouse (MaL). One of just a few breeding records of Hooded Merganser for South

Carolina was established when a female was found with a brood at Huntington Beach S.P., Mar. 22 (JH). Two Ruddy Ducks lingered at Goldsboro, N.C., through the end of the period (ED).

HAWKS THROUGH CRANES — There were 6 reports of overshooting by Am. Swallow-tailed Kites near the North Carolina coast Mar. 15–May 22. One carrying a stick May 21 near Hubert, N.C. (LC, PC), was intriguing, as the kite is not known to nest in the state. A Mississippi Kite Apr. 25 in e. Brunswick County, N.C. (KK, JN), was rare for the state's coastal region. Although one would expect the Bald Eagle to be regular along the North Carolina Outer Banks, it is actually very rare; an immature was present during the last one-half of May at several sites from Nags Head to Pea I. (HL, RD, BA). A Red-tailed Hawk of the "Kriders" type was reported at Augusta, Ga., Apr. 6 (AW, VW) for a very rare Regional sighting; and a well-described Rough-legged Hawk was practically as notable at Merchants Millpond S.P., N.C., Mar. 13 (FW). Amazingly, there were nine inland records for Merlins, eight being in North Carolina, with three seen migrating N in c. Halifax County, N.C., Apr. 26 (FE).

A Yellow Rail was flushed from a grassy swale at Huntington Beach S.P., Mar. 29 (TH, AH). A North Carolina record Big Day was highlighted by two calling Black Rails, one of which was seen, at Wanchese May 3 (DC, ML, RD, JF, ABr). The rail was found at 10:30 p.m., followed by an 11:55 p.m. King Rail, to finish at 184 species. Near the s. edge of the poorly-defined breeding range of Virginia Rail was a pair on territory May 23–29 at Topsail I., Onslow Co., N.C. (GG). A migrant Com. Moorhen was found dead in Winston-Salem, N.C., Apr. 28 (fide HHo, RS). The best Georgia flights of Sandhill Cranes occurred Mar. 1–3 (D & JD et al.); 32 on the ground in n. Laurens County, Ga., Mar. 10 were notable (TKP).

SHOREBIRDS — Disappointingly, only one inland Black-bellied Plover was reported, from Laurens County, May 24 (TKP). For the 2nd straight spring, North Carolina was lacking in Lesser Golden-Plovers, but the other 2 states had some remarkable totals. Amazing were 42 Lessers at the Dekalb Airport near Atlanta Apr. 3 (HG) and 30 Apr. 5 at Savannah N.W.R., S.C. (DS); notable also were eight at Macon, Ga., Apr. 11 (TI) and five near Landrum, S.C., Apr. 4 (ST), in addition to 3 other reports. On the North Carolina Outer Banks, shorebirding was as exciting as it has been in many a spring, featuring up to 16 Black-necked Stilts May 13–31+ out of habitat at Cape Hatteras point (SC et al.) and a good total of 110 Am. Avocets at Pea I., Mar. 22 (JN, GM). The highlight of the season was the **Spotted Redshank** in partial breeding plumage found by Cooper at a pool at Cape Hatteras point May 13–17 (m.ob.; ph. MT, DC) for the first confirmed record for the Region. There is one old,

poorly-detailed record for the North Carolina coast that has not been accepted by the state bird records committee. If the redshank were not enough, at this same tiny pool May 13 were a Curlew Sandpiper and a Ruff (SC)! This trio of shorebirds led to the "Patagonia Rest Stop Effect" at the cape that produced the Pacific Loon, pelagic records, and other rarities.

Seldom seen inland in spring were two Willets in Monroe County, Ga., May 3 (T) et al.). The wintering Long-billed Curlew at Ft. Fisher, N.C., was last seen Apr. 20 (KK); and that state's 2nd spring record of **Hudsonian Godwit** was furnished by one at Bodie I., May 25 (HL, WI, DW). Dean had a good season of shorebirding at Goldsboro, finding a Sanderling May 27, a White-rumped Sandpiper May 19, a Dunlin May 21–22, and two Short-billed Dowitchers June 4. Among other notables for inland Georgia were a White-rumped Sandpiper May 3 at Clayton County (PB, PR), a Dunlin Mar. 6 in Forsyth County (JP), and a Stilt Sandpiper Apr. 12 at Pendergrass (JP, JC). The sole Wilson's Phalaropes were singles on the North Carolina coast at Eagle I., May 5 (JN) and Pea I., May 16 (MT). Possibly the earliest Red-necked Phalarope record for that state was established by two birds at Cape Hatteras point, along with a Red Phalarope, Apr. 26 (DC, JF, ML). LeGrand noted flocks of Red-neckeds flying over that cape—30 May 15, and 15 May 23. Other phalarope records of note, again all from North Carolina, were of 1000+ Reds off Oregon Inlet Mar. 7 (DL), a slightly oiled Red on the beach just s. of the Virginia border Mar. 31 (JF), and 10 unidentified phalaropes taking flight from a water treatment plant pond near Goldsboro as Dean arrived May 20.

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNs — Late May is definitely the best time of year to see jaegers and skuas in the Region (see Table 1). Most amazing were the totals noted by Fussell from shore at Cape Hatteras point May 28, with a stunning count of 12 Long-tailed Jaegers and two S. Polar Skuas. Pelagic trips off Morehead City in late May by Nance and D. Carter also yielded both species, including an apparent Regional record four skuas (see Table 1). Laughing Gull was found 6 times inland—three at Macon Apr. 4–5 (TI) and the remainder in c. North Carolina, where one Mar. 10–15 at Greensboro was notably early (HH). A **Franklin's Gull** in breeding plumage on Currituck Banks just s. of the Virginia line Apr. 13 (JF) was the 2nd in spring ever for North Carolina. Long overdue was South Carolina's first **Little Gull**, a winter-plumaged adult Mar. 15 on a pelagic trip off Charleston (MJ, SG, RC). Little Gulls became almost mundane on the Outer Banks in March, and Fussell et al. destroyed all previous record counts (high of three). Among the 20,000 Bonaparte's Gulls at Cape Hatteras, Fussell had 16 Little Gulls Mar. 10, with six still there Mar. 22 (GM, JN). Fussell also had ten between Corolla and the Virginia line Apr. 5, four at Pea I., Mar. 31, and one at the Salvo



South Polar Skua off Morehead City, N.C., May 29, 1987. Photo/Derb Carter.

campground Mar 31 A Com Black-headed Gull was at Cape Hatteras Mar 10 (JF) Fussell's scrutiny of the Cape Hatteras gull flocks yielded the state's 3rd good sight record of **Thayer's Gull**, in first-winter plumage, Mar. 1; and an ad. Thayer's/Iceland was there Mar. 3 (DC). Also at the cape were up to three Iceland Gulls Mar. 10-31 (JF, m.ob.), and another was near Corolla Apr. 1 & 3 (JF). As might be expected, Lesser Black-backed Gulls were commonplace at the cape; 12 were there Mar. 10 (JF), with one still present Apr. 26 (DC, ML, JF). The only Glaucous Gull sighting of the season was Mar. 11, where else but at the cape (JF). Two Great Black-backed Gulls were somewhat late May 2 at Jekyll I., Ga. (PS, The).

The only inland Caspian Terns outside of North Carolina were several at Rum Cr. Wildlife Management Area in c. Georgia Apr. 4 and May 3 (TJ); 20 at Jordan L. made an exceptional count Apr. 21 (RD). A few Forster's and Common terns were seen inland as usual, but not so with Black Tern, which was also very scarce on the coast and is getting rarer as a migrant each year. Again this summer, one to two Sooty Terns mingled with and harassed other terns at the nesting colony at Cape Hatteras May 17-31+ (DC, JF, SC); no evidence of breeding was found this year.

DOVES THROUGH VIREOS — Two Com. Ground-Doves were far inland near Barnesville, Ga., May 22 (TJ). Black-billed Cuckoos often slip through the Region nearly undetected. For some unknown reason, there was a flurry of sightings of migrants in e. North Carolina, mainly in late May and early June. Two were near Scotland Neck May 3 (JF *et al.*), two were in Green Swamp s. of Bolton May 13 (JN, MT, KA), and singles were heard on Breeding Bird Survey routes near Jamesville May 30 (ML, HL) and Union, Hertford Co., May 31 (ML, HL). June sightings will be included in the Summer Season report. Continuing a series of reports in recent years, a N. Saw-whet Owl was heard calling in response to a tape, and briefly glimpsed, at a site in s.e. Francis Marion N.F., S.C., May 2 (RC, StC, JH). Most of us had assumed that what few Saw-whets winter in the Region depart by March or early April; observers might try playing taped calls at suitable wintering habitat in April or early May with the faint hope of eliciting a response.

The only report of Olive-sided Flycatcher was of a singing bird observed near Zebulon, N.C., May 10 (EP, PRF). Again this spring, migrant species of *Empidonax* flycatchers essentially eluded all birders, although a Willow Flycatcher was singing at Raleigh May 16 (DM). Perhaps a first summer record of Least Flycatcher for the Region was of one singing on territory May 6 into June at Tryon, N.C., just e. of the mountains where the species regularly breeds (ST). An E. Kingbird was early in the Piedmont at Commerce L., Ga., Mar. 29 (JP), and that state had the only Gray Kingbird report—either at Jekyll I or Sea L., Apr. 17 (LT).

The 2nd breeding record of Tree Swallow in the Region occurred when a pair nested in a martin house at Clayton County Water Treatment Plant, Ga., during May (TM, PB *et al.*). A good coastal count of Bank Swallows was of 150, along with a Cliff Swallow, at Eagle I. near Wilmington Apr. 25 (JN). Fish Crows were again this spring reported from Greensboro (HH *et al.*), Gainesville, Ga. (JP, JC), and the Atlanta vicinity (TM *et al.*), all along the inland edge of the range. Breeding has not yet been confirmed at these cities. A Sedge Wren near Fayetteville, N.C., May 9 (PJC) was a good find, and 35 Water Pipits near Plymouth, N.C., May 11 (JF) made a high count for such a late date. Solitary Vireos are uncommon and somewhat poorly-known breeders in the Piedmont, and are also among the earliest nesters, as a nest was found on Kennesaw Mt., Ga., Apr. 18 (CG). Another Solitary at Poinsett S.P., S.C., in the Coastal Plain, was singing May 9 (RC). Could it be breeding at Poinsett? Surprisingly, the Warbling Vireo on territory in 1986 in far-out-of-range e. Halifax County, N.C., returned in 1987 and was found May 9 (ML, RY). Presumably migrants were individuals seen near Fayetteville May 5 (PJC) and e. Lexington County, S.C., May 7 (TH).

WARBLERS — It was another lackluster spring for warblers, which was not really surprising, as the Region lies to the e. of the heavy northbound movement of Trans-Gulf and Circum-Gulf (Texas) migrants. D. Carter had an excellent one-man total of seven Blue-winged Warblers at Raleigh Apr 30, and another was over a week early near Chapel Hill, N.C., Apr. 12 (HW). Golden-winged Warblers were encountered at least 5 times, a mediocre total, with one near Birdsville in the vicinity of Millen, Ga., Apr. 19 (DS) the most notable. Atlanta is usually the best barometer of the warbler flight because of its volume of birders and its westerly location; but how was it possible for birders there to find just one Tennessee Warbler (*fide* TM) and yet Charlotte, N.C., birders find notably more than usual (*fide* HW)? Among several reports of Tennessees was a single bird on the absurdly early date of Apr. 4, along with a Nashville, at Augusta (AW). I hope these birds were singing or were well-differentiated from Orange-crowned Warblers and other confusing species. The Outer Banks received excellent coverage not only of waterbirds but of landbird migrants this season (JF, SC *et al.*). Amazing was a **Nashville Warbler** singing and seen well at Buxton, N.C., May 16 (DC), practically unique for the coast in spring; this migrant is seldom found e of the mountains except in fall. Other notable warbler records for the Banks were provided by a Chestnut-sided at Currituck Banks May 24 (SC), five Magnolias May 20 at Currituck Banks (JF), seven sightings of 12 Blackburnians from the Virginia border to Ocracoke I., May 8-31 (JF, SC, AB), single Bay-breasteds at Currituck Banks May 20 (JF) and Ocracoke I., May 30 (JF), and a remarkable ♂ **Mourning Warbler** about 3 mi s. of the Virginia line May 20 (JF). The Mourning often goes unreported in spring and is practically unknown from the Coastal Plain at that season.

Unlike other Trans-Gulf migrants, Cerulean Warblers were more widespread than ever before. This species peaks in late April rather than early to mid-May as most warblers do. Were W winds more prevalent in late April than in May, when S and SW winds dominated? There were close to 20 Cerulean reports, several of which involved breeding birds; the only migrants in the Coastal Plain were one at Wilmington Apr 15 (GM), another at Augusta May 5 (RC), and one near Birdsville, Ga., May 4 (DS). Along the Chattahoochee R. near Atlanta was a very early N. Waterthrush Mar. 29 (A.A.S.) and the season's only Connecticut Warbler May 14 (MO). Believe it or not, I received more reports of Mourning Warblers (two) than Wilson's Warblers. Besides the Outer Banks sighting, a Mourning was seen May 9 in Cherokee County, Ga. (JB), whereas the only Wilson's was at Raleigh May 8 (HL).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — All W. Tanagers were in the Coastal Plain, yet none was at a feeder: singles Mar. 1 at Huntington Beach S.P. (BR, FC), Mar. 10 near Goldsboro (ED), and May 4 at Oriental, N.C. (DoF). Sibley located at least eight territorial ♂ Painted Buntings in the Millen, Ga., area by May 25, an excellent total away from the state's coastline and Savannah R. valley. There was no indication that any of the five Dickcissels sighted were breeding birds—Augusta Apr. 26 (CB *et al.*), near Newberry, S.C., May 2 (RC *et al.*), near Montezuma, Ga., May 3 (D & PMcC), near Birdsville, Ga., May 4 (DS), and on Currituck Banks May 8 (JF). A singing **Clay-colored Sparrow** at Birdsville Apr. 9-10 (DS) provided one of the few spring records for Georgia. A migrant Lark Sparrow was unusual at Pendergrass, Ga., Apr. 13 (JP), whereas one or two breeding birds returned by May to a traditional site at Ft Bragg, N.C. (TMe, JHC). A "quasi-new" breeding site for Henslow's Sparrows was found in the Green Swamp, Brunswick Co., N.C., where eight were singing in clear-cut pocosins May 16 (GM *et al.*). Lincoln's Sparrow was found only thrice in Georgetown County, S.C., Apr. 11 (RC, JH), at Pendergrass, Ga., Apr. 25 (JP), and at Chapel Hill May 9 (JH). Sibley found a Gambel's race White-crowned Sparrow with two nominate race birds near Birdsville Apr. 19, and late were two White-crowns at Augusta May 5 (RC, DF) and two more near Tillery,

Halifax Co., N.C., May 9 (ML, RY). A Brewer's Blackbird at Augusta Apr. 4 (AW) furnished the only seasonal report. A 2nd-year ♂ N. (Bullock's) Oriole was observed singing near Sumter, S.C., Apr. 26 (EDa, JBe) for one of the few state records; and a belated report was of a ♀ Bullock's at a Raleigh feeder Feb. 15 (JM). Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks increased in abundance in March over their winter numbers, a nearly annual phenomenon. A siskin at Saluda, N.C., May 30 (ST) was late, and a total of 100 grosbeaks at feeders in Lugoff, S.C., Apr. 4 (LG) was a good count.

OBSERVERS — Robert Ake, Bob Anderson, Keith Archibald, Atlanta Audubon Society, Sue Baker, Maurice Barnhill, Alan Barron, Rosemary Bauman, Jimmy Beatty (JBe), Clarence Belger, Patrick Brisse, Jerry Brunner, Allen Bryan (ABr), Derb Carter, J.H. Carter III, Robin Carter, Jack Carusos, Steve Compton (StC), Sam Cooper, Frances Covington, Larry Crawford, Patti Crawford, P.J.

Crutchfield, Evelyn Dabbs (EDa), Ricky Davis, Eric Dean, Steve Dinsmore, Don & Joyce Duncan, J.B. Elder, Frank Enders, Peggy Ferebee, P.R. Ford-Potter, Dennis Forsythe, Dorothy Foy (DoF), John Fussell, Hugh Garrett, Sidney Gauthreaux, Chris Geller, Lex Glover, Gilbert Grant, Ann Hankins, Tom Hankins, James Haw, Tom Heatley (The), Herb Hendrickson, Hop Hopkins (HHo), Wayne Irvin, Ty Ivey, Terry Johnson, Matt Johnstone, Kitty Kosh, Dave Lee, Harry LeGrand, Merrill Lynch, Marcia Lyons (MaL), Bruce Mack, Greg Massey, Dennie & Pam McClure (D & PMcC), Don McCullough, Terry Meyers (TMe), Emmy Minor, Peggy Moore, Terry Moore, Jim Mulholland, Jeremy Nance, Mark Oberle, John Paget, T.K. Patterson, Johnnie Payne (JPay), Eloise Potter, Raymond Powers, Paul Raney, Jay Robinson, Barbara Roth, Terence Schiefer, Dave Sibley, Ramona Snavelly, Paul Sykes, Lydia Thompson, Simon Thompson, Mike Tove, Bill Wagner, Margaret Wagner, Heathy Walker (HWa), Anne Waters, Vernon Waters, M.E. Whitfield, Haven Wiley, Floyd Williams, David Wright, Randy Yelverton. — **HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR., 331 Yadkin Drive, Raleigh, NC 27609.**

FLORIDA REGION

H. P. Langridge

Meteorologist Steve Letro stated that this April was the coldest on record for Palm Beach County. The effect on plant life was obvious even to a casual observer as gumbo limbo and mahogany trees were well over a month late in producing spring leaves. The cool April, however, did not seem to delay nesting of common birds in southern Florida, but a thirteen year study near Naples revealed that this year the majority of Brown Pelicans delayed nesting until May (*fide* THB). On both coasts clear flying weather during April and May suppressed the hopes of observers for fruitful fallouts. The exception was a cold front in early April that produced a very good fallout with excellent numbers of early migrants at Fort De Soto Park, Pinellas County, and on the Keys.

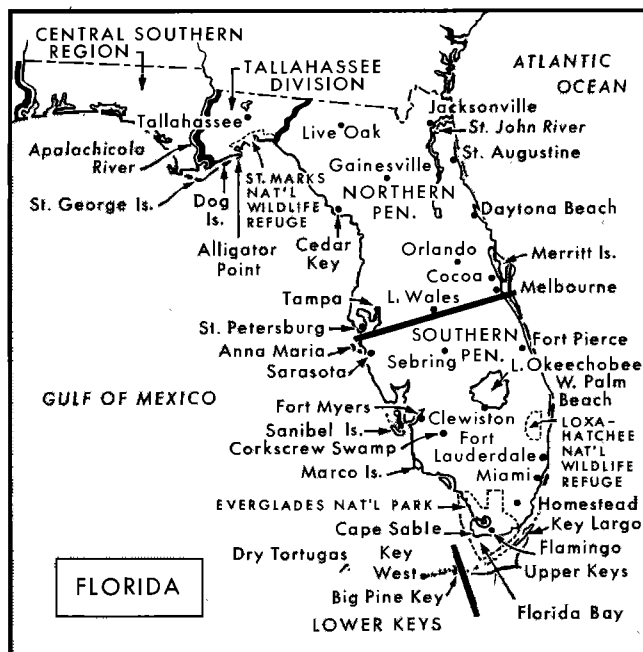
The outstanding event of the spring season was the finding of active nests of Cave Swallows south of Miami, the first nesting for the United States of the West Indian race. This nesting overshadowed the sightings of a Key West Quail-Dove, a Black-tailed Godwit, a Bahama Mockingbird, and Shiny Cowbirds.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.C. = Cape Canaveral; D.T. = Dry Tortugas; F.O.S.R.C. = Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee; B.S.P. = Hugh Taylor Birch State Park; S.T.P. = Sewage Treatment Plant.

LOONS THROUGH WADERS — After an oil spill at Jacksonville, BEAKS, an oil rescue team, treated from Feb. 28 to Mar. 19 126 loons (53 died, 54 released, 19 held), seven grebes, 84 pelicans, one cormorant, two scaup, two Hooded Mergansers, and 26 gulls (*fide* PCP). Only four Greater Shearwaters were reported 28 mi e. of C.C., Brevard Co., Apr. 20 (JJ). On May 5 (LS, m.ob.) s.w. of Key West, 185 Audubon's Shearwaters, with 50 in one flock, thrilled observers on a tour boat returning from D.T. Three early Wilson's Storm-Petrels turned up 28 mi e. of C.C., Apr. 20 (JJ). White-tailed Tropicbirds were late arriving at D.T., Mar. 30 (BJR) and visited regularly during April but only 3 times during May. The high count of Masked Boobies on Hospital Key, D.T., was of 24 birds May 4 (BBa et al.). No evidence of successful nesting was reported despite some egg laying. One of 16 wintering Am. White Pelicans, first for D.T., remained throughout the spring season. This remaining bird

even grew a fibrous breeding plate. Good numbers left from the winter season continued to catch the attention of observers with 225± tardy birds at Lake Tohopekaliga near Kissimmee, May 26 (JAR) and 70 at Merritt Island N.W.R., May 18 (RTP). A Brown Pelican, status changed the last few years from rare to uncommon inland, was at Clear Springs Mine May 2 (CLG).

A wintering Great Cormorant, uncommon on the Peninsula, intermittently visited the W. Delray S.T.P., until Mar. 18 (HPL). An Anhinga, rare on the Keys, was spotted at Key West Mar. 25 (JOn). Near D.T., May 2 an imm. Magnificent Frigatebird harassed, made contact, and drove a low-flying imm. Broad-winged Hawk into the ocean (HPL). Three attempts by the hawk to regain flight from the water failed so observers (BBr et al., ph. HPL) by boat rescued the water-soaked bird. This bird was rescued a 2nd time from the moat and finally was transported safely to Key West. In a 3-week check of roosts in





Soaked Broad-winged Hawk rescued from the ocean at Dry Tortugas, Fla., May 2, 1987. Photo/H.P. Langridge.

Tampa Bay during May, the highest count of frigatebirds was an impressive 326 (RTP)! The starving Cattle Egrets on D.T. regularly catch and swallow entire warblers, thrushes, etc., near the water fountain, but this spring one captured larger prey, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and another carried a well-developed Sooty Tern chick from Bush Key to the parade ground for consumption. After heavy rains at Wellington, Palm Beach Co., 7000± White Ibis forsook the local landfills and turned extensive fields white Mar. 7 (HPL, RP). Four Roseate Spoonbills during April (KP) at Lake Jackson provided Leon County's 2nd sighting. Although some new colonies of Wood Storks were discovered, the number of nests appeared down in the n.c. Peninsula (fide JAR). About 100 pairs nested in E.N.P., but no young were raised (WBR).

DUCKS THROUGH RAPTORS — On Mar. 24 (BJR et al.) two Fulvous Whistling-Ducks reached D.T., for only the 3rd sighting there, and one was at Key West Mar. 16 (JOn). Five at St. Marks N.W.R., May 3 (CSG) were considered rare there. The high count of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks near Sarasota was of 51 Mar. 31 (JeP), but by May 16 only eight remained, so dispersing to nest was suspected (fide LSA). A very rare ♀ **Cinnamon Teal** at Tierra Verde, Pinellas Co., was reported Apr. 10–28 (LSA, BHa, m.ob.—† and ph. to F.O.S.R.C.) and a male was reported at St. Marks N.W.R., Mar. 25 (DE, fide HMS). Unusual the last decade in Palm Beach County, two Gadwalls swam in a pond at Wellington S.T.P., Mar. 7 (HPL, RP). A Eur. Wigeon, always a good find, rested at St. Marks N.W.R., Mar. 1–14 (TWA et al.). A late ♀ Am. Wigeon lingered at Tierra Verde until Apr. 26 (AYW, PSW, LSA). At Merritt Island N.W.R., May 18 (RTP), a crippled ♂ Redhead may have been a hunting season survivor. A very late ♀ Lesser Scaup stayed at Tierra Verde until May 31 (LSA, DJD). The wintering very rare **Common Eider** loafed on Hillsboro Beach until Apr. 18 (SC, ph. HPL). An Am. Swallow-tailed Kite, unusual e. of I-95 on the lower e. coast, was reported over Lake Worth Apr. 12 (TT). No Black-shouldered Kites were found in n.w. Broward County, where they made headlines by nesting successfully last year (fide WG). March 3 (MB) on Cudjoe Key, a fledgling Bald Eagle was the only one noted on the Keys. Seldom seen in a flock in spring, 17 Broad-winged Hawks were counted over Key Largo Apr. 5 (BHo, MG). A pair of light phase Short-tailed Hawks was seen in mid-May in n. Highlands County (BM), and a single light phase bird was reported from s.e. Polk County Mar. 15 (PJF). Nesting by 3 pairs of Am. Kestrels, rare breeders in the s.c. Peninsula, was good news from Polk County May 26 (BWC).

RAILS THROUGH SKIMMERS — A Purple Gallinule was rescued from the moat at D.T., and released near Key West May 5 (BBa). Remarkably, Lesser Golden-Plovers, uncommon in spring, were found at several locations: five in Pasco County Mar. 31 (SRP, LRH), two at St. Petersburg Mar. 31 (LAH), one at Tierra Verde Apr. 1–2 (LAH, AHM, LSA), 21 in Wakulla County Apr. 2–5 (LSA et al.), five at St. Marks N.W.R., Apr. 6 (CSG), 45 in Union County Apr. 2–6 (BPM, DTF, m.ob.), one at Gainesville Apr. 6–9 (THK), and 25± near Gainesville Apr. 8 (SAN). Good numbers of Am. Oystercatchers were noted, with an impressive 123 Apr. 11–12 (RTP) in Hillsborough Bay. Six Am. Avocets in alternate plumage, first in spring for D.T., rested on the shore of Bush Key Apr. 28 (BH et al.). The highest count occurred in Hillsborough Bay with 300 Apr. 11 (RTP). Considered rare on D.T., a Whimbrel was seen Mar. 26 (DOL), Apr. 24 (HPL), and May 25 (WBR). A well-described **Black-tailed Godwit**, 2nd state sighting, turned up at Flamingo, E.N.P., in mostly basic plumage on the surprisingly late date of Apr. 30 (DFI, BBe et al.—† to F.O.S.R.C.). Very early for Palm Beach County, six Stilt Sandpipers arrived at Wellington S.T.P., Mar. 1 (BHo, GSH). On Apr. 29 (HPL, JL), a Wilson's Phalarope, furnishing the 3rd sighting for D.T., appeared alert and healthy, but was found dead the next day without legs—attacked by a barracuda? Another was seen at Homeland Phosphate Mine Apr. 24 (PJF). The only Red Phalaropes occurred 20 mi e. of C.C., with 21 Mar. 3 (JJ). A jaeger (sp.) pirated food from a Royal Tern off Boynton Beach on the early date of Mar. 7 (AYW, PSW). An imm. Great Black-backed Gull turned up again this year at D.T. for only the 2nd sighting May 19–28 (WBR). A Lesser Black-backed Gull, considered unusual for the s.w. Peninsula, visited Big Marco Pass Apr. 7 (THB). Two Gull-billed Terns, providing the 4th spring sighting for D.T., flew by the coal docks and called Apr. 28 (CC). Four Arctic Terns, only the 4th sighting by JJ off the Florida coast, approached to within 20 ft of a stationary fishing boat Apr. 20 (JJ), 28 mi e. of C.C. An ad. Bridled Tern, only the 4th for D.T., was seen on Bush Key May 25–27 (WBR et al.). The rare Black Noddy perched on the coal docks and on Bush Key at D.T., Apr. 26–May 5 (CP, HPL, m.ob., ph. FCH, TB).



A much-sought-after combination—Black Noddy and Brown Noddy—at Garden Key, Dry Tortugas, Fla., Apr. 26, 1987. In comparison to the more common Brown Noddy, the Black is smaller, slimmer, and a little darker, with a thinner bill and more contrasting white cap. Photo/Tony Beck.

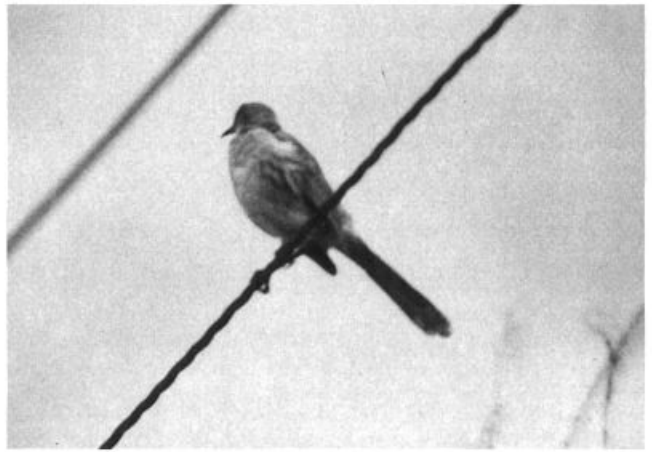
DOVES THROUGH KINGBIRDS — A Rock Dove, considered rare on D.T., was present irregularly Mar. 1–May 23 (DOL et al.). The explosive Eur. Collared-Dove pushed S from the middle Keys to Key West with 20 birds Apr. 4 (PWS, SSm), and even occurred for the first time on D.T., Mar. 29–31 (BJR), and at Ft. De Soto P., Apr. 26 (LSA et al.), although it does breed sparingly on the mainland near the latter site. Two

White-winged Doves, unusual in spring at Ft. De Soto P., were thought to be w. strays (fide LSA) Apr. 24 with one remaining until May 9 (BPr, m.ob.). For the first sighting this century on the Keys and the 5th or 6th this century for the United States, a **Key West Quail-Dove** was seen and photographed regularly on Boot Key near Marathon Mar. 21–May 31 (CW, RF, m.ob., ph. PB, GJ, HPL, LS). Rare migrants, two Black-billed Cuckoos were found at Ft. De Soto P., Apr. 4–5 (BWC, LFC, LAH, m.ob.), and one on Hypoluxo I., Palm Beach Co., Apr. 25 (TT). Yellow-billed Cuckoos came through Broward County in good numbers the last 2 weeks of April (fide WG). One of the four wintering Smooth-billed Anis, rare on D.T., fell in the channel near Bush Key, and was rescued and released Apr. 29 on the mainland (BBa). The last sighting was of two on Bush Key May 23 (WBR). A Short-eared Owl, providing the 4th spring sighting for D.T., was on Bush Key in late March (BJR), on Loggerhead Key May 4 (BK et al.), and on Long Key May 25 (WBR). Sightings of single Chimney Swifts on the Keys May 22, 27, & 30 (JOg, MBI) were way s. of their breeding range on the Peninsula. Although Chuck-will's-widow has been seen migrating far offshore before, four 22 mi e. of C.C. still must have astounded the observer Apr. 13 (JJ). Thirty Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, an impressive number, were counted at Ft. De Soto P., Apr. 4 (LAH et al.). A wintering ♀ Rufous Hummingbird, rare in Florida, lingered at Gainesville until Mar. 25 (DTF). A tardy Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was spotted on Cudjoe Key May 7 (MP, HPL). At Ft. De Soto P. in May (LSA), a Great Crested Flycatcher pair nested in the barrel of a cannon—a first? A W. Kingbird, considered rare on D.T., was located Apr. 25 (HPL et al.). A late E. Kingbird was unexpected at Ft. De Soto P., May 15 (LSA). A Gray Kingbird inland was surprising near Old Venus, Highland Co., May 2 (FEL).

SWALLOWS THROUGH WAXWINGS — Two N. Rough-winged Swallows performed courtship behavior May 30 (KC, LL) at Sanford, near Orlando, near the s. edge of the species' breeding range. Unusual near the coast in Palm Beach County, a Bank Swallow and a Cliff Swallow visited W. Delray S.T.P., Apr. 5 (HPL). The finding of nests of **Cave Swallows**, first for the United States of the West Indian race, under bridges in s. Dade County, Apr. 18–May 31 (PWS, SSm, m.ob., ph. PWS, HPL—details to be published elsewhere) was the outstanding event of the season. The discovery of these nests was surely connected to the same pattern of vagrancy that has produced regular sightings at D.T. through the years. Even this spring a single at D.T. was sighted May 3 (HPL, KK, m.ob.), but after nesting was already in progress near Miami. Stranger still was one at Ft. De Soto P., Apr. 4 (BWC, LFC, m.ob., † to F.O.S.R.C.)



Cave Swallow on a nest in s. Dade County, Fla., May 24, 1987, establishing the first breeding record for Florida. The dark buffy wash on the sides indicates that this bird is from the West Indies race, as expected, not from the expanding Texas population. Photo/P. William Smith.



Bahama Mockingbird at Islamorada, Fla., May 18, 1987. Seventh U.S. record. The black streaks on the sides and the reduced white in the tail may be discerned here. Photo/P. William Smith.

for the 2nd sighting for Pinellas County (fide LSA), far n.w. of the breeding colonies near Miami. A Blue Jay, rare on the Keys, was located on Plantation Key Apr. 15 & 26 (JOg, MBI). At St. George I., a Golden-crowned Kinglet was a month late Apr. 25 (DCB). A Hermit Thrush, providing only the 2nd spring sighting for D.T., was studied Apr. 23 (HPL). The accidental **Bahama Mockingbird** stayed only 3 days at Islamorada May 18–20 (PWS et al., ph.). The 3rd and 4th spring sightings of Brown Thrashers for D.T. were furnished by singles on Garden Key Apr. 27 (MM et al.) and Loggerhead Key Apr. 27–May 2 (HPL, KK et al.). Although scarce this winter, flocks of Cedar Waxwings finally turned up in Tampa Apr. 3–23 with one straggler May 6 (RTP), and 65± spent April at Key West (JOn).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS — The remarkable number of 125 White-eyed Vireos arrived at Ft. De Soto P., Apr. 4 (LAH et al.), and 61 were there Apr. 6 (LSA). Only one silent Black-whiskered Vireo was seen at Ft. De Soto P. this spring. Parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds was suspected for this decline (fide LSA). Twelve Blue-winged Warblers were reported this season throughout Florida, but at Sarasota an additional nine Apr. 13 (JM) were impressive! The unusual Nashville Warbler occurred on Key Largo Mar. 15 (TT, HPL), on Hypoluxo I., May 1 (GSH), and singing near Sarasota May 30 (GE). At Ft. De Soto P., 85 N. Parulas were counted Apr. 4 (LAH et al.). An early Yellow Warbler was spotted at W. Delray S.T.P., Mar. 17 (RB). An early Cape May Warbler at Gainesville was unexpected Mar. 31 (JTL). At Ft. De Soto P. at the end of this season only three Prairie Warblers were singing, whereas last year there were eleven, Cowbird parasitism was suspected (fide LSA). On Cedar Key a ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler, considered rare in spring there, visited a yard sprinkler May 2 (DTF). A ♂ Cerulean Warbler, rare in spring, was reported at St. George I., Apr. 30 (JEC). A very late Magnolia Warbler May 31 (PJF) was reported from Saddle Creek P., near Lakeland. On May 25 (BHo et al.) in Fakahatchee Strand just n. of Copeland, the singing of a Prothonotary Warbler was taped, indicating possible breeding s. of its normal range. Remarkable concentrations of Prothonotaries were of 60 at Ft. De Soto Apr. 4 (LAH et al.) and 38 there Apr. 6 (LSA), and 100+ Apr. 1–5 (MB et al.) on the Keys.

The good count of 50 Worm-eating Warblers was made on the Keys Apr. 1–5 (MB et al.). A Swainson's Warbler, rare on D.T., visited Loggerhead Key May 2 (PBM, m.ob.), while a notable six were counted on the Lower Keys Apr. 1–5 (MB et al.). In 2 hours Apr. 30, the excellent number of 109 Ovenbirds was tallied at Lake Worth and Hypoluxo I. (TT). Two Kentucky Warblers at B.S.P., May 1 (WG, GR) were unexpected on the lower e. coast. Connecticut Warblers were scarce this spring

on the lower e coast A Mourning Warbler, rare in Florida, submitted to careful note taking and drawing on Hypoluxo I., May 1–2 (PSW *et al.*). Great numbers of Hooded Warblers occurred, with 150 at Ft. De Soto P., Apr. 4 (LAH *et al.*) and 100+ on the Lower Keys Apr. 1–5 (MB *et al.*). A Wilson's Warbler, providing the 4th spring sighting for D.T., stayed May 1–5 (CR, m.ob.), and one at Ft. De Soto P., Apr. 4 (BWC, LFC, m.ob.) was rare. Yellow-breasted Chats, providing the 6th and 7th spring sightings for D.T., were spotted Apr. 20 & 26 (HPL), and the first sighting for B.S.P., Apr. 27 (WG) was unexpected.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES—Tanagers were scarce on the lower e. coast with no birds reported from Broward County (*vide* WG) and only one Summer at Hypoluxo I., Apr. 21 (TT). However, 20 Scarlet Tanagers and 10 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, good numbers, were counted on Cedar Key Apr. 18 (JTL *et al.*). The only Rose-breasted Grosbeaks on the lower e. coast were one from B.S.P., May 1 (BDe) and one from Hypoluxo I., Apr. 21 (GSH). A very rare ♀ **Black-headed Grosbeak** lingered at Ft. De Soto P., Apr. 20–28 (LSA, m.ob., ph. and † to F.O.S.R.C.). Near Belle Glade May 28 (HPL, GSH), two late ♂ Blue Grosbeaks, one singing, were near the s. edge of their breeding range, and farther n. at Sanford another male was singing May 30 (KC, LL). An Indigo Bunting was tardy on Islamorada May 23 (EF) and a male sang most of the day May 30 (GB *et al.*) near Orlando. A Chipping Sparrow provided only the 5th spring sighting on D.T., Apr. 25 (HPL *et al.*). The good number of three different Dickcissels appeared at D.T., Apr. 20–28 (HPL *et al.*, ph. FCH), and a male sang regularly Mar. 25–Apr. 20 (JOn, ph. LSA) at Key West. A Field Sparrow was singing at Archbold Biol. Station Apr. 5 (KM). Single Lark Sparrows, locally rare, visited Ft. De Soto P., Apr. 20–28 (FLS, m.ob., ph. LSA) and W. Delray S.T.P., Mar. 29–Apr. 18 (BHo). A singing Grasshopper Sparrow in Alachua County Mar. 18 (JTL) was unexpected. A Lincoln's Sparrow, rare in Florida, surprisingly turned up at Garden Key, D.T., on the very late date of May 22 (RC). A White-crowned Sparrow lingered at W. Delray S.T.P., Mar. 18–Apr. 18 (HPL). An "Oregon" type Dark-eyed Junco, very rare in Florida, stopped at Merritt Island N.W.R., May 8 (BP, JP). A ♀ Red-winged Blackbird, considered rare on D.T., was seen Apr. 29 (BBa) and May 2 (HPL *et al.*). An uncommon ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird was photographed at Davie Apr. 16 (*vide* WG), and another was reported near Payne's Prairie Mar. 26 (SAN). The "bronzed" form of the Com. Grackle, first ever for D.T., allowed careful scrutiny on Loggerhead Key May 5 (WB, HPL *et al.*). An intermediate plumaged Brown-headed Cowbird, 5th spring sighting for D.T., perched

for a 15-minute scope study Apr. 23 (HPL). Cowbirds have colonized almost all of the Peninsula, it seems, with 3 pairs and copulation observed May 31 (HPL) at Flamingo, E.N.P. A ♂ and ♀ **Shiny Cowbird**, providing the 3rd U.S. sighting, consorted with Brown-headed Cowbirds and Eur. Starlings at Flamingo, E.N.P., May 25 (PWS, SSm, ph. PWS and † to *Am. Birds*) and a male was seen there May 31 (HPL, LJ—† to F.O.S.R.C.) At the s. end of the Peninsula, the appearance of males and females of not only Brown-headed but also Shiny Cowbirds promises serious problems for Black-whiskered Vireos and Prairie Warblers. Rare on the lower e. coast in any season, a wintering Orchard Oriole remained at W. Delray S.T.P. until Apr. 12 (BHo); however, on the Gulf Coast this species is a common migrant. At Ft. De Soto P., 42 were tallied during a fallout Apr. 6 and one female lingered to a very late May 12 (LSA). At Gainesville, Pine Siskins visited various feeders through April to May 8 (JTD, PFC). American Goldfinches were banded on Casey Key for only the 2nd time in spring (AS, SS) two Apr. 8, six Apr. 11, and one Apr. 12. A ♀ Evening Grosbeak was late at Jacksonville Apr. 22–24 (HMT).

INITIALED OBSERVERS (Area and seasonal editors in boldface) — T.W. Andraea, **Brooks H. & Lyn S. Atherton**, Benton Basham (BBa), **Oron L. Bass**, Tony Beck, Bob Behrstock (BBe), **Ted H. Below**, Maryanne Biggar (MBi), Wes Biggs, Richard Bowen, Greg Bretz, Bob Brown (BBr), Marge & Page Brown, Dana C. Bryan, James E. Cavanagh, Charlie Clark, Stanley Clark, Phyllis F. Clarke, Roland Clement, Ken Clough, Byrum W. & Linda F. Cooper, Betty Dean (BDe), Jean T. Dorney, **Bill & Helen Dowling**, D. Jack Dozier, Gladys Ely, Dave Eslinger, Dorothy T. Fagan, Paul J. Fellers, Davis Finch (DFi), Roland Fisch, **Dot Freeman**, Emory Froelich, **Chuck L. Geanangel**, Wally George, C. S. Gidden, Ann & Mark Ginsberg, Franklin C. Haas, Bruce Hallett, Lise R. Hanners, Brian Hope (BHo), **Larry A. Hopkins**, Gloria S. Hunter, George Jett, **Johnnie Johnson**, Lee Johnson, Kenn Kaufman, Timothy H. Keitt, Betty Kroening, Linda La Claire, **H.P. Langridge**, Jay T. La Via, Debbie O. & Jay Liggett, **Fred E. Lohrer**, Annie H. McKelvey, Kevan McGowan, Mark Miller, Brian Millsap, Jean Moore, **Barbara P. Muschlit**, Stephen A. Nesbitt, **John Ogden** (JOG), Joe Ondrejko (JOn), Jeffrey E. Palmer (JeP), Stephen R. Patton, **Rich T. Paul**, Becky & John Payne, Richard Peek, Maurie Peterson, Kathy Pope, Charles Potter, **Peggy Powell**, Bill Pranty (BPr), Craig Roberts, Betty J. & William B. Robertson, James A. Rodgers, Gary Rosenberg, P. William Smith, Susan Smith (SSm), Annette & Stan Stedman, **Henry M. Stevenson**, Floyd L. Storms, **Karen Sunderland**, Lee Snyder, Tadziu Trotsky, Hugh M. Tyner, Carl Weekley, Ann Y. & Phil S. Weinrich.—**H. P. LANGRIDGE, 1421 W. Ocean Ave., Lantana, FL 33462.**

ONTARIO REGION

Ron D. Weir

Unseasonably warm conditions prevailed over much of Ontario during March and April, bringing many early arrivals. By April 30 in Thunder Bay alone, 30 species had arrived on record-early dates. The waterfowl flight was strong, but concentrations dwindled rapidly as ice melted quickly and the birds pushed on. Throughout the period, passerines were often first noted on their breeding grounds before being seen at the traditional migration lookouts along the lower lakes. This fact, coupled with the record-early arrivals at the breeding sites, suggested overflights in the ideal weather conditions—ideal insofar as the birds were concerned. 'Southern overshoots' were in lower numbers at Pelee, but their showing elsewhere in Ontario was about

normal. All this is not to suggest that the period was without some adverse weather. At the end of March, an intense winter storm swept across the province, grounding migrants and prompting some reverse migration. On March 31 along west Hamilton Bay for 5.5 hours, Bill Lamond watched a tremendous reverse migration involving 20,000+ birds. A spring blizzard was raging aided by strong northwest winds. His tally included 500 Killdeer, one Greater Yellowlegs, 370 Common Snipe, 10 Eastern Bluebirds, 9100 robins, 14 Water Pipits, 9000 starlings, 25 Savannah Sparrows, 27 Lapland Longspurs, 200 Snow Buntings, 600 Red-winged Blackbirds, 700 Rusty Blackbirds, 200 Common Grackles, and 100 cowbirds.

Once the 51 subregional reports were integrated, it was clear that the spring migration had been impressive. The

trend over the past several years to increased numbers of several species continued. Willet, Ruff, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and Carolina Wren are among this category. Strong flights were noted for Eared Grebe, geese, Eurasian Wigeon, and Hudsonian Godwits. However, lower numbers were recorded for Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, Red Knot, and Forster's Tern. Among the rarities were American Swallow-tailed and Mississippi kites, Snowy Plover, Curlew Sandpiper, Sage Thrasher, Kirtland's Warbler, and Cassin's Sparrow. Hybrids included a male American Wigeon x Gadwall at Hamilton March 14 (WL *et al.*) and a White-throated Sparrow x Dark-eyed Junco at Long Point April 20 (*fide* GEW). Space restrictions limit the listing of early arrivals mainly to those setting record dates.

ABBREVIATIONS — A.P.P. = Algonquin Provincial Park; Pelee = Point Pelee Nat'l Park & vicinity; P.E. Pt. = Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area & vicinity. Place names in *italics* denote counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Six Red-throated Loons made a lower number than in recent springs. Singles were at Pelee Apr. 17 and May 22 (GTH *et al.*), Long Pt., Apr. 22 (DB *et al.*), Whitby Apr. 29–May 1 (MF), Erie Beach May 4 (KJB), and Presqu'île P.P., May 11–12 (J & JT). Early Common Loons were in Hamilton Bay Mar. 24 (RD), Ottawa Apr. 11 (BMD), and A.P.P., Apr. 12 (RGT), the same day 300 appeared at P.E. Pt. (GV, RDW). Several hundred were noted migrating along L. Huron past Kettle Pt., May 1 (AHR). A lone Pied-billed Grebe at Minden Mar. 23 was early (RJP). Concentrations of Horned Grebes included 194, 120, and 76 at Pelee Apr. 11 (AW), P.E. Pt., Apr. 12, and Ottawa Apr. 23 (BMD), respectively. High counts of Red-necked Grebes were of 400, 226, and 140 at Manitoulin I., Apr. 19–21 (JCN), Ottawa Apr. 23 (BMD), and Cabot Head, Bruce, Apr. 20 (TC), respectively. The flight of Eared Grebes was among the best ever for spring, the seven birds equalling the average yearly total since 1972. Singles were in Harrow Mar. 27–Apr. 15 (AW), Long Pt., Apr. 25–26 (GEW *et al.*), Bright's Grove Apr. 25–28 (AHR, DFR *et al.*) and another May 22–23 (SAC *et al.*), Wheatley May 13–17 (DFR *et al.*), and Milverton May 17 (*fide* MPD). The only bird away from the s.w. was at the Port Perry lagoons May 24–31 (TH *et al.*). American White Pelicans *e. of range* were 13 near Kaspuskasing May 15 (HJ) and two near Clinton, Huron, May 25 (*fide* TRM). Record early Double-crested Cormorants arrived at Ottawa Mar. 26 (ME) and Manitoulin I., Apr. 11 (JCN).

Early Great Blue Herons appeared throughout the s. and one at Thunder Bay Mar. 23 was record early (BA). The flight of southern herons and egrets was mediocre. Only five Great Egrets were noted away from the traditional s.w., at Sebright, Victoria, Mar. 30 (LI), near Kingston Apr. 14 (*fide* MJE), near Ottawa May 22 (ID), and near Clinton, where two appeared May 23 (WT). Three Snowy Egrets were about average for spring and were at Cedar Springs, Kent, Apr. 29 (WH, GB), Hamilton Beach May 19–20 (RC, JO), and Pelee May 23 (LC). Single ad. Little Blue Herons were at Cloud Bay, s. of Thunder Bay, May 6–7 (IM *et al.*), Stoney Pt., May 6 (JRC *et al.*), and Ottawa May 21 (RMP). This number compares with 1.4 per spring since 1976. Only six Cattle Egrets were reported, of which two were away from the s.w. at Kingston May 1–3 (WC, TP *et al.*). Single ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were at Rondeau P.P., May 10 (AS *et al.*) and Grand Bend May 16 (SB, JS), which compares with 19 occurrences during the past 26 springs. Three Glossy Ibises were reported, equalling the post-1981 spring average. Two were at Erieau Apr. 27–29, where one remained until May 2 (WH *et al.*), and another lingered at the Townsend sewage lagoons May 2–3 (RW *et al.*).

WATERFOWL — Record-early arrivals were the five Snow Geese at Pelee Mar. 4–6 (AW *et al.*) and three at Manitoulin I., Apr. 4 (JCN), two Mallards in A.P.P., Mar. 25 (RGT), and single N. Pintail Mar. 24 (BA) and Hooded Merganser Mar. 28



(NGE *et al.*), both at Thunder Bay. Near record-early birds included Wood Duck Apr. 4 and Am. Black Duck Mar. 25 in A.P.P. (RGT), and Ring-necked Duck at Minden Mar. 14 (RJP).

A Fulvous Whistling-Duck was shot near Bainsville Oct. 10, 1986 (ph. R. Sauve, MGo), but the report was received only recently. Ontario's last record was also of a bird shot in e. Ontario, during October 1983. Peak numbers in the heavy flight of Tundra Swans were 5000 at Long Pt., Mar. 15, where one was still present in early June (L.P.B.O.), and 1500 at Pinery P.P. in March (AHR). The only birds *e. of range* were two at Presqu'île P.P., Apr. 2 (HS) and one at Englehart Apr. 17–19 (R & LB *et al.*). The three Greater White-fronted Geese, a normal number, were singles at Port Royal Mar. 15 (DSH *et al.*), near Riceville, Prescott, Apr. 2 (BMD), and Cranberry Marsh May 22 (JF, MM). Record numbers of Snow Geese were detected in e. Ontario with 62 on Wolfe I., Mar. 29 (JHE, RDW), 1000 at Riceville, Prescott, Apr. 3 (BMD, JHR), 1450 just e. of Ottawa Apr. 4 (RAB), and 170 at Carlsbad Springs Apr. 6 (BMD). A late bird tarried at Alfred May 24 (CTH). The Brant flight in e. Ontario was early by 2 weeks and peak numbers were 10,000 on Amherst I., May 12 (K.F.N.) and 1200 in Ottawa May 9 (MG *et al.*). Two early arrivals were at Moosonee Apr. 22 (AMM). Leading totals in the annual heavy flight of Canada Geese were the 100,000+ at Ottawa Mar. 26–Apr. 6 (*fide* BMD).

Impressive were the 10,000 N. Pintail grounded at Riceville Apr. 3 (BMD, JRH). One Cinnamon Teal per year has been reported in the province since 1981, and this spring's bird was a male at Thunder Bay May 4 (MZ) for that area's 2nd ever. Unusual for the location was a ♀ N. Shoveler with seven chicks just n. of Toronto along Hwy 400 May 22 (GMB). The 8 Eur. Wigeon sightings were double the spring average. A lone female was in the Smithville ponds Mar. 28–30 (RC *et al.*), and a male near Oshawa Apr. 11 was thought to have been the same individual seen at the Port Perry lagoons May 7–13 (DDC, TBet *et al.*). Other males were singles at Blenheim Apr. 18 (RC, VE), Ottawa Apr. 19 (BMD, VBL), Bright's Grove Apr. 28 (AHR), St. Clair N.W.A., Kent, May 4 (JH), and Presqu'île P.P., May 16 (BCO *et al.*). The last bird was joined by a 2nd male May 22–29 (J & JT). At Pelee, the 4800 Lesser Scaup Apr. 10 (AW) made a record count, as did the 890 Oldsquaw Apr. 11 (MEC *et al.*). The wintering ♂ King Eider at Niagara-on-the-Lake remained to Mar. 15 (GBe), but the ♂ Harlequin Duck lingered along Toronto's waterfront to mid-May (ph. GC, TS). Another ♂ Harlequin appeared at Sarnia Mar. 20 (DFR). The 90 Surf Scoters off Amherst I., May 16 were a record count (K.F.N.), and by

far the largest number reported. Ottawa's overwintering Barrow's Goldeneyes numbered four to Apr. 11 and two until Apr. 28 (BMD *et al.*). Red-breasted Mergansers totalled 16,000 at Pelee Apr. 26 (AC, NC).

VULTURES THROUGH CRANES — Early Turkey Vultures arrived at Hamilton Mar. 5 (WL), Newtonville, Durham, Mar. 8 (MJB), and Manitoulin I., Apr. 10 (JCN). The 969 tallied at the Grimsby hawk watch set a spring high (*vide* WK), peaking at 345 birds Apr. 11. At 8 p.m. the previous evening, some 500 arrived at Niagara-on-the-Lake and swarmed at treetop level searching for roosting sites, which they did find (MEF). Ontario's 9th **American Swallow-tailed Kite**, the first in 5 years, appeared at Pelee May 8 (GMB *et al.*), and the same individual or possibly another lingered at Long Pt., May 14–19 (MFu *et al.*). In the same rarity category were single **Mississippi Kites** in first-summer plumage at Pelee May 25 (MPW *et al.*) and in ad. plumage at Long Point P.P., May 26 (DB *et al.*). The ♂ N. Harrier at A.P.P., Mar. 29 arrived at a record-early date (RGT). The 875 Red-shouldered Hawks counted at Grimsby provided the 2nd-highest total for the watch (*vide* WK). A Rough-legged Hawk was still at Oshawa May 24 (MJB). One Golden Eagle appeared at Kenora Mar. 30 (SM) and nine others were noted in the s., which is about average. In addition to four passing Grimsby, two were at Perth, Lanark, Mar. 16 (RBe), and singles were at Isaac L., Bruce, Mar. 20 (EJ), near Ottawa Apr. 5 (*vide* BMD), and Seeley's Bay May 1 (MH). The 81 Merlin reports represented a sharp rise for spring. The 27 Peregrines s. of Sudbury were normal numbers for recent springs. Single Gyrfalcons were well s. of range on Manitoulin I., Mar. 21 (CTB, JGL) and in more usual haunts along the Albany R., Apr. 20 (BL).

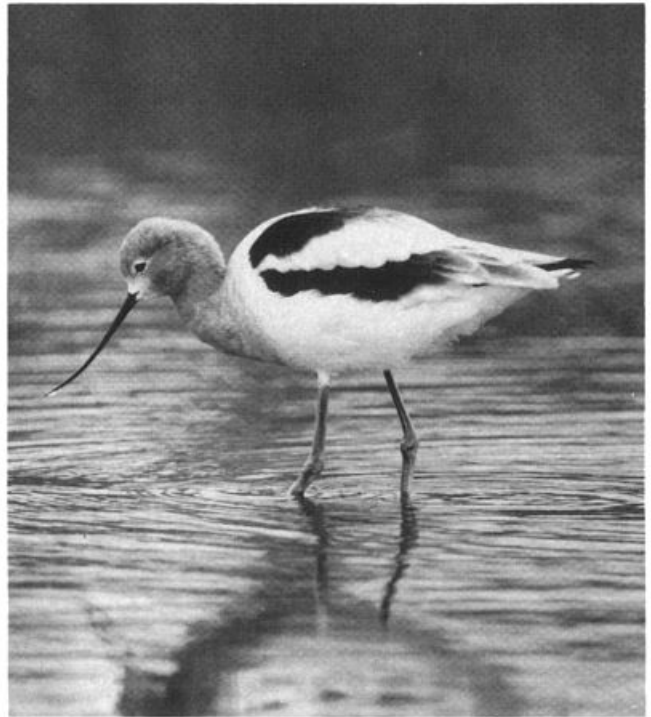
Table 1. Hawk totals at Grimsby station, Spring 1987

Species	1987 ¹	7-year average
Turkey Vulture	969 (high)	739
Osprey	27	29
Bald Eagle	6	8
N. Harrier	212 (high)	116
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2772 (low)	4332
Cooper's Hawk	197 (high)	163
N. Goshawk	29	36
Red-shouldered Hawk	875	738
Broad-winged Hawk	1527 (low)	5486
Red-tailed Hawk	3251	3007
Rough-legged Hawk	77	64
Golden Eagle	4	6
Am. Kestrel	85	107
Merlin	11 (high)	3
Peregrine	1	1
unidentified	252	643
Total	10295 (low)	15479

¹ (WK *et al.* Feb 11–May 29, 91 days)

One Yellow Rail was seen and heard at Bewdley May 21 (WS) and two were at Richmond May 26 (BMD, RRB). About 50 Sandhill Cranes were reported. The two adults and one immature between Owen Sound and Warton May 15 (NM) were thought to have been a range extension from the s. part of the Bruce peninsula. The species had been known in Peterborough only from the fossil record, so the five there this spring brought excitement. An adult was near the city May 3 (GN, LG), after which two each passed over May 16 & 27 (AGC, JM).

SHOREBIRDS — The seasonal reports were dominated by early arrivals, many of which set record dates. Two Black-bellied Plovers appeared at Strathroy Apr. 15 (DEW). A Lesser Golden-Plover at Pembroke Apr. 12 (MFl) and two at Kingston May 3 (WB) were earliest ever, as were single Killdeers at Ati-



American Avocet at Brights Grove, Ont., Apr. 23, 1987. Photo/Y.R. Tymstra.

kokan and Thunder Bay Mar. 21 (TJN, WDA). Record-early Greater Yellowlegs were at Pelee Mar. 23 (AW), near Kingston Mar. 24 (D & JS), and A.P.P., Apr. 12 (RGT). The 15 Lesser Yellowlegs at Strathroy Mar. 29 were a large number for the early date (WRJ *et al.*). A lone Sanderling at Thunder Bay Apr. 18 was record-early (NGE), the same day a Least Sandpiper arrived at Long Pt. (L.P.B.O.). The Pectoral Sandpiper flight was early in at least 5 locations between Sarnia and Ottawa with record dates at Pelee Mar. 23 (AW), Bourget, Russell, Mar. 25 (RAB), and Wolfe I., Mar. 29 (JHE, RDW). Earliest-ever Am. Woodcock arrived at Long Pt., Mar. 1 (L.P.B.O.), Thunder Bay Mar. 7 (DBa), and A.P.P., Mar. 25 (RH).

Ontario's first-ever **Snowy Plover** obliged many observers as it tarried at Long Pt., May 4–9 (JC *et al.*). Unfortunately, only one Piping Plover was reported, which has become the



Snowy Plover at Long Point Flats, Ont., May 5, 1987. Photo/Alan Wormington.

norm in recent springs. The bird was at Wheatley May 1–2 (AW, MK). American Avocets put on their best showing since 1983 with singles at Toronto's Humber R. mouth Apr. 20 (fide MPW) and Bright's Grove Apr. 23–24 (ph. SAC), and five at Pelee May 14 (MES, PP). The 48 Willets portend a continuing change in its spring status. The pre and post 1981 averages are six and 30 birds respectively. Some 26 frequented Pelee May 2–18 (fide AW) and 16 were at Aldershot May 4 (RD). The others were two at Erieanu May 3 (GS) and singles at Rondeau P.P., May 11 (MT), Amherst I., May 12 (A & JS), Ottawa May 16–18 (ph. RJ et al.), and Long Point P.P., June 6 (GC, DSp). Whimbrels numbered 1200+ throughout the s., May 15–27, a mediocre total. The 20+ Hudsonian Godwits compared with a post-1974 spring average of only three birds. They concentrated at Thunder Bay May 10–31, where a peak of 14 occurred May 17 (NGE). Singles were in Sudbury May 19–24 (JCN) and Guelph May 21 (RVT), but there were two in Atikokan May 20 (DHE, TJN) and two at Long Pt., May 24 (AB, DC). Two Marbled Godwits arrived at Lake-of-the-Woods Apr. 19 (DHE) and singles were at Thunder Bay May 9 & 19 (NGE) and the Tiny Marsh May 13 (DH). Five are normal numbers for spring.

The 41 Red Knots represented a weak flight, but the 11 W. Sandpipers were unprecedented for spring. Nine were at the Smithville ponds May 10 (JO, AL), and singles appeared at Comber May 7 & 9 (MP, MK) and Bright's Grove May 15 (AHR). Single Baird's Sandpipers were in the Tiny Marsh May 31 (DH), Cobourg May 21 (RL), and Long Point P.P., May 29 (JC et al.). A Curlew Sandpiper, believed to be a male, divided its time between the lagoons at Harrow and Kingsville, Essex, May 16–20 (AJS et al.), after which one identified as a female appeared at Harrow May 29 (ph. AW). The last spring occurrence of this Eurasian visitor was in 1982. The six Stilt Sandpipers reported were well below the spring average of 14. Three were away from the extreme s.w., at St. Isidore de Prescott May 18 and two at Ottawa May 18–19 (fide BMD). Wilson's Phalaropes bounced back following 2 springs at reduced numbers, although the 110+ reports were below the 148+ in spring 1983. The highest numbers were from e. Ontario, led by 31 at St. Isidore de Prescott May 18 (BMD), 20 at Alfred, Prescott, May 24 (CTH), and 20 breeding on Amherst I. during May (K.F.N.). The four Red-necked Phalaropes seen equalled the 10-year average. Birds were at Port Perry May 16 (DDC), Ottawa May 19 (BMD), St. Isidore de Prescott May 22 (BMD), and Mitchell May 24 (GK, JBM).

S.A.

The onslaught of Ruff sightings continued with a record 12, exceeding the 1984 high by one. A female was at Bright's Grove Apr. 17 & 24 (AHR, DFR), considered to be the same individual, joined by a black-collared male Apr. 20 (AHR, DFR). Others included a female at Havelock May 3 (RP), a male at Long Pt., May 6 (DB) followed by a female there May 16–19 (TS et al.), a male at McGregor, Essex, May 10–15 (AW, G & JT et al.), an imm. male at Port Perry May 14–16 (MJB et al.), a female at Harrow May 16–17 (AJS et al.), a male and a female at Aylmer May 15 & 18 respectively (RS), and a female at Lakefield May 23 & 25 (TB, WM). The easternmost sighting was of a male on Amherst I., May 29 (RKE), providing the latest record for the Kingston area.

JAEGERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Single Parasitic Jaegers were at Presqu'île P.P., May 12 (J & JT) and Wheatley harbour May 20 (GTH). There have been 3 sightings in the past 5 springs. Two Laughing Gulls, an average number for spring, were an adult at Harrow May 14 (BW) and an immature at Long Pt., May 28 (AB). An immature and an ad. Franklin's Gull were in Wheatley harbour May 9–17 & 18 (DRG et al., GTH et al.) respectively. Another adult was in Ottawa May 18–29 (RPH, MG et al.). The 35+ Little Gulls in the s., Apr. 5–May 26 were normal numbers, but noteworthy were

eight well n. at Moose R., May 12 (SM). A possible Mew Gull in first-winter plumage was in Wheatley harbour Mar. 9–11 (AW). White-winged gulls lingered in unusually large numbers. Up to 19 Icelanders were at Pelee Mar. 11–May 23 (AW) and an immature was still in Ottawa May 26 (BMD, RRB). Single ad. *kumlieni* were at Long Pt., Apr. 24 and May 2 (L.P.B.O.). Late Glaucous Gulls were at Pelee May 24 (fide AW) and Kettle Pt., May 31 (AHR). The 13 Lesser Black-backed Gulls equalled last spring's record high. The adult at Oshawa Mar. 27–29 (DM, DJM) may have been the same bird that overwintered there. The others were at Long Point P.P., Mar. 21 (L.P.B.O.), an immature at Peterborough Apr. 1–8 where an adult also appeared Apr. 8 (AGC, CV), an adult at Erieanu Apr. 4 (KJB), a pair in Sarnia Apr. 5 (DFR), an adult at the Nepean dump May 1 (BMD, TBr), an immature at Wheatley May 1 where another arrived May 30–31 (ph. AW, MK), and an adult at Long Pt., May 3 (L.P.B.O.). The singles at Oliphant May 15 (CK) and Wawa May 30 (WZ) were apparently not assigned a plumage category. Spring occurrences of Black-legged Kittiwakes have been in alternate years recently, and the bird due this year was in first-winter plumage at Pelee Apr. 3 for a 2nd spring ever there (AW). A Caspian Tern at Moose R., May 11 was noteworthy for the n. location (SM, AMM). Three Arctic Terns passed Ottawa May 21 (RAB), and Forster's Tern numbers were sharply reduced. The Forster's at Pelee Mar. 25 was early (AW), and singles were e. to P.E. Pt., May 2 and Amherst I., May 16 (RDW).

A Mourning Dove in Quetico P.P., Mar. 26 (SFP) was record-early, as was a Black-billed Cuckoo in A.P.P., May 19 (RGT). Latest among a flurry of tardy Snowy Owls were singles at Pelee May 26 (PJP et al.) and the Sarnia airport May 29 (SAC, JAC). The N. Hawk-Owl that overwintered near Orono was present to Mar. 12 (fide MJB). Nesting Barred Owls were noted at 5 sites in Bruce (JW), and a nest with 3 eggs on Manitoulin I., Apr. 18 represented a continuing increase there since 1976 (DBF, JCN). Another was calling on territory in early May near Hamilton, where the species is unknown as a local breeder (WL). Toronto's Boreal Owl was last seen Mar. 5 (ph. TS). Record-early caprimulgids were two Com. Nighthawks at Peterborough Apr. 7 (JSa) and a Whip-poor-will at Pelee Apr. 14 (JL). Also record-early were single Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at Smiths Falls Apr. 23 (EP) and Thunder Bay Apr. 26 (JFF). Ten Three-toed Woodpeckers were reported within A.P.P., Mar. 10–May 19, a time by which the species has usually vanished (RGT). Other late birds were singles at Kingston May 3 (NT) and Perth May 23 (NMan, RBe). Single Black-backed



Boreal Owl at Humberton College Arboretum, Toronto, Ont., Mar. 14, 1987. Photo/Allen Chartier.

Woodpeckers were in Ottawa Mar. 15 (JRH et al.), at Dunrobin Apr. 25 (GP), and just e. of Ottawa May 27 (ID). Northern Flickers reached Thunder Bay Mar. 23 (JK) and Matachewan Mar. 28 (LT), record-early arrivals at both n. sites.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS — Record-early arrivals in this group included Am. Robins Mar. 23 and Tree Swallows Apr. 10 at Matachewan (LT); Cliff Swallow Apr. 21, Barn Swallow Apr. 12, Gray Catbird Apr. 26, and Brown Thrasher Apr. 19 on Manitoulin I. (JCN, DBF, CTB); House Wren and Ruby-crowned Kinglet Mar. 25 and Solitary Vireo Apr. 14 at Pelee (AW); and Alder Flycatcher May 19, Brown Thrasher Apr. 15, Solitary Vireo Apr. 23, and Philadelphia Vireo May 11 in A.P.P. (RGT, BM).

Three W. Kingbirds were reported, triple the spring average. They were in North Bay May 24 (ph. RT), Pelee May 25 (AW, RMPe), and Teeswater, Bruce, May 31 (KH). A pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, well seen and nicely described, was at Pike Bay, Bruce peninsula, May 17 (fide TRM). Seven have been tallied during the past 5 springs. Peak numbers in the return flight of Blue Jays were 2000 at Pelee May 8 (AW et al.) and 300 on several days at Long Pt., May 6–29 (L.P.B.O.). Three active nests of Black-billed Magpie were found at Lake-of-the-Woods Apr. 19 (DHE). The anticipated return migration of Black-capped Chickadees following last autumn's irruption was noted at P.E. Pt., Mar. 14–Apr. 12 (K.F.N.) and Presqu'île P.P., where 300 were tallied Mar. 8 (J & JT). However, the largest numbers were reported along the n. shore of the Bruce peninsula, where 3000 were moving from E to W Apr. 17–20 (TC). Boreal Chickadees accompanied the flight, but their reports Mar. 1–May 22 were too many to list individually. Late were one on Pelee I., May 5 (JRC, VC) and three still at Long Pt., May 8 (L.P.B.O.).

Carolina Wren numbers surged upwards, to 28+, for the 2nd consecutive spring following the mild winter. Breeders totalled 3 pairs at Pelee (AW) and at least 5 pairs at Long Pt. (L.P.B.O.). Away from their traditional range in the s.w., Carolinas were reported at Port Colbourne, Niagara Falls, Kleinburg, Toronto, Pickering, Whitby, and Peterborough, Mar. 1–May 31. A Townsend's Solitaire tarried at Thunder Bay Mar. 6–Apr. 2 (ph. BA et al.), making it the 3rd spring record since 1981, all of which were in the north. The Varied Thrush that overwintered at a Sudbury feeder was last seen Apr. 19 (HEB). Noteworthy among 21 reports of N. Mockingbird were singles at Sudbury Apr. 1–30 (JCN), A.P.P., May 11 (RH), and Moosonee May 12 for several days (EH et al.). Ontario's 3rd spring record of Sage Thrasher was provided by a bird at Thunder Bay May 28 (BA, AH). The previous two were at Pelee in 1965 and Rondeau P.P. in 1981. Retreating Bohemian Waxwings were last reported from Englehart Mar. 11 (JW), Manitoulin I., Mar. 22 (JCN), and Atikokan Apr. 6, when 125 were counted (DHE, TJN). The 50 Loggerhead Shrikes reported were the most since the 1970s. Whether these represented a real increase, or an apparent one reflecting the survey of the species launched this spring, remains to be seen. White-eyed Vireo numbers were lower again at Pelee, but the 14 elsewhere represented an increase. Singles were n. to Sarnia May 23 (SAC, JAC) and e. to Burlington May 17 (JO), Whitby May 9 (LR et al.), and Presqu'île P.P., May 11 (ph. J & JT). Two Bell's Vireos were at Long Pt., May 12–13 (MKM et al.).

WARBLERS — Record-early arrivals were two Tennessee Warblers in A.P.P., May 11 (RGT) and a Yellow-rumped Warbler in Wawa Apr. 9 (JHA). Tying record-early arrivals included two Golden-wingeds May 12 and an Ovenbird May 6, both in A.P.P. (RGT, JK), a Cape May Warbler at Kingston Apr. 29 (VPM), and an Ovenbird on Manitoulin I., May 8 (JCN).

Four Golden-winged Warblers in Ottawa May 15 made a high number (BMD), and one was n. to Thunder Bay May 10 (BT, SH). A grounding of Magnolia Warblers May 20 resulted in 750 at Long Pt. (L.P.B.O.) and 450 at Pelee (AW, KAM). A ♂ "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler at Long Pt., May 8 was

the area's 2nd ever (DC, AB). The only Yellow-throated Warbler reported was a male at Pelee May 2 (GTH). The rarest warbler of the season was the ♂ **Kirtland's Warbler** at Rondeau P.P., May 15 (REF, RABy), which was described well by experienced observers. Single Palm Warblers of the yellow race *hypochrysea* were at Bronte May 4 (MJ) and Long Pt., Apr. 18 (JC, KT), both westerly locations for this e. subspecies. A Cerulean Warbler at Ottawa May 15 was rare there (BMD). The 22 Prothonotary Warbler records made a good showing in spite of lower numbers at Pelee, but only three were away from the s.w., at Cranberry marsh May 8 (E & GB), P.E. Pt., May 17 (RDW), and Whitby May 24 (ABL et al.). The 14 Worm-eating Warblers were normal numbers for spring, of which four were out of usual range. These were singles in downtown Toronto May 9 (HGC et al.), Ottawa May 15 for the area's 3rd ever (GCI, BMD), P.E. Pt., May 17 (JP, RCh), and Kingston May 25 (RKE). The only Kentucky Warbler away from the s.w. was a male at Whitby May 22–23 (E. Pegg et al.). The Connecticut Warbler flight was strong at 32 sightings, but the only ones out of range were two at Whitby May 22 (fide MJB) and singles at Presqu'île P.P., May 18 (FH et al.) and Peterborough May 22 (WS). Prince Edward Pt. continued to be a hot spot, providing the only reports of Hoodeds and chats away from the extreme southwest. Hooded Warblers were there May 11, 23, & 27 (K.F.N.), while Yellow-breasted Chats appeared May 17 & 18 (K.F.N.).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — The five Summer Tanagers reported were sharply lower numbers, of which four were at Pelee May 11–22 (AW) and the other was killed at the Long Pt. lighthouse overnight May 20–21 (L.P.B.O.). Single imm.



Cassin's Sparrow at Point Pelee Nat'l Park, Ont., May 7–8, 1987. The black subterminal marks on the scapulars, and the small dark streaks on the sides, are just visible here. Photo/Alan Worthington.

♂ Blue Grosbeaks were at Pelee May 9 (JAM et al.) & 23 (JEF et al.), for the first spring records in the province in 2 years. Also at Pelee was a **Cassin's Sparrow** May 7–8 (JFa, GMB et al.), constituting Ontario's 4th ever and Pelee's 3rd. The range expansion of Clay-colored Sparrow over the past several years continues. Eight new colonies have been found in the Ottawa area this spring (fide BMD). Single Lark Sparrows were at Presqu'île P.P., Apr. 13 (fide GMB) and P.E. Pt., May 23 (CEG et al.), equalling the 5-year average of two. The seven Le Conte's Sparrows, normal numbers, were singles at Erieau May 3 (RGT, DT), Atikokan May 20 (DHE, TJN), and A.P.P., May 23 for the park's 2nd ever (RGT), plus four at Pelee May 7–23 (fide AW). Four Sharp-tailed Sparrows were noted, double the usual numbers for this elusive species. An early bird was at Port



Le Conte's Sparrow at Pt. Pelee Nat'l Park, Ont., May 7, 1987. Note the bold crown-stripes and the very distinct black streaks on the sides and flanks. Photo/Alan Wormington.



Male Yellow-headed Blackbird at Mississauga, Ont., Apr. 3, 1987. Photo/Tim Sabo.

Perry Apr. 25 (fide MJB), where another appeared May 24–30 (DM, BCO, ERM), and singles were at Pelee May 24 (AW, RPR) and Long Pt., June 1 (DC). One White-crowned Sparrow, *gambelii* subspecies, was at Pelee May 9 (AW). Harris' Sparrows arrived in Kenora May 14 (SM), Atikokan May 15 (NEB), and Moosonee May 18, where the adult remained to May 21 (AMM et al.). Unusually large numbers of Lapland Longspurs occurred on late dates. Some 2300 were near Waterloo May 3 (CEP) and 1000+ tarried at Staples, Essex, May 2–3 (D. Martin, LW). Latest of many reports during May were 87 at the Essex lagoons (HE, HGC et al.) and six at Whitby (D. Barry, MC) all May 16, and eight at the Muskoka airport May 17 (ASi). Thunder Bay hosted the only Smith's Longspurs when a single turned up Apr. 19 (NGE, BA) followed by two May 19 (NGE).

The ♂ W. Meadowlark returned to Oshawa Apr. 10–30 (MJB et al.) and others were singles near Guelph Apr. 1–May 31 (fide KAM) and Pelee Apr. 1 (AW), plus a pair w. of Arthur May 18 (CEP). Yellow-headed Blackbirds in the far n. for the 3rd consecutive spring were an ad. male at Moose Factory Apr. 22 (DF) and an imm. female at Moosonee May 16 for several days (WAH). Away from their known nesting areas in the extreme s.w., where numbers were lower, were five birds. Singles appeared at a Mississauga feeder Mar. 31–Apr. 4, pushed there by a freak snowstorm (M & RH), Fingal Apr. 13 (ph. JFu), Virginiatown May 7–11 (ph. PWR et al.), and Long Pt., May 13 & 29–31 (L.P.B.O.). Several Brewer's Blackbirds overwintered successfully at Matachewan (LT), and the only report in the s. was of a bird near Port Hope May 25 (AKS). Orchard Orioles maintained their high numbers of recent springs. The nesting pair returned to Toronto's High Park for the 3rd successive year. Farther e., at least two were in Whitby May 12–31 (fide MJB), singles were near Port Hope May 29 (AKS) and Amherst I., May 17 (A & JS), plus three at P.E. Pt., May 10–18 (K.F.N.). The ad. ♂ N. Oriole at Moose Factory May 28 was a rarity for the James Bay coast (DF).

Quantitative indices of a species' status are invaluable benchmarks for future comparisons. The results of the mid-April survey of House Finch numbers in Guelph were 44 for 1985, 160 for 1986, and 264 for 1987 (SRK). This rapid rise is typical of many locations throughout s. Ontario. One bird reached Wawa Apr. 27 (JHA) for the northernmost occurrence in the province to date. The 27 sightings of Red Crossbill were scattered throughout the area s. of Sudbury and were without pattern. The only White-winged Crossbill noted was at Lanark May 23 (NMan et al.). The last reports from the heavy N flight of redpolls were of two in Stratford Apr. 24 (fide MPD) and one at Pelee May 7 (MPW, SW). Among the flocks six Hoaries

were noted Mar. 8–Apr. 4. Pine Siskins made a strong showing, appearing in numbers virtually everywhere s. of Sudbury. Nesting was confirmed at Kleinburg, Long Pt., Kingston, and Ottawa. Only in A.P.P. were Evening Grosbeaks reported in numbers (RGT).

Record-early arrivals among this last group in the taxonomic order were a Chipping Sparrow on Manitoulin I., Apr. 20 (JCN), Vesper Sparrow in Sarnia Mar. 14 (SAC, JAC) and A.P.P., Apr. 15 (RGT), White-crowned Sparrow in Sudbury Mar. 28 (CGB), and E. Meadowlark Mar. 25 and Brown-headed Cowbird Mar. 27 both in A.P.P. (RGT).

CORRIGENDUM — AB 41:83, column 1, line 33, insert Sept. 1 in lieu of Sept. 11.

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NIAGARA-CHAMPLAIN REGION

Douglas P. Kibbe

Normally migration is well underway by the time the season is "officially" here. This year the absence of a February thaw, and winter weather conditions south of the Region, retarded significant movements until early March. Once the winter weather broke, however, the ensuing warm spell broke numerous records. Seasonal temperatures averaged well above normal and with the exception of a late March snowfall the inclement weather consisted mostly of showers.

You have often read in these pages of the variability induced in diurnal raptor counts by weather conditions. This year, a break in a prolonged period of unfavorable migrating conditions in late April produced one of those once-in-a-lifetime flights of which truly dedicated hawk watchers dream.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — A breeding-plumaged Pacific Loon graced L. Ontario near Greece May 5 (KG). Earlier, in late March, nearby Parma hosted over 470 Red-necked Grebes (JS). In contrast to this fine showing, Pied-billed Grebes were rare throughout the Region. Did the Northern Gannet at Barcelona Harbor on Lake Erie Apr. 7 (WH) spend the winter on the Great Lakes, and where did it go next?

As usual a number of s. herons overshot their breeding grounds. These overshoots occur so regularly, however, that they must be considered a normal part of the migration picture. About one dozen Great Egrets, two to three Snowy Egrets, one Little Blue Heron, and one Glossy Ibis were reported. The latter, at Braddock Bay in late May, is more typically observed in fall; but the species should be considered a prime candidate to eventually colonize the Region. There have been several spring occurrences in recent years, and coastal breeding colonies are still expanding. Cattle Egrets, already local breeders in the Region, were widely noted, and observers should watch for evidence of new breeding sites.

Waterfowl provided few noteworthy sightings. A Greater White-fronted Goose was seen again near Henderson Mar. 25 (LC) and another believed to be of the pink-billed w. race was photographed at Montezuma Apr. 11 (R.B.A.). Another reported to be of the Greenland race was found Apr. 21 in Onondaga County (FS). The top waterfowl tallies included 5000 Snow Geese (mostly "Blues") at Montezuma N.W.R., 4000 Canvasbacks at Braddock Bay, and flights of 144 and 137 Wood Ducks at Braddock Bay May 24 & 26 (FN), respectively. The latter flights were exceptionally late for such numbers since many birds are already nesting then. In general, however, waterfowl moved through rapidly and concentrations were smaller than usual. A King Eider lingered until mid-March at Niagara-on-the-lake (B.O.S.), and a Eur. Wigeon was discovered at Scott Swamp in Onondaga County (FS).

HAWKS THROUGH RAILS — Although the Region's—indeed, the Nation's—2 best spring hawk watches are on L. Ontario, persistent observers elsewhere may do nearly as well, witness the 27 Ospreys headed up the Hudson R. near Castleton, N.Y., Apr. 30 (PC). Establishment of a new hawk watch



on the Portage Escarpment s. of L. Erie was hailed as a significant step in establishing the relationship between hawk movements along L. Erie and those farther e. on L. Ontario. Braddock Bay was the only watch to submit complete tabulations, but the results of this year's fanatic (as usual) coverage were so exceptional that the following encapsulation scarcely does them justice. A new seasonal record total was set, 106,644 birds, thanks in large part to the extraordinary flight Apr. 27. On that date a break in weather to the south of the watch and excellent flight conditions produced an onslaught of 41,184 hawks including 207 Cooper's, 1163 Red-tailed, 4375 Sharp-shinned, and 34,818 Broad-winged. Seasonal record highs established were 5779 Turkey Vultures, 485 Ospreys, 1095 N. Harriers, 18,953 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 1474 Cooper's Hawks, and 65,420 Broad-winged Hawks. Eleven species of diurnal raptors were sighted at Braddock Bay, including a Black Vulture Mar. 26, American Swallow-tailed Kite May 30, Mississippi Kite May 22, and two Swainson's Hawks, an adult Apr. 12 and an immature May 7 (FN et al., fide JS). Although one (presumably of these) Swainson's was reported by a Derby Hill observer (FS), none of the other rarities was noted elsewhere in the Region. And just to keep from being bored, watchers at Braddock Bay identified 10 individuals of two western races of Red-tailed Hawks (*kriderii* and *calurus*) and two dark phase Broad-winged Hawks, one of which was captured and banded (CT, BO).

Equally exciting and useful were the counts and observations made throughout the spring of non-raptorial species that passed Braddock Bay. Those accounts are liberally scattered elsewhere throughout this report. For example, no fewer than 11 of the 15 Sandhill Cranes reported passed the watch; and all of them in April were headed east. Well-prepared observers (DS, MT) lured a King Rail out of the Montezuma N.W.R. marshes with tapes. Doubtless more could be found throughout the Region's major marshes if more observers were equally well equipped. Extreme caution is advised if birds are heard but not seen.

SHOREBIRDS, GULLS — The shorebird scene was rather mundane this spring although several sizeable groundings of species were encountered in New York. Best tallies included 284 Killdeer at Braddock Bay Mar. 25 (FN), 145 Lesser Yellowlegs at Hamlin May 3 (B. Keelan), and 160 Short-billed Dowitchers and a similar number of Semipalmated Plovers at Ton-

awanda W M A , May 17 Several sightings of Wilson's Phalaropes in New York in late May again raised hopes of impending breeding but no nests had been found by the close of the season.

Spring is seldom a great season for gulls, but there were several remarkable sightings this year. Although Franklin's Gulls are regular fall stragglers to extreme w. New York, any Regional spring appearance is highly unusual. One sighting was made at Pt. Breeze on L. Ontario May 23 (MD et al.). Laughing Gulls are now sighted regularly throughout the Great Lakes, more regularly in fact than some of the traditional larid stragglers. This spring two were seen on L. Erie (TM). A single Thayer's Gull was reported, at Rochester (fide G.O.S.). Undoubtedly this species occurs far more frequently than it is identified. A laggard 2nd-year Glaucous Gull was still present at Manitou at the close of the period (R & SS, KG). Such lingerers have been relatively frequent in recent years, perhaps because of the intense coverage the lakefronts receive.

OWLS THROUGH WAXWINGS — A Boreal Owl photographed Mar. 6 near Rochester made the possibility that this species is a rare, but annual, winter visitor seem plausible. The 57 Com. Nighthawks over Braddock Bay May 24 (FN) would have been a good count for fall; as a spring count it was exceptional. Unfortunately, there are few previous comparable spring tallies in the Region, so it is impossible to attach any degree of significance to this count. Hopefully efforts will continue in subsequent years and a data base will develop. Nighthawks are a species of concern throughout the East, having declined even though suitable breeding habitat (i.e., shopping mall roofs) expands at an unbelievable rate. Presumably some other factor (e.g., food) has suffered with increasing urbanization. Island Cottage, near Braddock Bay, led the Region with at least five Whip-poor-wills in late May. At least 15 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were tallied May 20 at Manitou (EB). Although an unprecedented spring count, it may be representative of numbers normally occurring at lakefront concentration points during migration.

While it is still too early to predict establishment of Fish Crow colonies near major water bodies throughout the Region,



Boreal Owl near Rochester, N.Y., Mar. 30, 1987. Photo/Brian W. Keeler.

six were present at Castleton, N Y (PC), and at least two were found at Braddock Bay (CT et al.). Ithaca's colony continues, and the apparent success of the Hudson River birds makes colonization of the Lake Champlain valley a very real possibility, although Vermonters have yet to confirm a sighting. Common Ravens were found again at Connecticut Hill, s. of Ithaca, and near Cherry Plains (PC). The repeated incidence of sightings in c. New York increases the likelihood that this species will breed (or has bred) there. A Varied Thrush spent the 3rd week of March in Aurora Township, Erie, N.Y. (BC, m.ob., fide SE), and another was found in a robin flock at Santons River, Vt., in late March (AD, DC). Where they spent the preceding winter is anyone's guess. Unfortunately, even feeder-frequenting strays are seldom banded, often because banders are afraid to capture the bird lest they frighten it away before "everyone has seen it." This overprotective attitude prevails despite abundant evidence that banding exerts virtually no influence on the behavior of birds acclimated to feeders. Meanwhile we continue to speculate on the origin of strays year after year.

Reports of Water Pipits seldom seem to warrant much attention but the size of this season's peak flock, 80 birds, seems remarkably low, and more reports are sought. Although migrant Loggerhead Shrikes continue to be reported along the Lake Ontario plains and a bird was seen in Addison County, Vt., there were only 2 records of nesting in the Region, both in Franklin County, N.Y., not far from the Canadian border. New York has funded basic research on the species, but it appears to be sliding toward extirpation in the entire Region. The biggest flock of Bohemian Waxwings, 200, was in Vermont. The species was virtually unreported farther west.

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES — A White-eyed Vireo was seen by many at Island Cottage May 11 (KG). The first confirmed Regional nesting record is still awaited. Rarer warblers included a Worm-eating at Greece (MR, DT), a Swainson's Warbler at Williamsville Glen (PY, m.ob., fide SE), and two Connecticut, at least four Kentuckies, and nearly one dozen Orange-crowns, all in c. or w. New York. The following regular migrants were considered to have occurred in particularly low numbers in c. New York: Golden-winged, Black-throated Blue, and Black-and-white warblers. Blue-winged Warblers on the other hand were abundant, at least at Letchworth S.P., where 43 were tallied May 23 (DB, PC). Banders at Braddock Bay set records for number of birds handled, but without comparable levels of effort from previous years, those data must await additional years' efforts. Finches and sparrows generated no excitement this season. Red Crossbills were the only species in above-average numbers, e.g., 110 at Tomhannock Res., Apr. 19 (PC), and their incursion was spotty.

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George A. Hall

Every spring season is different from every other one, but this was "more different" than usual. Many people wondered, "Where are the birds?", and indeed at most places the migration seemed poor although resident species were usually in good supply. Despite the apparent scarcity of birds there were more unusual records than is normal for this Region.

The weather, too, was different. At Pittsburgh, March was very warm and on the dry side. There was little snowfall, even in the north. April had normal temperatures and an excess of rainfall. Early May had normal temperatures but late May was exceptionally warm. May rainfall was heavy but concentrated in a few storms. In northern West Virginia the plant bloom was fantastic, and a bountiful supply of all fruits and seeds is anticipated.

S.A.

On April 3-4 a heavy snowfall swept across the central part of the Region. From Knoxville, Tennessee, in the south to Morgantown, West Virginia, in the north, the area was buried under 12-15 inches of snow, although temperatures were not very low. In the south some species were already nesting and at Elizabethton, Tennessee, Purple Martin colonies suffered a 17-18% mortality, and 40-45% of the Eastern Bluebirds perished, with dead birds being found in many boxes (GE). At Knoxville, also, bluebirds and martins were found dead in boxes. No bluebird clutches hatched, and Eastern Phoebes abandoned their nests (CN). Farther north only a few birds had started to nest, but the storm had come during the main migration of some sparrows and pipits. Near Stuart's Draft, Virginia, during the snow, 99 Vesper Sparrows and 86 Savannah Sparrows were counted on the road edges (YL, SR). In Mason County, West Virginia, 50 Vesper Sparrows, 100 Savannah Sparrows, and 1000+ Water Pipits were found along the roads the day after the snow (WA). The scarcity of Savannah Sparrows and some other grassland sparrows at some places in May probably resulted from mortality at this time.

Despite the mild weather most migrants arrived about on time or a little late. All through May one had the impression that there were still many more birds to come, and suddenly it was June and they had not appeared.

Some quantitative figures from the banding station at Powdermill Nature Reserve are of interest. Of 53 species analyzed, the 1987 bandings of 42 were within one standard deviation of the 5-year mean, with five species more than one standard deviation above the mean and six below (RM, RCL). So perhaps things were not as bad as they seemed.

ABBREVIATIONS — B.E.S.P. = Bald Eagle State Park, Centre Co., Pa.; G.S.M.N.P. = Great Smoky Mountains Nat'l Park; P.N.R. = Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland Co., Pa.; P.I.S.P. = Presque Isle State Park, Erie Co., Pa. Place names in italics are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — The only reports of Red-throated Loons came from the State College, Pa., region, two Apr. 3 (DK) and one Apr. 5 (HH). Common Loons were widely reported and were in greater numbers than in recent years. High counts were of 46 (with 14 on one pond) at Fayetteville, Pa., Apr. 5 (CG) and 40 in the general area of Huntington,



W.Va., Apr. 16 (WA). Horned Grebes reached a peak of 400 at P.I.S.P., Apr. 9 (JM), but they were not widely reported. The only Red-necked Grebe reports came from B.E.S.P., Apr. 4 (HH) & 5 (JP).

The great increase in Double-crested Cormorants continued, with reports from 16 areas, from North Carolina (where a high count of 32 was made at Blewett Falls L., May 1—DM) to L. Erie. As yet there are no indications of attempted nesting in our Region.

There was an unusually large number of reports of Am. Bittern, while Least Bitterns were reported from Cambria, Pa., Apr. 20 (TD), Glenwood Swamp, Mason, W.Va., May 6 (WA), Latrobe, Pa., May 9-10 (M & EWa), and P.I.S.P., May 15 to end of number (JM, EK). Great Blue Herons were reported in good numbers for this Region, with nesting colonies of 8 nests in Brooke, W.Va. (HJ), 14 nests at Cashier's Pond, N.C. (DM), and 20 nests near Troy, Pa. (RY). The 4 colonies in Mercer, Pa., had 293 active nests with 633 birds (EB). The Great Egret continued its fine spring showing with reports from 9 localities. Single Snowy Egrets were reported from P.I.S.P., Apr. 11 (EH), Roanoke, Va., Apr. 17 (MD), and Austin Springs, Tenn., May 8 (GS et al.), while Little Blue Herons were reported only from P.I.S.P., Apr. 23 and May 2 (LS, JM) and Austin Springs, Tenn., May 6 (RK). The best heron of the season was a Tricolored Heron at P.I.S.P., May 20 & 24 (DF, CD). Cattle Egrets were reported from Sherando, Va., Apr. 18 (SR), Austin Springs, Tenn., Apr. 25-26 (RK, BC), Jersey Shore, Pa., May 6 (MH), Rowan, Ky., May 6 (FB), Indiana, Pa., May 20-22 (MHI), and Roanoke, Va., May 26 (MD). Three Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen at P.I.S.P., Apr. 23 (JM, LS), while there were at least 2 nests of this species near Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE). The White Ibis mentioned in the winter season report remained at Salem, Va., until Apr. 16 (NM).

WATERFOWL — Most reports of the waterfowl flight were gloomy. At Presque Isle Bay, Pa., the waterfowl numbers peaked at a low 13,000 Mar. 17. Most of these were Greater Scaup, Com. Goldeneyes, Canvasbacks, and Red-breasted Mergansers (JM). The numbers at Pymatuning L., Pa., were "drastically" down, with no Canvasbacks seen (RFL). At Mosquito L., O. (CB), and at Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE), the flight was very poor. There were unusually large numbers present at Fort Loudoun L., Tenn., Apr. 11 (CN).

The Tundra Swan flight was good with 1500 at Yellow Creek S P, Pa., Mar. 13 (LH) furnishing the largest count. One remained in Erie, Pa., until May 11 (JM). A Mute Swan was at Montour Preserve, Pa., May 15 (PS) and a pair hatched four cygnets in late April at Seneca L., O. (ME). The Greater White-fronted Goose reported from Mosquito L., O., remained until at least Mar. 8 (CB). A flock of 25–30 Snow Geese was seen in Somerset, Pa., Mar. 5 (AM). Other reports were from Cave Run L., Ky., Feb. 4 (FB), Mosquito L., O., Mar. 1 (CB), and one at Point Pleasant, W.Va., as late as May 25 (WA, TI). Canada Goose numbers at Pymatuning were on the low side with a peak of 4000 Mar. 29 (RFL), but where introduced this species thrives. At least 50 pairs were nesting in the Cabell, Mason, and Wayne area of West Virginia (TI) and at Elizabethton, Tenn., there were 7–8 nests before a period of high water reduced the fledging success to three (GE).

A **Cinnamon Teal** at Stuart's Draft, Va., May 7 provided the 2nd record for the state (SR). There were more inland records of Greater Scaup than normal. A **Harlequin Duck** (ph.) was on the Ohio R. at Pittsburgh for some time after Mar. 24 (m.ob.), for the first s.w. Pennsylvania record. Oldsquaws were more common away from L. Erie than normal and one remained at P.I.S.P. until May 17 (B & JB). White-winged Scoters were reported from P.I.S.P., Mar. 29 (EK) and Apr. 26 (SS), L. Leboeuf, Pa., Apr. 2–15 (JM), and B.E.S.P. in early April (JP, PS).

RAPTORS — Black Vultures were seen in Centre, Pa., Mar. 31 (KS) and Apr. 30 (JL). Records also came from the Cabell-Wayne area of West Virginia (TI), there were more sightings at Elizabethton, Tenn., than usual (GE), and small numbers were present in Anderson, Tenn., through the period (CN). There was an excellent flight of Ospreys with reports from most areas. At a fish hatchery in Rockingham, Va., 18 were seen at one time Apr. 13 (R.B.C.). A total of 25 sightings of migrant Bald Eagles came from 14 locations. At Pymatuning L., Pa., one of 4 nests fell, and in another an introduced chick was rejected (RFL). Eagles were not nesting at Mosquito L., O. (CB). The pair of eagles in Hardy, W. Va., hatched three eaglets, and a nest was started but apparently not used in Pendleton, W. Va. (JC).

There were 3 organized hawk watches: a one-day count, Apr. 22 on Tussey Mt., Bedford, Pa., produced 449 hawks, including 398 Broad-wingeds (TD); a 4-day count, Apr. 20, 21, 26, & 27, at Rockfish Gap, Va., counted 1116 birds, including 840 Broad-wingeds (RS); and a 19-day count, Mar. 7–Apr. 29, at Harvey's Knob, Va., counted 982 hawks, including 521 Broad-wingeds (fide BK).

Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks appeared to be in good numbers, but other than the hawk watchers few people reported on Buteos. There were reports of N. Goshawks from Bristol, Tenn., Mar. 26 (GE), Erie, Pa., Mar. 8 (BF), Mar. 22 (JM), and mid-April (TK); Youngsville, Pa., Apr. 11 (WH), and a resident bird near Armenia Mt., Pa. (RY). Rough-legged Hawks were not as numerous as in some years with reports only from Highland, Va., Mar. 2 (LT), Mosquito L., O., Mar. 1 (CB), and Pymatuning L., Pa., Mar. 1–Apr. 11 (RFL). There were 9 sightings of Golden Eagles from 5 locations. Most of these were apparently winterers in early March, but one at Black Balsam Knob, N.C., was as late as May 4 (DM).

At least nine Merlins were seen migrating over P.I.S.P., Apr. 11–May 25 (JM). Two or possibly three were seen in the Cabell-Mason, W.Va., area in late March (TI, WA), one at Bellefonte, Pa., Apr. 3 (M & PL), and two at the Harvey's Knob, Va., lookout, Apr. 18 & 20 (DH, JH). Two Peregrines were seen at Harvey's Knob, Mar. 29 (DH), one at Watauga L., Tenn., Apr. 25 (GE *et al.*), one at G.S.M.N.P., May 8 & 9 (RK), and one at P.I.S.P., May 9 & 10 (EH, JM).

QUAIL THROUGH TERNS — Northern Bobwhites at Lock Haven, Pa., May 5 (PS) and Unionville, Pa., May 23 (CH) were pretty far north for this species, which has never recovered from the hard winters of the mid-1970s.

King Rails were reported from Glenwood Swamp, W. Va., Apr. 10 (TI) and Alcoa, Tenn., Apr. 12 (L & MA). Virginia Rails were at Kingsport, Tenn., in late March and early April (RP), Glenwood Swamp, W.Va., May 2 (TI), and several were seen in a marsh near Bradford, Pa., May 28 (RY). There were more reports of Soras than usual.

As usual, Sandhill Cranes were reported from n. Georgia with 1000 seen in Murray and Whitfield Mar. 3 (HD) and 400 in Whitfield Mar. 6 (VG), and smaller flocks elsewhere during early March. There were no reports from the Knoxville, Tenn., area, which usually sees a few. Much more unusual were the cranes at Youngsville, Pa., Apr. 6 (VL) and near Harrisonburg, Va., for a week in early May (R.B.C.).

The shorebird migration produced mixed results. The L. Erie shore was unusually unproductive (JM), the water levels at the Kingston Steam Plant, Tenn., were not suitable this year (CN), and the flight was poor at State College, Pa. (JP). On the other hand at Elizabethton, Tenn., it was average (GE), and in the Huntington, W.Va., area the flight was termed the best ever.

Thirty-eight Lesser Golden-Plovers were found at Roanoke Apr. 8 (MD), four were at Austin Springs, Tenn., Apr. 8 (RK), and several were in Knox, Tenn., Apr. 10–11 (MDa, A & RH). There were unusual numbers of reports of Semipalmated Plovers. Most unusual was a flock of 23 Willets (ph.) May 2 & 3 at Glenwood Swamp, W.Va. (WA, TI). All previous records for the state combined do not total this many birds. A Willet was also seen at Roanoke May 18 (MD) and, notably, one was seen at Newfound Gap in G.S.M.N.P., Apr. 26 (FA). Seven Upland Sandpipers were present in Adams, Pa. (KG). One was heard on the night of Apr. 15 at Grandfather Mt., N.C. (DM), one was found in Knox, Tenn., Apr. 26 (CN), and one was at Lakin, W.Va., May 2 (TI). For the first time in several years no Whimbrels were seen at P.I.S.P. (JM). Ruddy Turnstones were at Jonesboro, Tenn., Apr. 24 (GS, SG), Shawnee S.P., Pa., May 11 (TD), and Kyger Creek, O., May 25 (WA, TI). A Red Knot was at P.I.S.P., May 26 (DF). Of the rarer small sandpipers the White-rumped was seen at P.I.S.P., May 11 (JM), Glenwood Swamp, W.Va., May 5 (TI), and Mercer's Bottom, W.Va., May 21 & 22 (WA). From Rowan, Ky., there was a report of White-rumped Sandpiper May 14 (FB). A Stilt Sandpiper was at Austin Springs, Tenn., May 8 (SG, FW). The best shorebird of the season was a ♀ Ruff (ph.) in Augusta, Va., May 9 (SR). Dowitchers (presumably Short-billed) were at Lakin, W.Va., Mar. 27 (TI) and May 19–20 (WA), Shawnee S.P., May 11 (TD), and Donegal L., Pa., May 17 (RCL, KP). Two **Red-necked Phalaropes** were at Duffield, Pa., May 26 (CG).

The number of gulls at Presque Isle peaked between 50,000 and 75,000 Mar. 15 (JM). The unusual gulls from that location this spring were a Franklin's Gull May 23 (JM, LS, EK) and a **Thayer's Gull** Apr. 4 (JM, LS). At Pymatuning L., Pa., the number of Ring-billed Gulls was down, with a high count of 250 Mar. 7 (RFL). Laughing Gulls were reported from P.I.S.P., May 16 (B & JB), 27 (DS), & 31 (JM), and at Gavin Pond, O., May 2 (TI). As usual a Great Black-backed Gull was found at B.E.S.P., Mar. 8 & 14 (CH). Bonaparte's Gulls were more common and more widespread than normal.

As many as 50–60 Caspian Terns were at P.I.S.P. in late April (JM). Caspians were also seen at B.E.S.P., Apr. 18 (MW, DB), Kyger Creek, O., May 17, and Gavin Pond, O., May 2 (WA). Common Terns were scarce at P.I.S.P., but Forster's Terns were quite common there (JM). There were also inland records of Forster's Terns from Lock Haven, Pa., Apr. 23 (PS), Skyland, N.C., Apr. 25 (R & JYo), Donegal L., Pa., Apr. 23 (RM) and May 15 (GR), and Beech Fork S.P., W.Va., May 2 (TI). Black Terns were defending territory in Erie, Pa., in late May (JM). This is potentially only the 2nd breeding location in the state.

CUCKOOS TO WOODPECKERS — Both species of cuckoo were apparently in low numbers, as few reporters mentioned them. There were only 2 nesting pairs of Com. Barn-Owls in the Elizabethton, Tenn., area (GE). Other records came from Campbell, Tenn., Mar. 2 (fide CN), Clarksville, Pa., Mar. 27

(RB), and Jersey Shore, Pa., May 14 (PS). Five Long-eared Owls were found at the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, Pa., Mar. 29 (JW) and one was at Erie, Pa., Apr. 26 (MN). Wintering Short-eared Owls remained at Elder's Ridge, Pa., to Mar. 1 (FE, GW) and were still present in mid-April at Knox, Pa. (WF). Up to five were present at P.I.S.P. until Apr. 6 (GV) and three were at Fishersville, Va., May 16–19 (ML). One was seen at Roanoke Mar. 17 (MD). Northern Saw-whet Owls were at Black Moshanaon S.P., Pa., Mar. 6 (CS) and May 16 (JP), Butler, Pa., Mar. 28 (found dead), and G.S.M.N.P., May 11 (RK). A nest, the first for the state, was found in Tucker, W.Va., May 13 (CSt).

A remarkably early nighthawk, thought to be a Common, was in Allegheny, Pa., Apr. 14–21 (WHi). Four Chuck-will's-widows were heard at Stuart's Draft, Va., Mar. 30 (YL). An increased population of Whip-poor-wills in Franklin, Pa., was attributed to the recovery of the forest habitat from gypsy moth devastation (KG).

Red-headed Woodpeckers apparently were more numerous this year than in recent years. Red-bellied Woodpeckers were found in the north in Crawford, Pa. (RFL) and were reported by numerous observers in Erie, Pa. (JM). A pair of **Red-cockaded Woodpeckers** was observed at Ocoee L., Polk, Tenn., Mar. 16–17 (CN).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES — Olive-sided Flycatchers were found at G.S.M.N.P., May 9 (RK), Bath, Va., May 21 (LT), P.I.S.P., May 22 (EK), and Wood, W.Va., May 30 (EA). While the "Traill's" Flycatcher was among the few species banded in more than average numbers at P.N.R. (RCL, RM), in general all *Empidonax* flycatchers were in low numbers. No Acadian Flycatchers were banded at P.N.R. (RCL, RM).

In Erie (JM) and Franklin (KG), Pa., many Purple Martin boxes occupied in other years were standing empty. At Warren, Pa., Tree Swallows were occupying 43% of the bluebird boxes (WH) and nesting populations had increased in the Chambersburg-Gettysburg area of Pennsylvania because of bluebird box trails (KG). At Beech Fork S.P., Pa., about 150 Cliff Swallows were in the recently-established nesting colony there (WA).

A Fish Crow was seen at Monterey, Va., Mar. 13 (LT). This is pretty far south for this species w. of the Blue Ridge. The Com. Raven continues to increase and nests were found in Bradford, Pa. (RY), and Botetourt, Va. (BO).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were found in small numbers at widely scattered locations, but they seemed to be in low numbers in the high country breeding grounds of Tennessee (GE) and West Virginia (GAH). At Bays Mt., Tenn., a Brown Creeper's nest found May 21 (FA, RP) provided the first confirmed nesting for upper e. Tennessee.

The Carolina Wren made it through the winter in excellent shape. There were at least three at P.I.S.P. from mid-April to mid-May (JM), and one was at Warren Mar. 6 (TG). From Pittsburgh came the comment, "Best presence in a decade" (PH), and at Elizabethton the April snowfall seemed to have little effect on them. There were no reports of Bewick's Wrens. Marsh Wrens were at Austin Springs, Tenn., Apr. 25 and May 6 (RK), Botetourt, Va., May 1 (PSP), Roanoke May 7 (MD), and Mason, W.Va., May 2 (TI).

One of the most common remarks this season was, "Where are the spotted thrushes?" The fall migration of Swainson's Thrush had been poor but the northbound flight was even worse. The most common report was of one or two Swainson's records and no Gray-cheekeds. These birds winter in the montane tropical forest of South America. Are the numbers being affected by the cutting of this forest, as has been the case with the lowland forest and birds? Hermit Thrushes were in fair numbers and most places had good numbers of Wood Thrushes. The E. Bluebird seems to be doing well, at least n. of areas affected by that April snow. At Warren 33% of the boxes were occupied (WH) and an increase in population as the result of "Bluebird Trails" has been noted in s.c. Pennsylvania (KG).

MIMIDS THROUGH WARBLERS — Gray Catbird was caught in numbers lower than 2 standard deviations below the 5-year mean at P.N.R. (RCL, RM). Northern Mockingbirds were reported from 4 locations along L. Erie (JM), and one was seen at Warren, Pa., Apr. 15 (RR) and May 29 (CP). Water Pipits were widespread and quite numerous and some of them remained quite late. One was seen at 6000' on Black Balsam Knob, N.C., May 4 (DM).

In Rockingham, Va., 40 Loggerhead Shrike nests were found at 31 locations, but nesting success was poor, accounting for the extra nests as 2nd attempts (KF). One bird was seen on 2 occasions in Highland, Va. (LT), and 3–4 nesting pairs were present in the Elizabethton, Tenn., area (GE).

White-eyed Vireos continued to do well in the n. part of their range, and Warbling Vireos were unusually numerous this year. One in Claiborne, Tenn., May 1 (fide CN) was noteworthy for that area. From Glenwood Swamp, W.Va., came a fairly convincing description of a Bell's Vireo, which would be a new addition to the Hypothetical List for the state (WA).

As usual comments on the warbler migration were a mixed bag, but only a few places reported better-than-average flights. The majority opinion seemed to be that while the locally-nesting species were in normal numbers and arrived on time, the north-nesting species were late and in low numbers. Golden-winged Warblers continue to decline. Two "Brewster's" hybrids were netted at P.N.R., May 20 (RCL, RM), and others were seen in w. Pennsylvania (PH) and the Chambersburg, Pa., area (KG). A "Lawrence's" hybrid was found in Centre, Pa., May 13 (JP). An Orange-crowned Warbler, rare in spring, was banded at P.I.S.P., May 9 (JeS, JiS). There were also reports from Norris, Tenn., Apr. 19 (CN) and Knoxville May 4 (JHo), while the bird that wintered at Knoxville was last seen Mar. 22 (LF). A Cape May Warbler was present at a feeder in Wood, W.Va., from Christmas until Apr. 22 (LB). The Yellow-throated Warbler continues to expand N, with reports from 6 localities in w. Pennsylvania (PH). There were many more reports of Pine Warblers than usual. At least 3 pairs of Prothonotary Warblers were on the nesting grounds at P.I.S.P. (JM) and the species was nesting at Glenwood Swamp, W.Va. (TI), but not at Boaz, W.Va., where it has been in the past (GB). A **Swainson's Warbler** was seen at South Park, Allegheny, Pa., May 21–22 (m.ob.), for the 4th w. Pennsylvania record, and one was banded at Morgantown May 25, furnishing the 3rd record at that location (GAH). The only report of a Connecticut Warbler came from Knox, Tenn., May 13 (FBi).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were extremely common in n. West Virginia (GAH). Blue Grosbeaks were common at Fort Gay, W.Va. (TI), but could not be found in nearby Mason, W.Va. (GB). Other records came from Fairview, N.C., May 4 (R & JYo), Waynesboro, Va., May 28 (RS), but more unusually two were seen in Huntingdon, Pa., May 10 (DK). A Dickcissel was at a feeder in Elizabethton, Tenn., Mar. 7 (HF) and one was at Lakin, W.Va., May 12 (TI). Summer Tanagers were seen in Centre, Pa., May 11 (SB) and at P.N.R., May 19 (RC), both well n. of the usual limits.

In Monongalia and Preston, W.Va., Savannah Sparrows were in much reduced numbers (GB, GAH), and here and in s.w. Pennsylvania other grassland sparrows were hard to find, but this condition did not obtain throughout the Region. A new colony of one dozen Henslow's Sparrows was reported in Lawrence, Pa. (MV, RKO), but there were few other reports. There was an usually good migration of both Fox and White-crowned sparrows in w. Pennsylvania (PH). A **Smith's Longspur** (ph) was in Mason, W.Va., Apr. 5–7 following the heavy snowstorm (WA). This was the first record for the state.

A **Western Meadowlark** was present in Centre, Pa., May 5–14 (m.ob.), for the 2nd area record. A Brewer's Blackbird was at a feeder in Erie Apr. 2 (CK) and one was at Stuart's Draft, Va., Apr. 11 (SR).

The only report of Pine Grosbeaks was of a flock of 15 at a feeder in Johnstown, Pa., Apr. 24 (TD). There was a good mi-

gration of Purple Finches at some places At PNR, 123 were banded, compared with an average of 38 (RCL, RM). The only reports of Red Crossbills came from the mountains of Virginia and G.S.M.N.P., where they are probably permanent residents. The influx of Com. Redpolls mentioned in the winter account continued until about mid-March and all were gone by early April. East of the mountains they were widespread and numerous as far s. as Salem, Va., but w. of the mountains the great influx came only as far as Johnstown, Pa. (TD); but there was a record in Wood, W.Va., Mar. 15 (CT). Two Hoary Redpolls were reported at a feeder in Lock Haven Mar. 22 (CH). There was a heavy movement of Pine Siskins in the early part of the season and some of these birds were still present in early May. Evening Grosbeak numbers were extremely spotty. Some areas had had birds all winter, and some areas had heavy N flights, but they were scarce or absent at other places. A few remained in the Region in mid-May.

EXOTICS — A Ringed Turtle-Dove was seen at Elizabethton Apr. 30–May 6 (GE). A Red-crested Cardinal was at a feeder at Warren, Pa., May 25 (MDa) and a Eur. Goldfinch was at a feeder near Julian, Pa., Mar. 27 (B & JA).

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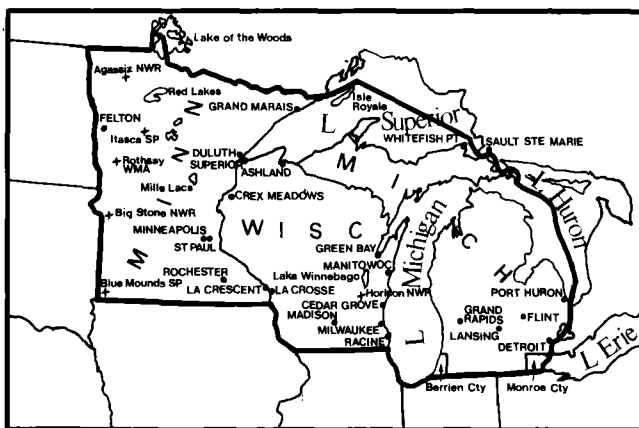
WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

David J. Powell

The weather throughout the season was mostly warm and dry, continuing the trend set last winter. There were near drought conditions in many areas of the Region, particularly in Minnesota and Michigan. There were a few cold periods, with some snow in March, but nothing exceptional. The warm weather produced vegetation well in advance of normal with significant leafing out in late April throughout the southern parts of the Region. Permanent resident birds generally nested and bred very early; but with the exception of waterfowl, which were slightly early, the migration was at the normal time. Unfortunately, as has been the situation over the last couple of years, it was an abysmal migration in terms of numbers of birds seen throughout the Region, particularly warblers and thrushes. Minnesota and Wisconsin observers had several outstanding rarities to chase after, particularly in Wisconsin, but Michigan had few birds of note.

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

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — Red-throated Loons present an interesting picture in the Region: Minnesota observers find them to be increasingly rare, perhaps only casual rather than regular, with only one report this spring, May 24 at Stoney Pt., St. Louis (S & DM); at the opposite end of the spectrum, Michigan observers are finding them to be very dependable in May at W.P.B.O., with 29 counted between Apr. 23 and May 25 (staff), although others were seen prior to the official count on several days. Additionally, there were two inland Michigan records: Apr. 8 in Ingham (JK) and Apr. 12 in Kent (BJ, SMi). After the unusual January buildup/appearance in Manitowoc, they were scarce this spring in Wisconsin.



A **Pacific Loon** was reported May 31 at W.P.B.O. (VF); if accepted by the Michigan Rare Birds Committee, it would be the 2nd record for Michigan. Common Loons were seen in record numbers this spring at W.P.B.O., with 5670 counted during the period. A **Yellow-billed Loon** was reported from W.P.B.O., May 13 (VF, PD); if accepted by the Michigan Rare Birds Committee, it would be the first for the state. Red-necked Grebes were seen in record numbers at W.P.B.O., with 426 during the period Apr. 21 to May 25, with highs of 53 Apr. 25 & 27 (staff). Wisconsin observers also noted a good number of birds away from their traditional nesting sites of Rush, Grassy, and Oakridge lakes. The only Eared Grebe report was of one May 23 in Dunn, Wis. (DT). Western Grebes were very early in Wisconsin, with one Apr. 4 in Ozaukee (DT). There were two reports of **Clark's Grebe**, with one of those birds having the distinction of being Minnesota's 3rd and Wisconsin's first May 2 at Heron L., Jackson, Minn. (BP, DR), and May 7 at St. Louis Bay, on both the Duluth and Superior sides (RJ, MH, KE

et al.). This species will probably turn out to be rare/regular in the Region now that observers are on the lookout for it. Sightings of Am. White Pelican away from their Minnesota breeding grounds were: one May 17 at W.P.B.O. (LD, PD, VF, TW); 19 May 19–23 at Ashland, Wis. (DV et al.), with only one still there May 24 (DT); and four May 24 at Wisconsin Pt., Superior (GD). Double-crested Cormorants continue to increase dramatically in Michigan and Wisconsin.

Snowy Egrets were reported from 3 Michigan, one Minnesota, and 2 Wisconsin sites, comprising a total of seven birds. Little Blue Herons were found at one Minnesota and 2 Wisconsin locations. The only Tricolored Heron of the season was one May 22 through at least June 8 at the Maple River S.G.A., Clinton, Mich. (JR, JK, JG, DE). Cattle Egrets were seen more commonly than usual in Wisconsin, with reports from at least 7 counties, including the usual nesting birds at Green Bay. One was also in Michigan, at the Saginaw R. Diked Disposal Island May 24 (CF), where they have nested in the past. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were more commonly reported than normal with three from Mich. and eight to 10 in Wisconsin. Four **White-faced Ibises** were at Horicon N.W.R., Apr. 25 to May 3 (m.ob.), with three there and two near Beaver Dam May 3 (LS et al.), for the first confirmed Wisconsin record. An unidentified *Plegadis* ibis was at Mead Lake W.A., Portage, Wis., May 1 (LS et al.).

Tundra Swans were less common than usual in Wisconsin, probably owing to low water levels. After the excellent numbers of the last couple of years, almost no Greater White-fronted Geese were seen, with single reports from Michigan and Wisconsin, totalling four birds. A Cinnamon Teal was at a sewage pond near Madison, Wis., May 23 & 26 (EH, FF). A ♂ **Garganey** at Goose L., Wasaca, Minn., Apr. 29 to May 2 (RG, m.ob.), was the first state and Regional report of this species. There seems to be no reason not to consider this a true vagrant based on the timing and recent history of vagrancy by this species to the midwest (AB 38:881). Eurasian Wigeon staged an unprecedented invasion into the Region: one Mar. 14–Apr. 10 at Grass L., near Milton, Wis. (DT, m.ob.); five Apr. 5 at Swan Pond, s.e. of Madison (LB); one Apr. 11 at Oakland L., Nicollet, Minn. (PH); and finally, one in late April at the Erie Gun Club, Monroe, Mich. (TWe, BB, RS, m.ob.). The three scoters were at their normal levels in Michigan, with most at W.P.B.O., but staged a poor migration in Wisconsin. Unusual were inland Surf Scoters at Fennville, Mich., Apr. 17–18 (DD, TM) and Albert Lea, Minn., May 3–5 (RG).

RAPTORS — Turkey Vultures were seen in their 2nd-highest numbers at W.P.B.O., with 96 for the season (staff). A **Black-shouldered Kite**, only the 2nd for Wisconsin, put on a real show for attendees at the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology annual meeting where 70+ birders watched the kite put on a fantastic display for over an hour. It was initially found May 15 at Marshfield, Wood, and was seen May 16 by the convention, last seen in the early morning of May 17. Interestingly, one was seen near Peoria, Ill., about a week earlier, possibly the same bird? A **Mississippi Kite** May 14 in Wash-tenaw, Mich. (HM et al.), was only the 4th for Michigan. A record 14,381 Sharp-shinned Hawks were counted at W.P.B.O. this spring, with a peak day of 2510 Apr. 20 (staff). A N. Goshawk nest was found May 31 in Ottawa, Mich. (GW, ES), well s. of normal. A good peak of 86 Bald Eagles was seen Mar. 16 in Wabasha, Minn. (AMP). The rare/regular Swainson's Hawk was noted three times: Mar. 7 in Clark, Wis. (NR), Apr. 3 at W.P.B.O. (VF), and Apr. 29 at W.P.B.O. (VF, TW et al.). Record numbers of both Red-tailed and Rough-legged hawks were seen at W.P.B.O. this spring with counts of 3088 and 1996 respectively (staff). Golden Eagles were found at 2 Michigan and 3 Wisconsin locations in March, with a record total of 25 counted at W.P.B.O. between Mar. 19 and May 8 (staff). Very late Golden Eagles were in Saux, Wis., May 24 (SS) and Chippewa, Mich., May 24 (JK, DE). Merlins continue to do well in Michigan, with 76 individuals seen at W.P.B.O. this spring (staff), and reports from at least 3 other locations.



Black-shouldered Kite in Wood Co., Wis., May 16, 1987. Second Wisconsin record. Photo/Keith Merkel.

S.A.

Peregrine Falcons have staged a remarkable comeback in the Region. As recently as 1980, only one-half dozen per spring were seen throughout the Region. Now, however, 15–20 birds are seen in each state in the spring. This season's reports show more of the same trend, with at least 20 individuals reported from 13 counties in Minnesota, 36 individuals at W.P.B.O. and reports from at least 5 other counties in Michigan, and a good flight reported in Wisconsin. Even more exciting was a nesting pair in downtown Minneapolis, consisting of a 4-year-old male hacked out in Wabasha in 1983 and a one-year-old female hacked out at the nesting site atop the Multifoods Building in 1986. The male was first seen Apr. 10, and the female Apr. 22, with eggs laid May 15 & 17. Both successfully hatched in June. This is particularly encouraging in light of the attempts to introduce Peregrines in Detroit and Grand Rapids, Mich.

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Sharp-tailed and Spruce grouse were noted in normal numbers in the U.P., with most observers finding Spruce Grouse near W.P.B.O. given sufficient motivation (i.e., very early morning searching). Yellow Rails were found at their usual Crex Meadows W.A., Wis., and Seney N.W.R., Mich., locations. Additionally, one was found injured in Milwaukee Apr. 27 (SD). King Rails were found at 4 Wisconsin locations. About the only migrants noted as having a "good migration" were shorebirds in Minnesota and Wisconsin, where dry conditions lowered water levels, producing more mud flats than normal. In Wisconsin, the drawdown of Beaver Dam Lake in Dodge produced outstanding habitat. In late April, several thousand each of Greater and Lesser yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpipers were present, and 20+ species were present around Memorial weekend. The following rare or casual (for the location) shorebirds were noted at Duluth: Am. Avocet, Whimbrel, both godwits, and a single flock of 22 Red Knots.

A **Snowy Plover** at Agassiz N.W.R., Minn., May 15 was only about the 6th for Minnesota. Piping Plovers continue very scarce on the w. Great Lakes, with only a single sighting in Wisconsin, and 7 pairs on L. Superior and 7-8 pairs on L. Michigan in Mich. (TA). A **Black-necked Stilt** e. of Arlington, Columbia, Wis., May 24-25 (m.ob.), was only the 4th or 5th for Wisconsin. American Avocets were seen once in Wisconsin and 3 times in Michigan, with 30 Mar. 28 (HM), both early and high. Greater Yellowlegs were very early in both Michigan and Wisconsin: Mar. 9 at Fennville, Allegan, Mich. (DD) and Mar. 12 at Milwaukee (WW). Slightly fewer Willets than normal were found in Michigan and Wisconsin, with 3 Michigan and 10 Wisconsin sightings. Whimbrels were in normal numbers in Michigan and Wisconsin in mid-May into June, with no large flocks reported. A Long-billed Curlew at Ely, Minn., May 19-22 (m.ob.), was thought to be only the 2nd for n.e. Minnesota. Small numbers of both godwits were seen in all three states. Unusual was a Marbled Godwit at Grand Marais, Minn., May 18 (WP). A good flock of Ruddy Turnstones numbering 800-1000 birds was at Manitowoc May 29-30 (CS, DT, GD). Western Sandpipers were reported from one Wisconsin and 2 Michigan locations, about average. A Baird's Sandpiper was seen at the early date of Apr. 25 in Dodge, Wis. (JP). Others were seen at W.P.B.O., May 22 (staff) and in Bay, Mich., May 30 (JS). A **Purple Sandpiper** was seen May 10 in Ozauskee, Wis. (KR), almost unheard of in spring in the Region. A breeding-plumaged **Curlew Sandpiper** was semi-cooperative May 23, 24 & 26 near Arlington, Columbia, Wis. (TS, m.ob.), for one of the few Wisconsin and Regional records of this scarce species. Single Long-billed Dowitchers were noted in Berrien, Mich.: Three Oaks May 8 (RS) and Berrien Springs May 19 (KM). Ruffs were seen at 2 Wisconsin locations: Apr. 9-11 at Goose Pond, Columbia (DT, RH, MM et al.) and at Beaver Dam late April to May 2 (DT et al.).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — Parasitic Jaegers were seen at 2 locations this spring: May 24 at Wisconsin Pt., Superior (DT) and for the 4th consecutive spring, May 26 at W.P.B.O. (JR, TW). Interestingly, there were no spring records of jaegers from W.P.B.O. until 1984, and they have been seen every spring since then. Laughing Gulls were seen in the Region as follows: May 7 at Agassiz N.W.R., exceptionally far n.w. in Minnesota; May 17 at St. Joseph, Berrien, Mich. (RA, BB, DP, RS); May 19 at Duluth (KE, S & DM et al.); and May 22 at W.P.B.O. (RP), about average for this rare/regular gull, but surprisingly only one record was from the s. part of the Region. Franklin's Gulls returned to Dakota, Minn., at the record early date of Mar. 7 (RG). Franklin's Gulls e. of normal were at M.W.S., May 1 & 15 (BJ, JW, SM); in Winnebago, Wis., May 13 (TZ); in Bay, Mich., May 24 (TWa); and at Manitowoc, where five were found May 30, building to 16 in early June (DT, CS et al.). Little Gulls were seen in all three states: one May 2 at Beaver Dam Lake, Wis. (TS et al.) and one May 19 at L. Osakis, Minn. (NH), where exceptionally unusual in that they were away from the Great Lakes; singles May 5 & 18 at Duluth (KE, BPe et al.), where the species is casual; one May 24 in Bay, Mich. (TWa); and at their usual Manitowoc location, where 11 in mid-May and one May 30 (CS, m.ob.) were unusual only in that they did not stay. A **Common Black-headed Gull** was seen on 2 April dates at Heron L., Jackson, Minn., where it was seen last year, for the 2nd Minnesota record. The large Franklin's Gull/Forster's Tern colony with which this bird and the nesting Little Gulls appeared last year, was completely abandoned, apparently due to low water levels. A **Common Black-headed Gull** was also found May 20 at Benton Harbor, Berrien, Mich. (JG), for a first county record. Three-thousand-plus Bonaparte's Gulls were at Manitowoc May 10 (DT). Single Thayer's Gulls were seen at M.W.S., Mar. 28 (JK), Apr. 1 (JK, JG, RPU) and Apr. 12 (SM, CR); in Marquette, Mich., Apr. 1 (NI); and at Manitowoc Apr. 20 (DT). Single Iceland Gulls were found Apr. 1 (JK) & 13 (BJ, JW) at M.W.S.; Apr. 19 in Berrien, Mich. (WB); and Apr. 20 at Manitowoc (DT). A Glaucous Gull on L. Lansing, Ingham, Mich. (JK), was one of the few ever found well away from the Great

Lakes in Michigan. Great Black-backed Gulls were found on L. Superior at Wisconsin Pt., Superior, May 25 (DT) and at W.P.B.O., where 18 were seen during the period, triple the previous seasonal high (staff). There were an incredible 3 reports of Least Tern from Wisconsin: May 13, Wisconsin R., Dane (RH); May 28, Dunn (JP); and May 28-31, near Mud Lake W.A., Columbia (FF, AS, DT, RH et al.).

CUCKOOS THROUGH THRUSHES — A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was n. of normal May 14 in Delta, Mich. (KW). A Com. Barn-Owl was found dead near Leonidas, St. Joseph, Mich., Mar. 15 (TR). A Snowy Owl lingered until at least May 26 in Michigan's Muskegon (m.ob.). A N. Hawk-Owl was caught, photographed, and banded Apr. 27 at W.P.B.O. (WL, staff). Minnesota had only its 4th confirmed nesting of N. Hawk-Owl, with one found nesting in Roseau (fide KH). A Burrowing Owl was found May 23 on the Felton Prairie, Clay, Minn. (KE et al.); this species is seen only once or twice per year in Minnesota. Minnesota observers found Great Gray Owls in excellent numbers in their traditional nesting grounds in Roseau and Aitkin, with nine seen/heard in central Lake during the spring (SW/MS), but no nests were found. One was found Mar. 15 in Chippewa, Mich. A seasonal total of 67 Long-eared Owls, the 2nd-best ever, was recorded at W.P.B.O. (staff). There were more reports of Short-eared Owls than in recent years, with six found at 5 sites in Michigan, and an impressive peak of 20-30 at Rothsay W.M.A., Wilkin, Minn., Mar. 22 (S & DM). Thirteen Boreal Owls were found at W.P.B.O. during the period Apr. 13 to May 4 (staff), more than last year, but well below an invasion year. Two Boreal Owls were found dead in Duluth in March (fide DEv). No fewer than 12 were heard in c. Lake, Minn., in March-April (SW/MS), with only the 3rd Minnesota nest found in Roseau not far from the N. Hawk-Owl nest (fide KH). While listening for Boreal and Great Gray owls, Wilson/Shedd heard 45 N. Saw-whet Owls in Lake, Minn. Observers/banders at W.P.B.O. recorded a record 75 N. Saw-whet Owls in the period Apr. 7 to May 12 (staff).

A Chuck-will's-widow was heard at the same Polk, Wis., location as last year (fide JH). Black-backed Woodpeckers were reported from one Michigan and 3 Wisconsin locations. Pileated Woodpeckers are becoming more common in the s.w. portion of the L.P., even close to people. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Fowler, Mich., May 26, 1987. Photo/Bill Bouton.

found a surprising 3 times in the Region, with two in the far n.: May 5 in Grand Marais, Cook, Minn.; May 24-26 in Clinton, Mich. (J & PB, m.ob.); and May 31 in Alger in Michigan's U.P. (NJ). The only out-of-range W. Kingbird was one at Spring Green, Wis., May 15 (RH). Gray Jays were much more common than usual at W.P.B.O., with 50 during the period May 15-31, including juveniles, indicating local breeding (staff). Common Ravens were s. of normal at Carlos Avery W.M.A., Aitkin,

Minn., May 4 (RG) and nesting in Wexford, Mich., with three young Apr. 25 (JPo, GW, ES). Common Ravens are extending their range s. in Michigan's L.P. and are becoming much more common during the nesting season in the n. one-third of the L.P. After last fall/winter's invasion, Boreal Chickadees lingered s. of normal in Aitkin, Minn., with a peak of 20 Apr. 4, some remaining into June (WN). They occurred in record numbers at W.P.B.O. with individuals present from late March on (staff). This species is normally only seen in mid-late May at W.P.B.O. Carolina Wrens were reported from 4 Michigan and 3 Wisconsin locations, an encouraging increase for this winter-limited species. A Rock Wren was in Eagan, Dakota, Minn., Apr. 19–20 (TT); this species is casual/accidental even in extreme w. Minnesota. The overwintering Townsend's Solitaires at Devil's Lake S.P., Wis., lingered into April, with the last observed Apr. 6 (KL). Migrant thrushes were notably absent this spring throughout the Region with the Gray-cheeked Thrush particularly scarce.

MIMIDS THROUGH WARBLERS — Northern Mockingbirds were found at 7 Michigan and 6 Wisconsin locations, about average. The overwintering Curve-billed Thrasher at the Hendrickson feeder in Spencer, Wis., was last seen in mid-April. A **Sage Thrasher** was found May 14 in Grand Marais, Minn. (K & MH) and was subsequently seen and photographed by many through May 23, when it was found dead of unknown cause; this was the 4th record for Minnesota. A Water Pipit found Apr. 4 in Columbia, Wis. (DT) was early, but the overall migration in both Michigan and Wisconsin was quite poor in contrast to last year. Loggerhead Shrikes presented a mixed picture again this spring, with Minnesota observers finding more than normal, highlighted by two in n.e. Minn., where the species is accidental: May 11 at Grand Marais (WP) and May 12 Duluth (MH). Wisconsin observers recorded 9 sightings, of which only 2 or 3 were nesting birds, fewer than last year; and Michigan observers did even worse, with only 3 sightings, with one nesting, certainly a disappointing showing for this scarce species. Further on the depressing side, 3254 Eur. Starlings were found at W.P.B.O. during the period, continuing the 5-year pattern of increase of this species at this location (staff). White-eyed Vireos were reported from 5 Michigan and 5 Wisconsin locations, about average, and from 2 Minnesota locations, where the species is considered casual: May 8 in Steele (RG) and May 17 at Flandrau S.P., Brown (JSp). Bell's Vireos seem to be gradually increasing in the s. and s.w. parts of Wisconsin, where they were found nesting in good numbers. In Michigan, however, there was only one sighting, May 25–31 in Berrien (CN). A Yellow-throated Vireo was at W.P.B.O., May 22 (VF), n. of normal. A Red-eyed Vireo Apr. 25 in Sauk, Wis. (KL), was early.

Surprisingly, this year's warbler migration was even worse than that of last year or the year before, when this editor stated it was "undoubtedly the worst in recent memory." At Kleinstuck Preserve, Kalamazoo, Mich., Adams has run daily censuses in the spring for 16 years. This year, the peak species count was under 20 species for the first time ever, with the average count only 10 or 11 and the total number of individuals 20 to 30 percent below the worst previous year (1985). Other areas reported similar sparsity of warblers, with only W.P.B.O. and the Duluth area reporting any good numbers. Also surprising, considering the warmth of the spring and the advanced state of the vegetation, was that there were few early records, with most species "on time." A Cape May Warbler Apr. 26 at Minneapolis (BS) was the earliest ever for Minnesota. Yellow-throated Warblers were found in all 3 states, with confirmed nesting along the Sugar R., w. of Beloit, Wis., and an early bird Apr. 25 in Lafayette, Wis. (RH). This species is now considered casual in Minnesota, and befitting its changing status, one appeared May 24 at Frontenac S.P., Goodhue (R & TF). Prairie Warblers were found at 3 Michigan and 2 Wisconsin locations, with one n. of normal at W.P.B.O., May 9 (VF). Worm-eating Warblers were reported from 2 Michigan locations, and for the

5th consecutive year, from Baxter's Hollow, Sauk, Wis. (m ob). A Louisiana Waterthrush in Sauk Apr. 12 (SS) was early for Wisconsin. Kentucky Warblers were found at 3 Michigan and 3 Wisconsin sites, about average. A Hooded Warbler was well n. of normal, May 23 in Superior (RJ). Also well n. of normal was a Yellow-breasted Chat at Superior May 13 (RJ).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — All the Summer Tanager reports this spring were from Wisconsin: a female in Madison May 7 (EH); a male in Milwaukee May 9 (BC); and a female in Hales Corners May 11 (SD). The wintering Indigo Bunting in Calumet, Wis., survived the winter, being last observed in early April (*vide* CRu). Dickcissels made their best movement into Wisconsin in many years with large numbers seen in the s. and w. parts of the state. Small numbers of Dickcissels were seen in s. Michigan commencing in mid-May. Lark Sparrows were e. and n.e. of normal at W.P.B.O., Apr. 27 (RA *et al.*); Cook, Minn., Apr. 13–19 and May 10–31 (EHa); and at Duluth May 15 (MS *et al.*). A Le Conte's Sparrow was found at the record-early date of Mar. 22 at Minneoka S.P., Blue Earth, Minn. (RG, RJa). Three Lark Buntings were found in Wisconsin, where even one is considered unusual: a male Apr. 18 in the Kettle Moraine area of Waukesha (KP) and two males May 28 in Bayfield (DV). Sharp-tailed Sparrows were seen at their usual Crex Meadows W.A., Wis., location May 23+ (DT *et al.*). Harris' Sparrows were e. of normal at 2 Michigan locations: Apr. 18–May 8 in Fremont, Newaygo (FB) and May 9–12 in Delta (KW). Two gambelii White-crowned Sparrows were seen at W.P.B.O., beginning in early May, remaining well into June, raising speculation that they might be on territory (staff, TW). A **Golden-crowned Sparrow** was found Apr. 29 at a feeder near Watson, Chippewa, Minn. (R & GJ), and was photographed to verify the first occurrence in Minnesota. Lapland Longspurs were less common than last year in Wisconsin. Two **Smith's Longspurs** found Apr. 18 on the Maxson Plains, Drummond Island, Chippewa (SSt), provided only the 4th record for Michigan.

Yellow-headed Blackbirds are becoming more common in Michigan, with reports from 6 counties this spring. Orchard Orioles were n. of normal at Tawas Pt., Mich., May 11 (CF) and well n. of normal at Duluth May 27 (KE, PE). House Finches continue to expand throughout the Region, with thousands present in Michigan and breeding in most towns in the s. third of the L.P.; nesting in Milwaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Madison and LaCrosse, Wis.; and 2 reports from Minnesota, where it is still casual: Apr. 11 in Minneapolis (DRa) and Apr. 22 in Rochester (JB). A Hoary Redpoll was still present Mar. 23 at W.P.B.O. (TW). The only White-winged Crossbills reported were from W.P.B.O., where 129 were seen during the period, the latest May 13 (staff). Evening Grosbeaks were less common than usual in Michigan, particularly at W.P.B.O.

CONTRIBUTORS — This editor wishes to thank the many individuals who submitted reports for this summary. The nature of this summary precludes listing every individual who sends in a report; therefore, only those observers with cited records are listed below. (State editors in boldface.)—Ray Adams, Tom Allen, Lynn Belanger, Joe & Phyllis Bogle (J & PB), Jerry Bonkoski, Florence Booth, Walter Booth, Bill Bouton, Bill Cowart, Gerry DeBoar, Scott Diehl, Dave Dister, Louie Dombroski, Peter Duley, **Kim Eckert** (Minnesota), Paul Egeland, D. Evans (DEv), Dave Evers, Vic Fazio, R. & T. Field (R & TF), Chip Francke, Frank Freese, Ray Glassel, **Jim Granlund** (Michigan), Ellen Hansen, Ellen Hawkins (EHa), Katie Haws, Nestor Heimenz, M. Hendrickson, P. Hertzell, Ken & Molly Hoffman (K & MH), Randy Hoffman, Joe Hudick, Nick Ilnick, Robert Janssen (RJ), Bunny Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Robbye Johnson, Roger & Gretchen Johnson (R & GJ), Joe Kaplan, Warren Lamb, Ken Lange, Mark Martin, Hugh McGuinness, Steve & Diane Millard (S & DM), Kip Miller, Steve Minard (SMi), Tim Moermond, Chuck Nelson, Warren Nelson, B. Penning (BPe), B. Pieper, Rod Planck, Anne Marie Plunkett, Janine Polk, Jim Ponshair (JPO), Walter Popp, **David Powell** (Michigan), Ken Pruski, Robert Putman (RPu), D. Radtke (DRa), Jack Reinoehl, N. Risch, Tom Ruble, Carol Rudy (CRu), D. Ruhme, Char Runnells, Tom Schultz, Larry Semo,

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MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

Bruce G. Peterjohn

Spring of 1987 will be quickly forgotten by most birders in this Region. March temperatures were well above normal, allowing waterfowl to pass through the Region rapidly without developing sizable concentrations. A few early arrivals were noted, but perhaps not as many as expected given the favorable conditions. Temperatures were closer to normal during April and precipitation was generally below normal. Despite predominantly north winds throughout the month, most migrants returned on time but seemingly filtered through in small numbers rather than in pronounced waves. By the end of the month, vegetation was well developed in most areas. May temperatures were slightly above normal while precipitation was generally below normal with few defined frontal systems. Most birds apparently passed through (or over) the Region very quickly and only a few local concentrations were detected. Virtually all migrants had departed by the last week of the month. By all accounts, it was one of the duller spring migrations of recent years. While a few noteworthy rarities were discovered, most observers lamented the scarcity of migrants and absence of defined flights that normally generate the greatest excitement during this season.

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 HERONS — The loon migration was somewhat improved as compared with the last few years. Red-throated Loons were discovered only in Illinois with singles in LaSalle Mar. 28 (†MB et al.) and Spring Lake W.M.A., Apr. 9 (TP et al.). The only flocks of Com. Loons appeared in Indiana, where 57 congregated at Eagle Creek Res., Apr. 7 (CK), and Ohio, with 14–27 at scattered lakes Apr. 4–16. Grebes maintained their mediocre showing of recent years. The largest Pied-billed Grebe flocks totalled 40–53 in Missouri and Illinois. Horned Grebes peaked with 160 at Mogadore Res., O., Apr. 9 (LR) and flocks of 30–41 at scattered lakes e. of the Mississippi R. through early April. Four Red-necked Grebe reports were normal although all were inland with Ohio singles at Summit L., Mar. 10–14+ (LR, m.ob.) and Beaver Creek Res., Apr. 9 (†TB), two at L. Shelbyville, Ill., Mar. 25 (KF), and one at Sweet Marsh, Ia., May 12 (†FM, †T). Eared Grebes were scarce in the w. states with a maximum of two in Iowa. One or two Eareds at 8 Illinois locations Mar. 15–Apr. 5 constituted above-average numbers for that state. The only W. Grebes detected were at one w. Iowa lake where they are regular migrants during spring. American White Pelicans were restricted to Iowa and Missouri where the largest flocks totalled 100–300. An estimated 1100+ Double-crested Cormorants at Rend L., Ill., Apr. 10 (TF) made an exceptional spring concentration. Largest flocks totalled 100–300 elsewhere in Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri, 70 in w. Kentucky, and 10–36 in Ohio and Indiana. Anhingas are becoming regular in extreme s.e. Missouri near Caruthersville, where one was noted Apr. 21 (FL, LG).



Fewer Am. Bitterns were detected this spring, with sightings from 36 locations in all states. One in Lee Mar. 28 was early for Iowa (RC). Twenty-one Least Bittern reports were normal, beginning with an early migrant at Havana, Ill., Apr. 16 (LA). Great Blue Herons congregated only along w. Lake Erie and in n. Illinois with flocks of 250–350+. Great Egrets were rather scarce, except at traditional nesting colonies where a maximum of 200+ was noted in n. Illinois. The earliest Snowy Egret returned to Cleveland Apr. 10 (TL), while one to three at 9 locations in all states except Indiana were slightly below normal numbers. A Little Blue Heron at Horseshoe L., Ill., Mar. 21 was quite early (G & TBA). Away from their Mississippi R. colonies, six or fewer were reported from 1–4 sites in each state. A Tricolored Heron was unexpected at Barberton, O., May 5 (LR, EP). The only other report was from the w. Lake Erie marshes, where they are regular spring visitors. Numbers of Cattle Egrets remained low except near their Mississippi R. colonies. Other than flocks of 13–18 in Illinois, they were detected in widely scattered sightings of one to six in all states. An early Green-backed Heron returned to Cleveland Mar. 30 (TL). Numbers of this species were very low in many areas, and several observers expressed concern over their apparently declining populations. The earliest Black-crowned Night-Heron appeared in Chicago Mar. 15 (JL, CMo). Their populations remained fairly stable with maxima of 100–363 in Kentucky and Illinois. The 19 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron sightings reflected normal numbers for spring.

WATERFOWL — The mild March weather produced a lackluster waterfowl migration. As expected during mild open springs, the Tundra Swan flight was poor. Only small flocks appeared along w. Lake Erie. Elsewhere, largest concentrations totalled 70 at Wexford, Ia., Apr. 4 (FL), 26 in c. Ohio and 15 in Boone, Ill., Mar. 31 (EB), along a migration corridor extending s. to Olney, Ill., and Dayton, O. The goose migration was exceptionally poor. In the w. states, Greater White-fronted Geese peaked with 70 in n.w. Missouri. East of the Mississippi R., they appeared only in Ohio where 2 reports included three believed to be of the Greenland race in Ross Mar. 1 (J, MG). Few Snow Geese appeared e. of the Mississippi R. this year. Accidental in this Region during spring, a Brant was scrutinized at Baldwin L., Ill., Mar. 30–Apr. 5 (VH, m.ob., ph.).



Brant (with Canada Goose) at Baldwin Lake; Ill., Apr. 5, 1987. Photo/Dennis Oehmke.

The puddle duck migration was generally poor, except in n.w. Missouri where concentrations of 2000 Blue-winged Teal and 3000 N. Shovelers Apr. 5 and 2300 Gadwalls Mar. 14 were reported from S.C.R. and adjacent areas (FL). Cinnamon Teal were restricted to the w. states with one Missouri and 2 Iowa sightings Mar. 25–May 9. Single Eur. Wigeon at Columbus, O., Mar. 15 (RCo, KA) and L. Renwick, Ill., Apr. 15 (JM) made a normal number of spring reports.

Except for local concentrations in most states, diving duck numbers were also unimpressive. The largest migrant flocks included 2500 Canvasbacks at Rush L., Ia., Mar. 20 (DH), S.C.R. peaks of 1200 Canvasbacks Mar. 5 and 3500 Ring-neckeds Mar. 14 (FL), and 3000 Lesser Scaup in Henderson, Ill., Mar. 8 (MB). The flock of 44 Greater Scaup at Spfld. Mar. 6 was unusual for an inland locality (H). This winter's imm. King Eider at Spfld. remained into May. Casual along L. Erie during spring, the only Harlequin Duck was discovered at Oregon, O., Mar. 24 (†JHr). Oldsquaws were scarce along the Great Lakes, where no concentrations were reported. Inland sightings totalled 14 from all states except Missouri, with a maximum of 14 at Kentucky L., Ky., Mar. 21 (BP, LRa). Migrant Surf Scoters appeared only in c. Illinois Apr. 24–May 9, with two each in DeWitt and at L. Vermilion plus another in Vermilion. White-winged Scoters were not detected along the Great Lakes, while inland reports were limited to a total of 3 sightings from Iowa and Ohio Mar. 14–Apr. 7. Other notable diving duck concentrations included 700 Red-breasted Mergansers at Barkley L., Ky., Mar. 21 (BP) and 1000 Ruddy Ducks at Spring Lake W.M.A., Ill., Mar. 14 (RP).

HAWKS — The hawk migration was poor for the 2nd consecutive year, owing in part to generally unfavorable winds during most of March and April. In addition, the few days with strong SW winds did not fall on weekends, and the largest flights may have been missed. The earliest Turkey Vultures returned to all states by the first week of March. Ospreys were widespread in normal numbers for recent springs, generally four or fewer, beginning Mar. 21 in w. Kentucky. Certainly the most unexpected raptor was a **Black-shouldered Kite** near Williamsfield, Ill., May 9–10 (MB, †m.ob.), providing the first record for the state. Mississippi Kites were noted along the Mississippi R. north to the St. Louis area. Extralimital kites appeared at Jefferson City, Mo., May 16 (†JW), near W. Plains, Mo., May 24 (MMc et al.), and n. to Chicago May 18 (†PS).

Bald Eagle numbers continued to improve in most areas although no sizable concentrations were reported. Cooper's Hawks were also widely reported with a maximum of 13 passing along w. Lake Erie Mar. 7. The return flight of N. Goshawks was poor with a total of only 3 sightings from n. Ohio and n. Indiana during March. The largest Red-shouldered Hawk flight

comprised 79 at Maumee Bay S P, O, Mar 7 (MG, J) No sizable Broad-winged Hawk flights were encountered. The expected small numbers of Swainson's Hawks migrated through the w. states and returned to the Illinois nesting site. No extralimital Swainson's were reported. The largest Red-tailed Hawk flight consisted of 105–115 along w. Lake Erie Mar. 6–7. Only single Golden Eagles were detected in n. Indiana and n. Ohio Apr. 18–19. Given the numbers migrating S through the e. United States each fall, obviously they are going unrecorded during their spring migration through this Region. The falcon migration was also disappointing, with approximately 8 Merlin and 18 Peregrine sightings for the spring, with a maximum of four Peregrines at Chicago Mar. 7 (JL, CMO). The wintering pair of Peregrines at Toledo lingered well into May but gave no indication of nesting this year (TK, ET).

GROUSE THROUGH CRANES — A Ruffed Grouse wandered to the Indiana Dunes area May 4, providing n.w. Indiana's first sighting since 1955 (HR). The only other extralimital grouse was found at Pickerington, O., Apr. 13 (J). All gallinaceous birds apparently benefitted from last winter's mild weather. Rails were not plentiful this spring. Single Yellow Rails from one Iowa, 2 Illinois, and 3 Ohio locations Apr. 18–June 1 represented above-normal numbers. The only acceptable Black Rail was briefly viewed at Sangchris S.P., Ill., May 19 (†H). King Rail numbers were reduced with only 8 reports from Missouri, Ohio, Iowa, and Illinois. The mild March weather induced Virginia Rails to return to Jackson, O., Mar. 8 (BB) and Spfld. Mar. 19 (H), while Soras appeared in s. Illinois and s.w. Ohio Mar. 27–28. Largest concentrations totalled seven to 10 Virginias and 14–30 Soras. The only Purple Gallinule appeared May 1 in s. Illinois in Johnson where the species is a casual visitor (SO). Common Moorhens were rather scarce with only scattered reports and a maximum of 19 at L. Calumet, Ill. Numbers of Am. Coots have declined locally although 10,000 massed at S.C.R., Mar. 5 (FL). Sandhill Cranes passed through n. Illinois in exceptional numbers with 1497 at Mt. Hoy Mar. 16 and 1623 Mar. 19 (DY), plus 350 at Morton Arboretum Apr. 17 (EW). At the edge of their normal migration corridor, 14 appeared at Newton, Ill., Feb. 24 (LH) and one or two were noted at 4 sites in the w. one-half of Ohio Mar. 6–23. The only extralimital report was of two at Ventura Marsh, Ia., Apr. 15 (fide JH).

SHOREBIRDS — The shorebird migration was average at best. Even where suitable habitats were available, numbers and variety did not live up to expectations. A Lesser Golden-Plover at Runnels W.M.A., Mar. 14 was early for Iowa (JS). Last year's exceptional flight was not repeated, and the largest concentrations totalled 500–1600+ in all states except Kentucky. Unusual numbers appeared e. to the Cleveland area where they are seldom observed during spring. A **Snowy Plover** visited Illinois for the 2nd consecutive spring with one studied in Fulton May 10–11 (RS, †m.ob.). Semipalmated Plovers were reported in good numbers with 75–115 at several inland sites in Illinois, Kentucky, and Ohio, plus 300+ estimated along w. Lake Erie May 15. Four Piping Plover sightings from Ohio, Iowa, and Illinois were normal for recent springs. It was a poor spring for Am. Avocets with 7 reports from Illinois, Iowa, and Ohio Apr. 15–May 24. The largest flock by far was of 40 at Athens, O., Apr. 15 (SM, fide LGa).

The earliest yellowlegs were a Greater in Henderson, Ky., Mar. 5 (RI) and Lesser at E. St. Louis, Ill., Mar. 10 (JLo). Numbers were unremarkable except for 1500 Lessers at Riverton W.M.A., Ia., May 9 (B & LPa). An early Solitary Sandpiper at Louisville Mar. 28 (BP) presaged a good migration with maxima of 17–29 in Missouri, Illinois, and Ohio. Willets were rather scarce with only 15 reports from the n. states. The largest flock was of 18 at Cleveland May 2 (TL) while 10 at Rend L., Apr. 30 were unusual for s. Illinois (LH). A Spotted Sandpiper at Crab Orchard N.W.R., Ill., Mar. 28 was unusually early (DR). Upland Sandpipers were found in all states but no concentrations were noted. As many as three Whimbrels appeared along

L. Erie May 12–23 Unusual anywhere inland, singles were discovered in Fremont, Ia., Apr. 25–26 (†MP, m.ob.), West Branch S.P., O., May 17 (LR), and Spfld., May 18 (H). Hudsonian Godwits were not numerous in the w. states, where the largest flock was of 30 near Camden, Mo., May 10 (fide RF). Elsewhere, they appeared e. to w. Lake Erie and included one to four at 5 Illinois locations May 11–30. Marbled Godwits were unusually scarce with only singles at a total of 4 sites in Illinois, Iowa, and Ohio. A Ruddy Turnstone returned to Illinois by Apr. 25 and the species peaked with 85+ along L. Erie and 25–29 inland.

The expected small numbers of Red Knots appeared along the Great Lakes while one at Rend L., May 2 provided an unusual spring record for s. Illinois (DR, TF). Sanderlings were scarce in most areas although 36 at Rend L., May 18 were unexpected in s. Illinois (TF). A W. Sandpiper in Fulton Apr. 5 provided one of few documented spring records from Kentucky (†BP, LRA). Small numbers were also reported from Iowa and Illinois during May. White-rumped Sandpipers were widely reported. As usual, largest flocks appeared in the w. states with 350 at S.C.R., May 11 (FL), while 50+ at Rend L., May 19 made a large flock for Illinois (LH). In the w. states, Baird's Sandpipers peaked with 35 at Rush L., Ia., May 12 (DH). Singles were also noted at 2 Illinois locations Apr. 12–May 4 while one in Union Apr. 12 provided an exceptional spring record for Kentucky (†BP). The earliest Pectoral Sandpiper returned to Cone Marsh, Ia., Mar. 7 (BW). An early Dunlin returned to s. Illinois Apr. 4, and Dunlins peaked at 1500+ along w. Lake Erie May 23. The customary spring numbers of Stilt Sandpipers appeared e. to Ohio with a maximum of 15 at Rend L., Ill., May 14 (TF). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were noted only in Illinois, where there are few previous spring records. Two appeared in Sangamon Apr. 26 (†H) and two near Carlyle L., May 7 (†RGo). A ♀ Ruff was carefully studied at Reelfoot N.W.R., Apr. 17, providing the 2nd record for Kentucky (†BP, MT). The only other Ruff was discovered at O.W.R., May 23 (LR, m.ob.). Early Long-billed Dowitchers returned to Seneca, O., Mar. 8 (†TB) and Navoo, Ill., Mar. 28 (AD), but few were reported later in the spring. Fairly good numbers of Com. Snipe included a late migrant at Ted Shanks W.M.A., Mo., May 30 (KM). Small numbers of Wilson's Phalaropes were reported from all states except Kentucky, while the only Red-necked Phalarope was observed along w. Lake Erie May 23.

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — The wintering Pomarine Jaeger at Kentucky L., Ky., was last observed Mar. 24. The gull migration yielded few surprises. Laughing Gulls maintained their status as regular spring visitors with 4 Great Lakes reports, one or two at 3 w. Kentucky lakes May 22, singles at 3 inland Illinois locations May 15–31, and two at Eagle Creek Res., Ind., May 2 (†SJ). An early Franklin's Gull returned to Crab Orchard N.W.R., Ill., Mar. 14 (DR). Migrants appeared only e. to Illinois and w. Kentucky and included a flock of 12 at L. Shelbyville Apr. 30 (KF), a rather large number for spring in Illinois. The only Little Gull was reported along L. Erie. Casual during spring, a Com. Black-headed Gull appeared at Cleveland Apr. 5–6 (RHa, m.ob.). Bonaparte's Gulls were noted along L. Michigan in improved numbers with maxima of 400–600 at Michigan City, Ind., Apr. 24–25 (KB, DP) and 500 at Chicago May 3 (CMo). Normal numbers were reported elsewhere. The most unusual larid of the season was an ad. **Mew Gull** thoroughly studied by many at Chicago Apr. 11 (fm.ob.). A California Gull was documented at Cleveland Apr. 29, providing the first spring record for Ohio (†RH). An estimated 20,000 Herring Gulls massed at L. Calumet, Ill., Mar. 1 (JL), an exceptional concentration for the L. Michigan area. The winter gulls generally departed rather early, with Thayer's Gull lingering through Apr. 12 on L. Michigan and Iceland Gull through Mar. 22 on L. Erie. Surprisingly, the latest Glaucous Gull was discovered at Clinton L., Ill., Apr. 4 (RCh). Wintering Great Black-backed Gulls were last noted in Peoria, Ill., Mar. 6 and along L. Michigan through Apr. 25. An imm. Black-legged Kittiwake at Rend L., Apr. 5 provided one of few spring records from Illinois (†RP).

Terns continued their dismal showing of recent springs. They arrived on time but few flocks were reported. Common Terns remained distressingly scarce on L. Erie and a maximum of 75 appeared along L. Michigan. Only Forster's Terns have maintained stable populations. A Forster's at Cedar L., Apr. 10 was early for Iowa (PW), and concentrations of 20–100 were noted in most states. Small numbers of Least Terns returned to their nesting areas in w. Iowa and w. Kentucky. An extralimital Least appeared in Logan, O., May 23 (†MM, RG). Black Terns were alarmingly scarce in most areas. The only reported concentration was of 125 of S.C.R., May 11 (FL).

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Numbers of Black-billed Cuckoos remained low while Yellow-billed improved somewhat. An early Yellow-billed returned to Big Oak Tree S.P., Mo., Apr. 22 (FL, LG). A Greater Roadrunner in Ozark during early May was at the e. edge of its range in Missouri (fide BJ). The status of Com. Barn-Owls has not improved. Other than probable nesting birds, the only migrant was noted Apr. 12 at Sioux City, Ia., where they are rare visitors (DT). Snowy Owls lingered in Ohio and Illinois into March. The presence of as many as four Snowies in LaSalle, Ill., through Mar. 28 provided the largest reported concentration of an otherwise unimpressive flight (JH, m.ob.). The other migrant owls were poorly represented this spring with all reports from the n. states. The 7+ Long-eared Owl reports were mostly from wintering locations while N. Saw-whet Owls were detected at only 4 sites.

A Com. Nighthawk at Spfld. Apr. 21 was a little early (H), and was followed by normal numbers in most areas. The only extralimital Chuck-will's-widow appeared May 15+ in Cook, Ill. (†JM, m.ob.), where they are casual visitors. The earliest Whip-poor-will returned to s. Illinois by Apr. 8. Several observers expressed concern over their apparently declining populations. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were also rather scarce in several n. states. Migrant woodpeckers elicited few comments other than the decided scarcity of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in all states. No more than eight appeared at any locality and many observers saw only one or two during the entire season. A sapsucker in Grayson May 10 was late for Kentucky (KC *et al.*). Numbers of N. Flickers were also reduced with a maximum of 55 at Chicago Mar. 29 (JL).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES — The flycatcher migration was unremarkable in most areas. They apparently passed through the Region very quickly, with the only noticeable concentrations near the Great Lakes May 21–25. An impressive 16 Alder Flycatchers were tallied in Vermilion, Ill., May 25 (RCh), although smaller numbers were widely encountered in the n. states. An early Willow Flycatcher returned to Lawrence, Ind., Apr. 26 (JC). Western Kingbirds were reported only within their normal breeding range and included the nesting pair returning to the St. Louis area. An E. Kingbird at Louisville Mar. 23 was remarkably early (HS). Good numbers of E. Kingbirds in Kentucky and Illinois included a peak of 59 in Massac, Ill., May 9 (DR). Extralimital Scissor-tailed Flycatchers appeared in Wayne, Mo., May 26 (BJ) and Jackson, Ill., May 12 (†RZ).

The swallow migration could be characterized as having many early records but few sizable concentrations. The earliest Purple Martins returned to Michigan City, Ind., Mar. 7 (KB *et al.*) and Shelby, Ill., Mar. 8 (KF). Numbers were thought to be reduced in many areas. Tree Swallows also returned to Illinois during the first week of March, appearing at L. Calumet Mar. 7 (JL, CMo). Other early swallows included N. Rough-wingeds at Somerset, Ky., Mar. 27 (JE) and Johnson, Ill., Mar. 29 (TF), three Banks at Spfld., Mar. 29 (H), Cliffs in Trigg, Ky., Mar. 23 (CP) and Fayette, Mo., Mar. 31 (CR), and a Barn Swallow in Shelby, Ill., Mar. 1 (KF).

The Blue Jay migration around L. Erie peaked May 6–10 with the customary daily totals numbering in the thousands. Fish Crows may be expanding N along the Mississippi R. They returned to Mark Twain N.W.R., Ill., Mar. 29+ (RGo, m.ob.),

while as many as six at Ted Shanks WMA, Mo., Apr. 3+ were also n. of their established range (KM). Red-breasted Nuthatches were universally scarce this spring, as were Brown Creepers except for 35 at O.W.R., Mar. 1 (m.ob.).

Carolina Wrens were improved in many n. areas. Normal numbers of Bewick's Wrens can still be found in s. Missouri. Elsewhere, they appeared at 3 Kentucky localities plus males in Warren, Ill., Apr. 15 and at Knoxville, Ill., Apr. 17 (MB, m.ob.). Except for 57 House Wrens at Morton Arboretum, Ill., May 9 (EW et al.), migrant wrens were unimpressive. Winter Wrens were particularly scarce but included late migrants in Calloway, Ky., May 2 (fide CP) and Iowa and Illinois May 12-15. An early Marsh Wren returned to Knox, Ill., Apr. 5 (MB). Kinglets were fairly numerous only in Illinois, where the largest concentrations of both species totalled 45-52. A pair of Golden-crowned Kinglets remained at Morton Arboretum, Ill., through June 2, exhibiting breeding behavior although a nest was not found (EW, JHd). Good numbers of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers included maxima of 70-89 in s. Illinois and 13-20 along the Great Lakes.

Eastern Bluebirds were thought to be increasing in most states. A Townsend's Solitaire remaining at Milford, Ia., through Apr. 20 had wintered in the area (tLF et al.). The *Catharus* thrush migration was universally poor with few concentrations reported anywhere. A Swainson's Thrush in Polk Apr. 11 was early for Iowa (JS). The Varied Thrush at Spfld. was last observed Mar. 2. Mimids elicited few comments but their numbers appeared to be fairly low. Water Pipits were also scarce in all states. Cedar Waxwings did not become widespread until May and sizable flocks did not develop anywhere this spring. Northern Shrikes were reported only in n. Illinois through Mar. 10. Loggerhead Shrikes remained stable in the s. states. At least 14 reports from Iowa, eight in c. and n. Illinois, and 3+ reports from Ohio and Indiana reflected slightly improved numbers.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — In most areas, neither group was represented by impressive numbers. Arrival dates were nearly normal with few early records. Favorable winds during the



Male "Lawrence's Warbler" (the rare Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler hybrid form) in s.w. Cook County, Ill., May 15, 1987. Photo/ Joe Milosevich.

last one-half of May produced an abrupt end to the migration with most species departing by the last week of May. The only defined "flights" were reported from s. Ohio during the first week of May, and along L. Michigan in n.e. Illinois and n.w. Indiana May 18-22.

An early White-eyed Vireo returned to Champaign, Ill., Apr. 5 (RCh). They are rare in n. Iowa, where one was detected at Clear Lake May 31 (JH). Bell's Vireos were noted in normal numbers for recent years and included at least 3 reports from Ohio. The other vireos elicited few comments except for an early Philadelphia Vireo at Spfld. Apr. 24 (tH).

A Blue-winged Warbler at Shimek S.F., Apr. 20 was early for Iowa (RC). Golden-winged Warblers may be declining as migrants in many areas, although a maximum of eight was reported from Illinois. The hybrid warblers were restricted to Illinois and Ohio with a tally of five "Brewster's" and two "Lawrence's" this spring. Some of the larger warbler concentrations totalled 73-110 Tennesseees in Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois May 4-11, 89 N. Parulas along the Current R., Mo., Apr. 18 (RK), and 55 Magnolias at Chicago May 10 (CMo). Cape May Warblers were thought to have increased in Missouri, while Iowa observers recorded singles at 3 locations May 11-14. Within the w. states, the only Black-throated Blue Warbler appeared at George Wyth S.P., Ia., May 12 (FM). Both Yellow-rumped and Blackburnian warblers experienced poor migrations at many areas, and few extralimital Yellow-throated Warblers were reported. The earliest Pine Warblers returned to Madisonville, Ky., Mar. 6 (JHa) and s. Illinois Mar. 7-8. A Kirtland's Warbler was observed by hundreds as it spent May 9 at M.M.W.A., providing one of few recent records from Ohio. An early Blackpoll Warbler returned to Cole, Mo., Apr. 23 (KH). Other noteworthy warbler concentrations included 53 Blackpolls in Massac, Ill., May 9 (DR), 27 Ceruleans in n.w. Indiana on the same date, 150-171 Am. Redstarts in n.w. Indiana and n.w. Ohio May 11, and 58 Prothonotary Warblers in Massac, Ill., May 9. Extralimital Worm-eating Warblers were widely encountered only in Illinois. A Swainson's Warbler wandered to Palos in n. Illinois on the late date of May 23 (KH). Small numbers were also noted within their traditional range in s.e. Missouri, s. Illinois, and s. Kentucky. An Ovenbird at Dayton, O., Mar. 29 was remarkably early (MN). Early Louisiana Waterthrushes returned to Spring Lake W.M.A., Ill., Mar. 21 (LA) and Greene, O., Mar. 24 (fide CM), while a remarkable 60 were tallied along the Current R., Mo., Apr. 18 (RK). Good numbers of Connecticut Warblers appeared in the Chicago area May 12-23 with a maximum of seven May 19. Normal numbers of *Oporornis* warblers were reported elsewhere. Thirty Wilson's Warblers at Chicago May 21 were noteworthy (CMo).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — Few Summer Tanagers wandered N of their normal breeding range this spring. Moderate numbers of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks peaked with 39-41 in Indiana and Illinois May 8-11. The earliest Blue Grosbeak returned to Hopkins, Ky., Apr. 22 (JHa). Extralimital reports included small numbers detected at scattered c. Illinois locations and one N to Eastlake, O., May 30 (JT, fide LR). An early Indigo Bunting returned to Saline, Ill., Apr. 14 (KP). At least five Painted Buntings were recorded within their traditional s.w. Missouri range. Good numbers of Dickcissels were reported from all states, as this species is apparently near a cyclical high in its Regional population levels.

As was true for the other passerines, the sparrow migration was also poor. A few Bachman's Sparrows remained in the s. states as indicated by one at Taum Sauk L., Mo., May 9 (ML) and a pair plus two males in Calloway, Ky. (fide CP). Certainly the most unusual sparrow was a well-described Cassin's Sparrow near Camden, Mo., May 9 (tRF), establishing a first state record. A late Am. Tree Sparrow was noted at Chicago May 1 (HRy). As usual, a few Clay-colored Sparrows appeared e. of the Mississippi R. with as many as three at 3 Illinois locations plus one at Eagle Creek Res., Ind., May 2 (tSJ). Lark

Sparrows apparently remained stable with small localized populations e. of the Mississippi R. Normal numbers of Henslow's Sparrows were found in the e. states while as many as four were discovered at one Missouri and 7 Illinois sites where they are rare migrants. Small numbers of migrant Le Conte's Sparrows were detected only in Iowa and Illinois. Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported only along the Great Lakes at Cleveland and Chicago May 17–26. Fox Sparrows received mixed reports with maxima of 20–35 in Illinois. Other noteworthy sparrow concentrations included 300 Song Sparrows at Cleveland Mar. 24 (RH), 50 Lincoln's in Greene, Ia., May 1 (RM), 220–275 White-throats along both Great Lakes May 3, and 300 White-crowns at Chicago May 10 (CMo). Harris' Sparrows were found only in the w. states, where numbers were low. Lapland Longspurs remained in Indiana through May 11 but large flocks were reported only from Iowa with 2000+ in Marshall Mar. 15–22 (MP) and Iowa Apr. 4 (T). Smith's Longspurs staged reasonably good flights through Iowa and Illinois Mar. 7–Apr. 19. Among the scattered reports, the largest flocks totalled 300 at Cone Marsh, Ia., Mar. 31–Apr. 15 (PW et al.) and 185 in Knox, Ill., Mar. 29 (MB). Six Snow Buntings in LaSalle, Ill., Mar. 28 were fairly late (MB, m.ob.).

Expected numbers of W. Meadowlarks returned to the e. states, while 24 in Knox May 31 provided a good total for recent years in Illinois (MB). An early Yellow-headed Blackbird returned to Bismark, Ill., Mar. 20 (SB). Normal numbers appeared within their traditional range e. to n.w. Indiana, while extralimital sightings consisted of one to three at 4 c. Illinois locations Mar. 20–May 16, and two at Leitchfield, Ky., May 9 (KC). A Rusty Blackbird at Spring Valley W.M.A., O., May 18 was late (LGa). Small numbers of Brewer's Blackbirds were reported from all states. Great-tailed Grackles continued their expansion in Missouri with maxima of 35 at S.C.R., Mar. 5 (FL) and 20+ in Ray during early May (LB), plus one e. to Warrensburg May 27 (GG). As many as three were also reported from 3 s.w. Iowa locations where a small population has apparently become established. The earliest N. Orioles returned to Saline, Ill., Apr. 10 (KP) and Iowa City Apr. 19 (P). They were locally numerous with maxima of 86–89 in Illinois May 8–9.

The most exciting rarity of an otherwise uneventful season was a ♂ **Brambling** that visited a Bath, O., feeder Mar. 31–Apr.

7 (LR, fm.ob., ph.), establishing the first record for Ohio. The return flight of most finches was unremarkable. Numbers of Purple Finches were rather low but included a late individual at Springfield, O., May 27 (DO). House Finches are still novelties in the w. states where small populations are still becoming established. In Iowa, they were reported from Iowa City, Davenport, and Linn this spring, while Missouri sightings consisted of 3 pairs at Jackson May 29 (JP) and one pair at Columbia (FR). Small numbers of Red Crossbills were encountered in Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri through May 18. The largest flock totalled 60 at Big River S.F., Ill. (LA). Small numbers of Com. Redpolls were last observed in n. Ohio and n. Indiana through Mar. 6–8. Pine Siskins were widespread in all states and included scattered flocks in excess of 100 during April and May. As expected, there were a number of late May stragglers which suggested the possibility of nesting. An impressive Am. Goldfinch movement along both Great Lakes during the 2nd week of May produced daily totals in the thousands. Evening Grosbeaks appeared at scattered locations in all states. Numbers were rather low, generally fewer than 20, although a few flocks of 60–90+ were encountered. Lastly, **Eurasian Tree Sparrows** finally appeared in Iowa when two visited a West Branch feeder Mar. 16–21+ for a first state record (SV, m.ob.).

CORRIGENDA — The Pacific Loon at Lorain, O., Nov. 22–30, 1986 (AB 41:94) should be deleted. Review of photographs of the Broad-tailed Hummingbird at Virden, Ill., late August to Nov. 24, 1986 (AB 41:97) by Nancy Newfield and others indicate it was actually a *Selasphorus* hummingbird of the Rufous/Allen's type.

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Male Brambling at a feeder in Bath, Ohio, Apr. 5, 1987. Photo/Larry Rosche.



CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

Thomas A. Imhof

When birds migrate north in spring, they are carrying out one of the early stages in their reproductive cycle. At this time, each bird must advertise its identity—usually by sight and sound—if each species is to remain distinct from every other. So birders need to remember that the birds are doing their best to let everyone know who they are! Outside the breeding season, however, there is often little need to broadcast species identity, so the birds are often silent, in dull plumage, and in mixed flocks, and identification problems are many.

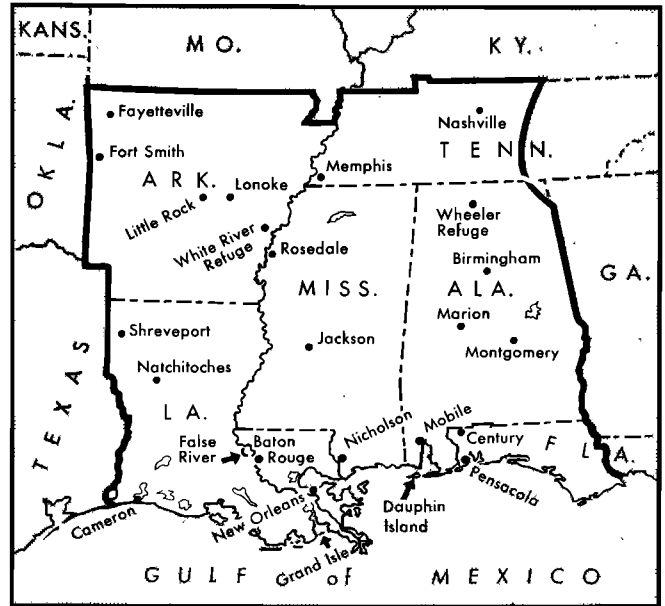
After the drought of last spring, rainfall this year was much closer to normal even though most stations reported four- to five-inch shortages. The spectacular event was on April 3 when Alabama and Mississippi had the first measurable snow ever in April—recorded to within a few miles of the coast, and deep enough for Birmingham to be considered typical with five inches! People had the unusual experience of scraping snow and pollen from their cars at the same time. The weight of the snow on fully-leaved trees broke many big limbs. Although the snow melted rapidly, cold winds brought temperatures in the 20s to areas north of Montgomery the next two nights. Typical of these events, introduced plants suffered the most while natives recovered rapidly!

Bird migration in the main was reported to be poor with fewer species and fewer birds. The Weston Syndrome is also getting to the younger observers as they log a few seasons' experience of keeping up with bird numbers! For instance, in western Tennessee—"... migration late and low. Good movements apparent May 4 and another week." (BBC); in southeastern Louisiana—"... very poor spring, largely because of lack of bad weather in April. . . . no notable concentrations of migrants." (RDP). In Arkansas, "Warbler migration . . . poor . . . to below average" (H & MPa). "Birding surprisingly good at times along the coast. No great fallouts . . ." (RAD). "The spring migration on the Mississippi Coast . . . was relatively undistinguished." (JAT). At Huntsville, Alabama, migration was reported as "down in species and very low in numbers" (TAB). Birmingham's spring count this year, held early on April 18, had 11 write-ins of winter species: Double-crested Cormorant (41), Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Bonaparte's Gull, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Vesper Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin (109), and Evening Grosbeak (258). Common species, fully expected but not seen, included Common Nighthawk, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Gray Catbird, and seven warblers including Blackpoll and American Redstart (TAI).

If you do not find your record(s) below, you probably failed to use a card or you may not have convinced the editors that identification was correct. Remember that out of season records require more substantiation! Remember, too, that if your reputation is not known personally to the editors, you may need to be more convincing. Play it safe, submit details, prove it!

ABBREVIATIONS — D.R.U. = Duck River Unit, Tennessee Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Tenn.; P.R.M. = Pascagoula River Marsh, Jackson Co., Miss.; W.W.T.P. = Waste Water Treatment Plant. Place names in *italics* are counties or parishes.

GREBES THROUGH IBISES — Pied-billed Grebe observations included an adult with two chicks on P.R.M., Mar. 14



(CDe, CCa), while a month later, Apr. 13, a concentration of 30 migrants was at Tatumville, Dyer, Tenn. (WGC). Eighty Horned Grebes were at Paris Landing S.P., Mar. 7 (JCR). Two late Eared Grebes were at Seaman Road W.W.T.P., Jackson, Miss., Mar. 25 (CCa, CKe, JSp). Masked Boobies seen on the Alabama Coast were an adult Mar. 29 at Fort Morgan (RA & LRD); an adult and an immature Apr. 4 on Dauphin I. (RA & LRD, PTe); and an immature Apr. 22 at Gulf Shores (AL & ADM). A peak of 62 N. Gannets, nearly all adults, was noted Mar. 3 in Mississippi Sound (JAT, CDe), and a peak of 75 Apr. 4 on W. Ship I., Miss. (JMG, WMi); also, one was seen Mar. 7 at Fourchon Beach, Jefferson, La. (RDP, DMu, DS). The largest flock of Am. White Pelicans was of 300 Apr. 9 near Hot Springs, Ark. (B & PL), and the latest was of 33 May 30 on Blakely I., Ala. (GD & DGJ). Brown Pelicans peaked at 50 on Horn I., Miss., Mar. 3 (JAT, CDe), while at least 100 were on Dauphin I., Apr. 24 (TAI, m.ob.). Great Cormorant, continuing a string of annual occurrences, was noted for the 2nd time this year at Gulfport, Harrison, Apr. 24 (GMo, CDe, m.ob.). Double-crested Cormorants were reported commonly, with peaks of 1000 at L. Ferguson, Miss., Mar. 6 and Archer I., Ark., Mar. 13 (NHe). An active and unusual Anhinga nest was reported May 18 just e. of Hwy 57, Ouachita, Ark. (SSp).

American Bitterns were reported from Mississippi in Jackson Mar. 11 (JAT), Lafayette Apr. 11 and May 3 (S & GK, JAT), and Winston, two May 4 (TSL); from Alabama in *Lauderdale*, one Apr. 17 (P & LK) and three Apr. 18 (TMH), and in *Colbert*, one May 7 (TMH). Single Least Bitterns were noted in *Lafayette*, Miss., May 2 & 30 (WMD, G & SK), and in *Lauderdale, Ala.*, May 20 (PK), while 15 were recorded on the *Mississippi coast* (JAT, CDe). The "Great White" Heron found in January on Grand Isle, La., was seen again Apr. 5 (GC, ph. RDP, BMM). About 100 Great Egrets and 100 Snowy Egrets were estimated at *Waveland, Hancock, Miss.*, Mar. 9 (JAT, GMo, CCa). Inland where Snowies are scarce, they were seen in *Lafayette, Miss.*, Apr. 14 at *Sardis Refuge* (GK) and two on *Yocona R.*, May 23 (WMD, GK). In *Carroll, Ark.*, seven ad. Little Blue Herons, first locally whether migrant or breeding nearby, were seen May 2 (FRé). A Reddish Egret in alternate plumage was seen on *E. Ship I., Miss.*, Mar. 26, and on *Horn I., Mar. 29* (JAT, m.ob.); one to two were at *Waveland, Hancock, Mar. 5 and Apr. 16* (JAT, m.ob.). An early Green-backed Heron was at *P.R.M., Mar. 14* (CCa, m.ob.). Black-crowned Night-Herons are much

more common in e Tennessee and Yellow-crowneds are more common in the rest of this Region However, extra Black-crowneds were noted: one adult at Centerton Fish Hatchery, Benton, Ark., Apr. 25 (MMI); one seen at Walker Pond, Lauderdale, Ala., May 4 (TMH); and two adults at Grassy L., Hempstead, Ark. (JCN). Except for Tennessee, Yellow-crowneds seem to be quite well known and increasing in many quarters, and this season saw the first confirmed breeding for Lafayette, Miss. (WMD, S & GK). Migrating White Ibises, 300 of them, appeared in Hancock, Miss., Apr. 1 (JAT, CDe). A Plegadis ibis was in Ft. Walton W.W.T.P., Okaloosa, Fla., Mar. 19 (RAD), and an ad. White-faced Ibis present since Feb. 8 at P.R.M. was last seen Mar. 1 & 7 (JAT).

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS — At Kiln, Hancock, Miss., Mar. 24, 2 groups of 12 Tundra Swans were noted flying W—a most unusual sight so late in the season and right on the coast (DRu). Mottled Duck seemed to be doing well this year. In Mississippi an adult with 10 small chicks was on Greenwood I, Jackson, Apr. 28 (JAT, MPo), and in Alabama a maximum of 48 including 22 downy young was seen May 23 on Blakely I (GD & DGJ). Late Gadwalls at Sardis Ref., Miss., were 48 Apr. 17 and 16 Apr. 29 (WMD). Ten Greater Scaup were “picked out of 2000+ *Aythya* sp.” Mar. 3 (JAT, CDe); one lingered on Blakely I, Ala., Apr. 11 & 17 (GDJ, CDC, JVP). On Apr. 11, 500 Lesser Scaup were still on Oktibbeha County L. (TLS). Oldsquaws in Mississippi Sound off Pascagoula peaked at 110 Mar. 3 (JAT, CDe). About 15 Black Scoters were seen off Biloxi Mar. 22 (JAT). Also at Biloxi was a White-winged Scoter Mar. 7 (M & CGi); another, a male moulting into ad. plumage, was at Lowndes S.P., Miss., Mar. 15 (TLS). Trying to close out the season were a Red-breasted Merganser May 31 at Ft. Morgan (PBl), a Ruddy Duck at L. Fayetteville, Ark., May 28 (JCN), and another Ruddy at Blakely I, Ala., May 30 (GD & DGJ).

Although Ospreys appear to be doing fairly well on the immediate coast in Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi—e.g., 20 on E and W. Ship Is., Mar. 26 (JAT, CDe, MBa)—the situation appears poor inland: only six in 23 trips on the Mississippi mainland March to May (JAT), a few migrants in Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama, and Mississippi, and one on a nesting platform at Reelfoot, Tenn., May 2 (WGC). American Swallow-tailed Kites made a good showing: an early one in New Orleans Mar. 5 (LSc); six at Ft. Morgan (PBl) and 15 in Mobile (Ade) Mar. 18; seven on E. Tensas Delta, Baldwin, Ala., Apr. 17 (GDJ, CDC, JVP); one at Caliborne Dam, Clarke, Ala., May 16 (PHF, HHK); and a first for n. Mississippi, one May 3 near Sardis Dam, Panola (GK). One Black-shouldered Kite still in Hancock, Miss., was seen Mar. 24 to catch a large rat (JAT, CDe)! Of a scattering of Mississippi Kite records, a count of 20 at Vicksburg Apr. 19–29 (JBa) seemed noteworthy, while one in Birmingham after a storm May 6 (JMI) was farther n. than usual. About six imm Bald Eagles remaining at least through May at Gunterville S.P. (LRe) were apparently those locally hacked, but at Reelfoot L. two adults May 26 (MLB, VJa) showed more promise. A well-described N. Goshawk was seen on the Univ. N. Alabama campus in Florence Mar. 2 (DJS). Broad-winged Hawk records were well-scattered—at Vicksburg 474 were counted Mar. 25–Apr. 30, biggest day Apr. 14 with 270 (JBa). In Arkansas, Swainson’s Hawks were noted: two w. of Malvern Apr. 23 (MPa); two at Anderson’s, Lonoke, Apr. 25 (H & MPa); one at Centerton Hatchery, Benton, Apr. 29 (RDG); and one in the Wedington Area May 19 (JCN, TJo, THa), where last year an unsuccessful nesting attempt was made. Near Gum Cove, La., Apr. 17, 12–15 were seen (DPM, RDP, GHR). Of 8 Red-tailed Hawk nests in Bolivar, Miss., 4 fledged young, for 3 the outcome could not be determined, and one was not used—an indication of a population explosion (NHe). Merlins were seen at Sardis Refuge Mar. 7 (WMD), and Apr. 16 at Gulf Breeze, Fla. (RAD). A Peregrine Falcon was seen May 3 at Sardis L., Panola, Miss. (GK, MFH, TLS).

RAILS THROUGH TERNS — A Black Rail was seen Apr. 10 at Belcher Pond, Escambia, Fla. (RAD). Although Virginia

Rails were more common than Soras in early March, Soras were common in April, even inland, when Virginias could hardly be found (JAT, TAI). On May 22 at Grassy L., Hempstead, Ark., a count of eight Purple Gallinules and 21 Com Moorhens helped to show this place as the best in the state for these rails (JCN).

Lesser Golden-Plovers most likely had a good flight this year—earliest birds two Mar. 7 at Biloxi (JAT); most, probably 1000 Mar. 19 near Choctaw, Bolivar, Miss. (NHe); last, in alternate plumage May 13 at Wheeler N.W.R., latest ever for Alabama (ALM, MMD). Wilson’s Plover was first seen Mar. 11, with a pair at P.R.M. (JAT). The peak for Black-necked Stilt was of 310 Apr. 21 on Blakely I., where the species breeds (GDJ); peak for Am. Avocet was 210 Mar. 16, also on Blakely I., where the species hopefully may be breeding (TAI, CJK, WN). An early Solitary Sandpiper was at Starkeville, Miss., Apr. 1 (BSJ, MFH) and a late one was at Oxford W.W.T.P., Miss., June 1 (GK). Inland Willets were 14 Apr. 30 at L. Fayetteville, Ark. (JCN) and one May 10 on Island 13, Lake, Tenn (WGC). A late Spotted Sandpiper was noted in Meadowbrook, near Birmingham, June 3 & 5 (HH & JFi). A good Upland Sandpiper flight was shown by the count of 28 at Starkeville, Miss., Apr. 15 (MFH, m.ob.). Encouraging Whimbrel records were of one May 21 at Centerton Hatchery, Ark. (MMI) and a record count of 19, “double the previous high,” May 14 in Jackson, Miss. (JAT, CDe). The Long-billed Curlew that overwintered in Mobile was last seen Apr. 11 (GDJ, CDC). A Hudsonian Godwit was seen in each of the 2 Arkansas shorebird hotspots May 3 at Anderson’s Minnow Farm, Lonoke (H & MPa), and May 19, still in basic plumage, at Centerton Hatchery, Benton (RDG, SJo); on the coast 10 were seen at Gum Cove, La., Apr. 17 (DPM, RDP, GHR). At Belcher Pond, Escambia, Fla., May 6 there were 68 Ruddy Turnstones (RAD); and on the beach at Gulfport Mar. 9 there were 78 Red Knots (JAT, m.ob.)

Some shorebird peaks are herein listed: Semipalmated Sandpiper, both May 23, 3160 at Blakely I., Ala. (GD & DGJ), and 2650 at Anderson’s Minnow Farm, Ark. (H & MPa); W Sandpiper, both at Blakely I., 3000 Mar. 16 (TAI, CJK, WN) and 1570 Apr. 21 (GDJ); Least Sandpiper, 1400 at Blakely I., Apr. 11 (GDJ, CDC); White-rumped Sandpiper, 310 at Anderson’s Minnow Farm May 23 (H & MPa); Dunlin, both on Blakely I., 2000 Mar. 16 (TAI, CJK, WN) and 580 Apr. 21 (GDJ); Stilt Sandpiper, 305 Apr. 21 on Blakely I. (GDJ); Short-billed Dowitcher, 2000 on Blakely I., Mar. 16 (TAI, CJK, WN), and 440 there Apr. 21 (GDJ). Notable inland White-rumped Sandpipers were nine May 24 on Island 13, Lake, Tenn. (WGC), and one at Noxubee N.W.R., May 4 & 28 (TLS, MFH). Baird’s Sandpipers were early, with 14 at Ft. Morgan Mar. 31 (RL & RWB), earliest for Alabama, two remained through Apr. 11 (RA & LRD, PTe, BBr). Five at Lakeland Farm, Perry, Apr. 2 were earliest for inland Alabama (ALM, MMD). Single Baird’s were reported Apr. 5, 8, & 11 at Ft. Walton Beach W.W.T.P., Fla. (RA & LRD, PTe, DW, HK), and May 5 & 6 at Pensacola (RAD), and a late one was at Centerton Hatchery, Ark., May 30 (NB, MMI). Wilson’s Phalaropes, all on the coast, were noted Apr. 1 at Waveland Lagoon, Miss (JAT, CDe), and Apr. 28 at Greenwood I., Jackson, Miss., an alternate-plumaged female and two basic-plumaged males (JAT, MPo); in Florida, one was at the Ft. Walton Beach W.W.T.P., Apr. 5 (RS, LR & RAD, PTe).

On Mar. 1 two early Laughing Gulls were at Wilson Dam, Lauderdale, Ala. (DJS, TMH); and at Sardis Dam, Miss., one each was seen Apr. 18 & 24 (WMD). A Franklin’s Gull was seen in basic plumage at Gulf Shores Mar. 14 (TAI, CJK), three were in Memphis May 2 (JCR, JRW, GBe), and the latest of several Arkansas records was of 16 Apr. 26 at L. Millwood (CMi). At Anderson’s Minnow Farm, Ark., Apr. 11, 108 Bonaparte’s Gulls, 75% in alternate plumage, were counted (H & MPa). An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull, spending presumably its 5th visit and present since Nov. 21, 1986, was last seen Mar. 21 on the beach at Biloxi (JAT); another, spending its 3rd year on the New Orleans Lakefront, was last seen Mar. 22 (RDP). An ad. Great Black-backed Gull seen at Wilson Dam, Ala.,

Apr 20 established the 2nd consecutive year there for this species (DJS, TMH). A Caspian Tern at Sardis L., Miss., Apr 15 (GK) was unusual in spring. Six Forster's Terns seen Feb. 24 (RFL) and Mar. 3 (ALM) at Wheeler N.W.R. were probably overwintering. A Least Tern was at Sardis Dam May 23 (WMD, GK); two were at Scott, Bolivar, on the same date, and seven were there May 31 (NHe). Thirteen Black Terns were at Lonoke, Ark., May 25 (WMS, RLa).

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — On May 11 at Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., four Ringed Turtle-Doves, possibly local, were seen (DW, BGe). After a good fall flight two White-winged Doves were noted on the coast this spring: one Apr. 24 at Gulf Breeze, Fla. (BGL, *vide* RAD), and one Apr. 25 at Ft. Morgan (PBl). An Inca Dove was seen near Gum Cove, La., Apr. 17 & 22 (DPM, m.ob.), seen at this site since Apr. 24, 1985. Common Ground-Doves noted were three Apr. 11 at Bon Secour N.W.R., Ala. (WN, m.ob.), and two Apr. 17 at Hurricane, Ala. (GDJ, CDC, JVP). We had 6 reports of Greater Roadrunners from n.w. Arkansas: four from Washington, one from Madison, one from Johnson (CGr, ESt, JCl, B & AZ, RFu, BHa, JCN, "recovering in numbers"—DAJ). Common Barn-Owls and Great Horned Owls seem to be doing fairly well, at least in Bolivar, Miss. (NHe). A Short-eared Owl was seen at Britton Ford, Tenn. (JCR); and one to six, an unprecedented number, were present near Starkeville Mar. 6–Apr. 9 (TLS, MFH). A Lesser Nighthawk was seen at Peveto Beach, La., Apr. 17 (DPM, RDP, GHR). Although Com. Nighthawks were late, a nighthawk thought to be a Common at Port Bienville Industrial Park, Hancock, Miss., Mar. 5, 8, & 9 (JAT, m.ob.) might have wintered. An early Whip-poor-will was at Fayetteville, Ark., Mar. 28 (MMI) and a late one at Ft. Mims, Baldwin, Ala., Apr. 17 (GDJ, CDC, JVP). Early Chimney Swifts were in Birmingham Mar. 21 (TAI), Vicksburg Mar. 22 (GTL), and Fayetteville, Ark., Mar. 24 (MMI). On May 31 100+ Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were concentrated probably for many days at the feeders of Mr. & Mrs. Laymon near Scott, Bolivar, Miss. (NHe). Red-headed Woodpeckers are having a very erratic distribution these days, so it is a pleasure to publicize a report that they are abundant March to May near Starkeville, Miss. (BS & JAJ). In keeping with the lateness of the season, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was noted on Dauphin I., Apr. 23 (DPa) and four were listed on the Birmingham Spring Count April 18, but the latest was one May 23 at Laurel Hill, Okaloosa, Fla. (DN).

An early Olive-sided Flycatcher was at Roebuck, Ala., Apr. 24 (GDJ); another was near Oxford, Miss., May 23 (WMD, GK); and singles were near Fayetteville, Ark., May 11, 12, & 27 (RDG, MMI). Most E. Wood-Pewees were late, but one was at Delta, Madison, La., Mar. 28 (GTL). Although most Acadian Flycatchers were reported late, four were singing in Jackson, Miss., Apr. 18 (MFH, JAT). Male Vermilion Flycatchers were seen at First Old River L., Miller, Ark., Mar. 4 (CMi, EP) and at Ft. Morgan Apr. 23 (AL & ADM), next to latest for the state. Western Kingbirds were seen Apr. 12 in Little River, Ark. (CMi), and Apr. 21 in Hancock, Miss. (The, JAT, m.ob.). An early E. Kingbird, on I-65 in Conecuh Mar. 18 (JHo) is, except for the coast, the earliest for Alabama. The earliest of at least 6 reports of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers was Mar. 25 at Ft. Morgan (PBl, VBF, BMi) but probably as interesting was one at Centerton Hatchery, Ark., Mar. 28 (MMI).

LARKS THROUGH PIPITS — A Horned Lark at Grand Isle Apr. 5 was the 9th for s.e. Louisiana, and the latest (RDP). Five early Tree Swallows were at Paris Landing S.P., Tenn., Mar. 4 (JCR). Possibly nesting locally were four adults in Lake, Tenn., May 26 (MLB, VJa); two adults entering a cavity in a dead tree in the water at Table Rock L., Ark., May 22 (JAR); and four, at least one an immature, at Bob Kid L., Washington, Ark. (MMI). Cliff Swallows, 16–18 of them, returned to the Middle Pearl R. Bridge, La.–Miss., Mar. 22 (RDP), and about 20 were checked out May 24 (JAT); one was early at Bob Kid L., Ark., Mar. 26 (MMI); a colony of 24 nests and 20 birds, probably in its 2nd or 3rd year, was discovered Apr. 18 on the

I-20 bridge over the Coosa R., 35 mi e of Birmingham (JAC, FJA, RRR), eight to 10 birds were building nests on the Yocum Cr. Bridge, Hwy 311, Ark., May 22 & 23, probably a new location (JAR). After an April 1984 record, **Cave Swallow** was seen this year Apr. 14, again at Fort Morgan (RAD, BBro) and also at Dauphin I. (Shell Mounds) the same day (GDJ). On Apr. 22 a dead bird was found at Bon Secour N.W.R. headquarters building, Gulf Shores, Ala., *to Nat'l Mus. of Nat. Hist. (JTF, JCa); on Apr. 25 & 26 a bird was seen on Dauphin I. (PHF, BSa, TAI). The specimen has been identified at N.M.N.H. (JDe) as of the race *fulva* of the West Indies. It appears that these birds are following the route of the Gray Kingbirds and Black-whiskered Vireos, for we have several records from s. and n.w. Florida, including 8 months of the year (*vide* HMS), even 2 records from Nova Scotia! Not all our rarities come from the west. A Barn Swallow Mar. 7 at L. Lurleen, Tuscaloosa (GDJ, HHK), set the earliest date for Alabama. The species continues to flourish throughout the state, each year establishing new bridge colonies and even nesting in barns and other outhouses as well. On the day that it snowed in Alabama and Mississippi, Apr. 3, perhaps 1000 swallows (Tree, N. Rough-winged, Barn, and Purple Martin) concentrated at Table Rock L., Carroll and Boone, Ark. (JAR).

Fish Crows were seen at L. Lowndes S.P., Miss., with two Mar. 15 and one Apr. 11 (TLS), perhaps mirroring the spread of this species in the Warrior and Coosa R. valleys near Birmingham, as indicated by seven birds by 2 parties on the Apr. 18 count (TAI, HFF). Very unusual was the White-breasted Nuthatch Mar. 21 in the Century Oil Field, Escambia, Fla. (RA & LRD). Two Brown-headed Nuthatches, excavating a hole 10 ft high in a dead snag Mar. 7 and Apr. 4 near the n. limit of their range, were noted s. of Fern, Franklin, Ark. (BWB). A Rock Wren was at Mt. Nebo S.P., Ark., Apr. 5 (DAJ). A Bewick's Wren was seen at Hickory, Miss.—e. of the Mississippi R., where rare—Mar. 13–14 (JMG). A coastwide survey by boat for Marsh Wrens, May 5–21, in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson, Miss., produced a figure of 196! (JAT, CDe). Two very late Golden-crowned Kinglets were at Ocean Springs, Jackson, Miss., Apr. 18 (MFH, JAT, MPo). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Wheeler N.W.R., Mar. 3 (ALM) set the earliest record for inland Alabama.

Eastern Bluebirds continue to increase, even sometimes beyond our capacity to get boxes up, for one pair at Golden Triangle Airport, Lowndes, Miss., built in the cowling of a Cherokee aircraft (JAJ, MFH). Veeries appeared more numerous this spring, one establishing probably the first March record for Florida, on the 31st at Fort Pickens (RW & RLB). Unusual were Veeries near Fayetteville, Ark., Apr. 29 (RDG) and May 7 (JCN), also a count of 10 May 9 in Hancock, Miss. (JAT, m.ob.). Two well-described Sprague's Pipits were noted, one Feb. 28 near Scott, Bolivar, Miss. (N & JCHe) and three May 10 at Delta, Madison, La. (GTL).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A Solitary Vireo at E. Tensaw Delta, Baldwin, Ala., Apr. 17 was late (GDJ, CDC, JVP), but one at Ft. Morgan May 7 was the latest ever (PBl). Also late was a Philadelphia Vireo at L. Sequoyah, Washington, Ark., May 24 (MMI). Black-whiskered Vireo was seen Mar. 30 at Gins, Jackson, Miss. (CCa, JSp) and May 13 at Ft. Morgan (PBl).

A Blue-winged Warbler's nest, only the 2nd for Arkansas, was found with two nestlings May 25 near Cass, Franklin (JCN). Both Blue-winged x Golden-winged hybrids were found, a "Brewster's" on Dauphin I., Apr. 18 (H & MPa) and a "Lawrence's" at Ft. Morgan Apr. 19 (GD & DGJ). A late Nashville Warbler was at Ft. Morgan May 2 (MFF, m.ob.), and one was even later in Birmingham May 9 (GDJ, BG, HHK). In the Century R. Swamp, Escambia, Fla., 150 N. Parulas/sq. mi were estimated Mar. 21 (RA & LRD, L & JGo); one Feb. 22 at Wheeler N.W.R. (RFL) provided the first local February record. Two Chestnut-sided Warblers May 28 in Fayetteville were late (MMI). Two Cape May Warblers were in Arkansas, one Apr. 30 near Harrison, Boone (P & RSW, JAR), and one May 9 at L.

Fayetteville (BSan, MMI) Thirty Yellow-rumped Warblers were still present in Lafayette and Panola, Miss., May 3 (TLS, MFH). A late Blackburnian Warbler was at Ft. Morgan May 20 (PBl). Palm Warblers ranged farther w. this year with 2 records for Mississippi and 4 for Arkansas, two in Washington, Apr. 28–May 3 (MFH, TLS, WMD, MMI, RDG, JCN, BSan). In the Lower Coastal Plain, the region 50–150 mi from the Gulf, long-distance migrants are almost always rare, so at Greenville, Ala., an Ovenbird Apr. 18 “brightened the day” (CKen). On May 9, a minor cold front day in coastal Mississippi (see thrushes), 50 Bay-breasted Warblers were counted in Jackson (JAT, CRo, m.ob.). On May 3 a Connecticut Warbler was seen at Ft. Pickens, Fla., for a 4th area record (TZ). Two Mourning Warblers were seen in Arkansas, a male May 12 in Conway, Faulkner (HHF), and another male May 29 in Fayetteville (RDG, MMI). Canada Warblers, rare in Arkansas in spring, were seen May 14 at Centerton Hatchery (RDG) and late on May 28 in Fayetteville (MMI).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — On Apr. 7 an early Summer Tanager was on Archer L., Chicot, Ark. (NHc). A pair of Scarlet Tanagers May 28 at Noxubee N.W.R., Miss. (MFH) possibly indicated local breeding rather than the late season. The species breeds at comparable latitude but higher elevation in nearby Alabama. A late Rose-breasted Grosbeak (join the club) was at Starkeville, Miss., May 14 (MFH). An early Blue Grosbeak was at L. Maumelle, Pulaski, Ark., Apr. 12 (WMS). On Apr. 19 at Ft. Morgan, 140 Indigo Buntings were counted (GDJ). Painted Bunting, for all its bright colors, keeps one guessing about its goings and comings: for instance at Gulf S.P., Ala., a male on territory May 22 represented the 2nd year in the area (RAD); at Golden Triangle Airport, Lowndes, Miss., a male was present and singing persistently May 16–17 (MFH, TLS); at Lincoln L., Washington, Ark., in a big herbicided plot, at least six scattered buntings were found May 12 (JCN).

Bachman's Sparrow, although disappearing from many places where habitat has been destroyed, seems to be hanging on where adequate habitat is available, even in the Tennessee Valley of Alabama: five males were on Thomas W.M.A., May 10 (TMH), and one at Wheeler N.W.R., Apr. 15 (ALM, MMD). In Baldwin, Ala., two Bachman's were at Fort Mims Apr. 17 (GDJ, CDC, JVP) and two pairs near Loxley throughout period (K & CJK); in Blackwater S.F., Santa Rosa, Fla., the species was “present in good numbers” May 25 (RAD) and 15 were counted in 4 5 hrs. there June 8 (TAD). Rufous-crowned Sparrows were recorded in Arkansas on Magazine Mt., one May 2 (WMS), and in Mt. Nebo S.P., two May 8 (WMD, GK). A Clay-colored Sparrow near Spring Valley, Madison, Ark., May 5 (RDG) was the first for the county. Lark Sparrows were seen at Ft. Morgan Apr. 13 (PBl); in Arkansas Apr. 23, two near Hattiesville (LFr) were the earliest ever for the state; Apr. 24, two were near Rhea, Washington (RDG); and Apr. 30, two were at Lake Ft. Smith (RDG, MMI); in Mississippi, one was at Hickory Apr. 26 (MMG). Le Conte's Sparrow was noted in Arkansas in Hickory Creek P., Benton, Mar. 1 & 29 (MMI), in Mississippi at Starkeville Mar. 14 (TLS), and in Alabama at Wheeler N.W.R., three Mar. 18 (DCH). These records may indicate good winter survival. Fox Sparrow, unheard of in most of the Region in April, was noted at Ponca, Lost Valley, Newton, Ark., very late Apr. 28 (JCN). Also late were Song Sparrow May 25 at Springdale W.W.T.P., Benton, Ark. (MMI), and Swamp Sparrow May 12 at Centerton Hatchery (MMI); rather late was a White-crowned at Ft. Morgan Apr. 17 (PBl, m.ob.).

The biggest number of Bobolinks reported was 500, May 6 on the Mississippi R. levee, Lake, Tenn. (WGC). Yellow-headed Blackbird, less common in spring, was reported for Louisiana, two at Gum Cove Apr. 17 (DPM, RDP, GHR); but inland a male was noted at Centerton Hatchery, Ark., Apr. 18 (MMI), and a female on a sod farm s. of Oxford, Miss., May 24 (WMD, G & SK). Great-tailed Grackles were seen in Arkansas at Centerton Hatchery on 4 dates Apr. 11–May 12, one to two birds (MMI); L. Fayetteville had one Apr. 28 (MMI); and w. of Hindsville,

two Apr. 16 furnished the first record for Madison and farthest east (RDG). Bronzed Cowbirds were noted in w. Hancock, Miss., May 24, two males (ph. JAT) and May 26, male and female (CCa, CDe, JPe). On Apr. 29 at Ft. Morgan, 90 Orchard Orioles were counted (GD & DGJ). A migrant N. Oriole in Greenville, Ala., Apr. 29 “brightened up” another Lower Coastal Plain spring day (CKen). A late Purple Finch was at Auburn, Ala., May 7 (JHo). House Finch is continually pushing at the periphery of its range. Two to three were in Mobile Mar. 1–18 (ADe); in the Little Rock area, an ad. female was feeding two immatures away from the nest May 9–16 in Pinnacle Mountain S.P. (WMa, DMe, NCu, HBr). At Fern, Ark., Red Crossbills were noted, five Mar. 6 and nine Mar. 7 (T & MRo, BWB). On Mar. 7, a high of 56 Pine Siskins was counted there (BWB). Siskins lingered until May 7 at Starkeville (TLS), May 15 in Birmingham (MLM, SBe), and May 23 at Crestview, Okaloosa, Fla. (SBr). Evening Grosbeak was scarce in Arkansas, with nine Mar. 1 in Durham, Washington, the only record. The species remained in Mississippi until Apr. 29 at Starkeville (TLS); and in Birmingham, where regular at most feeders the last one-half of the winter, it was last seen May 12 (R & PS).

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LOUISIANA SUPPLEMENT

Received after the above was written, it was decided not to chop up the account by numerous insertions. Louisiana comprises the delta of the largest river system in the country, and with all its wetlands contributes a large share of the water birds in these Central Southern Region reports. Further, its southern and western position allows it to contribute, often regularly, many species that are rarely recorded in the rest of the Region. So, perhaps, this state deserves a one-time separate treatment, especially in view of the excellent summaries submitted (SWC, DLD).

The weather differed little from the rest of the Region, except

perhaps it was a bit drier, and westerly winds were more consistent. Northern Louisiana also received the same early April snow and the two following days of freezing weather. Certain western birds such as Swainson's Hawk, Franklin's Gull, and Lesser Nighthawk were more common, while eastern ones like Black-whiskered Vireo and Cape May, Black-throated Blue, and Blackpoll warblers were not found. Many migrants were noted right to the 31st of May. A timetable of this migration shows in Cameron May 9–10, 17 species of warblers; May 19–20, 10 species; and May 30–31, eight species. In other years, anytime during this period, one single Yellow Warbler would be considered a "good" bird (SWC, DLD)! A good summary was provided by these words, "It seemed to me that neo-tropical migrants were later and local winterers lingered longer than usual." (DPM). For a better understanding, the reader may wish to compare these birds with the same species in the main report.

GANNETS THROUGH RAILS — Many N. Gannets were not diverted S by the Mississippi R. effluent this year, for 50 were at Rutherford Beach, Cameron, Mar. 3 (DLD, SWC, JVR, A & GS, m.ob.), and on Apr. 26 there were still two adults and four immatures at Holly Beach (JVR, TAP, SWC, CMA). With Am. White Pelicans, the maximum was 528, migrating Mar. 29 (JBe) in Richland; and the latest was one May 30 at E. Jetty Beach (DLD). Brown Pelicans were one at Holly Beach Apr. 17 (DPM, m.ob.), and four at Grand Isle May 18 (RBe). A Double-crested Cormorant on Willow I., Cameron, May 19 was late (DLD). A very early Tricolored Heron at L. Bistineau, Bossier, Mar. 30 was braving 30-degree temperature and sleet and snow! (AE). More usual in s.e. Louisiana, this year there were 8 reports of nine Glossy Ibises, some with White-faced, in Cameron s. of the Intracoastal Waterway, Apr. 13–26 (SWC, DLD, m.ob.). Conversely, Roseate Spoonbills, more usual in s.w. Louisiana, were this year seen in Lafourche, two Apr. 10 and eight Apr. 17 (CCS, JCo, PWA). Two Wood Storks were seen near Compti, Natchitoches, May 9 (CNa).

Weekly censuses of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks in rice country in Lafayette, Acadian, and Vermilion showed figures of 30 Mar. 11, 2185 (peak) Apr. 1, and 360 Apr. 17 (KVR). Late Greater White-fronted Geese were 12 near Welch Apr. 15 (DLD, SWC, TAP) and a cripple at Holly Beach Apr. 22 (PPM, JAG, KVR). A male and probable ♀ Cinnamon Teal were noted near Creole, Cameron, Mar. 3 (A & GS), and a male was seen Mar. 5 on Fourchon Rd. (CKe, PWA). A Black Scoter was at Holly Beach Apr. 22 (KVR, PPM, JAG), and an ad. male was there Apr. 26 (DLD, m.ob.). In Hebert, Caldwell, May 5 & 6, an ad. ♀ Hooded Merganser with five dependent young was seen (JBe). An ad. ♀ Com. Merganser was seen on Fourchon Rd., Fourchon, Mar. 5 (CKe, PWA).

At least one dozen Osprey reports, Mar. 4–May 19, showed a fair migration but no signs of local breeding. An Am. Swallow-tailed Kite was seen at Peveto Beach Woods, Cameron, Mar. 23+ (KVR, JAG, JSt), and three were counted migrating past Baton Rouge during the period Mar. 9–Apr. 25. An ad. **Black-shouldered Kite** was seen at Holmwood, Calcasieu, Apr. 21 (TAP, JVR, DLD, SWC). Two early Mississippi Kites at L. Bistineau Apr. 1 braved 30-degree weather and snow (A & WE). In the Baton Rouge area 25 hours of hawk-watching Mar. 9–Apr. 25 produced 1428 Broad-winged Hawks with a peak of 471 Apr. 4 (CFe, JKL, KPy). An unprecedented influx of Swainson's Hawks into s.w. Louisiana Apr. 12–26 brought light-phased adults (1/3) and light-phased immatures (2/3) mostly to Calcasieu, and a peak of 40 Apr. 15 near Vinton and Gum Cove (KVR, MMS, m.ob.). An injured imm. Golden Eagle, captured near Welch Nov. 26, 1986, was rehabilitated at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine and released into the wild at Lacassine N.W.R., May 1 (DLD). **Crested Caracaras**, apparently two, were reported in the vicinity of Gum Cove Apr. 2 (GL *et al.*). The Peregrine Falcon at the Fourchon Water Tower, Lafourche, seen Mar. 7 (DPM) was joined by a probable migrant Apr. 5 (BMM, RDP); two more were at Holly Beach Mar. 23

(KVR, m.ob.) Forty Sandhill Cranes were reported from the usual Cheneyville, Rapides, wintering locality Mar 1 (A & GS).

PLOVERS THROUGH GULLS — The only Snowy Plovers reported were two on Rutherford Beach Apr. 24 (MWe, RJS). The last Piping Plover was one on Rutherford Beach Apr. 26 (CNM). Two Am. Oystercatchers on E. Jetty Woods Beach, Cameron, Apr. 22 (JAG, PPM, KVR) were among very few in the state away from the Chandeleur Is., where they breed. Two Black-necked Stilts in E. Carroll May 26 were unusual, possibly a range expansion (HM, CD). A good flight of Upland Sandpipers produced a peak of 57 at Grand Isle Apr. 17 (A & GS, JS). A Whimbrel at E. Jetty, Cameron Mar. 3 could have been wintering or an early migrant (DLD, SWC). Hudsonian Godwits also had a good flight, with an early bird Apr. 14 at Gibbstown Bridge, Cameron (DLD), a peak the very next day of 88 near Gum Cove, Calcasieu (GHR, SWC, DLD), and a late bird at Hackberry Ridge May 31 (TAP, JVR, *LSUMZ). A White-rumped Sandpiper at Rutherford Beach Apr. 21 tied the earliest date for the state (SWC, TAP, JVR, DLD). On Apr. 15, 15 Baird's Sandpipers were at Hackberry Ridge (SWC, DLD, TAP). Pectoral Sandpipers were early with two on Hackberry Ridge Mar. 2 (SWC, JVR, DLD), and in the ricefields in Lafayette, Acadian, and Vermilion they peaked at 510 Apr. 17 (KVR). On Hackberry Ridge Mar. 3, 60 Stilt Sandpipers were presumed migrants by their very number (JVR, DLD). For ricefield Buff-breasted Sandpipers, the earliest ever was one near Rayne, Vermilion, Mar. 18 (KVR, JSt) and the peak was of 112 Apr. 17 (KVR). Two Wilson's Phalaropes were at Abbeville, Vermilion Apr. 12 (WP & EEd) and two were at Rutherford Beach Apr. 14 (SWC).

A possible Pomarine Jaeger and two unidentified jaegers (too far away) were seen off Holly Beach Apr. 26 (DLD *et al.*), and another probable Parasitic was seen off Rutherford Beach May 30, very late (DLD). Three heavily-molting Herring Gulls of different ages (adult, first-year, 2nd-year) were at Calcasieu Pass May 30 (DLD). An unprecedented one dozen reports of Franklin's Gulls were from Mar. 23 in full alternate plumage on Rutherford Beach (KVR, JAG, JSt) to May 19, three at E. Jetty Beach (DLD, SWC), with an amazing peak of 31 Apr. 25 in the Holly Beach area (SWC, DLD, TAP, JVR).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES — A probably local Ringed Turtle-Dove was in E. Baton Rouge Apr. 9, 10, & 25 (J & TKe). White-winged Doves passed through Cameron from Mar. 2 to May 19 (SWC, DLD, m.ob.); also one was singing at Grand Isle Apr. 17 (PWA, CCS) and one was in New Iberia at a feeder May 13 & 15 (MJM). The Com. Ground-Dove was reported in higher-than-normal numbers, especially in Cameron and Calcasieu, and at Thibodeaux, Lafourche, where two were seen Mar. 15 (RBe, MRh). Unexpected was the "escapée migrant" Monk Parakeet flying e. to w. over Peveto Beach woods Apr. 26 (JVR, TAP), height of the season—no more the result of man's manipulating the environment than the Ringed Turtle-Doves, House Finches, Eur. Starlings, Canada Geese, and many of the species we encounter. (Count 'em all, the information is useful to someone.) Greater Roadrunner was seen Apr. 21 at its usual place near Lake Charles at the s.e. limit of its range (TAP, m.ob.). The latest of several Groove-billed Anis was Apr. 26 at Cameron (JVR, TAP). The latest of four, possibly five Lesser Nighthawks in coastal Cameron were Apr. 26, one each in E. Jetty Woods (JVR) and Peveto Beach Woods (TAP, m.ob.). A **Buff-bellied Hummingbird** was identified in Metairie Mar. 7 (PWA, JoBe, KSi). Rufous Hummingbird #X36611, "Bertha," completed her 3rd winter in Baton Rouge when she was last seen Mar. 14 (PMK). She was joined by another female Feb. 13, which was collected Mar. 14 (*LSUMZ). A ♀ **Allen's Hummingbird**, 7th proven record for the state, was present in Metairie Jan. 12–Mar. 25, banded and rectrices 1, 2, and 5 submitted to LSUMZ as proof of identity (NLN). An ad. ♀ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker seen May 9 in E. Jetty Woods was the latest for the state (SWC, DLD).

An Olive-sided Flycatcher, very late on May 31 in Johnson's Bayou, Cameron, typified the season, although there have been only about 10 records in 37 years (JVR, m.ob.). Five E. Wood-Pewees were found in Cameron May 31 (SWC, m.ob.). A ♀ Vermilion Flycatcher was last seen at Johnson's Bayou Mar. 2 (SWC, DLD). A kingbird, Couch's or Tropical, was seen and well described, but not heard, on Fourchon Rd., Lafourche, Apr. 10 (CCS, JCo). Western Kingbirds were at Johnson's Bayou Apr. 15 (DLD, SWC, TAP) and two in Peveto Beach Woods May 10 (SWC). A pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, present for at least a month s. of Delhi, Franklin (DGr, CMD), may have been breeding there. Two Barn Swallows at 2 places in Cameron Mar. 2 were very early (A & GSM, JVR). Cliff Swallows, 15+ pairs, were nesting on the Sibley L. and Cane R. Bridges in Natchitoches (CV). A House Wren May 10 in Peveto Beach Woods provided the latest date for the state (SWC). A Sedge Wren, unusual inland, was seen Apr. 21 near Delta, Madison (JBa). Three Gray Catbirds were on Garner Ridge, Cameron, May 31 (SWC, m.ob.). A Veery (*LSUMZ, SWC) and a Swainson's Thrush were also seen there May 31 (JVR, m.ob.).

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES — Bell's Vireo continues to breed in its only state location, Selman Field, Monroe, Ouachita: two adults, one carrying food, were seen May 20 & 27 (DTK). Only one migrant Warbling Vireo was found, Apr. 25 on Hackberry Ridge (TAP, CMA). On May 10 in Cameron, six Philadelphia Vireos were found (SWC, DLD). May 31 produced 18 Red-eyed Vireos in Cameron (DLD, m.ob.).

A ♂ "Brewster's" Warbler was found in Holleyman Sanctuary, Cameron, Apr. 25 (RJS, MWE, m.ob.). Warblers recorded in coastal Cameron May 31 included N. Parula, Yellow, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Ovenbird, and Am. Redstart (SWC, DLD, m.ob.). The only Cape May Warbler was a male at Grand Isle on mild fallout Apr. 25 (RDP). An *abilora* Yellow-throated Warbler was collected (LSUMZ) Mar. 3 on Willow I., Cameron. Late and far w. was a Palm Warbler Apr. 2 on Willow I. (A & GSM).

An early Scarlet Tanager was on Grand Isle Apr. 3 (DPM, GHR). A ♀ Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Peveto Beach Woods May 20 (SWC) was also late. On May 30 a late Indigo Bunting was on Willow I. (SWC, DLD). Dickcissels in Calcasieu, singing males May 10 & 20 near Chlore, could have been on breeding territory (SWC). At E. Jetty Beach May 9, 25 singing and chasing Sharp-tailed Sparrows, of the *nelsoni* race did not, of course, indicate local breeding, and they were gone May 19 (DLD, SWC). A Lark Sparrow (*LSUMZ) appeared on Garner Ridge, Cameron, May 31 (SWC, m.ob.). A White-throated Sparrow appeared on Willow I., May 30 (SWC).



Male Hooded Oriole at Peveto Beach Woods, La., Apr. 20, 1987. First Louisiana record. Photo/Frank Moore.

A late ♂ Brewer's Blackbird was at Oak Grove, Cameron, Apr. 26 (JBO, MWE, RJS). Six reports of Yellow-headed Blackbirds were from Mar. 3 at Northwestern St. Univ. in Natchitoches (CV) to Apr. 24 at Rockefeller Ref., Cameron (DRi). In Evangeline Mar. 1, 25+ Great-tailed Grackles indicated a range extension (A & GSM). The status of 35 Boat-tailed Grackles Mar. 11 s. of Rayne and Crowley, in Acadian and Vermilion, was uncertain this far inland (KVR). Bronzed Cowbird continues to increase in the Reserve area, to the apparent detriment of the Orchard Orioles they parasitize. An ad. ♂ Hooded Oriole was netted, banded, and photographed in Holleyman Sanctuary, Peveto Beach Woods, Apr. 20 for a first record for Louisiana (FMo, DLo, WY). The species breeds in s. Texas but apparently seldom wanders. An ad. ♀ N. Oriole on Garner Ridge May 20 was another late one (SWC, DLD). A late Pine Siskin was in E. Jetty Woods Apr. 20 (JAG, MGA); 20-30 birds wintered at a feeder on Bogue Chitta R., w. of Bush, Washington, and the whole flock was still present May 3, with three until May 5 (CCS).

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TENNESSEE SUPPLEMENT

Good data cannot be ignored. For middle Tennessee, "migration was late and generally poor except in May . . . usual number of unusual sightings" (SJS). The reader may wish to compare these records with those of the same species in the above reports.

CORMORANTS THROUGH TERNS — At D.R.U., 387 Double-crested Cormorants Apr. 18 were about as many as last spring but still a record (AHH, m.ob.). Three Tundra Swans, present since December 1986 at D.R.U., were last seen Mar. 1 (JCR). Pairs of Ospreys were at D.R.U. and Percy Priest W.M.A., but no young were seen as of May 31 (EBr, MHI). On Laurel Hill L., Lawrence, a Mississippi Kite, one of very few locally, was seen May 9. Seven pairs of Bald Eagles are now known nesting in the state, 5 in middle Tennessee in Stewart, Benton, Coffee, and Lake (Tenn. Wildlife Resources Personnel, *vide* SJS). A light-phased Rough-legged Hawk Apr. 4 near Franklin, Williamson, may have been connected with the snow and severe cold of the time (BHS). At D.R.U., Mar. 1, two immatures and an ad. Golden Eagle were noted (JCR). An imm. Peregrine Falcon was at Leiper's Fork, Williamson, May 9 (BHS, CAS); and a Merlin was at Cross Creeks N.W.R., Apr. 26 (DWB). The Sandhill Crane flight this year was more to the west in Putnam, Mar. 2-17 with a peak of 590 there Mar. 5 (RWS, m.ob.). Lesser Golden-Plovers showed their good flight this year with a highest-ever peak of 74 in Lawrence Apr. 5 (DJS). Semipalmated Plover also produced a record peak, 160 May 6 at Gallatin Steam Plant (SJS, DJS). A Ruddy Turnstone Apr. 18 at Old Hickory Dam (RAS) furnished the only April record for the Nashville area. A Dunlin Apr.-11-12 at Caye's Bend (RAN, JP



Common Black-headed Gull (with Ring-billed and Bonaparte's gulls) at Percy Priest Lake, Tenn., Mar. 17, 1987. First Tennessee record. Photo/J. Paul Crawford.

& DTC) was the earliest in spring for Nashville area. A good flight of White-rumped Sandpipers in the Nashville area on 8 dates May 4–24 had a peak of five May 24 at Gallatin Steam Plant (JCR, m.ob.). A Laughing Gull on Laurel Hill L., May 3 (DJS) furnished a first county record. Bird of the season was an ad. **Common Black-headed Gull** present on Percy Priest L., Davidson, Mar. 13–22, furnishing a first record for Tennessee (CGD, m.ob., ph.). An ad. Least Tern was seen at Cross Creeks N.W.R., May 27 (JCR).

SWIFTS THROUGH FINCHES — Two early Chimney Swifts were at Radnor L., Davidson, Mar. 18 (AHN, JCM). A fair number of Willow and Least flycatchers and one Alder, May 31 near Loretto, Lawrence (DJS), were reported (SJS et al.). A very early E. Kingbird was in Warner Parks, Davidson, Mar. 20 (DFV). Cliff Swallow is apparently increasing all over; four early ones were on Kentucky L., Mar. 28 (JCR), and May 9–

10, 1800+ were reported from Cheatham (MHI, ECC, CKC). The last of a few lingering Red-breasted Nuthatches was one Apr. 27 in Stewart (JCR). A few Bewick's Wrens were found in 6 places with a maximum of five-plus in Tennessee Ridge, Houston, in May (JCR). An early Warbling Vireo was seen in Clarkesville, Montgomery, Apr. 8 (EJW). "Brewster's" Warbler was seen near Byrdstown, Pickett, Apr. 23 (RJH). A ♂ "**Audubon's**" **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, seen Mar. 15 in Land-between-the-Lakes, Stewart (JCR), was a first for Tennessee. Swainson's Warbler, rather rare near Nashville, nested there in 1942, but one seen May 9–11 provided the first record in 10 years (CGD).

A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak Mar. 24–28 on Buffalo Rd., Davidson (DWH), was a month early and most likely a bird that had wintered in the United States. Bachman's Sparrow showed signs of increasing here too, with five birds Mar. 28–May 31 near Fall R., Giles (DJS, TMH), and one at Loretto, Lawrence, Apr. 8 (DJS). Unusual Lark Sparrows were one May 3 at Cross Creeks N.W.R. (DWB) and two May 10 at Pardue's Pond, Dickson (MHI, ECC, MJW). Late winter birds were: a Dark-eyed Junco May 4 at Model Fire Tower, Stewart (DWB); a Purple Finch May 9 at Leiper's Fork, Williamson (SJ & BHS); a Pine Siskin June 1 n.w. of Lebanon, Wilson (EC & VB); three Red Crossbills Mar. 31 at Model Fire Tower (DWB); and Evening Grosbeaks May 9, two at Dover, Stewart (JCR), and 10 at Tulsa, Coffee (D & MS).

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PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

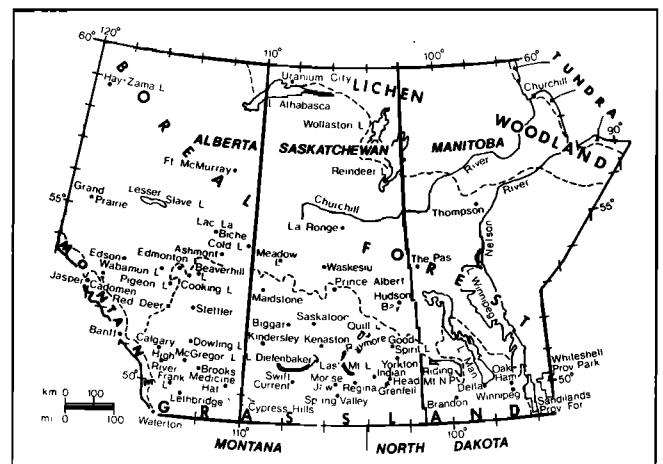
J. Bernard Gollop

Temperatures were above normal in all three months— 2°–4°C in March, 4°–6°C in April, and 1°–4°C in May, for the sixth consecutive month of above-normal temperatures. Precipitation in March varied from normal to twice normal in most of the southern Prairies. By the end of the month there was practically no snow on the ground. In contrast, April had 25% to 75% of normal, although Calgary had a heavy snowfall on the 18th. For May, most of the Region had less precipitation than usual, but small areas had up to 50% more. Edmonton had a 19-cm (7.5-inch) snowfall on the 19th.

The number of May ponds in the southern Prairies was 2,600,000, down 35% from 1986. Each province showed a decrease; Alberta, 48%, Saskatchewan 40%, and Manitoba 2% (U.S.F.W.S., C.W.S.).

This was a spring in which an insipid passerine migration was more than compensated for by nonpasserine events.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.W.S. = Canadian Wildlife Service; N.L.M.L. = north end of Last Mountain Lake; U.S.F.W.S. = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



GREBES THROUGH WATERFOWL — Single Clark's Grebes were reported: May 9 from the Alexander/Griswold Marsh, Man. (MM, BR), from Monica Slough near Regina May

19 & 20 (JN, CB, RL), and at N L M L., May 28 (WH) The only Double-crested Cormorant movement reported was of 100± birds flying N over Oxbow, Sask., May 5 (HP). Egrets were well represented, including three unidentified, probably Cattle Egrets, as far n. as Lac St. Anne, Alta., May 7± (PM) and a Great Egret, still farther n. at Ft. McMurray May 6 (JG). The highlight of the egret parade was either (a) three species (one Great, two Snowy, and one Cattle) May 27 at N.L.M.L. (WH), or (b) a flock of 17 Cattle Egrets beside a highway near Oxbow, Sask., May 11 & 12 (HP, DY). Also at N.L.M.L. on the 27th was a large concentration [72] of Black-crowned Night-Herons (WH), and on May 29 a White-faced Ibis (SWo, BP, AW). A **Green-backed Heron** was reported based on several minutes of study at Valeport, Sask., May 21 by 2 European delegates to the RAMSAR conference (no description; TL, DL).

Large numbers of geese—White-fronted, Snow and Canada—were noted flying N, in some cases by day and night, near Foam L., Indian Head, Dilke, Moose Jaw, Spring Valley, and Saskatoon, Sask., Apr. 3–7 (WN, FL, MB, RM, PK, A & VA, SWa, FBo, B & MG, MG). From 6:45 to 8:15 a.m., Apr. 14, some 3000 Greater White-fronted Geese flew NW near Saskatoon (WK). The migration of Canadas began mid-March in s. Manitoba, about 2 weeks earlier than usual (GH), and a major flight occurred at Grande Prairie, Alta., in mid-April (KL). A north-bound flock of 380 Canadas at Ft. McMurray May 30 may have been undergoing a moult migration from the s. Prairies to the Northwest Territories (JG). Most species of ducks arrived early. The U.S.F.W.S. and C.W.S. surveys showed >9,700,000 ducks in the s. Prairies, down 10% from last spring. Northern Pintails and Redheads were down significantly while Canvasbacks and Ring-necked Ducks were up. The only major concentration reported was of 15,000 N. Pintails on Lac Magloire, near Peace River, Alta., Apr. 15 (KL). Cinnamon Teal continue to increase in Alberta and their numbers were unusually high this spring in Saskatchewan (20 birds on 14 dates in 6 areas, plus up to seven per day in the southwest) and Manitoba (10 in 3 areas). There were seven reports of Eur. Wigeon in Alberta, as far n. as Grande Prairie and Ft. McMurray (Apr. 17) (KL, DC, JS, JG). Greater Scaup have become more prominent in recent years for whatever reason. In the Edmonton area it is suggested that they may outnumber Lessers in early spring (PM); in Saskatchewan, at least 48 were reported on 6 April dates, Apr. 6–25 (CA, RL, SSh, NP); and a single bird was swimming with 75 Lessers Apr. 14 near Brandon (CC). Three Oldsquaws and 12± Surf Scoters were seen on Laurier L., Alta., May 15 (RKL).

RAPTORS THROUGH GROUSE — Unusual concentrations characterized eagles and buteos this spring. A migration of 67 Bald Eagles was counted s.w. of Calgary Apr. 5 (RW). More than 700 buteos—almost all Red-taileds—migrating along the Pembino R. near Morden, Man., Apr. 3 and again Apr. 4 made an exceptional observation for this part of the world (ASc). On the same two days, more than 300 and >200 Red-taileds, respectively, were migrating 100 km east near St. Adolphe, Man. (m. ob.). And then there were 70± Rough-legged Hawks at Oak Hammock Apr. 11 (GH, m.ob.), and 91 e. of Calgary Apr. 17 (RW, WS). On the unusual date of May 31, 50–60 buteos, many of them Swainson's, were coursing over flooded fields near Riceton, Sask. (FBo). And, if you have ever wondered how many Golden Eagles there are in n.w. Canada (and Alaska?), Geof Holroyd and John Woods have provided a minimum figure from an "incredible migration" of 245 Mar. 15 and another 150 the next day near Canmore, Alta.; most were adults. Since the release of Peregrine Falcons in one or more cities per province, monitoring natural populations by reporting numbers seen has become invalid and may not be worth continuing. Gyrfalcons were seen at N.L.M.L., Mar. 7 (WH), near Chaplin, Sask., Mar. 22 (JS), and at Oakbank, Man., Mar. 21 (G & SG). Wayne Harris and Don Weidl discovered five **Greater Prairie-Chickens**: a hybrid male and a "pure" female on Sage Grouse dancing grounds, and three males—all in the Killdeer-Val Marie, Sask., area.

COOTS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Aerial surveys through the s. Prairies showed only one-half as many Am. Coots this year as last (U.S.F.W.S., C.W.S.). The major Sandhill Crane migration noted was near Grande Prairie where "many flocks," with up to 1000 in a flock, were seen Apr. 25 & 26 (fide KL). There were 14 confirmed reports—the same as last year—of 45 Whooping Cranes (undoubtedly some duplicates) Apr. 18–May 2, all in Saskatchewan; 53 probable sightings, compared with 36 in 1986, were from all 3 provinces (fide BJ).

The shorebird migration in s. Manitoba was generally very poor, but it was good in s. Saskatchewan where 50,000 birds, mostly Sanderlings and Baird's Sandpipers, were estimated for Chaplin L., May 25 (ASm, LD). At Kimiwan L., n.e. of Grande Prairie, 21,000 shorebirds were resting May 21 (KL, LD). On the same lake, eight Am. Avocets May 15 and six May 21 were far n. and w. of their normal breeding range (KL). The only Piping Plover for Alberta was banded at Beaverhill L. (RE); the only other report was of three birds near Saskatoon May 12 (MGo). Saskatchewan's 5th **Mountain Plover** record was of a bird near Val Marie May 14 (WH). The province's first photographed **Black-necked Stilts** were two s.e. of Saskatoon May



Two Black-necked Stilts near Saskatoon, Sask., June 9, 1987. Photo/J.A. Slimmon.

30–31 (JW, m.ob.). While still rare, Whimbrels appeared in larger numbers and more localities than usual: 68 birds on 4 May dates (May 15–19) at 4 localities in Alberta (PM, DC, M & JS, JG), and 21 birds May 16, 19 (17 birds), 22, & 23 at 4 Saskatchewan sites (DW, HL, FR, WH). There were an estimated 1500± Red Knots on Chaplin L., Sask., May 25 (ASm, LD). Medium-sized shorebirds were migrating WNW over a 135-km front between Saskatoon and Prince Albert May 12; 11 flocks totalling >200 birds were seen from 8:40 to 11:40 a.m. (B & MG). There were 10,000 Sanderlings May 31 at N.L.M.L. (WH). Several thousand Red-necked Phalaropes were counted on Beaverhill L., May 21± (PM).

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Single Thayer's Gulls, considered a subspecies of Iceland Gull by Godfrey in the 1986 edition of *The Birds of Canada*, were reported from Alberta Mar. 29 and Apr. 21 & 24 at Calgary, and at Cold L., Apr. 6 & 19 (RS, RD, RB, RW, RKL). There were three at Cypress L., Sask., Apr. 8 (DW, EC, WH). Glaucous Gulls were found at 3 sites in Alberta (RB, JS, RS, RW, DC), one in Saskatchewan (RKR), and 2 in Manitoba (GH, RKO). A flock of at least 30 Sabine's Gulls was seen May 28 near St. Paul, Alta. (ph. RKL). What was probably Alberta's 2nd **Ivory Gull** was a subadult n.e. of Calgary May 17 (fDE, EG). Eastern Screech-Owls continue to be found from Moose Jaw and the Qu'Appelle River s. in Saskatchewan, but to date a nest has not been found (CA, LK, PK, NP). Another was reportedly heard much farther n. at Turtle L., Sask., May 9 (MCA) and one was at Eastend Apr. 15 (WH). Snowy Owls were scarce this spring, the largest one-day count being of five near Moose Jaw (BC). Only 6 pairs of

Burrowing Owls could be found in s. Manitoba (KD). In Saskatchewan, Prince Philip brought a young owl from its burrow for the media to publicize World Wildlife Fund's program to save the species. Based on calls, Barred Owls, far n. of their recognized breeding range, were reported at 3 locations near Churchill May 10 (AC). Short-eared Owls were down in Manitoba (HC, RKo) but were "everywhere" around Bromhead, Sask. (CB), and a fantastic 114 were found e. of Calgary Apr. 17 (RW, WS). About 15 Boreal Owls were heard in 10± km e. of the Prince Albert N.P., Sask., gate Apr. 17 (RL). A swift, far from any species' range, was seen briefly May 30 over Cypress Hills P.P., Alta. (PH, MO). Between May 18 & 30 single Red-headed Woodpeckers were found in Regina (JN) and Moose Jaw (PK, SWa), and at Beaverhill L. (DN). A Red-bellied Woodpecker in Winnipeg about Apr. 30 was believed to have been one of the wintering individuals (BL).

SWALLOWS THROUGH SHRIKES — April 20 was the earliest date ever recorded for Tree Swallows at Ft. McMurray (JG). The ratio of Am. Crows to Black-billed Magpies in the Saskatoon area was 2.3:1.0 (724 birds:317) May 23 (S.N.H.S.). Red-breasted Nuthatches were noticeably down in s. Manitoba (HC, RKo) and at least parts of s. Saskatchewan (SSh, BG). A pair of E. Bluebirds was looking for a nest site in Cypress Hills P.P., Alta. (PH, MO). Single stray Townsend's Solitaires were found in Edmonton (PM), Moose Jaw (SWa), Regina (RL, RKr), Weyburn (NP), and Saskatoon (S & MH). The thrush migration was poor in all 3 provinces with only one wave reported—many birds in Regina May 20–22. A flock of 15± Hermit Thrushes was unusual for only the 2nd record in 5 years at Medicine Hat (MSc). A Wood Thrush was a rarity in Winnipeg May 28 (GH). From Apr. 12 through 20 there was a large wave of Am. Robins, some flocks exceeding 400, in Saskatchewan (Weyburn, Spring Valley, Good Spirit L., Glidden to Saskatoon, and Livelong—m.ob.). Sprague's Pipit numbers were down in s. w. Manitoba (KD). Loggerhead Shrikes were fairly common again this year with up to 43 per day seen in s.w. Saskatchewan (WH).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES — The warbler migration was poor in all 3 provinces. The only significant wave in Manitoba was May 13 (GH, RKo). A N. Parula was a Saskatchewan rarity in Regina May 23–31 (CA, m.ob.). Yellow-rumped Warblers peaked in Weyburn Apr. 23 with 28 birds (NP) and at Good Spirit L., May 1 with 20 (W & JA). Single birds of the Audubon's subspecies were seen e. of their normal range in Regina Apr. 30 (CB) and Weyburn Apr. 23–25 (NP). The first **Yellow-throated Warbler** for Manitoba was studied by many observers May 23 at Delta (RT, SSe). The first documented **Northern Cardinal** for Alberta was a single male photographed near Water Valley May 22–23 (CH, C & FS). Migrant sparrows put on a "lacklustre migration" in s. Manitoba and s. Saskatchewan (HC, RKo, BG). The largest Saskatchewan wave was reported for Regina May 13–14 and involved "dozens" of Chipping and Clay-colored sparrows (PB). Saskatchewan's 4th and Saskatoon's 3rd **Field Sparrow** was singing in the city May 25–26 (RG, m.ob.). On May 1 the major, although small, wave of Lincoln's, White-throated, White-crowned, and Harris' sparrows occurred at Spring Valley (FBo). Dark-eyed Juncos peaked at Good Spirit L., Apr. 10 (W & JA), Saskatoon Apr. 19 (B & MG), and Turtle L., Sask., Apr. 20 (MCA), with more than 100 on each date. Large movements of Lapland Longspurs included 10,000 between Portage la Prairie and Elie, Man., May 11 (RKn) and "tens of thousands" near Buffer L., Sask., on the afternoon of May 12 (ASm, ED). Eighteen Orchard Orioles around Weyburn May 26 was a large number for Saskatchewan (NP) and one near Val Marie May 11 may have been a pioneer in the westward movement of this species (WH). Manitoba's 8th **House Finch** was observed May 14–15 in Winnipeg (NH).

OBSERVERS (Provincial compilers in boldface, local compilers in italics) — C. Adam, W. & J. Anaka, A. & V. Anderson, R. Barclay, M. Belcher, C. Bjorklund, F. Bogdan (FBo), F. Brazier (FBr), P. Browne, M. Carlson (MCA), A. Chartier, D. Collister, M. Conrad (MCo), H. Copland, B. Cruise, E. Cumming, C. Cuthbert, B. Dale, K. DeSmet, R. Dickson, L. Dickson, E. Driver, R. Ebel, D. Elphinstone, C. Findlay, E. Gasser, M. Gilliland (MGi), R. Godwin, B. (& M.) Gollop, M. Gollop (MGo), G. & S., Grieff, J. Gulley, N. Hansley, W. Harris, G. Holland, P. Horch, S. & M. Houston, C. Hunt, B. Johns, P. Kern, R. Klauke (RKL), R. Knapton (RKn), L. Knight, R. Koes (RKo), W. Kost, R. Kreba (RKr), F. Lahrman, H. Lane, D. Langslow, T. Larsson, B. Lavender, K. Lumbis, R. Luterbach, P. Marklevitz, R. McArton, M. McCowan, D. Nadeau, J. Nelson, W. Niven, M. O'Shea, H. Paton, S. Pavka, N. Postey, B. Poston, B. Robinson, F. Roy, S. Sealy (SSe), S. Shadick (SSh), M. Schiebelbein (MSc), A. Schritt (ASc), A. Smith (ASm), W. Smith, Saskatoon Natural History Society, M. & J. Steeves, R. Storms, C. & F. Stuart, R. Titman, S. Wait, D. Weidl, J. Wedgwood, R. Wershler, A. Whyte, D. Young.—J. BERNARD GOLLOP, Canadian Wildlife Service, 115 Perimeter Rd., Saskatoon, SK S7N 0X4.

The following report for the Winter Season 1986–1987 should have appeared in the Summer issue (Volume 41, Number 2). Unfortunately, at press time, we had not received the report from our Regional Editor. We are including this previously unpublished report on the Winter Season in this issue. We apologize for any inconvenience to our readers.

The Winter Season December 1, 1986–February 28, 1987

Wayne C. Harris

The weather this winter was almost an exact duplicate of that which was experienced the previous year. For most of the Region it was mild with little snow cover, especially in southern Alberta and southern Saskatchewan, where any snow that did fall generally melted within a few days. The most serious threat of winter actually arrived in November, when some of the coldest weather was experienced; and it was this, rather than actual winter weather, that resulted in the smaller numbers of half-hardy birds and the absence of any great number of rarities.

GREBES THROUGH WATERFOWL — A Pied-billed Grebe at Calgary until Dec. 21 furnished the only report for the Region this winter (*fide* DC). The Double-crested Cormorant that spent the winter at Calgary provided only the 2nd winter record of this species for the prairie provinces and the first for Alberta (*fide* DC). The mild open winter undoubtedly was the reason for the exceptional numbers of overwintering geese. A Lesser Snow Goose overwintered at Medicine Hat and a Ross' Goose at Sundre (RG, FH). Canada Goose numbers were higher than normal, with over 1000 at Medicine Hat and 555 at Regina, and with reports of smaller numbers at several other s. locations (RG, CA). Mallards showed similar high numbers, with Calgary as usual having the highest counts with over 10,000 (DC). However, there were some other excellent counts, including 1000 at White Bear Dec. 1, 104 at Crooked Lake in the Qu'appelle Valley Dec. 21, and over 500 at Medicine Hat (SOJ, DW, RG). Two Ring-necked Ducks at Calgary Dec. 21 were unusual (*fide* DC). The presence of a Surf Scoter on the Bow R. in Calgary was unusual (RS). Common Goldeneye numbers showed the same increased trend as Canada Goose and Mallard. There were 508 at Calgary, 272 at Medicine Hat,

up to 300+ at Saskatoon, and over 200 at Squaw Rapids (DC, RG, JBG, WCH) The only Bufflehead reports were of two at Calgary and one at Pointe du Bois, Man. (DC, RFK). Single Hooded Mergansers were also found at Calgary and Medicine Hat (DC, RG).

DIURNAL RAPTORS — A very late Turkey Vulture was seen near Sundre Dec. 3, providing only the 2nd winter season record for the Region and the first for Alberta (FH). The open conditions provided good conditions for overwintering raptors, in particular N. Harriers and Rough-legged Hawks, both of which were seen in above-normal numbers. The best count of harriers was of five seen in the Brooks, Alta., area Jan. 10, with singles at Calgary and Cochrane, Alta., and Consul and Raymore, Sask. (DE, DC, WCH). Rough-legged Hawks were reported throughout s. Alberta and s.w. Saskatchewan with some of the better counts being of 34 at Sundre Jan 3, 10 near Cochrane Dec. 27, and 10 near Consul, Sask., Dec. 21 (FH, DC, WCH).

S.A.

The criticisms that are regularly directed at observers who report Swainson's Hawks during the winter months have always seemed somewhat unjustified at least to this writer. Comments like "unbelievable unless photographed" or "impossible," I have always found very irritating. I do not argue the fact that details of all such observations are needed, but that all of these records are to be ignored is unacceptable. Swainson's Hawks are our most common nesting raptors in grassland areas of the prairie provinces, and that a weak or older bird may not have the energy to migrate south in the fall and may survive into early winter—or possibly even survive a winter that was as mild and hospitable as the one we just experienced—does not seem at all unreasonable. If a species is common, occasionally one is going to fail to migrate and will be seen out of season on its breeding grounds. With that out of the way, I will now mention a well-described Swainson's Hawk seen near Trossachs, Sask., Jan. 2 (CB). The bird was seen both sitting and flying and the details were excellent. The observer's comment ("why report it, no one will believe it") upon phoning me pretty well sums up the attitude that is being developed by observers in response to the "experts."

Another species which, until the last 10 years, was rarely reported in winter is Red-tailed Hawk. This year there were 3 sightings in the Calgary area with singles at Calgary Dec. 21, Snake's Head Jan. 3, and Sundre Jan. 3 (DC, FH). Single Am. Kestrels at Calgary and Lethbridge were considered unusual for s. Alberta (DC, GG), while in Winnipeg, where they occur regularly in winter, at least five were present. Large falcons were generally scarce with no Peregrines seen and only 23 Prairie sightings. Only the 19 Gyrfalcon sightings (3 in Manitoba, 4 in Alberta, and 12 in Saskatchewan) were close to the numbers normally seen.

GROUSE THROUGH WOODPECKERS — The winter was exceptionally easy on grouse populations, as the lack of snow cover in many areas allowed excellent numbers to come through. Gray Partridges in particular seemed to be doing very well, as many s. locations had excellent numbers at the end of the period. A good breeding season could result in record numbers being present by the end of summer. Willow Ptarmigan were reported in the s. portions of Manitoba for the first time in several decades, and not just one bird. There were two Dec 2 at Winnipeg, one in early December at Marquette, two Dec 20 near Vogar, one found dead on the road near The Narrows on Lake Manitoba, and three e. of St. Paul Feb. 24 (DH, MS, P. Hildebrandt, J. Morgan). Noteworthy gull reports were of an **Iceland Gull** at Powerview, Man., Dec. 14-17 (MS, R Knapton) and at least three Glaucous Gulls at Gardiner Dam,

Sask , until at least Dec 14 (RW) Where did the Glaucous Gull that showed up at Round Lake, Sask , Feb 18 & 19 spend the winter: in Saskatchewan, or was it a northbound bird (DF)? An **Ivory Gull** photographed at Ft. McMurray Dec. 13 furnished by far the most unusual gull report (JRG).

There were only 2 reports of E. Screech-Owls, both outside their normal breeding range. One was seen at Saskatoon, the other at Medicine Hat (*vide* MDG, RG). Snowy Owls were generally very scarce with very few concentrations reported. In fact the only reports of more than five in one day were from the Suffield-Brooks area and from what may be the most consistent area from year to year, the Elrose-Kyle area of w c Saskatchewan (RG, WCH). The only owl that may have been more common than usual was the Short-eared, seen regularly throughout s. Saskatchewan and s. Manitoba.

Noteworthy were single Red-headed Woodpeckers at Klee-feld through the winter and in Winnipeg in mid-December (DF, R. Knapton). Unprecedented numbers of Red-bellied Woodpeckers were found in Winnipeg this winter with at least four (possibly five) being seen, and at least one of these survived the winter (*vide* RK).

LARKS THROUGH WAXWINGS — The number of Horned Larks that overwintered was slightly higher and more widespread than usual, and these were bolstered by migrants that arrived about 2 weeks earlier than usual. The peak in their migration appears to have occurred in mid to late February, also somewhat earlier than usual. A Steller's Jay at Calgary Dec. 21 was an unusual occurrence (*vide* DC) and another at Mt. Allan Jan. 3 was equally unexpected (JBS). Common Ravens continue to increase in numbers s. of the boreal forest during the winter months. They were reported throughout the prairie areas of both Saskatchewan and Alberta. Fifteen years ago they were exceedingly rare s. of the forest, now they are almost a guaranteed species at some point during the winter. Mountain Chickadees were present at both Medicine Hat and Lethbridge outside their normal winter range (RG, MOS)

Unusually large numbers of White-breasted Nuthatches were reported outside their usual haunts in s. Manitoba and e. Saskatchewan. There were scattered singles at many locations in w. Saskatchewan and Alberta, including an amazing 21 at Sundre Jan. 3. Red-breasted Nuthatches were also high at the same location and date, with 113 seen (FH). Golden-crowned Kinglets were seen in numbers greater than last year's as they continue to recover from the low numbers experienced in the early 1980s. Some of the better numbers were 29 in a small area in Saskatoon Dec. 29, and 11 near Sundre Jan 3 (MDG, CSH, FH). There were also a number of reports of Golden-crowned Kinglets surviving the winter in s. Manitoba with the known locations being Brandon, Glenboro, Spruce Woods P.P., and Winnipeg (CC, RK, m.ob.). There were excellent numbers of Bohemian Waxwings in s. Manitoba and as far w as Saskatoon, but w. of there numbers were generally low (RFK, HWRC, WCH). With the good numbers of Bohemians came several reports of Cedar Waxwings, with the best counts coming from Saskatoon, where flocks of up to 65 were seen (JBG)

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES — There was a Fox Sparrow at Medicine Hat Dec. 27 and another survived until at least Feb. 4 near Altona, Man. (RG, M. Krueger). There were some exceptionally high numbers of Dark-eyed Juncos wintering this year. Some of the better counts included 15 at Calgary Dec. 21, 17 at Weyburn Dec. 26, and 10 at Lethbridge Dec. 27, as well as numerous reports of up to five at other locations (DC, NP, MOS). Western Meadowlarks, which do not commonly attempt to overwinter at this latitude, rarely survive our cold winters. This year was an exception as at least three singles survived until the end of February at White Bear and Govan, Sask., and at Brandon, while one at Rivers, Man., died Jan. 8 (SOJ, WCH, CC, NS). This was not a winter for winter finches, with virtually every locality commenting on the low numbers present. In the case of the crossbills one could get

the impression that they were a threatened species, there were so few reports. The Eur. Tree Sparrow reported in the fall report successfully survived the winter, adding to the conjecture that this was not an escapee from an aviary (RFK).

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R. Dixon, D. Elphinstone, D. Francis, R. Gardner, M.D. Gilliland, G. Greenlee, B.C. Godwin, J.B. Gollop, M.A. Gollop, J.R. Gulley, J.M. Harris, W.C. Harris, F. Haug, D. Hayward, D. Holland, C.S. Houston, S.O. Jordheim, E.W. Kern, R. Knapton, R.F. Koes, F. Markland, R. McKague, W. Niven, M. O'Shea, N. Postey, B. Rippin, S. Shadick, N. Siepman, D. Silcox, J.B. Steeves, R. Storms, R. Waple, D. Weidl.—WAYNE C. HARRIS, Box 414, Raymore, Sask. S0A 3J0.

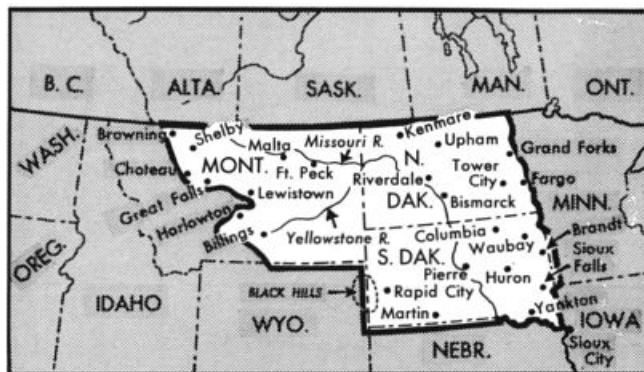
NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Gordon B. Berkey

According to the National Weather Service, this spring was the warmest over the north central states since the 1890s. Except for brief cool wet periods, none lasting more than a week, temperatures were consistently above normal. There were no killing frosts in many areas after the second week of April. Observers reported vegetation from two to four weeks ahead of normal. Trees were already fully leafed out by the first of May, making it more difficult than usual to view migrating warblers. Mid-summer flowers were in full bloom by the end of May. Most wetlands were in good condition in March, but strong winds, high temperatures, and spotty precipitation had caused water supplies to diminish greatly by the end of the period. Extremely high water levels, partly due to drainage of wetlands, caused Devils Lake to continue its rise to flood the road at Minnewaukon Flats, and egret colonies in north-eastern South Dakota were being threatened by high water levels.

Accompanying the warm weather were strong prevailing southerly winds. Three effects on migration might be anticipated under these conditions. First, migration ought to be earlier, so there should be more "earliest" dates. Second, more overshoots of southern species might be expected. Third, total numbers of birds seen might be expected to be small as birds overfly during favorable migration conditions. The observations were mixed on the first point this spring, but seemed consistent with the last two.

There were 44 new state earliest dates in the Dakotas, compared to over 60 under less favorable conditions last year. The geographical distribution of the earliest arrivals was very peculiar, as 19 were from Fargo and Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge. Thus the rest of the Region did not have an inordinate number. The timing was also peculiar, as 23 occurred by March 22. Thus the remainder of the period did not have more earliest arrivals than normal, even though the warm weather and southerly flow continued throughout. In fact, arrivals during the latter part of the period were not even ahead of normal. In order to understand this phenomenon, I looked at the wintering range of 205 species that winter seldom enough in the Region that arrival dates get reported. Thirty-six of the 44 earliest dates were set by 144 species that have established wintering ranges in the United States, and only eight were set by 51 species that winter almost strictly south of the border. May we conclude that shorter-distance migrants took advantage of good migrating conditions to move northward earlier, while birds that winter in Central and South America may have arrived on the continent a little later than normal? It will be interesting to see the reports from other regions to the south of us!



The first North Dakota record of Bewick's Wren, and Black-necked Stilt, White-eyed Vireo, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Cerulean and Prothonotary warblers were all examples of southern overshoots. Most observers mentioned very low numbers of passerines. One exception was a tremendous fallout at Grand Forks May 22-23, during which 22 species of warblers were seen.

ABBREVIATIONS — Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Common Loons peaked at 16 Apr. 23 at Ft. Peck, with three still present at the end of the period (CC). Earliest ever state dates for grebes in North Dakota were provided by Pied-billed Mar. 22 at Fargo (MB) and Red-necked Apr. 12 in Rollette (DK). Clark's Grebe was seen in all 3 states; up to four were seen in one bay at Bowdoin N.W.R., a new record for latilong 9 (D & TP). A census of Am. White Pelican nests at Bowdoin May 25 found 1750 nests on 3 islands (NP). A Great Egret at Upper Souris N.W.R., Apr. 5 was the earliest ever for North Dakota (GB). The first confirmation for nesting of Snowy Egrets in North Dakota was of 5 nests on the w. arm of Devils L. at Minnewaukan May 24 (SL, RWS). Immature birds had been seen in the area last fall. Cattle Egret numbers appeared to be down at Minnewaukan. The colony at L. Preston, S.D., included 38 Snowy, 100 Great, and 40 Cattle egrets in addition to two Little Blue Herons, but most habitat in this and other rookeries in neighboring counties was flooded (MS). The 4th Montana record for Little Blue Heron and the first documented by photos was furnished by one at Ft. Peck May 20 (CC). A Green-backed Heron at Audubon N.W.R., May 25 (MW) provided about the 3rd record for w. North Dakota. The 12th North Dakota record for Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Fargo May 7-26 was at the same location where one remained for over a month last spring (MB). Thirty pairs of White-faced Ibises appeared to be nesting at Bowdoin (Jst), and a pair was at Stewart Lake N.W.R., N.D., MAY 31 (D & CG).



Adult Little Blue Heron at Ft. Peck, Mont., May 20, 1987. Fourth Montana record. Photo/C.M. Carlson.

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES — A Trumpeter Swan in Steele May 3 (DK) furnished the first North Dakota report in 20 years. The arrival of Greater White-fronted Goose at Tewaukon N.W.R., Mar. 5 (GEE) set a new earliest date for North Dakota by 11 days. A flock of 92 Ross' Geese was adequately described at Audubon Apr. 21 (GH). Earliest ever North Dakota arrival dates for ducks at Tewaukon were of N. Shoveler Mar. 6 (10 days earlier than previous) and Am. Wigeon, Red-head, and Hooded Merganser Mar. 4; additional earliest dates were provided by the Ring-necked Duck at Bowman-Haley Res., Mar. 15 and the Red-breasted Merganser at Garrison Dam Mar. 22. An earliest date for South Dakota was furnished by a Redhead Feb. 20 in Yankton (SVS). A Eur. Wigeon was seen n.e. of Billings Apr. 3 (Y.V.F.). A total of 1300 Canvasbacks was at Upper Souris Apr. 11. An Oldsquaw at Oahe Dam Mar. 13 (DT) was the latest ever for South Dakota, and one at Ft. Peck May 2 was exceptionally late.

The Ferruginous Hawk Mar. 15 in Bowman set another earliest record for North Dakota, and the presence of birds in Rolette, N.D., and in Deuel, S.D. (BH) May 31 suggested nesting e. of the known current range. A Rough-legged Hawk in Hettinger May 24 was the latest ever for North Dakota (KHW). Two pairs of Merlins were in excellent nesting habitat n. of Hinsdale, Mont., May 19 (DP). A Peregrine Falcon at L. Metigoshe, N.D., May 28 was very late (KSa). A total of 185 Sage Grouse, up 30% from last year, was counted at 18 s.w. North Dakota leks (JK), but only three were present on a Fall River, S.D., lek which has declined steadily the past 3 years (RP). The nest of Greater Prairie-Chicken found at a Sharp-tailed Grouse area in Grant, S.D., in early May (MHG) was more than 100 mi e. of the currently known range. The arrival of Am. Coot Mar. 6 at Tewaukon (GEE) was the earliest for North Dakota by 16 days. On Apr. 18 the flight of Sandhill Cranes over Lostwood N.W.R. numbered in the tens of thousands (RKM).

SHOREBIRDS — Shorebird numbers were generally very low. Killdeer arrived in 3 South Dakota counties on the earliest-ever state date of Mar. 4 (BH). The first Mountain Plovers in Montana were in s. Valley May 7; Mountains were observed in suitable habitat, but not on prairie dog towns as is usually the case (DP). The 11th and 12th North Dakota records for Black-necked Stilt were of one at Mandan May 9 (RR) and a pair in Kidder in early May (AF); the species appears to be becoming a permanent nesting species at Bowdoin, where a boat survey May 4 found 24 birds, and a pair was exhibiting territorial behavior May 25. The earliest-ever North Dakota Spotted Sandpiper was found Apr. 16 at Fargo (LF), and the Upland Sandpiper at Grassy Butte Apr. 14 was the earliest ever by 8 days (JH). The Whimbrel at Minot May 16-17 provided the 8th North Dakota record (REM, GB), and two were at Bowdoin May 14 (J & KS). An exception to generally low

shorebird numbers was Baird's Sandpiper, which was present from Apr. 9 through the end of the period; the peak for this species was of 525 at Des Lacs N.W.R., May 9. Earliest-ever North Dakota shorebird arrival dates at Fargo were Short-billed Dowitcher Apr. 19 by 12 days and Am. Woodcock by 10 days (GN), and Com. Snipe Mar. 21 (TD). The 13 Am. Woodcock on 9 dates Mar. 21-May 1 from e. North Dakota made an unusually high number. The 600 Wilson's Phalaropes in Todd, S.D., represented a good number for the area (PS); Red-necked Phalaropes peaked at 1500 at the Minot lagoons May 29.

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Franklin's Gulls at Grand Forks and Garrison Dam Mar. 22 tied the earliest arrival date for North Dakota, and a Ring-billed Gull at Tewaukon Mar. 6 was also an earliest date. An imm. Thayer's Gull closely observed at Mobridge, S.D., May 7 (D & CG) furnished a rare spring record, and was also exceptionally late. Glaucous Gulls were at Mobridge Mar. 7 and Garrison Dam Mar. 22; the latter provided another earliest date for North Dakota. A Com. Barn-Owl in Jackson, S.D., May 8 & 19 was presumed to be nesting (KG). Chris Adam of Regina, who is researching E. Screech-Owls, saw, heard, and photographed



Eastern Screech-Owl at Tiber Dam, Mont., Apr. 22, 1987. The site is in the western half of Montana, suggesting how far west this species gets on the northern plains. Photo/C.I.G. Adam.

one of a pair at a tree cavity below Tiber Dam, s. of Chester, Apr. 22. He believes that the W. Screech-Owl reported on the 1982 Chester CBC was in error. Easterns probably range throughout the Missouri and its tributaries in e. Montana wherever suitable habitat exists. One was found on owl survey routes in the Lewiston area in March; nine N. Pygmy-Owls were also located on these routes (LM). Northern Saw-whet Owls stayed for extended periods in Ward Feb. 7-Mar. 13, at Lake Ilo N.W.R., Feb. 18-Mar. 10 (K & NW), and at Grand Forks Mar. 23-Apr. 4 (DOL); the first two of these called persistently. Common Poorwill (CH) and Com. Nighthawk (RT) in Sioux Apr. 27 were the earliest for North Dakota. Earliest-ever arrivals for South Dakota were Com. Poorwill in Custer Apr. 27 (MP), and White-throated Swift in Penn (NW) and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Yankton Mar. 19 (WH). Still another March earliest date from North Dakota was provided by the Belted Kingfisher at Fargo Mar. 22. Pileated Woodpeckers were observed again this spring at Sullys Hill N.W.R., N.D., and in e. South Dakota in Grant (BH); both of these suggest a westward extension of the breeding range.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS — The W. Wood-pewee in Minot May 19 provided an earliest-ever date for North Dakota. A W. Kingbird pair nested in a martin house at Lake Ilo N.W.R. (K & NW). A flock of swallows at Ackley L. near Lewiston May 21 included 1400 Violet-greens, 400 N. Rough-winged, 650 Cliffs, and 900 Barns (LM). A Gray Jay at Fargo

Mar 16 was an unusual spring sighting (DLL). The past winter's invasion of Clark's Nutcrackers in the Black Hills led to nesting in at least 3 areas (RP, MP, JSc); the first South Dakota nesting of this species occurred only 2 years ago. The pair of Mountain Chickadees wintering at Ft. Peck left Mar. 27. A **Bewick's Wren** at Grand Forks provided a first state record for North Dakota. The bird was seen May 15–20, and again briefly May 27 (EF, PO, D & SL). Earliest arrivals for North Dakota Mar. 22 were Winter Wren (by 10 days) and Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Fargo. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher has returned to the nesting area in Newton Hills S.P., S.D., for the 7th year (PS). A Gray-cheeked Thrush killed at a window May 2 in Codington was the earliest ever for South Dakota (JG); there are several April dates for North Dakota. Thrush numbers were generally very low, but peaks of 30 Gray-cheeked and 200 Swainson's were found during the fallout of May 23 at Grand Forks. A Hermit Thrush at Fargo Mar. 28 set an earliest state arrival date. Two Wood Thrushes were at separate locations in Ward, N.D., May 16; birds were found again in the same areas May 30–31 (REM, PO), but were not seen at either location between these dates on several visits. This, coupled with the apparent absence for a week of the Bewick's Wren at Grand Forks, causes one to wonder whether overshoots might return to the nesting range by retracing their steps. Another Wood Thrush was w. of the normal North Dakota range at Bismarck May 28 (DR). The Gray Catbird in Codington Apr. 26 was the earliest ever for South Dakota. Northern Mockingbirds May 22 included one at Fargo and two at New Town (RAS). A **White-eyed Vireo** at Sioux Falls May 8 (AH) provided a rare record for South Dakota.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES — Except for good grounding conditions at Fargo May 16–17 and Grand Forks May 22–23, warbler numbers were very low, but this group provided a higher proportion of vagrancy records than any other. Earliest ever warblers in North Dakota were Yellow Warbler in Pembina Apr. 23 (MR), Palm Warbler at Fargo Apr. 25, Black-and-white at Grand Forks Apr. 13, and Yellow-breasted Chat at Grassy Butte May 14. Peaks at Grand Forks May 23, obtained by covering a cemetery and 3 city parks, included 100 Tennessees, 20 Chestnut-sideds, 20 Magnolias, 75 Am. Redstarts, 25 Ovenbirds, nine Connecticuts, 30 Wilson's, and 10 Canadas. Another good peak number was the 11 Mourning Warblers in Rollette May 31. "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warblers were at Hettinger Apr. 24 and Ft. Peck Apr. 9. A **Cerulean Warbler** at Grand Forks May 22 furnished the 8th North Dakota record (D & SL), and a **Prothonotary Warbler** at Minot May 24 provided the 4th record for North Dakota (PO). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** at Sioux Falls, S.D., May 8 was only 50 yards from the White-eyed Vireo (MS). The **Hooded**

Warbler at Fargo May 6 (CS) provided the 8th South Dakota record, 6 of these have been at Fargo

A singing Scarlet Tanager in Ward, N.D., furnished the first observation in at least 5 years of breeding bird atlas (REM). The species was also seen in w. South Dakota at Badlands N.P., May 24 (MAG) and in Todd May 16. The Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Salyer N.W.R., May 3 (GAE) was the earliest for North Dakota. A ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak was flushed from a nest near Minot May 25, providing the first confirmation for this species during the Ward breeding bird atlas (GB). The Blue Grosbeak in Yankton May 2 was the earliest for South Dakota. Numbers of migrating sparrows were also generally very low. A ♂ Lark Bunting s. of Mandan Apr. 6 (RH) set a new North Dakota arrival record by 20 days. South Dakota observations of Le Conte's Sparrow were at last year's nesting site in Day May 8 (DS, GS) and in Yankton May 2. A Fox Sparrow in Pembina Mar. 10 (MR) was the earliest for North Dakota by 12 days. The 2nd Montana **Golden-crowned Sparrow** was seen by about 20 birders in a Billings yard Apr. 16–24 (Y.V.F.) A McCown's Longspur nest was photographed in Bowman, N.D., about one mi n. of the South Dakota border, May 25 (KHW). A sketch drawn of an unfamiliar longspur at Bowdoin N.W.R., Mont., Apr. 13 was later seen to compare favorably to **Smith's Longspur** (JSt). Two ♂ Pine Grosbeaks at Mandan Apr. 25 (WB) were the latest ever for North Dakota. House Finch reports included the departure of the wintering bird at Hope, N.D., Mar. 7, and females at Badlands N.P., Apr. 13 (JSh) and Ft. Peck Apr. 4. The first e. South Dakota nest of Red Crossbill found since 1920 contained three young Mar. 24 in Day (DS). Pine Siskins were numerous over much of the Dakotas, and a total of 1200 was banded in Gregory, S.D. (GS).

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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Frances Williams

“**U**nexciting” at Ft. Worth. “Rather slow” at El Paso. “Very poor” at Temple, Texas. “Very dull” at Wichita. “We were ripped off again” at Bartlesville, Oklahoma. “The May migration of almost everything was the poorest in years” in western Nebraska. Only in far eastern Texas was there any enthusiasm. “The spring migration was something to see—there were hundreds of birds” in the Big Thicket. “Fog on May 10, 13 and 24 produced larger than normal number of warblers” in Van Zandt County. “We had more records of rarities and scarce migrants than we have had in a long time” at Nacogdoches.

In general, winter visitants remained late, the usual migrants were late and in low numbers, and there were few rarities. The preoccupation of Texas birders with the proposed Texas Breeding Bird Atlas was evident.

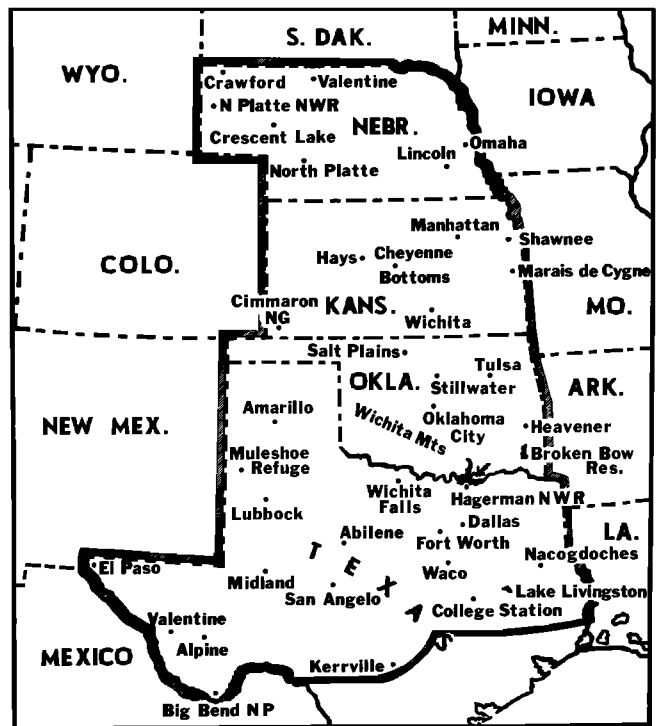
ABBREVIATIONS — B.B.N.P. = Big Bend Nat'l Park, Texas, Buffalo Lake = Buffalo Lake Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Randall Co., Texas, F.F. = Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., Nebraska; G.M.N.P. = Guadalupe Mountains Nat'l Park, Texas; Lost Maples = Lost Maples State Natural Area, Bandera Co., Texas; N.O.U.R.C. = Nebraska Ornithological Union Records Committee; O.O.S. = Oklahoma Ornithological Society. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — A Pacific Loon was observed in Bell, Tex., Mar. 15 (ML). At L. Tawakoni, Rains, Tex., 58 Com. Loons were counted Mar. 22 (RK), and eight remained in Bell Apr. 8 (ML). Pied-billed Grebes were attending chicks at Midland May 3 and Tulsa Apr. 29. A pair of Eared Grebes did the "Penguin dance" on a playa in Castro, Tex., May 16 (KS). At L. Overholser, Oklahoma City, a W. Grebe was seen daily Mar. 29–Apr. 6 (JB et al.). In Nebraska, Clark's Grebes were found in Cherry May 1 (B & LP), Sheridan May 2, and Garden May 29 (RCR, DJR). One visited Hudspeth, Tex., May 1–6 (JSp, BZ). An estimated 5000 Double-crested Cormorants were in Cherokee, Okla., Mar. 31. Five that remained in Hudspeth through May were unusual there. Only one Olivaceous Cormorant stopped at L. Tawakoni, the lowest number in years. Two were found at LBJ S.P., Tex., Apr. 2 (E & SW) and one was seen at L. Overholser May 20 (JGN). An **Anhinga** in F.F., May 3–5 provided a 3rd verified Nebraska record (JBr, m.ob.). Four pairs of Anhingas were nesting in a remote swamp in the Ft. Worth Nature Center May 22 (TW, JK).

At Midland, an Am. Bittern lingered until May 10, and a pair was "pumping" in Randall, Tex., May 31. A Least Bittern remained at F.F., May 19–23 (B & LP). In Baylor, Tex., 3 nests of Great Blue Herons held young Apr. 12 (JCH). A pair of Great Egrets was nesting Apr. 11 in Tarrant, Tex., in a heronry that had previously been confined to Great Blue Herons. Five Great Egrets in Hudspeth through May led to speculations of breeding. Great Egrets were seen in Nebraska at F.F., May 5, Cherry May 17, and Garden Apr. 18. A Tricolored Heron visited Hudspeth May 16 (JDa). Unusual spring appearances of Cattle Egrets occurred in Randall Apr. 1, Comanche, Okla., Mar. 18, and Keith, Neb., May 30. A Green-backed Heron visited Lajitas, Tex., May 9–10 (JM). In the Texas Panhandle, about 25 Black-crowned Night-Heron nests were in a Potter heronry, and 12 were in a Deaf Smith site. At Arlington, Tex., Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were nesting in a residential area. In Hardin, Tex., 34 White Ibises were observed May 29 (AM). Several small flocks of White-faced Ibises remained in Midland May 31. A White-faced Ibis visited Nacogdoches Apr. 15 (DW), a lone ibis at Muskogee, Okla., Mar. 14 was likely this species (JMcM), while a flock at Oklahoma City Apr. 18 comprised 48 birds. Sightings of White-faced Ibises in Keith, Sheridan, and Dawes, Neb., in April and May were exceptional (RCR, DJR).

WATERFOWL, HAWKS — Fifteen Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were counted in Hardin Apr. 14 (AM) and four visited McLennan, Tex., May 13–14. Two in Milam, Tex., May 10 provided a first county record (ML). A Ross' Goose in Hardin Mar. 30 provided a 2nd county record. In Nebraska, Ross' Geese were recorded in York Mar. 5 and Apr. 5, and Sheridan May 1 (BJR). In Randall, Tex., a N. Pintail hen tended four chicks Apr. 10 (G & EW). A ♂ Cinnamon Teal in Nacogdoches Mar. 1–Apr. 16 provided only the 2nd record in 17 years (DW). Eight Cinnamons were in Morrill, Neb., May 26 (RCR) and one visited Antelope, Neb., Apr. 23 (MB). Greater Scaup were carefully identified in Nolan, Tex., Mar. 8 (D & JM), Tarrant Feb. 18–Mar. 8 (BC), Kearney, Neb., Mar. 8 (BJR), and Platte, Neb., Apr. 24 (BJR). Oldsquaws were seen in Lancaster, Neb., Mar. 2 (BJR), Boone, Neb., Apr. 24 (WJM), and Muleshoe N.W.R., Tex., Mar. 4 (ESV). A Surf Scoter that wintered at Oklahoma City remained through Mar. 21 (JGN). In Keith, Neb., an ad. ♂ **Barrow's Goldeneye** was seen on Keystone L., Apr. 5, and a pair was on L. Ogallala Apr. 18–19 (RCR, DJR). Photographs have been submitted to N.O.U.R.C. (MB). A ♀ **Hooded Merganser** accompanied five juveniles incapable of sustained flight at Garland, Tex., May 30 (E & JM et al.). This represents the first successful nesting of the species in Texas.

Three Black Vultures in Hudspeth May 15 provided only the 2nd record for the El Paso area (JSp). An observer near Ft. Worth May 3 thought he was seeing a goldfish in an Osprey's talons—he was startled when closer inspection proved the prey was a ♂ N. Cardinal (MCA)! Two Am. Swallow-tailed Kites were seen again in Tyler, Tex. (AM). A Black-shouldered Kite pro-



vided a first record for Hardin Apr. 26 (AM). Northern Harriers remained in Brewster and Midland, Tex., May 31. A Cooper's Hawk nest with 4 eggs was found at Kerr W.M.A., Tex., Apr. 30 (PR). The Harris' Hawk that had wintered in Muskogee left Mar. 14. A Red-shouldered Hawk nest in Kerr contained four young May 14 (E & KM). Broad-winged Hawks crossed the Region almost undetected. Single birds were w. of their usual route at the Wichita Mountains N.W.R., Okla., Apr. 12 and May 12 (JG). A Zone-tailed Hawk was seen in Edwards and Kinney, Tex., Mar. 21 (TG, KB). Large concentrations of Swainson's Hawks included 200 birds at Oklahoma City Apr. 12, 80 on the Kerr-Kendall county line Mar. 30, and 70 in Van Zandt, Tex., Apr. 11. A Crested Caracara was sighted in Kerr May 24 (D & BStG). In the Texas Panhandle, nests of Am. Kestrels were found in Potter and Deaf Smith, and there was strong evidence of nesting in Randall and Collingsworth (KS). Four nestlings were visible in the Peregrine Falcon aerie in G.M.N.P. (OVO). Migrant Peregrines were reported at Kerr Apr. 30, Randall May 11, El Paso May 6, and Hagerman N.W.R., Tex., May 14.

QUAIL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Evidence is accumulating that the reintroduction of Montezuma Quail in G.M.N.P. has been successful (OVO). A N. Bobwhite in Morrill, Neb., Apr. 17 was farther w. than usual (RCR). A Yellow Rail was discovered at Marais des Cygnes W.M.A., Kans., Mar. 8 (MC). King Rails in the marsh at Sanford Dam, Hutchinson, Tex., were giving strong indications of nesting during May (KS). King Rails were observed in Sheridan, Neb., May 2 and Garden, Neb., May 29. Soras were heard at Midland as late as May 9 and L. Meredith, Hutchinson, to May 25. Two Com. Moorhens remained in Dakota, Neb., May 4–31 (BH).

Black-bellied Plovers stopped at El Paso May 20 and Tarrant May 15. Flocks of Lesser Golden-Plovers comprised 64 birds in Nowata, Okla., Apr. 16, 21 at Oklahoma City Apr. 26, and 15 in Nacogdoches Mar. 12. A Snowy Plover incubating eggs at Midland May 11 provided the first breeding record there since 1967 (D & JM et al.). The pond in El Paso where Snowy Plovers nested last year had been drained. At Muleshoe N.W.R., 12 Mountain Plovers fed beside the road Mar. 4 (ESV), and at Buffalo Lake, Mountain Plovers were seen Mar. 14–Apr. 1. By May 31, Mountain Plovers in the Davis Mts. had fledged young

from 3 nests (PE). A total of seven Black-necked Stilts visited Sheridan May 2 & 12. In the previous 14 years, Rosche had seen only two individuals in Nebraska. One in Uvalde, Tex., Apr. 17 was also noteworthy (E & SW). Eleven Am. Avocets in Lancaster, Neb., Apr. 11 were unexpected (TB). An astounding 235 Willets were counted at Hagerman N.W.R., Apr. 26 (KH). One Willet in Johnson, Tex., May 11 provided a first county record (CE). Whimbrels were found at Muleshoe May 2, Midland May 9, and El Paso May 26. Hudsonian Godwits were seen in Keith May 10 & 14, Oklahoma City Apr. 15–May 9, and Hagerman N.W.R., Apr. 23. Marbled Godwits visited Randall May 24, Oklahoma City Apr. 15–17, Saunders, Neb., Apr. 24, and Pierce, Neb., Apr. 26. The only Ruddy Turnstone reported was at Tulsa May 20 (JWA). Sanderlings were seen at Tulsa May 31 and Rogers, Okla., May 5. At Hagerman N.W.R., 85 White-rumped Sandpipers were counted May 12. Other sightings were at Tulsa May 31, Washington, Okla., May 19, and Rains, Tex., May 24. Baird's Sandpipers were seen several times in El Paso and Hudspeth Apr. 30–May 20 (BZ), and one provided a new record at Black Gap W.M.A., Brewster, Tex., May 1 (BMcK). Pectoral Sandpipers were noteworthy at El Paso Apr. 1 and Kerr Apr. 30 and May 14. The only Buff-breasted Sandpipers reported were at Tulsa May 2 (ELA). A ♀ Am. Woodcock with four fledglings was observed in Cleveland, Okla., Apr. 6 (JMi). At the Ft. Worth Nature Center, an Am. Woodcock provided a late record May 12 (WC).

GULLS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS — Details of a sighting of two California Gulls in Randall May 2 have been submitted to the Texas Bird Records Committee (DM). Excellent details were presented on a sighting of a California Gull in El Paso on the very late date of May 26 (BZ). California Gulls were reported in Keith, Neb., Apr. 19 (MB, EB) and May 30 (RCR, DJR). Two Caspian Terns were observed in McLennan, Tex., May 28–29 (FDB) and two visited L. Tawakoni May 26 & 31 (RK). A single bird was in Oklahoma City May 21–22 (MO). More than 100 Forster's Terns fished in Rogers, Okla., May 2 (DG). At Great Salt Plains N.W.R., Okla., May 5, a lone Com. Tern was carefully compared to Forster's Terns with which it was feeding (MD, GK). Fewer than 30 Black Terns were reported Regionwide.

The disjunct population of White-winged Doves at Big Spring, Tex., continues to increase, and a few overwinter regularly (SCo). A very early White-winged Dove arrived at Kerrville Mar. 3 (TG). Black-billed Cuckoos visited Tulsa May 6 (PS, JL) and Midland May 27 (D & JM). In G.M.N.P., a N. Pygmy-Owl was heard Mar. 15. Seven Long-eared Owls were located in Douglas, Neb., Mar. 8. In Sioux, Neb., a N. Saw-whet Owl was discovered Apr. 18 (MB). A Com. Poorwill called in Bandera, Tex., Apr. 19 (VR). Just preceding a thunderstorm May 24, 180 Com. Nighthawks darted over Carter, Okla. (BF).

SWIFTS THROUGH GNATCATCHERS — About 75 White-throated Swifts called loudly as they swirled overhead for several minutes in Caprock Canyons S.P., Briscoe, Tex., May 2. This provided a new county record and the easternmost sighting in the Texas Panhandle (KS). Green Kingfishers were feeding young at Lost Maples Apr. 26 (PR). A Lewis' Woodpecker visited Guthrie, Okla., May 24–26 (JA) and was photographed (HH). A Red-bellied Woodpecker in Keith Apr. 5 & 19 was rather far west (RCR). A photograph of a Red-naped Sapsucker in Sioux Apr. 17 has been submitted to the N.O.U.R.C. (MB). Two trees inhabited by a clan of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in Hardin were cut down (AM). A Pileated Woodpecker nest with two young was found in Boiling Springs S.P., Woodward, Okla., May 15 (O.O.S.). This is about 120 mi w. of the normal range of the species.

A Black Phoebe visited Bandera, Tex., Apr. 23 (JMa). A Say's Phoebe provided a first record at Lost Maples Apr. 17 (JBy). A Vermilion Flycatcher remained in Nacogdoches Feb. 21–Mar. 1. Vermilion Flycatchers appeared in the Texas Panhandle for the first time since 1976 and were recorded at Buffalo Lake

Apr. 1 & 15 (KS) and Swisher Apr. 9 (JR). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was observed in Roger Mills, Okla., May 16 (JN, JT). A Couch's/Tropical Kingbird provided a first record for the entire e. Texas region in Nacogdoches Feb. 27. The bird never called to establish its identity (DW). A Cassin's Kingbird in Kerr May 14 provided a new county record (E & KM). A pair of E. Kingbirds was defending airspace against Great-tailed Grackles and blackbirds at Midland May 5–31+. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Terlingua May 10 represented one of the few records in the Big Bend desert (JM).

In Bell, Tex., N. Rough-winged Swallows were nesting in a pipe in the side of a building May 7. The opening was about 2 ft above the ground (ML). In Upshur, Tex., N. Rough-winged Swallows nested in the bank of a deep gully Apr. 16–23. About 4000 Cave Swallows swirled above the newly purchased Kickapoo Caverns S.P., Edwards & Kinney, Tex., Mar. 21 (TG, KB). In 4 culverts in Bandera, there were 42 Cave Swallow nests with eggs or young May 26 (JMa). About 10 Pinyon Jays were present Apr. 17 and May 9 & 31 in Morrill, Neb. (RCR). The Clark's Nutcrackers that invaded n.w. Nebraska in the winter remained until May 15. Details of sightings of Fish Crows in Tulsa and Washington, Okla., have been submitted to the Oklahoma Bird Records Committee. In Potter, Tex., Com. Ravens were recorded May 9 & 23 (FC, KS). A pair of this species was feeding nestlings in Kerr May 14 (E & KM). Carolina Chickadees were found in Palo Duro Canyon S.P., Tex., Mar. 8 & 22 (KS, DM) and Buffalo Lake Apr. 26 (KS). "Black-crested" Titmice were recorded in Collingsworth, Tex. (KS), and G.M.N.P. (m.ob.). Both these parids are very local in the w. part of Texas. A Verdin in Randall in late April was the first at that locality since 1976 (TJ). A pair of Bushtits had a nearly-completed nest at Palo Duro Canyon Mar. 22. White-breasted Nuthatches were feeding young in Upshur in late March and in Van Zandt in early April. A very early Bewick's Wren nest was found in Kerr Mar. 4 (JMa). House Wrens rarely breed in Texas, so territorial squabbles and exploration of nesting holes in Donley May 9 were of interest. Winter Wrens were seen in Washington, Okla., Mar. 5 and Ft. Worth Mar. 22. A Marsh Wren provided a new record at Lost Maples Apr. 27 (D & MF). A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was putting the finishing touches on their nest on the early date of Apr. 1 in Ft. Worth. Visitors to G.M.N.P. continued to report the rare Black-tailed Gnatcatcher.

THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS — Four W. Bluebirds brightened Kerr Mar. 12 (TG). At El Paso, Mountain Bluebirds remained until May 20 (BZ). Individuals from the massive winter invasion of Townsend's Solitaires lingered well into spring: Oklahoma City Apr. 6, Quartz Mountain S.P., Okla., Apr. 5, Tulsa Apr. 1, and El Paso May 6. Six Townsend's Soli-



Sage Thrasher in Grimes County, Tex., Feb. 8, 1987. Photo/Erin & Robert Benson.

tares were seen in *Real*, Tex., Apr. 11 (DW), and nine at Lost Maples Mar. 18–Apr. 13 (JMa). A Veery was observed in Linn, Kans., May 9 (MM) and one was banded at the Heard Museum, McKinney, Tex., May 14. Seven localities reported Gray-cheeked Thrushes, with a peak of 16 at Tulsa May 3. A Swainson's Thrush provided a new park record at Lost Maples May 8 (JMa). The only Wood Thrush reported was at Tulsa May 2 (ES, AB). A Gray Catbird visited Kerr W.M.A., May 18 (JG). In Nebraska, N. Mockingbirds were seen in 6 counties. A **Sage Thrasher** in Sioux, Neb., Apr. 18 was the first there since 1975 (MB, ph. to N.O.U.R.C.), and one in Grimes, Tex., Feb. 8 provided a first county and area record (E & RB). Midland birders had a difficult time trying to document the presence of four **Long-billed Thrashers** in an extremely dense riparian salt cedar growth. This represented a remarkable range extension of a s Texas specialty (JCH, RMS, m.ob.). Sprague's Pipits were sighted at 6 localities Mar. 21–Apr. 14. Cedar Waxwings were still present in B.B.N.P., May 31. A Phainopepla visited Midland Apr. 14–16. In Hooker, Neb., a N. Shrike was observed Apr. 4 (GC).

White-eyed Vireos were w. of their usual haunts in Woodward, Okla., May 15 and Midland Apr. 30. Grzybowski reported bad news and good news for the Oklahoma population(s) of Black-capped Vireos. The bad news: an extensive survey located only 12 birds at only 3 localities outside the Wichita Mts. The good news: more than 78 vireos were located in the Wichita Mts., with an additional four birds on the Ft. Sill Military Reservation. Four cowbird traps in the mountains are reducing nest parasitism. Reports of Black-capped Vireos in Texas included 10 territories located in B.B.N.P. and Black Gap, six birds in Dinosaur Valley S.P., May 24, and 15 singing in Kerr Apr. 30. Very early arrival dates of Black-capped were Mar. 22 in Lost Maples and Apr. 11 in the Wichita Mts. Gray Vireos were found at Kickapoo Caverns S.P., Mar. 3 and May 2, and at Devil's Sinkhole S.P., Apr. 11 (NJ). Hutton's Vireos were recorded in G.M.N.P., Mar. 17–May 28. Red-eyed Vireos were rather far w. at G.M.N.P., May 31 (OVO) and Randall May 18 (TJ).

WARBLERS — The warbler migration was unimpressive. The usual species were seen, but in small numbers. A pair of Blue-winged Warblers visited Upshur Apr. 7 (LC, FMW). A Golden-winged Warbler graced Lost Maples Apr. 15. A Tennessee Warbler in the Wichita Mts., May 7 may have provided a new locality record (JG). Virginia's Warblers were observed at Midland Apr. 29 (RMS) and Muleshoe N.W.R., May 2 (PD). Chestnut-sided Warblers were found in Rogers, Okla., May 15, Arlington May 5, and Van Zandt May 10 & 13. The very rare Cape May Warbler was discovered in Linn, Kans., May 7 (MM). Magnolia Warblers brightened Rogers May 15 (DG), Washington, Okla., May 16 (MDr), and Bell, Tex., May 14 & 28 (ML). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was located in B.B.N.P., Apr. 16 (VR). A Blackburnian Warbler in Amarillo May 24 was the first there since 1978 (KS). A Yellow-throated Warbler in B.B.N.P., Apr. 15–18 was off course. One was seen in Linn, where it is possible breeder, May 15 (LM, MC). In Hardin, Tex., 38 Prairie Warblers were counted May 10 (AM). A Palm Warbler visited Midland Apr. 8–29. Blackpoll Warblers were seen in Palo Duro Canyon May 9, Bell Apr. 27, and Arlington Apr. 29–May 5. Cerulean Warblers were found at Nacogdoches May 8 (DW), Delaware, Okla., May 5 (MD), and Washington, Okla., May 14 (DG). Black-and-white Warblers were discovered in Palo Duro Canyon S.P., May 9, Hueco Tanks S.P., Tex., May 6, and B.B.N.P., Apr. 16. American Redstarts visited Hueco Tanks May 27 and Comanche, Okla., May 29. Prothonotary Warblers were seen at Carthage, Tex., Apr. 4 (SC), Lost Maples Mar. 24 (PG), and Midland May 2 (TL, RMS). Worm-eating Warblers were recorded in F.F., May 5, Tulsa May 12, Bartlesville May 7, and Rogers May 8. About 72 Swainson's Warblers foraged in the underbrush in Hardin May 29 (AM). An Ovenbird visited Amarillo May 11 (PA), and one in Van Zandt Apr. 20 was the first there in 3 years (RK). In the Wichita Mts.,

Louisiana Waterthrushes were observed at several localities in late April (PAs, JG). Reports of Connecticut Warblers unaccompanied by careful documentation cannot be accepted. A Mourning Warbler at Lost Maples Apr. 8 was very early. One visited Comanche, where the species is seldom recorded, May 22–24 (JMM, LEM). Unusual records of MacGillivray's Warbler in the Texas hill country included Lost Maples Apr. 22 & 24, Kendall May 2, and Kerr W.M.A., May 8. One was found in Barton, Kans., May 10 (LM). Hooded Warblers were seen in Bell May 4 and Tulsa Apr. 19. Canada Warblers visited Kerr W.M.A., May 26, Kendall May 25, and Tulsa May 17. A Wilson's Warbler arrived in Nacogdoches on the early date of Mar. 15 (DW). A pair of Painted Redstarts was observed in the Chisos Mts., B.B.N.P., Apr. 16 (VR).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — A Summer Tanager provided a first county record in Harper, Okla., May 6 (MD, GK). At least 25 Scarlet Tanagers brightened Hardin Apr. 26, and one was seen in Idalou, Tex., May 12 (JSm). Also in Hardin Apr. 26 were 92 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. Black-headed Grosbeaks were found e. to Ft. Worth May 3 (T & HN) and McClain, Okla., May 6 (PB). Lazuli Buntings also were farther e. than usual: Kinney, Tex., May 2 (NJ), Dallas May 10 (SCr), McKinney Apr. 29, Wichita Mts., May 14 (JG), and Linn, Kans., May 2 (LM). Indigo Buntings were numerous in the El Paso area May 2–29 and were observed in G.M.N.P., May 16 & 28. Varied Buntings were found at Lost Maples Apr. 26 and May 5.

Tremendous numbers of sparrows were along the roadsides in Bandera and n.e. Uvalde May 3: 850 Chipping Sparrows, 60 Clay-colored Sparrows, 180 Lark Sparrows, 60 Grasshopper Sparrows, and smaller numbers of Vesper, Savannah, and Lincoln's sparrows (DW). Wintering sparrows remained into late May throughout the Region, with Dark-eyed Juncos and Savannah, Harris', and Lincoln's sparrows being especially tardy. Cassin's Sparrows were observed in Kendall May 2 & 7 (E & SW). Baird's Sparrows were discovered in Kickapoo Caverns S.P., Mar. 21 (TG, KB) and Kerr W.M.A., May 8 (PR, D & BStG). Grasshopper Sparrows were unusually common and widespread. Five Henslow's Sparrows sang in a bluestem prairie in Washington, Okla., May 1–31 (DV, m.ob.). Two Swamp Sparrows provided a not-unexpected first record in Bell Apr. 15–24 (ML). Bobolinks were widely reported May 4–9. A flock of Yellow-headed Blackbirds in Dewey, Okla., May 6 comprised 750 birds, of which only 15 were ad. males (MD). By May 16, Yellow-headed Blackbirds in Castro, Tex., had completed nests (KS). Two Rusty Blackbirds in Kerr Mar. 22 may have established a county first (JMa). Great-tailed Grackles appeared in G.M.N.P., Apr. 14, F.F., Apr. 25, and Phelps, Neb., Mar. 5. Bronzed Cowbirds increased in El Paso and Hudspeth, which bodes ill for the Orchard Orioles breeding in El Paso for the first time. There were very few Orchard Orioles in c. Oklahoma or w. Texas, and those seen usually moved on. A Hooded Oriole visited G.M.N.P., Apr. 26. One at Lost Maples hung its nest from an outdoor light Apr. 25. A "Baltimore" N. Oriole was seen in Kerr May 14 (E & KM). Three Scott's Orioles were seen in Midland, where none had been observed since 1966.

A Purple Finch in Tarrant Mar. 7 was the only one reported. Cassin's Finches visited feeders in Chadron, Neb., Apr. 1–May 7. House Finches provided excitement in Oklahoma: a pair nesting in Woodward May 15 (O.O.S.), a first record at Tulsa May 16 (PS), and one in Custer May 17 (JDT). Red Crossbills were found in Cherokee Mar. 28, Wichita May 30, and Knox, Neb., Apr. 26. At Chadron, a ♂ Com. Redpoll driven to feeders by a late March snowstorm remained through Apr. 2, and one visited a feeder in Johnson, Kans., Mar. 6 (MM). The number of spring sightings of Evening Grosbeaks in Texas was surprising: B.B.N.P., Apr. 16, G.M.N.P., May 9, Upshur Apr. 19, Nacogdoches Feb. 1–Apr. 20, and Daingerfield Mar. 20–23.

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SOUTH TEXAS REGION

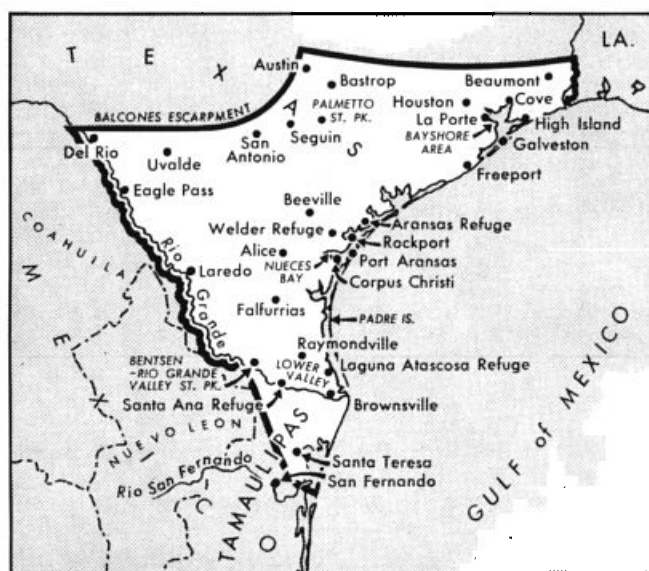
Greg W. Lasley and Chuck Sexton

Most of the Region reported contrasting early and late portions of the migration season. McCracken said that birding on the central coast did an about-face from "disappointing" to "super." Carmona likewise reported that things "started off slow but built up" substantially as the season progressed in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The migration was very poor through April in Austin and barely got on track in May. All areas started the season with good moisture but March and April were especially dry. (Interior south Texas, however, had some good early Spring rains; more even than the Upper Texas Coast!) April was both cold and hot. Austin had a late frost April 3 that killed some tender vegetation, yet Houston had record high temperatures on nine days later that month.

This column is dedicated to the memory of Joe Heiser and Dorothy Burr, two well-known and respected naturalists who passed away this spring. They will be missed.

ABBREVIATIONS — Aransas = Aransas Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; Attwater = Attwater Prairie Chicken Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; Bentsen = Bentsen Rio Grande State Park; L.R.G.V. = Lower Rio Grande Valley; Santa Ana = Santa Ana Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; T.P.R.F. = Texas Photo Record File (Texas A & M Univ.); U.T.C. = Upper Texas Coast; Welder = Welder Wildlife Refuge. Place names in *italics* are counties.

GROUNDINGS — March, normally boisterous, passed quietly this year. A mid-April cold front produced the first good coastal fallouts Apr. 17–23. Another frontal passage beginning May 1 initiated some good birding conditions in Austin and San Antonio for a few days. This slow-moving front approached the U.T.C., May 3. By May 4, previously-empty coastal migrant traps were teeming with birds. By mid-afternoon on the 6th, light to moderate rain covered an area from w. of *Colorado* to Sabine Pass, extending 100 mi n. and s. of the coastline. This system moved very slowly E, and by early morning May 7 light rain still persisted along the coast. The peak grounding along the coast occurred May 7. Eubanks and Morgan (among others) chronicled what was described as "the most significant grounding (for both numbers of species and individuals) of the decade." These observers covered the 30 mi from High I. to Sabine Pass and noted about 7000 grounded migrants, including 25 species of warblers. Among the more noteworthy numbers counted this day were: Acadian Flycatcher (225), Veery (905), Swainson's Thrush (410), Gray Catbird (295), Red-eyed Vireo (654), Tennessee Warbler (444), Yellow Warbler (227), Magnolia Warbler (465), Bay-breasted



Warbler (626), Am. Redstart (292), and Scarlet Tanager (240). A similarly-timed fallout (of lesser magnitude) was chronicled on the lower coast at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R. There was a distinct lack of migrant reports later in May and we assume that activity tapered off rapidly after these biggest fallouts. More heavy rains and a few late migrants would not come again until the last days of May and early June.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — A Red-throated Loon appeared on Galveston I., Mar 24 (B & JH), and several Pacific Loons were observed at Galveston's Offat Bayou through the period (m.ob.). Two Least Grebes at Aransas May 6+ (TS) were somewhat unusual; Stehn speculated they might nest there this year. Least Grebes at Santa Ana and other L.R.G.V. areas seemed somewhat down in numbers (Jl et al.). From two to four W. Grebes were at Aransas Mar. 5–28 for a very rare coastal bend record (BJ, CC, TS). Another W. Grebe at San Antonio Apr. 4 & 5 (WS) was equally unexpected. Three Horned Grebes at Offat Bayou Mar. 22 (MA, JB) were considered late. A possible Red-necked Grebe Mar. 7 at Smith's Point in Chambers (SWil) would represent the first March record on the U.T.C. for this vagrant species. Northern Gannets were extraordinarily common along the coast between Galveston and Surfside in early spring (TE), with high counts of 200–300 on given days. Stragglers were present through mid-April. Immature Brown

Pelicans lingered at San Luis Pass on the U T C until late April. Up to 20 Olivaceous Cormorants were at San Antonio's Mitchell L., Mar. 21 (MH). A Tricolored Heron that had wintered at Mitchell L. was present through the spring as well. Reports of Scarlet Ibises on the U.T.C. continue to baffle local observers, with confirmation of this unlikely species still lacking.

Fulvous Whistling-Ducks arrived as early as Mar. 14 at Santa Ana (JI) and Mar. 22 on the U.T.C. (MA, JB), and by April were quite common in the paddyfields of Waller. A single flock of 600 Fulvous in w. Harris May 9 was an unusual concentration (TE). Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued their population explosion on the U.T.C. despite poisoning by some local rice farmers. By late spring the paddyfields of Waller were literally filled with hundreds of both whistling-duck species; an amazing sight for one who remembers but a few years ago when Fulvous numbers were at their nadir and Black-bellieds were vagrant in the area. Black-bellieds also became abundant during the spring at many Kleberg areas, as well as Santa Ana and other nearby locations (N & PP, SB, JI). After a curious Austin sighting in March last year, three Mute Swans showed up at Mitchell L., Apr. 17 and remained through May 6 (MH). These birds were quite wary and would not allow close approach; we can only guess about their origin at this time. Seven Ross' Geese near Bayside Mar. 3 (CC) were notable, but extraordinary numbers of Ross' Geese were reported from the U.T.C. where single flocks exceeding 100 individuals were reported during early March in Waller (TE). Geese were gone from Brazoria by Apr. 1 (T & SC). The only Muscovy report of the season was of a single bird at Rancho Santa Margarita "during March" (fide JI). Three pairs of "Mexican" Ducks were seen below Falcon Dam Mar. 10 (JA). This form of the Mallard is regular there in small numbers, apparently originating on the nearby central plateau of Mexico. A pair was also seen at the McAllen sewer ponds Mar. 5 & 6, a new location for the bird. Cinnamon Teal lingered at San Bernard N.W.R. until mid-April. Drought conditions moved most dabblers off the U.T.C. early, and all divers continued a general decline in the area (TE). A pair of Redheads lingered in Waller until May 28. Two or three Greater Scaup were at Mitchell L. all period (MH). A pair of Ruddy Ducks at Welder May 26 was considered rare for the date (CC).

RAPTORS — American Swallow-tailed Kites appeared in their typically unpredictable fashion with 11 individuals reported Mar. 17–May 12 at various coastal and L.R.G.V. locations. Black-shouldered Kites were seen regularly in the Kingsville area only until Mar. 17, with none noted after that date (N & PP). The only sizeable flock of Mississippi Kites during the period was of 700–800 birds settling into Bentsen on the evening of Apr. 25 (SB, N & PP). Campers in the park reported to Bartels that the birds had done the same thing for 3 or 4 nights in a row. A well-described Com. Black-Hawk surprised observers Apr. 23 near Encino (fPP, AO, SB) for a first Brooks record and apparently the only Regional record away from the L R G V. proper. Several imm. Gray Hawks were seen at Santa Ana through the period (JI).

The Broad-winged Hawk migration was generally unremarkable; the largest concentration seen was of 5000+ birds Apr. 8 near Sinton (SB). Smaller flocks of up to 1000 birds were at several locations during late March and early April. Swainson's Hawks were unusually common on the U.T.C. this spring. Adult Swainson's began arriving as early as Mar. 22, and peaked about Apr. 9 when 195 were observed in Waller (TE). Large numbers were present on U.T.C. prairies throughout April. For example, Pinkston and group (using a Q Beam) counted five or six Swainson's in nearly every roadside tree or bush in w. Harris on the nights of Apr. 24 & 25. A spectacular concentration of White-tailed Hawks was described by the Palmers and S. Bartels Mar. 1 from a private Kenedy location. During a controlled burn at least 56 White-taileds were counted as they gathered to prey on rodents fleeing the flames. The observers mentioned that "80 to 90% of the hawks were immatures. . . . We have tentatively concluded that imm. birds

favor this kind of feeding because it requires less skill" An ad. Ferruginous Hawk at Floresville Apr 17 (WS) and another at Attwater Apr. 23 (CE) bordered on being late. Peregrine Falcons lingered late on the U.T.C. with individuals seen May 2 in Chambers (MA) and May 9 in Waller (TE). A Prairie Falcon was at Encino, Brooks, Mar. 5 (AO) and another was at Attwater during early May (fide CF). This species is uncommon and irregular anywhere in this Region.

GROUSE THROUGH TERNS — The staff at Attwater reported that 222 "Attwater's" Prairie-Chickens were counted during the season there, and the flock at Aransas has reportedly dropped to an estimated 10 birds (TS). Two flocks of 15 chickens each were seen w. of Tivoli (CC). Clark speculates there might be a good population in that area; however, overall populations of this subspecies have dropped dramatically, to fewer than 1000 birds (NS). Rails, with the exception of Black, were observed from rail buggies in normal numbers on the U.T.C., and Soras were unusually common on Galveston I. (GeC). With the death of one Whooping Crane chick in late winter, 108 cranes departed the Aransas area Mar. 19–Apr. 17 (TS).

Lesser Golden-Plovers were widely distributed on the U.T.C. with flocks exceeding 1000 individuals regularly recorded in the paddyfields of Waller from late March through mid-April. An inexplicably dark-plumaged Greater Yellowlegs Mar. 26 baffled observers in Chambers (MA). Upland Sandpipers were described as unusually abundant through most of April in Kleberg, Nueces, and Brooks (SB, AO, N & PP). A probable Eskimo Curlew Apr. 17 near the Texas/Louisiana border at Sabine Pass gained credibility by being seen by a seasoned observer (JA) who prepares accurate and descriptive field notes. The bird was seen only in flight as it flew past the observers, then crossed the Sabine R. into Louisiana. Remarkably, we received another report of three possible Eskimo Curlews May 2 at Aransas (WM). A single flock of 163 Whimbrels in a flooded Brazoria field Apr. 11 (TE) exceeded the totals for many previous U.T.C. seasons. Twenty-five Whimbrels at one spot s. of Kingsville Apr. 11 were the most ever seen in Kleberg by the Palmers. Hudsonian Godwits made a good showing over most of the Region; 60 were counted at Mitchell L. during the period Apr. 21–May 16 (MH), and 530 counted May 9 in Waller (TE) made an exceptional total. Five Marbled Godwits May 9 in Corpus Christi were late (CC).

An alternate-plumaged Red Knot was seen and photographed at San Antonio's Mitchell L., May 6 & 23 (WS, MH). There are few inland spring records of this species in this Region. White-rumped Sandpipers were in unusually high numbers at San Antonio and Austin in late May. Their numbers peaked at 620 at Mitchell L., May 16 (MH). A flock of 24 Baird's Sandpipers in a 200-yard area at Rockport was considered a high number for the location (CC); higher numbers were routinely noted at several inland locations. Many observers remarked on the abundance of Buff-breasted Sandpipers, especially on the U.T.C., but 1800 in a single freshly plowed Harris paddyfield May 9 boggles the imagination (TE). A possible Ruff, discovered by members of the Denver Field Ornithologists in Chambers Apr. 19, escaped further observation. Red-necked Phalaropes were at Mitchell L., May 7 & 29 (ph., MH). The description of an imm. jaeger at Bolivar Flats Mar. 22 best fits Pomarine (MA, MK et al.). Franklin's Gulls have become increasingly scarce on the U.T.C. during spring, and the four in breeding plumage found by Graber Apr. 2 at Beaumont were noteworthy for Jefferson. A flock of 350 late Franklin's Gulls was seen feeding on a swarm of termites May 30 at San Antonio (WS, MH). A 2nd-year Little Gull appeared at Surfside on the U.T.C., Apr 3 & 4 (T & SC). This species has been recorded 3 out of the last 4 years in the same general vicinity. An imm. Black-legged Kittiwake was seen at the Texas City Dike Apr. 19 (JD), perhaps the same bird that was there most of the winter. A flock of 172 Black Terns at Mitchell L., May 29 decreased to only eight birds 2 days later (MH).

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Six Red-billed Pigeons were seen below Falcon Dam Mar 9 (JA), but the species was described as difficult to find during other times this season (DW *et al.*). At least five to eight (and perhaps many more) White-winged Doves lingered into spring from the sizeable (for Austin) population that wintered last season (*vide* EK, CS). Common Ground-Doves, which had been hard to find in the Kingsville area in the winter, became very abundant during the spring (N & PP, SB). These observers had not noted such dramatic seasonal changes in the past. One White-tipped Dove was reported at Welder (*vide* GB) during the last week of May; this was apparently the northernmost record ever for the species. From eight to 12 Green Parakeets wandered around McAllen Mar. 1–May 10 (SWe). The Red-crowned Parrot flock in McAllen, which had numbered over 30 individuals during January, dwindled to 18 by Mar. 5 (JA *et al.*). We received no other significant reports of the species during the period. Black-billed Cuckoos, for the 2nd year in a row, were scarce on the U.T.C. A Greater Roadrunner at Alvin, Brazoria, Apr. 11–15 (JC) was unusual in its location. Another cuculid, the Groove-billed Ani, is becoming a regular spring visitor to coastal migrant traps on the U.T.C. (TE *et al.*).

Grabner again noted the scarcity of Com. Nighthawks in Beaumont this season, a trend also being noted at other U.T.C. locations (m.ob.). The decreasing populations of this species, as well as those of some other aerial insectivores, are of continuing concern to U.T.C. observers. In contrast, as in previous years, Com. Nighthawks were quite abundant in Austin and many other inland locations (GL). Buff-bellied Hummingbirds were in good supply in Harlingen during the period (OC). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds invaded Kingsville Mar. 19 (N & PP) and were in good supply there through the 2nd week of April. Ruby-throateds did not show up in any numbers at Austin until Apr. 3, when they hit "in force" (BF). A Rufous Hummingbird that had wintered in Kingsville remained there until the relatively late date of Apr. 9 (PP). We received a belated report of a Ringed Kingfisher that was out of range near L. Corpus Christi, Live Oak, Nov. 29–Dec. 7, 1986 (†) & SHo, GN, CR). An Acorn Woodpecker was photographed at Leander May 22 for a very rare Austin area record (VT, Jlv). A Golden-fronted Woodpecker was far e. at Brenham, Washington, Apr. 24 (CE). A ♂ **Red-naped Sapsucker** in Houston Mar. 9–17 (E & DM, BH, KAd, GaC) represented the first Regional record of this newly-elevated species (ph. to T.P.R.F.), and the easternmost record for the state.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS — With increased interest in *Empidonax* flycatchers, and the improvement in identification techniques, many species previously considered unusual in the Region are being reported with increasing frequency. One would like to see banding data that would corroborate these reports. An Alder Flycatcher was heard calling May 9 in Corpus Christi (CC). A Least Flycatcher in Waller Mar. 12 had wintered at the same spot (TE). A wintering Ash-throated Flycatcher lingered in Waller until Mar. 12 (TE). Great Kiskadees were noted in higher numbers than last spring in the Kingsville area (N & PP). A Couch's Kingbird Mar. 21 in Victoria (PR) was unusual. A W. Kingbird Mar. 17 near Rockport (CC) was very early, and another Apr. 16 on Bolivar represented a new U.T.C. early arrival record by 4 days (MK). Both Western and Eastern kingbirds were noted in high numbers in the Falfurrias area (AO), and one Eastern lingered to the very late date of May 29 at Kingsville (N & PP). A Violet-green Swallow made a brief appearance in Wimberley Mar. 25 (BA), for the 3rd or 4th Austin area record. The first Cave Swallow of the season was spotted by P. Palmer Mar. 1 in Kleberg. A Chihuahuan Raven Apr. 7 and a Com. Raven Apr. 17 at Wimberley (BA) were unusual, but not totally unexpected. A Bewick's Wren lingered at San Bernard N.W.R. on the U.T.C. until Mar. 28 (JM, TE). A calling House Wren May 4 at Rockport (CC) was late. A Sedge Wren at McDade Apr. 26 (C & JT) apparently provided a first Bastrop record.

Thrushes were the migrants of the spring, especially on the U.T.C. All species were well represented, and often Veery unexpectedly dominated the ranks. The 905 Veeries grounded May 7 on the U.T.C. made an unprecedented total (JM, TE). The weekend of Apr. 25–26 seemed especially productive for thrushes, which was interesting because there was a lack of inclement weather that would normally explain such large numbers in coastal migrant traps. At least one Clay-colored Robin was singing at Bentsen through most of the period (m.ob.). A banded Long-billed Thrasher at Driftwood, Hays, reported in the fall and winter reports, was recaptured there Apr. 9 (DC). A Sprague's Pipit May 28 in Bexar was very late (MH). A Bell's Vireo in Houston Apr. 15 & 16 (†W & JR) represented a rare appearance for this once-common U.T.C. species, and another Apr. 25 in Liberty (†RP *et al.*) provided a new county record. The 650 Red-eyed Vireos in the May 7 grounding were impressive, but 113 Philadelphias on the same date were unparalleled (TE, JM). A well-described **Black-whiskered Vireo** at High I., Apr. 4 & 5 (†MM, D & DR, RT, m.ob.) provided only the 3rd record for the U.T.C.

Warbler numbers in general were unimpressive outside of the early May grounding. Vagrants were nearly absent, and even the more regular rarities (Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Gray, Cape May, etc.) were seldom observed. Mike Austin's description of a warbler he and Beard observed at High I., Apr. 26 was suggestive of Bachman's. Total observation time, however, was short, and intensive searching failed to relocate the bird. Eight Nashville Warblers at San Antonio Mar. 18 were probably early migrants. A probable Virginia's Warbler was at San Antonio Apr. 23 (MH). A Prairie Warbler was carefully described Mar. 8–27 at the King Ranch (N & PP), for apparently a new Kleberg record. Another Prairie at San Bernard N.W.R., Mar. 28 represented an unusual spring record (TE, JM). This species is seen regularly on the U.T.C. in August, but spring migrant records are scarce even though the species breeds at the n. edge of the Region in e. Texas. Cerulean Warblers seemed less common than usual on the U.T.C., attributable to the lack of inclement weather in April. In contrast, 10 Ceruleans Apr. 30 at Wimberley (BA) was a very impressive observation for the Austin area. An Am. Redstart in Houston Mar. 5–28 (WC) more than likely had wintered at that location.

Swainson's Warblers were present at U.T.C. migrant traps in above-average numbers, and a Swainson's in San Antonio May 1 (MH) apparently furnished a new Bexar record. A Louisiana Waterthrush at Sabine Pass May 7 (TE, JM) set a new late U.T.C. record. The Connecticut Warbler is still a true rarity in this state (despite the fact that one of the editors removed one from a mist net here last spring) with only 2 Texas records supported with photos. Nevertheless, there were 3 convincing reports of the species this season: one in Austin May 3 (JRib), one in Kendall May 3 (E & SW), and another in San Antonio May 21 (MH). Interestingly, May 3 was the anniversary of last year's Connecticut. The Golden-crowned Warbler reported during the winter at Brownsville was last seen Mar. 7. We have heard rumors that another Golden-crowned was discovered in May at Weslaco and that it was seen by a number of observers informed about the bird through various "hot lines." To date we have received no correspondence from anyone claiming to have seen this bird, much less a written description. We encourage anyone to contact us with such information.

TANAGERS THROUGH BOBOLINK — Scarlet Tanagers appeared in above-average numbers, especially on the U.T.C., where they often outnumbered Summers four to one. A single mulberry tree at High I., Apr. 26 containing 40 Scarlets (GL, VE) was a colorful spectacle. A single Black-headed Grosbeak at Freeport Apr. 26 (CE) provided an unusual record. O'Neil continued to note an increasing population of Blue Grosbeaks in the Falfurrias area in late spring. A ♀ Lazuli Bunting at San Antonio Apr. 25 (MH) and a ♂ Lazuli at Austin May 6 (BB) were unexpected. White-collared Seedeaters were present at least into early April at San Ygnacio. A Swamp Sparrow May

9 in Harris (TE) was extremely late. One or two Harris' Sparrows were at Rockport Feb 28–Apr 20 (*vide* CC), for a rare area record. Three Chestnut-collared Longspurs in Corpus Christi Apr. 5 (JG, m.ob.) were quite a surprise. Bobolinks were reported somewhat more frequently than normal. Some of the more noteworthy records included seven seen Apr. 16 in Kleberg (AO), one in Bastrop May 15 (CT), and one in San Antonio May 31 (MH).

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NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION

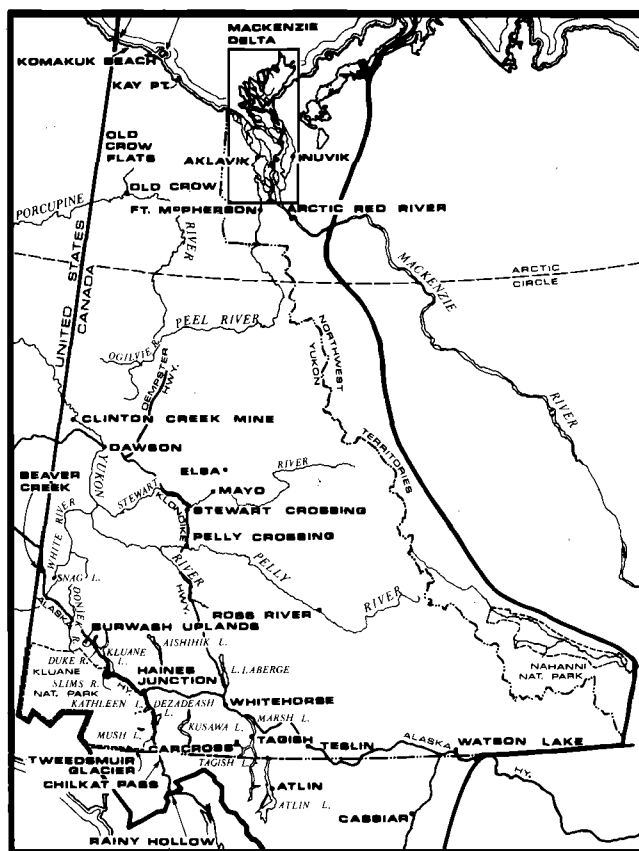
C. A. McEwen & W. G. Johnston

Spring thaw in April and May can be considered “normal” for the Yukon section of the Region. In the southern Yukon, most of the snow was gone by the time of spring migration, so the passerines were not restricted to the highway corridors, which often happens when these are the only snow-free areas. In northeastern British Columbia, March came in like a lion bringing the coldest temperatures recorded for March 3 (*i.e.*, –35.6 degrees Centigrade). The cold snap which lasted until mid-March was followed by a heavy snowload. April was warm, dry, and windy. The persistent westerly winds through April may have contributed to a deflection of the usual migrants of swans, cranes, raptors, and shorebirds eastward.

ABBREVIATIONS — F.S.J. = Fort St. John, B.C.; F.N. = Fort Nelson, B.C.; Whse. = Whitehorse, Yukon.

LOONS THROUGH HARLEQUIN DUCK — Red-throated and Pacific loons were noted in the usual numbers throughout the northwestern region with a large concentration of 200+ Com. Loons and one Yellow-billed Loon noted at Marsh L., southern Yukon May 30 (JH). Large spring groups of Com. Loons are not often reported because the species is a relatively late migrant and when it arrives it often remains far out in the lake. Only one group of 30+ Horned Grebes and 20+ Red-necked Grebes was reported during spring migration near Whse. (CM). A Great Blue Heron was well north of its breeding range near Whse. May 30 (JH). Trumpeter Swans, the harbingers of spring, were first noted at the traditional early open-water sites south of Whse. Mar. 29 when 18 were reported at M'Clintock Bay (JH). Tundra Swans were first noted at this staging site at the rather late date of Apr. 22 (JH). Swan numbers increased steadily with high use at this early open-water site: 210 Apr. 8, 366 Apr. 16, peaking at 1500–2000 Apr. 24–25 and 755 Apr. 27 (JH). Flocks of swans flying over Whse. and the Yukon and Takhini River confluence were noted during Apr. 24–25 (GJ). In the northern Yukon, the arrival of Snow Geese in the upper Klondike R. was noted May 2 (GB). Seasonally late in spring migration relative to other waterfowl, Brant were noted from Army Beach on Marsh L., May 30 (JH).

Cinnamon Teal continue to be recorded in small but growing numbers in the northwestern region. At F.S.J., the first male



of the season was noted May 1; two–three males were seen at the sewage lagoon on consecutive visits (CS). At M'Clintock Bay, one was noted May 20 (JH). Green-winged Teal were first noted at M'Clintock Bay Apr. 22 when eight were seen (JH) and noted farther north at upper Klondike R., May 3 (GB). Unusual sightings of individual Mallards in March and early April suggest birds that overwintered in the north, as was found during the 1986–1987 winter season: one Mallard was noted in northern Yukon at the confluence of Elliot Cr. and Hart R., northeast of Dawson City, Mar. 29 (GB) and one Mallard was

noted at open water along the Dempster Hwy (km 212) in a warm creek flowing into the Ogilvie R., Apr. 13 (CM). At F.S.J., Mallard x Black Duck hybrids (Black Duck body, Mallard back) were noted at the sewage lagoons: one male Apr. 18 and one male May 17 (CS). Several of the dabbling ducks (N. Pintail, N. Shoveler, Am. Wigeon) arrived at M'Clintock Bay around Apr. 16 (JH). Duck abundance at this staging site was normal, with peak numbers recorded May 8 when more than 3000 were noted (JH). Gadwall, considered rare for the north, were noted at M'Clintock Bay in unusual numbers: six May 19, seven May 20 and eight May 30 (JH). Eurasian Wigeon are usually seen during spring migration and this year was no different: one was noted at M'Clintock Bay May 19 and 30 (JH) and one at F.S.J. sewage lagoons Apr. 16–24 (CS). Blue-winged Teal were reported in their regularly low abundance from the southern Yukon: at M'Clintock Bay—two May 12, four May 20 and five May 30 (JH) and at Shallow Bay—four males on May 15 (CM), which is also the date of their noted arrival in northern Yukon at upper Klondike R. (GB). Canvasbacks were first noted in Inuvik, Northwest Territories on Apr. 8 (JP). Redheads are commonly seen in low numbers at Yukon spring staging sites and were again noted this year: at M'Clintock Bay they were first noted Apr. 8, 10 and May 12 (JH) and at Shallow Bay, one male was seen May 15 (CM). Harlequins arrived at upper Klondike R. May 23 (GB).

EAGLES THROUGH GROUSE — There was an interesting sighting of a Bald Eagle that killed a gull at Teslin airstrip in a group of three gulls (PD, DD). The first Bald Eagle noted in upper Klondike R. was on May 1 (GB). Female N. Harriers were first noted at F.N. airport Apr. 18 (JB). Other arrival sightings include: one ♂ harrier at Fox L., Apr. 9 (CM), one Apr. 29 south of Inuvik 30 km (JP, BM) and at the upper Klondike R., May 2 (GB). Northern Goshawks were scarce in F.S.J.: one was noted Apr. 24 and one May 10 at Boundary L. (CS). Yet much farther north, there was a sighting from the Aklavik iceroad in the MacKenzie R. delta Mar. 29 (JP, BM). A rare sighting of a Swainson's Hawk May 9 at F.S.J. represents the 5th record for the area (CS). A Broad-winged Hawk, sighted May 16 at Charlie L. (BM), was a rare visitant to the F.S.J. area, yet a likely breeder for the Peace R. area (CS). A Rough-legged Hawk was sighted at M'Clintock Bay, Apr. 24 (JH). One Merlin was sighted at the F.N. airport Apr. 20 (JB). A Peregrine Falcon was reported south of Inuvik in April (JP, BM). Willow Ptarmigan in the southern Ogilvie Mountains were about one year below their peak population size in their 10 year cycle. Willow and Rock ptarmigans were reported in April in abundance in the Inuvik area (JP, BM). A rare sighting for the area, at the mouth of the Little South Klondike R. (northeast of Dawson City), was a White-tailed Ptarmigan in the river valley, Apr. 25 (GB). In this same area, a red-phase Ruffed Grouse was seen displaying Apr. 30 (GB). Six Sharp-tailed Grouse were noted at Vee L., N.W.T., Mar. 10 (KS).

SANDHILL CRANE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Sandhill Crane numbers were down in the F.N. area (JB). The usual sightings of skeins of 200–300 cranes were not noted this year, perhaps because of the unusual winds (JB). In Yukon, cranes were first noted passing over the upper Klondike R., May 3 (GB).

Shorebirds were not seen in the usual late May waves of migrants in the Peace R. area this year (CS). An unusual sighting of a Black-bellied Plover occurred at M'Clintock Bay May 20 (JH). Lesser-Golden Plovers in spring migration peaked at 75 on May 20 at F.N. through a 3-day pass (JB). At F.S.J., this species is only noted in freshly burned farm fields as noted this year when they passed through on May 12 (CS). Although one bird was seen at M'Clintock Bay as early as Apr. 23 (JH), a major movement was not seen until about May 15 when more than 40 Lesser Golden-Plovers were noted at Shallow Bay (CM). A Wandering Tattler was heard calling May 16 at

km 8 Dempster Hwy (JF). Three Hudsonian Godwits were noted May 18 at Lewes R. marsh, south of Whse (JH). Not an unusual sighting, but an interesting one, was a Surf-bird seen at km 85 Dempster Hwy., May 17 (CM). A W. Sandpiper was reported May 30 from M'Clintock Bay (JH). One Dunlin was noted May 18 at Lewes R. marsh and one was seen May 20 at the adjacent M'Clintock Bay (JH). Only one Stilt Sandpiper was noted in the F.S.J. area, unlike the usual 30–50 seen most years (CS). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper, rare for the Peace R. area, was noted at the F.S.J. sewage lagoons May 27 (CS).

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Mew Gulls were noted in Whse. Apr. 30 (GJ), at the upper Klondike R. May 16 (GB) and at Inuvik by May 18 (BM). Herring Gull migration reached peak numbers at M'Clintock Bay Apr. 23 when 93 were noted (JH). A Little Gull was reported near Teslin in May (PD, DD). At F.S.J., 70 Franklin's Gulls flew over the sewage lagoons May 24 (CS). A Snowy Owl was noted in the Campbell Hills south of Inuvik Mar. 12 (JP, BM). One N. Hawk-Owl was seen at Tenlin L., N.W.T., Mar. 9 (BM, DH). Boreal Owls were heard calling in the upper Klondike R. after 2 years of silence (GB). A seldom seen Black-backed Woodpecker was noted May 23 at F.N. (JB). A ♀ Calliope Hummingbird was noted at its nest May 31 at Taylor, representing the first breeding record for the Peace R. area (CS).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS — Olive-sided Flycatchers arrived in the upper Klondike R. by June 10, at least one week later than normal (GB). A ♂ W. Wood-Pewee was noted May 23 at mi. 325 Alaska Hwy. (JB) and noted in the upper Klondike R. by June 7, at least one week later than normal (GB). Eastern Phoebe were noted to arrive at the usual time of May 23 in the F.N. area, mi. 335 Alaska Hwy. (JB). Horned Larks were noted Apr. 23 at M'Clintock Bay (JH), May 9 in the upper Klondike R. (GB) and May 18 at Inuvik (BM). A Barn Swallow was noted at Army Beach south of Whse. May 30 (JH). Black-billed Magpies are not usually seen in the F.N. area, but one was noted at mi. 308 Alaska Hwy., Apr. 13 (JB). An unusual though occasional sighting for Yellowknife was a Com. Grackle on Mar. 14 (DM). White-breasted Nuthatches continue to push into the Peace R. area of British Columbia with a male seen at Taylor May 12 (CS). For the 2nd winter in a row a Brown Creeper was noted at Stoddart Cr. (F.S.J. area) Mar. 8 (CS). Townsend's Solitaires were noted at Charlie L. (F.S.J. area) Apr. 10 & 20 (CS), at F.N., May 12 making an apparently rare sighting and in the upper Klondike R. by Apr. 30 (GB). A pair of Mountain Chickadees nested at Cowley L., south of Whse. (NB, SM). Swainson's Thrushes came through F.N. during May 13–14 in such abundance that they appeared on practically every lawn and outnumbered the abundant robin (JB). Bohemian Waxwings were noted in abundance through much of the Region in early May. A W. Tanager was noted at F.N., May 18 (JB). Black-throated Green Warblers were early on their breeding grounds at Taylor by about 6 days when noted May 9 (CS). Warbling Vireos were first noted at F.N., May 13 (JB). Yellow-rumped Warblers arrived in much of the Region by late April. Otherwise, most of the warblers arrived in mid to late May in the different areas of the Region.

There was a notable absence of Am. Tree Sparrows from the F.N. area this spring (JB). Regional sparrows to arrive early in late April or early May included Fox and White-crowned sparrows. Lincoln's Sparrow arrived in mid-May in F.N. (JB) and the upper Klondike R. (GB). Chipping Sparrows were not noted until June 7 in the upper Klondike R. (GB), but were noted at F.N. by May 12 (JB). Apparently a Song Sparrow was noted at Judas Cr., May 30 (JH). Lapland Longspurs were noted in the Whse. area the 3rd week of April. A Smith's Longspur was noted May 18 at F.N. airport (JB). Snow Buntings were moving through the southern Yukon by at least mid-March when small flocks were noted by Jake's Corner, east of Whse (CM). Two of these snow birds were noted at Inuvik Apr 8

(BM) and at Old Crow Apr. 11 where they apparently had been for a week (CM). Snow Bunting numbers seemed unusually low for spring migration through the F.N. area (JB). A Brown-headed Cowbird was noted at F.N. May 5 (JB). Rosy Finches were in the southern Ogilvie Mts. of the northern Yukon by mid-May (CM). Pine Grosbeaks were noted at Rengling R. in the MacKenzie River Delta Apr. 17 (JP, BM) and a pair at Old Crow Apr. 12 (CM). A ♂ Evening Grosbeak was seen Apr. 19 at F.N. (JB). Also at F.N. was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak May 18 (JB). Two Red Crossbills were noted in near Snafu L., south-

ern Yukon, Mar. 18 (CM). Redpolls were seen in large flocks near the mouth of the South Klondike R. throughout the winter until May 10 (GB).

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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

Thomas H. Rogers

The spring season over the Region was in general markedly warmer than normal and, with few exceptions, drier. Several reporters indicated that the migration was early, up to two weeks for some species. Roberts noted record-early arrivals for 13 species in the Salmon, Idaho, area. On the other hand a few reporters considered the migration timing about normal, e.g. Howie for southern interior British Columbia, Trost for southeastern Idaho, and Balcomb for Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, Montana. May slowed the later arrivals. Some reporters considered birding poor, the birds just trickling through. On the other hand, exposed mud flats produced many shorebird sightings. Lack of precipitation and a low snow pack in the mountains raised the prospects of a summer with water deficiencies and poor vegetative growth.

ABBREVIATIONS — Malheur = Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Burns, Ore.; Market L. = Market Lake Wildlife Management Area, Roberts, Ida.; Metcalf = Metcalf Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Stevensville, Mont.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Thirty Red-throated Loons on Adams L., n. of Shuswap, B.C., May 17 made a most unusual number (FR). Two Pacific Loons on Douglas L. in the s. Okanagan Valley (DK, WW) and one at Vernon, B.C. (MF), both May 18, were noteworthy. One was reported on L. Koocanusa, Lincoln Co., Mont., Mar. 28–Apr. 3 (and also in October 1986) (MS). Wickiup Res., w. of La Pine, Ore., hosted an awesome 300 Com. Loons Apr. 16 (CM) and 150 were on Twin Lakes Res., n.w. of Preston, Ida., in late April (TF). Wickiup Res. also had an impressive 45 Horned Grebes Apr. 16 (CM). Two of this species at Market L., Apr. 21 were unusual (AM) as were a sighting at Cascade Res., Cascade, Ida., May 3 (LAB) and three at Grandview, Wash., Apr. 21 (CR). A pair of Red-necked Grebes was again nest-building at Silver L., s.w. of Island Park, Ida. (CHT).

The count of Am. White Pelicans at American Falls Res. in s. Idaho reached only 60, compared to last year's 1800 (CHT). They arrived at Red Rock Lakes about May 6 (JBa). Double-crested Cormorants appeared in the s. Okanagan valley, where they are decidedly rare: one on Osoyoos L., May 17 (DC), one at Vernon May 18 (DC et al.), and two at Salmon Arm May 28 (RR). One at Mann's L., Lewiston, Ida., Apr. 21 was a rarity (CV).

A Least Bittern was heard and seen at Market L., Ida., about Apr. 4 (JS) and heard in mid-May (DB). Four Great Egrets near Osoyoos, B.C., May 12 were the first adequately noted for the Okanagan Valley (EM), and one at Revelstoke, B.C., May 27 was the first for that area (fide RRH). One at Wasa, B.C., May 14 also was apparently that area's first (fide MVW). Ten Great Egrets at a heronry in the Yakima, Wash., area May 9 (Y.V.A.S.)



were notable, as were five at Sunriver, Ore., May 23–25 (JB, DD), three at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., May 20 (REW), and one near Lowden, Wash., Apr. 26–27 (SM, CM, KK). Four Great Egrets at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., May 3 were rarities there (WRR) as was one at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., May 11 (FBH). One at Cougar Bay, Coeur d'Alene L., was the latilong's 3rd (SHS). Three Snowy Egrets at Sunriver May 23–25 were Deschutes County's first (JB, DD), and one at Walla Walla, Wash., Apr. 23+ was unusual (KK). The nesting group of Cattle Egrets was back at American Falls Res. (CHT), and a sighting came from Grays L., s.e. Idaho (SB). A few were reported at Malheur. Single Green-backed Herons were sighted near Mosier, Ore., May 12–13 (DL) and at the mouth of the Hood R., Ore. (DAA). Up to 22 White-faced Ibises were sighted flying over the Pasco-Richland-Wallula, Wash., area around May 19 (REW, KK, TG). Remarkable were up to nine of this species at Columbia N.W.R., May 9–19 (DG, WRR, JS). Also highly notable were one near Helena, Mont., May 2–3 (GH) and two at Mann's L., May 18–21 for the first sighting ever there (MCr, MK, LL, PP, LP, CV). A flock of five at Red Rock Lakes May 6 was noteworthy (JBa). Metcalf had three May 18 (DH).

WATERFOWL, HAWKS — The May 22 aerial survey of the Centennial Valley–Red Rock Lakes area found 204 Trumpeter Swans, an increase over last year. Wallula, Wash., had a surprising 28 Mar. 7 (KK). Four of the big birds appeared at Mann's L., Mar. 31 (CV, MCr); two were still there Apr. 2 (CV, LP, MK). One visited the Long Creek, Ore., sewage ponds May 3 for supposedly the first record there (G.C.B.C.). Two Greater White-fronted Geese at Tygh Valley, Ore., Mar. 18 made a latilong first (DL). One was sighted in the Frenchtown valley w. of Missoula, Mont., Apr. 2 (DH), and Oyama, B.C., had one Mar. 22 (PR). Kamloops, B.C., reported a Snow Goose Mar. 5 (SRo), and Mann's L. had up to six in April (C.B.). Some of these birds passed through Red Rock Lakes Mar. 15. A flock of 55 Snow Geese at Metcalf Apr. 2 contained three Ross' Geese (C & MC), and Walla Walla had a Ross' and a Brant Apr. 18–19 (KK, CA, SM).

Northern Pintails peaked at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., at only 1600 compared to 4500 in 1986. One or two Eur. Green-winged Teal appeared at Miller L., s. of Klamath Falls, Ore., in March (SS). A hybrid Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal photographed on the Owyhee R. w. of Adrian, Ore., was seen for 2½ weeks beginning Apr. 30 (MJ). Eurasian Wigeon is becoming a regular, although rather rare, migrant in the Region. The most notable were one at Wasa for the first record for the East Kootenay district (LH) and one in n.w. Montana that had a mate believed to be of the same species (DH, DT). A ♂ Harlequin Duck on the Columbia R. at the Yakima R. delta in mid-May provided the first record there (BTh, REW). A ♀ Oldsquaw at Market L., Apr. 5 was quite unusual (AM). Thirty Oldsquaws, 100+ Surf Scoters, and 100+ White-winged Scoters were sighted near Riske Cr., B.C., May 19 (PR). Six White-winged Scoters were seen May 22–24 at Stump L., s. of Kamloops, B.C. (DP), and three flying W over McNary May 20 were very unusual (REW). One near Pocatello, Ida., was likewise unusual (CHT, m.ob.). Vernon, B.C., had five Red-breasted Mergansers Mar. 28 (PR).

At least 2 pairs of Ospreys were nesting on artificial structures along the Salmon R. near Salmon, Ida. (LHa). The Bald Eagle pair at Kootenai N.W.R. hatched two young by about Apr. 7, and the pair on nearby Kootenai R. also hatched two (LDN). The resident pair at Wasa was not successful, however (MVW). Mosier, Ore., had an adult Mar. 17 (DL).

GROUSE THROUGH CRANES — The Yakima, Wash., Firing Center reported 300 Sage Grouse at about 5 leks (fide DG). The Nature Conservancy has acquired habitat at Roosville, B.C., and augmented the small flock of Sharp-tailed Grouse there with birds from Cranbrook, B.C. (PLW). Fifteen Wild Turkeys from near Creston, B.C., have been transplanted to the Bummars Flats area near Wasa. In the Wenas Cr. area s.w. of Ellensburg, Wash., a total of 30 turkeys was sighted (BR, EJ), but only one was seen in the Nile, Wash., area where they were introduced several years ago with little success (DG). Up to seven turkeys were observed at the Summit of Craig Mt. near Waha, Ida. (SSm, C.B.). Northern Bobwhite appeared in a College Place, Wash., yard (RL), and several were heard and seen at Two Rivers Habitat Management Unit down the Columbia R. from McNary N.W.R. (REW). A ♀ Gambel's Quail perched on a post along Tammany Cr., w. of Lewiston, May 3 (WH, CV).

A Virginia Rail at Riske Cr., May 10 apparently made a latilong first (PR). Kamloops recorded 1000+ Sandhill Cranes Apr. 20 (RRH) and Red Rock Lakes noted 153 May 14. Sandhills again nested at Metcalf, where newly-hatched chicks were seen June 1 (DH). Four in a meadow at Forest Grove, B.C., May 22 were possibly breeders (DP). A Greater Sandhill made a rare appearance at Columbia N.W.R., May 5 (WRR). Twelve Whooping Crane eggs brought from Canada and placed in Sandhill Crane nests at Grays L., Ida., had all hatched by early June. Eighteen ad. Whoopers had returned to there and to w. Montana and w. Wyoming. All that returned to Grays L. were males (RD).

SHOREBIRDS — Black-bellied Plovers showed up May 3 at Springfield Bottoms near American Falls Res and peaked at 18 (CHT). The only other sighting was of one at Metcalf May 21 (PLW). A Snowy Plover at the Walla Walla R. delta, Wallula, Apr. 27–28 was apparently e. Washington's 2nd (REW, KK, BT, m.ob.). Three were reported on Springfield Bottoms May 3 (DP)

S.A.

Black-necked Stilts showed up in numerous places, often in high numbers, and made some giant strides northward. For what were apparently British Columbia's first, five were at Ashcroft and one near Okanagan Falls in late April and one s. of Kamloops May 1 (IB). A flock of 20 at Kootenai N.W.R., Apr. 19 (LDN) made the refuge's first record. One at Swallow's Park, Clarkston, Wash., Apr. 16 (RM) was the first for that locality and also apparently n. Idaho's first. Several other sightings were subsequently obtained in the Clarkston-Lewiston vicinity, with up to six birds seen (m.ob.). Wawawai County Park on the Snake R., Wash., had five Apr. 25 (KP). The Potholes area near Othello, Wash., where the species is quite regular, had sightings of up to 40 in early May (Jbu, WRR, Y.V.A.S.), and 3 broods were found along Frenchman Hills Road w. of there (BT). The Yakima R. delta had at least 28 for Woodley's highest ever there. Sightings were also made in the Walla Walla and Walla Walla R. delta areas (CA, SM, ES), at Ephrata (JB), Grandview (CR, Ast), Mabton (CR), St. Andrews (WD), and Priest Rapids Dam (LS), all in Washington. Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, Mont., had six (DT), and Bend, Ore., had three for one of very few sightings there (TC). One was reported near Burns, Ore. (C & MCo), and two appeared at Ft. Boise Wildlife Management Area, Canyon Co., Ida. (MJ).

Four Am. Avocets appeared at Kelowna, B.C. (DC). Eleven were counted at Kamloops May 16 (MJo), and a pair there May 18, with the female incubating, provided the province's 2nd nesting record (DF, RRH). A big 80 appeared at the Yakima delta (REW). Bend had 23 avocets, an astounding number there (TC). One at Kootenai N.W.R. was a rarity (LDN). Up to three Solitary Sandpipers at 3 small lakes 19 mi s. of 100 Mile House, B.C., May 22–23 were presumably breeding (DP). A single bird was sighted near Midland, Ore., Apr. 28–30 for an unusual spring record (SS). Rare sightings of single Willets came from Columbia N.W.R. (WRR) and College Place (KK). The traditional Upland Sandpiper nesting grounds in the Spokane Valley had thus far yielded sightings of three birds (LT). Single birds were seen twice in early May at Malheur (RV, MR), and the species was noted in the Bear Valley nesting area, Seneca, Ore., May 7 (CC). A single bird was seen along Hwy 55 in Valley County May 21 for Idaho's only report (D & CG).

A Whimbrel was at Metcalf May 22 for the 3rd record there (DH) and one at Osoyoos May 17 was apparently British Columbia's 2nd for the interior (MF). A Long-billed Curlew was at Hatfield L., Bend, for only the 2nd local record (BL). One appeared at Kootenai N.W.R., where the species has been seen only 3–4 times in the last 9 years (LDN). Flocks of 30 and 40 Marbled Godwits were recorded at Mud L. and Malheur L., respectively, at Malheur N.W.R., May 7 (GI, DP), and one was seen at Mugwump L. in the Warner Basin n. of Plush, Ore., May 28 (DPl, MS). At Red Rock Lakes a flock of 24 was sighted May 6 (JBa). Metcalf had one Marbled Godwit Apr. 22 (C & MC). Riske Cr. had a Ruddy Turnstone May 19 (PR) and one was near Aberdeen, Ida., May 16 (CHT, CW, DB, BJ). A Red Knot appeared at Springfield Bottoms May 21 (DB, m.ob.). Hatfield L. hosted 25 Dunlins May 17, for the most ever seen in the county—and more than all previous records combined! (TC). That lake also had a Short-billed Dowitcher May 3 (TC), as did Riske Cr., May 19 (PR). Flocks of 14 and five Long-billed

Dowitchers at Red Rock Lakes May 11 were the latilong's first (JBa) A Red Phalarope visited the Long Creek sewage ponds May 3 for the latilong's first (G.C.B.C.).

GULLS THROUGH OWLS — Five Franklin's Gulls at Vernon May 18 were noteworthy (DC). A flock of 25 non-breeding plumaged Bonaparte's Gulls was sighted at the Hood R. mouth, Ore., May 16 (DAA). One at Mann's L. was unusual (CV). The latest sighting of a Mew Gull at the Hood R. mouth was Mar. 14 (DAA). A near-ad. W. Gull was carefully observed at the Hood R. mouth May 16 (DAA, JD). The bird that visits American Falls Dam, Ida., was seen only once, Apr. 17 with an ad. Herring Gull (CHT, CW). Vernon had a Glaucous-winged Gull May 24 (MC, RC). Three Caspian Terns at Mann's L., May 18 were noteworthy (MK, LL, PP). Two Forster's Terns at Vernon May 17 were that area's first (DC, MC, WW *et al.*). Four migrant Forster's were at the Hood R. mouth May 16 (DAA).

Single Band-tailed Pigeons were observed Apr. 18 at Armstrong, B.C. (PR), and near Burns May 13 (BHo). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo lingered at Rupert, Ida., for the only report (WHS). A Com. Barn-Owl was sighted near The Dalles, Ore., May 12–13 (DL) and another along Hwy 197, Wasco Co., Ore. (PM, LW). Single Flammulated Owls appeared at Malheur May 24 (PM, LW), near Nile, Wash., May 17 (BB, AST, SSt), and at Panhandle L., w. of Newport, Wash., May 21 (EJL). Nine were reported at Kamloops (RRH). Burrowing Owls in the Walla Walla area were cause for concern, as most of their former habitat has been plowed under—only 2 sites were found (SM). At least two returned to the release site near Osoyoos and one was back at the Cache Cr., B.C., release site (RRH). Three "new" pairs of Spotted Owls were located in the White Pass-Chinook Pass area in and near Mt. Rainier N.P., Wash. (SS), and a pair was heard in the vicinity of Leavenworth, Wash. (CS, m.ob.). A pair of Barred Owls frequented the Little Naches R. drainage n.w. of Yakima May 6 (SSt) and one that visited the University of Montana campus, Missoula, Apr. 16 became something of a celebrity (SG). Two were found 60 mi n. of Revelstoke, B.C. (PRS), and several Barred Owls responded in the Lolo Pass area on the Idaho-Montana border w. of Missoula (DH). A Great Gray Owl appeared near Philipsburg, Mont., in late May (SG) and two were near Pinantan, B.C., regularly (RRH). The cottonwood bottoms s. of Tetonia, Ida., yielded one Great Gray sighting (CHT, CW). Their numbers seemed to be down in the Island Park, Ida., area (*vide* CHT). Fifty-seven different Long-eared Owls were located in the Frenchtown and Flathead Valleys w. and n.w. of Missoula (DH). A pair of these birds, rarely reported in Klamath County, Ore., nested near Bonanza in a pine forest (SS). Two Short-eared Owls, always rare in the Helena Valley area, were apparently feeding nestlings there (GH). Lone Boreal Owls were reported along Ball Cr. Road n.w. of Bonners Ferry, Ida. (PRS), and n.e. of Vernon (ETJ). Seventeen territorial male Boreal Owls responded to calls played in the Lolo Pass area during late winter and spring (DH). A pair of N. Saw-whet Owls with three or four young was observed at Lower Granite Dam campsite on the Snake R. near Wawawai, Wash., May 18 (KM, OF). Another pair brought off four young in Umatilla County, Ore. (KK).

SWIFTS THROUGH SWALLOWS — A Black Swift appeared at Metcalf May 27 (PLW). A ♀ Black-chinned Hummingbird visited a Bend feeder in late May (TC, CM) and six were at Fields, Ore., May 23–24 (TC, JG). Two territorial ♂ Anna's Hummingbirds frequented the campground at Lyle, Wash., in May (KK, BT) and one Anna's was sighted at Tieton, Wash., May 15 & 28 (NV). Presumably the same Costa's Hummingbird returned Mar. 30 to the same Bend feeder as it has for 3 previous consecutive years (G & CR). Another bird was at a Sunriver, Ore., feeder Apr. 26 (NH, TK)—one was seen there 2 years earlier. A 3rd was found at Tumalo S.P. near Tumalo, Ore. (TC), and a 4th in La Pine May 7–12 (HH). A **Costa's Hummingbird** visited a Lillooet, B.C., feeder for the

province's 4th record (MB) A La Pine feeder had a ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbird May 7 & 18 (HH) and one was at Fields, Ore., May 23–24 (TC, JG).

Sightings of Lewis' Woodpeckers at Red Rock Lakes in late April and May were apparently the latilong's first (JBa). Except for a report from near Ketchum, Ida., the species was noted only at several localities in n.c. Oregon. A rare sighting was of a Williamson's Sapsucker n. of Merritt, B.C., May 27 (DF, RRH). Up to 4 pairs were reported in The Dalles watershed area, Hood River Co., Ore., in May (DAA). Three-toed Woodpecker was sighted in Hood River County May 11 (DL) and Black-backed Woodpecker at Idylwild Park n. of Burns (DL, VT) May 28–29, both supposedly latilong firsts.

Malheur was visited by a Least Flycatcher May 25 (TC, JG, HN) and one was sighted at Vernon May 17 & 31 (PR, WW) A Hammond's Flycatcher in the Snowy Mts. s. of Lewistown May 24 was the latilong's first (LKM). Sightings of birds thought to be Hammond's, Dusky, and Gray flycatchers, new for Toppenish N.W.R., Yakima Co., Wash., were of single birds May 23 (AST, BB). Gray Flycatchers were back in the Oliver, B.C., area where they were found breeding in 1986 (DC). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was seen May 16 in Hood River County, where rare (DAA). An unnamed observer reported a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in the Phillipsburg latilong, Mont., no details supplied (*vide* CP). A ♂ Purple Martin was near Cascade Locks, Ore., May 16 (DAA). A Bank Swallow colony along the Snake R. near Nyssa, Ore., probably numbered 5000+ birds (MJ).

JAYS THROUGH MIMIDS — Four Gray Jays at Idylwild Park May 28–29 were the latilong's first (DL, VT). Two Blue Jays that wintered at Kimberley were still there Apr. 19 (MVW) A Scrub Jay at Pine Grove, Ore., May 25 was the observer's first at that location (DAA). A Canyon Wren in the Tygh Valley e. of Mt. Hood Mar. 18 made a latilong first (DL). A Bewick's Wren at Sportsman's S.P., Yakima, was the first sighted there in 4 years. One was also sighted at Toppenish N.W.R. The species has decreased drastically in the Yakima Valley in the last 6 years (AST, BB). Conversely, nesting Bewick's continued to increase at Walla Walla (SM). A singing male of this species was observed at Asotin Slough Mar. 11 (MK, PP), and one bird was found at Arrow, 11 mi e. of Lewiston, Apr. 2 (C.B) An Am. Dipper at Columbia N.W.R., May 26 was the refuge's first (SA).

A ♂ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher sang at Hagelstein County Park n. of Klamath Falls May 8 for a new location in s. Klamath County, Ore., where the species is now regular (SS). Nestling W. Bluebirds occupied a nest box at Wolf Creek, Mont. (*vide* SJ), and the species was reported nesting in boxes along the Dearborn R. to the n. of there (DF). These birds are rare e. of the Continental Divide. A migrating Varied Thrush at Market L., Apr. 4–5 was a rarity (WR, AM). College Place had a N. Mockingbird Apr. 9 (KK). The bird that wintered at Twin Falls, Ida., lingered at least until April (CHT), and a territorial pair was mimicking just about everything in Curlew National Grassland, Holbrook, Ida. (CHT, CW). One was sighted near Sweetwater, Ida., May 24–28 (SSm, LL, PS, CV). Singles appeared at Malheur May 1 and at Alvord Hot Springs n. of Fields, Ore., May 15 (*vide* AS). One was at Sunriver, Ore., for the first acceptable county record there (DD). A **Curve-billed Thrasher** photographed at Twin Falls, Ida., Apr. 11 was the state's first It had wintered at a feeder there, and reportedly one was seen in Boise during the winter (CHT).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A singing Philadelphia Vireo was again sighted at Panhandle L., Apr. 28 (EJL). A Tennessee Warbler was identified in Glacier N.P., Mont., May 25 (SG) and one appeared at Malheur May 24 (*vide* AS). One was sighted near Kelowna, B.C., May 7 (*vide* BH) and two were n. of Clearwater, B.C., May 23 (TG). A Magnolia Warbler showed up at Fields May 26 (HN). Four Black-throated Gray Warblers were sighted at Mill Cr. near The Dalles May 12–13 (DL) and single birds appeared at Skull Springs e. of Riverside, Ore., May 13

(CC, PMA) and at Page Springs, Frenchglen, Ore., May 21 (PS). A male was at the Teanaway R. mouth near Cle Elum, Wash., May 23 (BT). The species was also noted in Mt. Hood N.F., May 16 (PM, LW). Idylwild Park had a Townsend's Warbler May 28–29 (DL, VT). Hermit Warblers were observed in Hood River County (PM, LW, DL), along Hwy 26, Wheeler Co., Ore. (PM, LW), and at Malheur (fide AS). A Black-and-white Warbler was identified at Asotin Slough June 2 (MK, LL, MLP, PS) and another was at Roaring Springs Ranch s. of Frenchglen May 30 (TC, JG). A ♂ Black-and-white at Argonne Nat'l Laboratory w. of Idaho Falls, Ida., about May 12 was the first for that area (AM, fide EC). An Am. Redstart at Bend May 22 was unusual (TC, C & AE). An Ovenbird was sighted at Malheur May 23–24 (fide AS). Another Ovenbird in the Snowy Mts. s. of Lewistown, Mont., was more to be expected (LKM). A N. Waterthrush visited a Walla Walla yard May 25 for the 2nd consecutive spring (SM). Malheur had one May 16 (MR) and Fields, one May 29 (fide AS). A male sang in Manning P.P., B.C., May 24 (DP).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — A ♀ **Scarlet Tanager** was photographed May 31 at Pike Cr., Alvord Desert, Harney Co., for Oregon's 4th (TC, TB, JG). Two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks appeared at Rupert (WHS) and one was sighted at Pike Cr., May 25–27 (fide AS). A ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak at Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, Ida., May 25 added the species to the refuge's list (MJ). A ♂ Lark Bunting, accidental in British Columbia, sang at Riske Cr., May 27 for that area's first (PR). A White-throated Sparrow at the Boise-Cascade campground on Wenas Cr., n.w. of Yakima, May 25 provided the first record there in 30 years (EJL). Washtucna, Wash., had one Apr. 21 (BT) and one was at Malheur May 2–3 (JBo). The only Golden-crowned Sparrow reports were of singles at Vernon Mar. 28–Apr. 11 (MC) and s.e. of Othello May 9 (WRR). A very few Harris' Sparrows were reported for s. interior British Columbia, e. Oregon, and e. Washington. Of special note was one s.e. of Othello May 2 (WRR). A McCown's Longspur was discovered in a flock of Horned Larks near Henrys L., n. of Island Park, about Apr. 19 (JT, BW). Twenty Lapland Longspurs were sighted in the Knutsford area Mar. 15 (RRH) and nine at Riske Cr., Apr. 21 (PR).

A ♂ Bobolink was photographed at Market L., May 16 (S.R.A.S., fide EC). A ♂ **Great-tailed Grackle** was eating French fries at a Union Gap, Wash., drive-in May 25—these modern bird tourists!—for apparently the state's first record (WC, JW). Common Grackles are firmly established in s.e. Idaho, being seen in some numbers in Ashton, Driggs, Pocatello, Ririe, and Soda Springs (fide CHT). A **Hooded Oriole**, e. Oregon's first, came to a Klamath Falls hummingbird feeder May 2–3 (SS).

A **Brambling** was photographed "still at a feeder" at Scotch Cr. near Chase, B.C., in early March (SR). Purple Finches were reported in Hood River, Wasco, Wheeler, and Grant counties, Ore. (DL, PM, LW). A Lewiston feeder had a carefully-described male Apr. 16–22 (CG, CV, m.ob.). Two males and a female were sighted at College Place Apr. 17 (KK) and a few were seen in the Wenas Cr. area (AST, BB, DG). One was reported along the N. Fork of the Owyhee R., s.w. Ida. (D & CG). A Com. Redpoll was observed at Hines, Ore., Mar. 31 (MW) and a group of eight was found at Ashton Mar. 29 (CHT, CW). Five Lesser Goldfinches were reported at Page Springs May 15 (fide AS) and one was reported 6 mi upstream from that place May 21 (PS). One at Walla Walla May 3 was the latilong's first (SM).

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MOUNTAIN WEST REGION

Hugh E. Kingery

Mountain West observers uniformly reported a paucity of migrants. Warblers and shorebirds, the linchpins of a birder's evaluation of a migration, seemed particularly scarce, both in numbers and in species variety. The Region recorded but one new state bird, a Chestnut-sided Warbler in Utah, plus a first state nesting record, Common Grackle in Nevada.

A Region-wide cold spell May 22–23 attracted remarkable numbers of flycatchers and some other species to three scattered locations: a "wave" of 30 W. Wood-Pewees hit

Ft. Collins, Colorado, in an area not known for its migrants, (PO), 100+ flycatchers of various kinds at Kirch Wildlife Management Area presented "wing-bars, eye rings, and tail and wing flicking going on everywhere" (CS), and a great concentration assembled at Dyer, Nevada (100 Western Wood-Pewees, 45 Dusky and 13 Gray flycatchers, 120 Western Tanagers, 200 Pine Siskins, 60 Lazuli Buntings, 25 Black-headed Grosbeaks—PL). In all three locations, stormy weather in the high country may have stalled migrants headed up there.

Because Colorado had a good variety, the Regional total of 373 species exceeded the average of 367. Colorado's 334

beat its average of 328 species. Wyoming had 265 (average 254), Nevada found 244 (average 252), and Utah tallied 235 (average 258).

ABBREVIATIONS — 1st Lat = first record in a latilong (that piece of geography bounded by one degree of latitude and longitude); † = documentation submitted to Regional Editor; †† = documentation submitted to a state or local records committee, # = no written documentation.

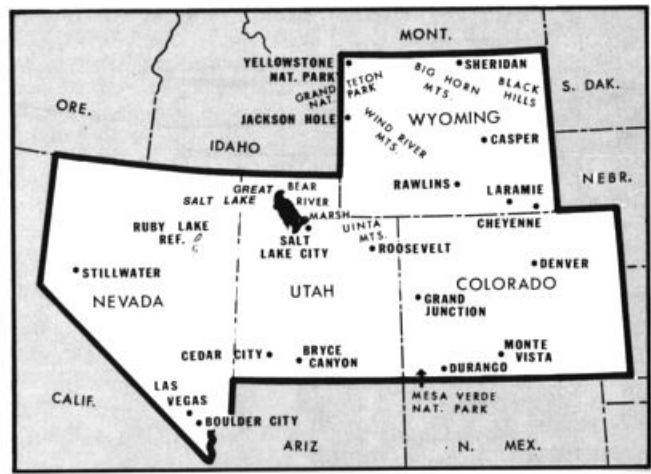
NEVADA FORAYS — Dyer and Lida, 2 Nevada hamlets on the California line, divert California birders traveling between oases in the Death Valley area on quests for spring vagrants. This year 7 of them reported on their brief forays into Nevada, on which they found several Nevada rarities, all supported by excellent detailed descriptions (BD, WEH, JL [for 8 observers], PL, ML, CM, GM). In order to conserve space, this column sometimes refers to the observers collectively as "CA mob."

STATISTICS — Marie Adams of Green River, Wyo., has volunteered to analyze the statistics from various spring and fall counts. To date she has received only a handful, so that this column cites only her computations for the Indian Peaks, Colo., Spring Count. We hope to get into a higher gear for the fall reports.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — On Apr. 11 at Logandale, a Red-throated Loon and a Pacific Loon provided first spring records for, respectively, Nevada and s. Nevada (VM). Common Loon numbers matched those of the previous year, although 75 at Deer Creek Res. near Provo, Utah, Apr. 15 (MW) doubled 1986's top count there. In n.w. Nevada, a Game & Fish driver released a batch of fish into Crittenden Res. and watched six Com. Loons immediately zoom in to feed on them (CB). In e. Colorado, Horned Grebes peaked at 100 at Rawhide power plant near Wellington (RR). During the same period Boulder reported 120 in March and April; D.F.O. had only 59, compared with 164 and 147 the previous 2 years. At Kirch W.M.A., Nev., and nearby Fish Springs N.W.R., Utah, Eared Grebes hit respective peaks of 445 May 25 and 300 May 5. In Salt Lake City several Eared Grebes nested in a large pond, part of a parkway intended for a motorcycle trail until the rising Great Salt L. turned it into a marsh (ES). At Scipio, Utah, a new breeding area attracted 250 of the Western Grebe group (not differentiated, yet, from Clark's—ES). At Las Vegas 30 of a group of 150 were Clark's, a higher-than-usual percentage (VM). Observers reported 71 Clark's Grebes, some in each state. At Delta, Colo., in late April, Janos observed a Clark's Grebe as recipient of attention from a W. Grebe: the active display included head bowing, neck bobbing, etc. Then June 12 he saw a mixed pair swim together for some time; the Western dove, caught a small fish, and presented and fed it to the Clark's. At Pueblo, Colo., a Western and a Clark's also were seen courting (MY), and Salt Lake City reported a mixed pair as well (ES). A bird thought to be a hybrid visited Ft. Collins, Colo., May 3, with a bright yellow-orange bill and black on the head below the eye (DL).

Overton, Nev., attracted the largest reported flock of Am. White Pelicans, 400 Apr. 11. Substantial numbers (probably the product of Colorado's one breeding colony near Ft. Morgan) visit most reservoirs in e. Colorado. One flock near Greeley, Colo., May 22 suffered a remarkable disaster: lightning struck and killed 24 pelicans in flight; C.D.W. recovered them and three now reside in the D.M.N.H. collection. Double-crested Cormorants, losing nest sites from the rising Great Salt L., began nesting in a variety of new places in c. Utah—80 nests in 4 locations at Provo (MW) and hundreds nesting at a flooded, abandoned duck club at the edge of the culprit Great Salt L. (ES). Casper has 250 breeding cormorants, and the Chatfield colony near Denver continues to increase, with 179 nests counted in May.

A Least Bittern at Overton Apr. 26 gave s. Nevada its first record in 10 years (J & MC). A Great Egret visited residential



Reno, where it ate catfish on a lawn where a pond had overflowed (IH). Two stopped at St. George, Utah, Apr. 17 (MW) and three at Logan, Utah, May 15 (JS). Singles appeared at Grand Junction, Colo., May 1-8 (A.S.W.C.), Delta, Colo., Apr. 22 (MJ), and Crowley County, Colo., May 28 (JR). The peak of 300 Snowy Egrets at Fish Springs N.W.R., May 29 doubled last year's spring peak, perhaps foretelling a successful breeding (CRD), but Kirch W.M.A. had only 15, a drop of 50% in migrating and breeding numbers (CS). On a trip to s.e. Colorado May 1, Bridges found a Little Blue Heron (1st Lat) at Lamar and a Tricolored Heron at Ordway (†C.F.O.). Three other Little Blue Heron reports in Colorado lacked documentation. Green-backed Heron observations included birds at Provo May 26 (JMa, BPa), Monte Vista N.W.R., May 25 (JJR), and Towaoc, Colo., May 28 (HK, 1st Lat). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Ordway Apr. 26 (JR) topped 2 other Colorado observations, which included the return, apparently of only one, to Denver's City Park (DM). Although numbers of White-faced Ibises seem healthy, observers reported only half as many this year as last.

WATERFOWL — Ducks peaked at Kirch W.M.A. with 6318 Mar. 23, including 1445 Canvasbacks and 1385 Green-winged Teal (CS). Fish Springs reported a peak Apr. 13 of 5290—1000 Redheads (twice the 1986 numbers), 800 N. Pintails, and 600 Cinnamon Teal (CRD). Monte Vista N.W.R. had a peak migratory flocks of 20,000, with a 15,700 breeding population, both mostly Mallards (EM). Alamosa N.W.R. topped at 9600 during migration and 7500 breeding ducks; both Alamosa and Monte Vista's populations rose by 20% (EM). Fort Collins reported 8000 N. Pintails Apr. 2 (PO).

Small flocks of late-migrating Tundra Swans visited the Great Basin refuges in March—200 at Ogden, Utah, 45 at Kirch, and 40 at Fish Springs. April strays stopped at Woodruff, Utah, Gunnison and Pueblo, Colo., and Sheridan, Wyo. A dozen Greater White-fronted Geese included six at Las Vegas Mar. 5 (VM), one at Casper Apr. 19 (M.A.S.), March birds at Denver, Lamar, Greeley, and Crook, and a late one at Julesburg, Colo., May 21 (DL). March saw large flocks of Snow Geese in e. Colorado, with counts of 6000 in s.e. Colorado and 1550 in n.e. Colorado; "Blue" Geese constituted about 2% of the large flocks. Grand Junction had five Snows Mar. 21, Sheridan reported one Mar. 26, and the one that wintered at Zion N.P., Utah, stayed until at least May 23. In s.e. Colorado, among the Snows, observers picked out 150 Ross' Geese Apr. 22 (D.F.O.). A remarkable 40 Ross' Geese stopped in Boulder County, Colo., Mar. 22 (BK), and singles were found at Las Vegas, Jensen, Utah, Grand Jct., and Delta, Colo. At Seedskaadee N.W.R., Wyo., a pair of Canada Geese nested in a treetop (CK) and at Rawhide Res., 46 young Canadas had appeared by May 31, despite removal of nest structures and hazing (RR).

In the N. Salt Lake area, hundreds of pairs made Cinnamon Teal the commonest breeding duck; five Blue-winged also

were breeding (ES) Two Eur Wigeon were observed Greeley, Colo., Mar. 23–26 (†JC) and Yellowstone N.P., May 16 (DP, †Y.N.P.). Seven Greater Scaup at Flaming Gorge Res. swam back and forth across the Utah/Wyoming line (1st Lat, Utah—†FL). Boulder's winter Oldsquaw stayed until Apr. 11 (B.A.S.). In s.e. Colorado, a flock of 3000 Com. Mergansers seen Mar. 6 had diminished to 1400 Mar. 15 (JR, DB).

RAPTORS TO CRANES — An early Turkey Vulture, at McCoy, Colo., Mar. 15, stayed close to the ground in a wood lot, perhaps because of exhaustion or injury (ME). Nesting Bald Eagles gradually increase in the Region; observers reported nests from such diverse spots as Moab, Utah, Durango and Craig, Colo., and Barr L. near Denver. The latter caused widespread consternation May 17 when, during a long cold rain, the birds abandoned the nest with 2 eggs. A Harris' Hawk, apparently wild, was at Overton, Nev., May 2 (VM), and a Red-shouldered Hawk was at Logandale Apr. 11 (VM, J & MC). Observers found only two Broad-winged Hawks, at Denver Apr. 30 and Sheridan May 24. Alamosa N.W.R. had a pair of nesting Ferruginous Hawks May 16 (1st Lat—JRR). A very late Rough-legged Hawk was seen on the highway between Ault and Briggsdale, Colo., May 5 (†HD).

Scaled Quail seen in 3 locations near Towaoc, Colo., provided 1st Lat reports; Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas field work reveals that they breed there on the Ute Mt. Indian Reservation (A.S.W.C., HK). Common Moorhens appeared in 2 new Colorado latilongs—Apr. 27 at Craig (JW) and May 14 at Denver (†MN). Webb reports that, with proper timing and patience, observers used to find moorhens in the sewage ponds near St. George and in Provo area marshes. Now the sewage ponds are gone, so are the moorhens. A rising Utah L. inundated the Provo marshes which later dried up, and the moorhens left there. Pumping the Great Salt Lake into the western desert will lower Utah L.; he wonders if that will result in pioneer marsh plants reclaiming their old habitats and permit the moorhens to return. Today, moorhens at Salt Lake City occupy a former cow pasture, now a cattail marsh where they may breed (ES). The San Luis Valley, Colo., held 24,000 Sandhill Cranes in March, and 22 Whooping Cranes. The last Whooping Crane left Apr. 10 (EM). Observers saw Whooping Cranes in the usual w. Colorado sites, and also at Jackson and Yellowstone Park, Wyo.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS — Regional observers uniformly reported fewer shorebirds of fewer species. Habitat probably caused the decline: high waters left minimal mud flats. Last year the Salt Lake area reported 725 Black-bellied Plovers, this year, two; Colorado had 57 last year and 20 this year. At Sundance, Wyo., 20 Lesser Golden-Plovers were reported May 31 (†JA). The Great Salt L. seems to have the Region's largest group of breeding Snowy Plovers; access difficulties may make incomplete the count of 40 at 4 sites (ES). Fish Springs reported a peak of 350 Black-necked Stilts May 11 (CRD). The Great Salt L. supported abundant nesting in the flooded areas (ES). Yellowstone reported 35 Willets Apr. 24–25 (JZ). Of all the shorebirds, Whimbrels made the best showing—a total of 47 in the Region: two at Layton, Utah, May 5 (ES), one at Rock Springs, Wyo., Apr. 24 (†FL, MA, 1st Lat), one at Sundance May 31 (†JA, 1st Lat), plus 43 in e. Colorado Apr. 27–May 22, topped by 11 at Gill (JC) and 10 at Ft. Collins (RR, BH). A flock of 12 Long-billed Curlews, a big number for Dubois, Wyo., fed in grass among snowdrifts and pools of water on May 3 (f. *vide* MB). The Region sported more Hudsonian Godwits than usual, a total of 14. These included one to four at Lamar, Colo., Apr. 23–29 (JR), five at Sundance May 31 (†JA), two at Windsor, Colo., May 6 (KC), and one to two at Ft. Collins May 5–6 (DL). Salt Lake City boasted 1200 Marbled Godwits Apr. 19 (ES) and Overton, Nev., had 75 Apr. 26 (J & MC); otherwise their numbers corresponded to those of last year. Grand Junction reported one Semipalmated and 12 Western sandpipers Apr. 30 (CD); Las Vegas reported one of each May 8 (VM). Each location lies w. of the traditionally understood migratory route.

Luke found a Dunlin at Rock Springs May 4 (†1st Lat), others visited Salt Lake City and s.e. Colorado. Stilt Sandpipers have become more numerous in recent years, and one at Pelican L. near Vernal, Utah, May 16 provided a 1st Lat record (†MW). Long-billed Dowitchers peaked May 11 at 510 at Kirch and 500 at Fish Springs (CS, CRD), but numbers dropped in the rest of the Region. Yellowstone observers saw a lot of Com Snipe—160 Apr. 14+.

Eastern Colorado observers noted a dearth of Franklin's Gulls; B.A.S. counted 14 for the entire spring season, compared with 433 last year. Utah and Nevada had normal numbers, which included two at Dyer, Nev., May 23 (CA mob.). In contrast, a few more Bonaparte's were seen than last year, 70 cf 51. Winter's paucity of Thayer's Gulls persisted, but one imm Thayer's remained at Denver until May 4 (JR). Evanston, Wyo., reported a flock of 21–31 Caspian Terns Apr. 24–May 3 (CK). At Scipio, Utah, over 100 Forster's Terns pioneered a new breeding area (ES).

OWLS TO WOODPECKERS — Observers counted 10 Flammulated Owls at Salt Lake City May 13–15 (ES). Eastern Screech-Owls were in Denver (nesting), Ft. Morgan, and Casper (where they inhabited several Wood Duck houses—M.A.S.) Western Screech-Owls were in Grand Jct. and Sheridan, and Beaver Dam Wash in s.w. Utah. At Monte Vista, Great Horned Owls nested in a goose box (JRR). The small owl survey conducted by B.A.S. in the mountains w. of Boulder, Colo., turned up one N. Pygmy-Owl, one Boreal, and five N. Saw-whets (SJ). On the Boulder plains a survey of all historical Burrowing Owl nest sites and 60% of the county's prairie dog towns turned up only one pair of owls—a "shocking" decline (SJ). The Region had many reports of Boreal Owls: in Wyoming at Jackson (KD) and Teton Pass (SF); in n. Colorado, two to five at Cameron Pass Mar. 13–May 11 (RR) and one at Echo L. near Evergreen, Colo., Apr. 26+ (LS *et al.*); and in s. Colorado, two at Wolf Cr. Pass Apr. 13 and three on Cumbres Pass Apr. 14–16. One of the Cumbres Pass birds, on Dixie Cr., was very close to the first New Mexico Boreal found the same night by the same observer (JRR). Owl hunts and breeding bird atlas field work confirmed breeding for N. Saw-whets near Glenwood Springs and Towaoc, both 1st Lat (VZ, JRG, HK), and possible breeding on Cumbres Pass (JRR). A Whip-poor-will was reported from the Pawnee Grassland, Weld Co., Colo., May 17, identified mainly by size, plus more white in the tail than a Poor-will (†JC, 1st Lat). A *Chaetura* swift at Delta, Colo., May 22 provided a record of significance, despite its uncertain identity (Vaux's, unverified from Colorado, or Chimney, no w. Colorado records, †MJ, ph.). Pine Cr. Canyon near Las Vegas produced an impressive total of eight Anna's Hummingbirds May 7 (RSt); having been seen for some years at city feeders, they may breed in the foothills (VM). Lewis' Woodpecker may have begun a slow recovery from diminished numbers. At a Eureka, Nev., ranch, 6 nesting pairs increased from only 2 last year (JE), reports from Utah have increased, and Cheyenne, Wyo., reported one May 28 (H.P.A.S.). Acorn Woodpeckers continue to occur near Kanab, Utah (May 23, MW) and a silent female probed a cottonwood for insects in Beaver Dam Wash May 10 (U.F.O.).

FLYCATCHERS TO VIREOS — Las Vegas attracted 30+ W. Wood-Pewees per day May 2–27 (VM). Say's Phoebes have extended their nesting range to Jackson, Wyo., with several pairs nesting for the past 4 years (JGm). A Vermilion Flycatcher fed actively for one day only (Apr. 4) in a snow-drifted landscape at Rollinsville, Colo. (†RC, ph.). At nearby Boulder were, on Apr. 30, an Ash-throated Flycatcher (†BPe) and on May 29, a Great Crested Flycatcher (FH). An E. Kingbird stayed at Dyer May 22–31 (CA mob.). Two Purple Martins were at Silt, Colo., May 24 (JF). Pinyon Jays had a successful enough nesting season at Cedar City to up their numbers by 30% (SH). Clark's Nutcrackers began nest-building at Sheridan in late February, and had begun feeding young by Mar. 25 (HD). In the Denver



Male Vermilion Flycatcher (against an unaccustomed background of patchy snow) at Rollinsville, Colo., Apr. 4, 1987. Photo/Robert Cohen.

area the Am. Crow nesting cycle reflected altitudinal differences: nest-building in Denver Mar. 8 and, 2000 ft higher on Genessee Mt., nest-building Apr. 11 (HK). The Indian Peaks Spring Count in w. Boulder County, Colo., tallied 137 Mountain Chickadees May 2; this lowest total in 5 years reflected a steady decline and compared to an average of 220 (DH, DB). Counters also tallied less than one-half the average number of Red-breasted and White-breasted nuthatches (DB, DH).

An intensive survey counted House Wrens as the most abundant riparian bird along the S. Platte in n.e. Colorado in late May; counts included 54 and 53 in 2 different sites (WH). Golden-crowned Kinglets seemed more numerous in Colorado, less numerous in Wyoming. Indian Peaks reported an average count of 15; B.A.S. reported 34 in its spring survey. Unusual ones strayed to Cheyenne (one Apr. 23, two May 16—H.P.A.S.) and Rock Springs Apr. 17 (FL). Ten pairs of E. Bluebirds nested at Sundance (JA) and at least two at Bonny Res., Colo. (BRI, HK, JR). A Gray-cheeked Thrush stopped at Denver May 6 (††DSc). Swainson's Thrushes staged a healthy migration along the Front Range, with 100 at Ft. Collins May 7–8, 21 at Prewitt Res. near Merino, Colo., May 6, and 20–25 seen May 23–24 at the riparian patch in Pawnee Grassland (WH). Single Wood Thrushes stopped at Cheyenne May 25 (D & RP), Bonny Res., May 17 (DB) & 19 (BRI, †HK), and Ft. Collins May 30 (†WH). Indian Peaks counted a record 582 Am. Robins on its spring count, against an average of 406 (DB, DH). The Varied Thrush that wintered at Ft. Collins stayed until Apr. 2 (DL). Winter's large contingent of Bohemian Waxwings remained into mid-April in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming. Nevada failed to corral any, but the other 3 states had thousands. At Brigham City, Utah, Mar. 14, a flock contained 600 Bohemians and 400 Cedars (SA). Elsewhere the flocks numbered 25–300. They ranged s. to Denver, Gunnison, and Glenwood Springs, Colo., and Ogden, Utah. Last birds were one Apr. 18 at Yellowstone (JZ) and one Apr. 29 at Ft. Collins (DL). A Red-eyed Vireo strayed W to Fontanelle, Wyo., May 22 (FL, MA).

WARBLERS — Like shorebirds, warblers seemed in short supply throughout the Region. Numbers of the usual migrants seemed low, and some semi-regulars escaped detection in most

locations, yet the variety stayed high. Regulars, very few Orange-crowneds in e. Colorado [none at Pueblo or on D.F.O. trips, one at Boulder]; one Nashville, at Sheridan; fewer Yellow-rumpeds all over, except for 30 counted May 2 at Cheyenne (H.P.A.S.); N. Waterthrush, 22 cf. 54 last year—Colorado and Wyoming dropped from 51 to 11 while Nevada had three, equal to 1986, and Utah found eight including four at Antelope I., May 8–9 (RSO).

Semi-regular: three Tennessee Warblers (one in Wyoming, two in Colorado), 19 last year; Chestnut-sided Warbler, May 31–June 2 at Grand Teton N.P., four to five May 28 at Cheyenne, plus five in e. Colorado; Black-throated Blue Warbler at Lamar May 20; Black-throated Gray Warbler, one to two at Casper May 3 & 22; Townsend's Warbler, three in Colorado, one each in Utah and Nevada; Palm Warbler, one in Wyoming and three in Colorado; Bay-breasted Warbler, two in Colorado; Blackpoll Warbler, two in Wyoming, four in Colorado (12 last year and five, 12, and 172 in order back to 1983); Black-and-white Warbler, one at Lida, Nev. (CA mob.), two in Wyoming, three in Colorado; Am. Redstart, three at Lida (CA mob.); Worm-eating Warbler, one in Colorado.

Rare (Observations of one unless stated otherwise): Blue-winged Warbler May 15 at Denver (††DB); "Brewster's" Warbler at Colorado Springs May 21 (TB, ††HK); Golden-winged Warbler, two at Denver May 8 (#MC), three at Cheyenne May 23 (#D & RP), five Virginia's Warblers in Wyoming including 1st Lats at Evanston and Sheridan (†CK, †BJ); N. Parula, May 31 at Dyer, Nev. (†JL), May 2–3 at Gillette, Wyo. (†VH, 1st Lat), and Denver May 9 (D.F.O.); **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, Utah's



Chestnut-sided Warbler banded at Ogden, Ut., May 26, 1987. Utah's first acceptable record. Photo/Merlin L. Killpack.



Female Hooded Warbler at Dyer, Nev., May 23, 1987. Photo/Paul Lehman.

first acceptable record, banded at Ogden May 26 (†MK, ph), and one at Lida May 18 (†BD), Magnolia Warbler May 19 at Dyer (†BD), May 14 at Crook, Colo. (JC); Cape May Warbler May 3 at Boulder; Blackburnian Warbler at Lamar May 17 (††DB); Yellow-throated Warbler at Boulder May 2–6 (††PG, DSc, m.ob.); Kentucky Warbler, a surprising number—Las Vegas May 2 (#KW), Boulder May 30 (††PG), Denver May 17 (#D.F.O.); the **Kentucky Warbler** at Cheyenne Apr. 30 gave Wyoming its 2nd one-observer record; and Hooded Warbler at Lida May 16 (†CM, †BD), Dyer May 22–23 (†CA mob., ph.), Colorado Springs May 13 (DBI, DB), and Ft. Collins May 18 (JH).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — Summer Tanagers ranged into e. Colorado, with birds at Hasty, Pueblo, Lamar, Denver, and Greeley; the CA mob. found two females at Dyer. A Scarlet Tanager stopped at Prewitt Res., Colo., May 10 (DB). Denver attracted a record four N. Cardinals Apr. 4–May 6. One prompted a classic birders' dispute. As Martin and Nelson looked, one said he saw the cardinal, the other said, "No, it's a Summer Tanager." It turned out that each was looking at a different bird! Lazuli Buntings arrived in Ogden and Salem, Utah, on the same date, Apr. 19 (SB, MK). Killpack observed that the Lazulis came 7–10 days early, in better condition than usual; they ate lepidoptera larvae instead of rushing down to the seed feeders. Las Vegas saw its first Dickcissel since 1984, on May 17 (VM, KW). A Black-throated Sparrow was in Weld County, Colo., Apr. 26 (DSc). Cutting a political corner on its way to Montana, a Baird's Sparrow stopped at Sundance Apr. 25 (†JA). Salt Lake City had a Grasshopper Sparrow Apr. 17 (MW). White-throated Sparrows in May were unusual—singles at Salem, Utah, May 2–3 (SB), Bonny Res., May 12 & 23 (D.F.O.), and Pawnee Nat'l Grassland May 24 (B.A.S.). The 45 Harris Sparrows exceeded recent spring totals. They were at Boulder City and Kirch W.M.A., Nev., Provo, Salt Lake City, and Logan, Utah, Sheridan and Casper, Wyo. (where 15 wintered, gone by May 4), and 8 e. Colorado sites. Jackson reported a remarkable flock of 20 Chestnut-collared Longspurs Apr. 18 (†MG), and one at Sheridan Apr. 21 provided the 13th report in 21 years (SJ).



Common Grackle at Fishlake Valley, Nev., May 31, 1987. The species was found nesting here for the first Nevada breeding record. Photo/W. Edward Harper.

At Sheridan a roadside survey counted 280 W Meadowlarks, the highest total ever on that route, however a 2nd, riparian, route counted 13, down from an average 35 (HD). Great-tailed Grackles continued to expand: first nesting at Corn Cr. near Las Vegas (VM), first nesting at Eagle, Colo. (1st Lat, JM), and appearances at Denver (2nd lat), Salida, Durango, and Grand Jct. Collective efforts of the CA mob. discovered **Common Grackles** building a nest at Dyer May 31, probably for Nevada's first nesting record (†BD, †ML, †CM, †JL). Observers also found pairs in 2 Salt Lake City sites (DJ, ES), Moab (nesting—NB), Duchesne and Vernal, Utah (MW), and Evanston, Dubois, Cody, and Yellowstone, Wyo. A concentration of 200 Brown-headed Cowbirds in May at Westcreek was considered excessive (RW₁). A Brambling called sporadically on a feeder at Salida, Colo., Feb. 26–Mar. 12 (††RE). Red Crossbills were returning in small numbers, especially to the Colorado mountains. A White-winged Crossbill stopped near Sheridan Apr. 24 (MCo). The last of a flock of 50 Com. Redpolls left Sheridan Apr. 13 (MCo), and Ogden had a late redpoll Apr. 19–20 (JN). Lesser Goldfinches, rare 5–6 years ago, have become fairly common around Provo (MW). Big flocks of Evening Grosbeaks concentrated in Cedar City (1000 May 1–15) and Durango, Colo. (646 May 16 on the Spring Count).

CORRIGENDA — Unbrushed teeth did not do in the Boulder County prairie dogs (AB 41:122); the culprit was plague, not plaque. This disaster that affected raptors so drastically may also explain the Burrowing Owl decline discussed above. Change last summer's Long-billed Dowitcher at Delta, Colo., to dowitcher sp. (AB 40:1234; per observer's request, MJ).

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Arizona, Sonora

David Stejskal and Janet Witzeman

It was generally an unexceptional season as far as weather and birds were concerned. The only period of atypical weather was in mid-late May which brought monsoon-like conditions to many parts of southeastern and central Arizona, triggering early singing and breeding behavior in many species associated with this normally late-summer phenomenon.

Again, as has been pointed out previously in this portion of the summary, large portions of the state received little or no coverage for the period (i.e.—western and northern Arizona, excluding the well-worked Prescott region). We can only restate our desire to see the state's birders visit other parts of Arizona to make this report a bit more complete in the future.

Also, this is not the first time that birders have read this plea (hopefully it will be the last), we cannot emphasize enough the desperate need for documentation of rarities in the state, either by written details or by photograph. Details received by us would take much of the unnecessary guesswork out of preparing this report. Lack of documentation in the future may force us to neglect mentioning important records in subsequent reports.

ABBREVIATIONS — B.T.A. = Boyce Thompson Arboretum; L.C.R. = Lower Colorado River; S.P.R. = San Pedro River.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — Pacific Loon away from the L.C.R. is always a surprise, so one at Prescott Mar. 17–26 was noteworthy (CT, BT *et al.*). Eight Com. Loons at Prescott Apr. 14 was an unusually high number for that location (BT, CT). A W. Grebe at McNeal Apr. 24 provided one of the few spring records for the Sulphur Springs Valley (AM, RT). American White Pelicans were reported from 6 widely-separated areas in the state, the most unusual being a flock of nine birds soaring over Cave Cr. Canyon in the Chiricahua Mts., Apr. 18 (SSp), and as many as 19 at McNeal Apr. 1–14 (AM *et al.*). Much more unusual was the Brown Pelican (without supporting details) reported from Patagonia L., May 12, providing one of very few spring records for the state (L. Moody). Also at Patagonia L., an Olivaceous Cormorant was present from Apr. 10 through the end of the month (JS *et al.*).

American Bittern is seldom reported in s.e. Arizona, so one near Portal Mar. 17 (B. & M. Schaughency) and another at St. David May 2 (TC) were noteworthy. A Least Bittern at Prescott Apr. 20 was a rare find (BT *et al.*). The Great Blue Heron rookery at Picacho Res. first found in spring 1984 had a total of 30 nests May 5, about twice the number originally found (GM). Nine active nests were found at the St. David rookery on the Upper S.P.R. (DK). Very few active Great Blue Heron rookeries are known in the state.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS — Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were widely reported from s.e. Arizona n.w. to the Phoenix area, with the most notable sightings being of one near Portal Apr. 26–27 (B. Tomberlin) and another at a stock tank far to the n.w. near Aguila, w. of Wickenburg, May 31 (P. Mondotte, *vide* BDe). A Greater White-fronted Goose was found near Palo Verde on the Gila R., w. of Phoenix, Mar. 7 (DH). A pair of Wood Ducks near the confluence of the E. Verde R. and the Verde R. all period makes one wonder if nesting will be attempted here (M. Cross, D. Driscoll, R. Jackman, K. Burger, *vide* TG). The only breeding records for the state have been in the Prescott region recently. A Eur. Wigeon (without



supporting details) was reported from Willcox Mar. 9 (D. & N. Pearson). Arizona has been averaging one to two individuals per year recently for this species. The Oldsquaw that wintered in Prescott was last seen Apr. 4 (CT, †BT). New for the Grand Canyon was a flock of Barrow's Goldeneyes (one male, six females) below Lees Ferry Apr. 8 (CT). Barrow's Goldeneye winters regularly in small numbers on the L.C.R. between Parker and Davis dams.

New areas of occurrence for Black-shouldered Kite this season included San Carlos Res., Apr. 18 (R. Spahn), along the C.A.P. aqueduct near the Picacho Mts., Apr. 30 (H. Messing), and at Picacho Res., May 5 (GM). Of the total of 21 occupied territories of Bald Eagle in the state, 9 of the nests contained a total of 16 eaglets. Two "new" nests were discovered in March: one at Alamo L. on the Bill Williams R. and another near the confluence of the Salt and Verde rivers (*vide* R. Glinski, TG). A late ♀ N. Harrier was seen near McNeal May 30 (AM). A Harris' Hawk on Aravaipa Rd., e. of Hwy 77, May 17 added to the growing number of records for the Lower S.P.R. drainage (B. Hardy). A pair of Gray Hawks was back at San Bernardino Ranch for the 2nd year in a row Apr. 25+ (AM *et al.*). A total of 9 occupied Gray Hawk nesting territories was found on the Upper S.P.R. between St. David and the Mexican border (*vide* DK). A Crested Caracara, possibly the same bird reported earlier, was found near Elfrida Apr. 12 (AM, DD, TD, J. Zbyrowski). Impressive was a count of 289 Am. Kestrels Apr. 5 during a Sulphur Springs Valley hawkwatch (AM, DD, TD); this was about 10 times the normal count there.

RAILS THROUGH NIGHTJARS — Unusual was a Com. Moorhen far n.e. of the usual Arizona range at Ganado L., May 25 (DK, TC). There are only a handful of records of this species for n. Arizona. Two Black-bellied Plovers were reported this spring, one at the Gilbert Sewage Ponds Apr. 5 (SG) and another at Willcox May 20–21 (S. Levy *et al.*). Larger than normal concentrations of Willets this spring included 30 along the C.A.P. aqueduct near the Picacho Mts., Apr. 28 (TG, S. Barrett) and 65 near McNeal May 14 (AM). A large flock of 100 Long-billed Curlews was found near Elfrida May 5 (AM, DD, TD). The only Marbled Godwit reported for the period was at Willcox May 14–15 (AM, SR). A flock of seven Red Knots (without supporting details) was found at Willow L., Prescott, May 13, establishing the first spring record for the state and the first record for Yavapai County (CT). An ad. Semipalmated Sandpiper, very rare in the state in spring, was found near Avondale May 7 (†DS), P. Burch). Much rarer was the ad. **White-rumped Sand-**

PIPER found at Many Farms L., May 24 (ph †DK, †TC, ph †CB, B Johnson) The only other good record for the state was of one photographed at Willcox June 4, 1977. Two Wilson's Phalaropes were found on the early dates of Mar. 9-11 in Tucson (H. Messing, S. Harper, *vide* TG). Red-necked Phalaropes were reported only at Willcox, with one May 15 (AM, SR), three May 22 (KK, LHK), and two June 1 (TC, DK). An ad. Heermann's Gull, extremely rare in spring, was at Prescott Mar. 20 (†BT, †V. Miller, H. & A. Gaither). This provided Yavapai County with its first record. An ad. California Gull at the Grand Canyon Village sewage ponds Mar. 17 furnished only the 4th record for the park (JC, H. Reiser). Since Herring Gull is rare anywhere in the state away from the L.C.R., one at Willow L. in Prescott May 27 was noteworthy (BT). Also at Prescott were "several" Caspian Terns from Apr. 11+ (BT, CT), and two Com. Terns, rare spring transients there, May 19 (BT).

An Inca Dove in Ajo Apr. 15 quite possibly provided the first record for that area (GM). Northern Saw-whet Owls were again found in the Chiricahua Mts. this spring, as last year. One bird was found at the Southwestern Research Station near Portal Mar. 13-14 (S. Stolson *et al.*), and others were discovered in Pinery Canyon and along Barfoot Park Rd. again in late March (RB, BDU). The individuals at the latter 2 localities remained through the period. Buff-collared Nightjars returned to their usual spots in Florida Wash and at Aravaipa Canyon this spring, with up to five individuals present in May at the former. Another nightjar was heard in Catalina S.P., May 17 (GM, D. Fischer), and still another was heard in a canyon on the e. side of the Chiricahua Mts., May 27 (D.S. Lee).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Broad-billed Hummingbird at Portal May 13 was unusual there (SSp). A Violet-crowned Hummingbird at Patagonia Apr. 5 was extremely early (DH, JS). Individual Violet-crowns were also found from the more usual time of mid-May on, at Madera, Ramsey, and Guadalupe canyons, and Sonoita Cr. (v.o.). A **Plain-capped Starthroat** was reported from the S. Fork of Cave Cr. Canyon in the Chiricahuas on the early date of May 20, providing the first spring report in the state (RS *et al.*). Possibly as many as three ♂ Lucifer Hummingbirds were present in Portal this spring, Apr. 4-19 and again May 7-8 (W & SSp). A ♀ Lucifer was found near Paradise, Chiricahua Mts., May 11-13 (D.S. Lee), and another ♀ Lucifer was found May 29 in the Dragon Mts. (TD), a range where this species is not usually recorded. North of the usual range was a ♂ Anna's Hummingbird on territory in Oak Cr. Canyon near Sedona, early March to May 10 (m.ob.).

Four Elegant Trogons in Price Canyon and two more in Rucker Canyon in the Chiricahua Mts. were in areas where this species is not usually found (AM, RM, TD). Single Belted Kingfishers in Oak Cr. Canyon and at Page Springs May 10 were in areas with suitable breeding habitat. Both areas are very close to a 1980 breeding locality at Clear Cr. (JC). Belted Kingfisher is an extremely rare breeder in the state. The only Green Kingfisher reported this period was an ad. ♀ bird on the Upper S.P.R., n. of Hereford, May 26-27 (TC, DK). Evidence of breeding in this area is being actively sought. One of the Lewis' Woodpeckers that wintered at Molino Basin in the Santa Cataline Mts. was last seen Apr. 27 (RB). Another Lewis' was reported from Prescott Apr. 29 (CT). News of Three-toed Woodpeckers in the state is always of interest to Arizona birders, so 2 pairs s. of Jacob L., s.w. of Page, May 23 and two more on the n. rim of the Grand Canyon May 25 were noteworthy (J. Johnson, CB).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS — Northern Beardless-Tyrannulets were again reported from B.T.A. this spring, in as many as 3 different areas there Mar. 30, and nest building was observed there Apr. 27 (CT). This species nested here for the first time in the spring of 1986. Beardless-Tyrannulets were also present this spring in Portal, where rarely reported, with one bird there Apr. 12 (R. Plage, C. & A. Robbins), and two seen May 1+ (AM, RT, L. Elliot *et al.*). Greater Pewee

is rarely reported in the lowlands during migration, so one in Elfrida Apr. 30 (AM, RB, BDU) and two more on the Upper S.P.R., Apr. 29 & 30 (DK) were unexpected. An E. Phoebe near Hereford May 20 was unusual (DK). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher May 9 near Dudleyville was a nice surprise (K. Friar). Two Purple Martins were seen May 26 on the Upper S.P.R., where they are considered to be uncommon (TC). A Winter Wren in Sycamore Canyon very close to the Mexican border (there are few Mexican records) was found Mar. 14 (J & AP, JBo). The Am. Dipper first found at B.T.A. in November was last seen Mar. 16 (B. Nieman), and the individual that wintered in Ramsey Canyon was last seen Apr. 3 (DK). Unusual was a Golden-crowned Kinglet on the Colorado R. below Lees Ferry Apr. 7 (CT). There are very few records of this species in that area. Individual out-of-place Townsends' Solitaires were at Cabeza Prieta Tanks Apr. 16 (GM) and at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum May 15 (R.A. Rowlett *et al.*). A singing Wood Thrush at Patagonia May 24+ was a real surprise (RS, m.ob., sound recording DSj). This was only the 11th state and 3rd spring record. The Rufous-backed Robin at Kino Springs found in December was last seen Apr. 1 (BDU). Brown Thrasher is a rare spring vagrant to the state, so one in Prescott May 8 was exciting (S. Harris).

A singing Gray Vireo at Cabeza Prieta Pass Apr. 17 was an interesting find, but not totally unexpected since this species winters nearby in very small numbers (GM). Another very rare spring vagrant to the state, a Yellow-throated Vireo, was found at B.T.A., May 16 (†CB). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was an exceptional find at Patagonia May 18 (RS). There were only 6 previous state records, none in spring, although 2 were for mid-summer. The only Tennessee Warbler reported was one at Patagonia May 30 (BS). A N. Parula, very rare in n. Arizona, was found May 25 at Ganado Wash (†TC, †DK, CB, B. Johnson). Two Am. Redstarts, about an average number, were reported a female on the Upper S.P.R., May 22 and another at Patagonia May 30 (m.ob.). A Prothonotary Warbler, averaging about 1-2 records/year recently, was found at Patagonia May 30 (†BS). There are now about 2 dozen records for the state, about evenly split between spring and fall. The only N. Waterthrush reported for the period was the individual that wintered in Nogales, which was last seen Apr. 6 (BS). The Louisiana Waterthrush first found in February in Madera Canyon was last reported Mar. 1 (RN). Very unusual was a Red-faced Warbler at B.T.A., Apr. 28 (CT); there are very few lowland records for the state. A ♂ Olive Warbler, first discovered in lower Oak Cr. Canyon in mid-February in Upper Sonoran Zone habitat, was last seen there Mar. 25, accompanied by three ♀-plumaged birds (JC, B Whitney). For the first time in several years, no Black-and-white Warblers were reported for the period.

BUNTINGS THROUGH FINCHES — As was the case with Black-and-white Warbler, no reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeak were received for the first time in several years. Painted Bunting usually shows up in the state during late summer-early fall, so a female at Portal Apr. 19 was very unusual (W & SSp). A Black-throated Sparrow put in a rare appearance in Prescott in April (CT). Single Fox Sparrows were reported from Leslie Canyon Mar. 11 (GM, AM), at Patagonia Mar. 14 (DH *et al.*), and from Prescott Apr. 16-19 (S. Harris). A Swamp Sparrow at B.T.A., Apr. 27 provided a first local record (CT). Also at B.T.A., the White-throated Sparrow that wintered there was last seen Mar. 30 (CT). Another White-throated was singing in Bisbee Apr. 19 (DD). The Golden-crowned Sparrow that wintered at Prescott was last reported Apr. 25 (V. Miller). An ad. Harris' Sparrow found in Miami Mar. 17-Apr. 10 had probably wintered locally (J. & W. Spencer). The two imm. Harris' Sparrows present since early December on the Upper S.P.R. were observed as they gradually acquired ad. plumage before departing May 5 (ph. DK).

An out-of-place ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Pinta Sands, Cabeza Prieta N.W.R., Apr. 16 (GM). An ad. ♂ Orchard Oriole at Aravaipa Canyon May 25 was a nice surprise (RB)



Adult Harris' Sparrow on the upper San Pedro River, Ariz., May 5, 1987. Photo/Dave Krueper.

Extremely rare in the state, especially in n. Arizona, was a ♂ "Baltimore" N. Oriole May 23 at Pipe Springs N.M. (TC).

One to two Purple Finches were present at B.T.A., Mar. 1–9 (SG, CT). Six Purple Finches, rare in the Flagstaff area, were found near Walnut Canyon N.M., Mar. 25 (JC). Purple Finches were last seen in and around Prescott Apr. 14 (CT). A very late ♀ Cassin's Finch was seen in the Bradshaw Mts., s. of Prescott, May 29 (BT). Good numbers of Red Crossbills were present in both the Prescott and Flagstaff areas through the end of the period and into June (CT, JC).

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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; T or C = Truth or Consequences; UNM = University of New Mexico. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — The only loon was a Pacific near Loving May 9 (CR et al.). Two breeding-plumaged Horned Grebes were at Bosque Ref., Mar. 29 (WH), for the only definite report. Both W. and Clark's grebes were displaying at E.B.L. in late March (T. Mitchusson). Other "good" records of Clark's Grebes included four at Springer Apr. 22 (D & JH), 10± near Las Vegas Apr. 26 (PRS) and one May 15 (WH), and up to 27 at Zuni Apr. 18–May 2 (DC, TR). American White Pelicans

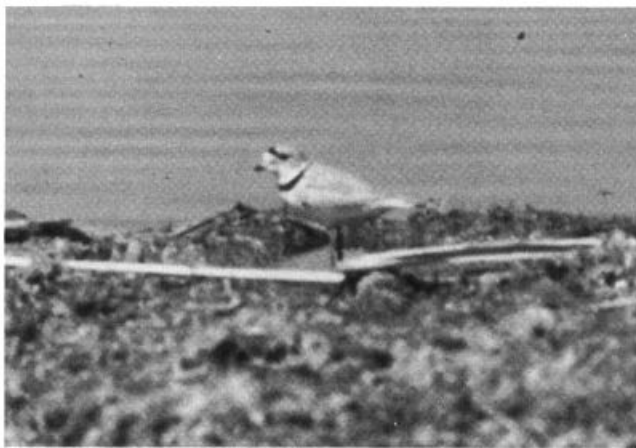
arrived in late March in the middle and lower valleys of the Rio Grande and Pecos River, with the latest at Bitter Lake N.W.R., May 2 (KW). Up to 50 were near Clayton Apr. 8–23 (WC), and 76 flew over the Sandia Mts., Apr. 23 (WH). Up to 60 Double-crested Cormorants were at Cochiti L., Mar. 22–May 15 (PI et al.), with two late ones in the Farmington area May 9 (AN). The Great Blue heronry at Glenwood was active again, with 10–12 occupied nests Apr. 9 (SW). Single Great and Snowy egrets at Holloman L., Mar. 24 (JM) were early for that locale, while a Snowy at Zuni May 23 (DC) was somewhat late. Unusual was a Tricolored Heron at Bosque Ref., Apr. 14–16, while the only Little Blue reported was an adult there Apr. 25 (RT et al.). The high count for Cattle Egrets was of 22 in the Gila Valley May 2 (RF et al.), while northerly were one Apr. 5 and up to four May 1–2 at Zuni (DC) and four at Bernalillo Apr. 10 (PS). Other reports were from the lower to middle reaches of the Rio Grande e. to the Pecos Valley, including in the Alamogordo area (v.o.). Early was a Green-backed Heron at Glenwood Mar. 19 (SW), while northerly was one at Farmington May 9 (AN et al.); a high count was of six in the Gila Valley May 2 (RF et al.). Early were 20 White-faced Ibises near Tularosa Mar. 18 (J & NH).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS — Single Snow Geese were still at Bosque Ref., May 8 (RT) and Bitter Lake N.W.R., May 8–15 (KW), but most birds had departed by late March. The same was true of Ross' Geese, but two were still at Bitter Lake Apr. 4–17 (KW). A Canada Goose nest was high on a cliff above the river in the Rio Grande Gorge (D. True). A pair of Wood Ducks was at Randal's Pool, *Dona Ana*, through the period and may have been breeding (JD, BZ); eight birds were at Farmington May 9 (AN et al.). Northerly reports of small numbers of Mexican-like Mallards were at Bosque Ref., Apr. 14 and May 5 (RT), Roswell May 8–29 (fide KW), and Mangas Springs, Grant, Mar. 7 and later (RF). A Mallard nest about 30 ft up in a tree near Alameda produced seven or eight young (J. Phillips). The high count for Redheads at Zuni was of 1000 Mar. 10 (TR), with 450 Mar. 1 (DC). The only Hooded Mergansers were two at Cochiti L., Mar. 5 (PS), where up to five Red-breasted were also present Mar. 14–Apr. 17 (WH et al.); other reports of the latter species were of two to four at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Mar. 8–27 (KW) and one at L. McMillan Mar. 12 (PS).

The Sandia Mts. raptor watch was conducted in the period Feb. 15–May 10, with 2415 individuals of 17 species observed (SH et al.). The count for total individuals was down 23% from 1986, but the birds/hour count decreased by only 10%. Two new species were added to the count list, a Black-shouldered Kite Apr. 11 and a Mississippi Kite Apr. 16. Other notable results included 569 Turkey Vultures, beginning Mar. 19; 42 Ospreys, beginning Apr. 9; 43 N. Harriers, 450 Sharp-shinned and 536 Cooper's hawks, and 15 N. Goshawks; 47 Swainson's Hawks, beginning Apr. 9; and 187 Red-tailed Hawks, 214 Golden Eagles, and 103 Am. Kestrels.

An Osprey at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Mar. 24 was early, while the latest was one there May 29 (KW); other late birds were singles on the Mescalero Reservation May 24 (JM) and at Percha Dam May 19 (PS). Ten mi s. of Animas were two Black-shouldered Kites May 19–20 and one May 29 (D. Lee). A pair of Mississippi Kites was at a nest at Roswell May 8 (RT et al.), and a bird was at Rattlesnake Springs, Eddy, May 9 (PS). Late was a ♂ N. Harrier s. of Animas May 20 (PS), while birds in late May at Bitter Lake N.W.R. (KW) and perhaps Rattlesnake Springs (CR) were likely breeders. Notable was a melanistic ad. Broad-winged Hawk at Albuquerque May 25 (SH), while a normal-phase adult was at Caballo Dam May 3 (RT). Late was a Merlin in the Sandia Mts., Apr. 30, where five were counted Apr. 8–18 (SH et al.).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS THROUGH GULLS — Northern Bobwhites were present through the period in the Roswell area, offering further proof of the establishment of the species there. Late Sandhill Cranes were six at Bitter Lake N.W.R.,



Piping Plover at Springer Lake, N.M., Apr. 22, 1987. First documented record for New Mexico. Photo/Dick Hoffman.

Mar. 25 (KW), five at Percha Dam Mar. 26 (DM), and 10 over the Sandia Mts., Apr. 21 (WH). The first Snowy Plover was noted at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Mar. 12, and young were there as early as May 28 (KW); a Snowy near Lordsburg Apr. 26 (D & JH) was w. of the usual range. A newly verified species for New Mexico is **Piping Plover**, with an individual photographed at Springer Apr. 22 (D & JH); there are 2 previous sight reports for the species for the state. Infrequently reported in *Dona Ana*, a Mountain Plover was at the Ag Sod Farm Mar. 24–Apr. 1 (ph. BZ). High counts for Willets were of 150 at Morgan L., San Juan, Apr. 29, and 60 there Apr. 30 (HHL). Late were six Spotted Sandpipers w. of Lordsburg May 23 (RF) and three at Bitter Lake N.W.R., May 29 (KW). Early was a Long-billed Curlew at Bosque Ref., Mar. 30 (CR), while the high count was of 77 near Tularosa Apr. 9 (J & NH). Westerly Marbled Godwits were three to four at Heron L., Rio Arriba, Apr. 18 (CR) and Zuni Apr. 27 (DC). Among the more unusual records were three Sanderlings at Bitter Lake N.W.R., May 15 (KW), a Pectoral Sandpiper at Zuni Apr. 25 (DC, TR) and two at Percha Dam May 1 (RT), 34 Stilt Sandpipers at Bosque Ref., May 19 (PS), and a high of 60 Least Sandpipers at Caballo L., Mar. 29 (WH). Extremely early were 10 probable Wilson's Phalaropes reported at Laguna Grande, Eddy, Mar. 12 (PS), while the only Red-neckeds were three near White Lakes, Santa Fe, May 25 (JH, JV).

Very early Franklin's Gulls were three at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Mar. 20 (KW) and one at Cochiti L., Mar. 22 (PI et al.). The **Little Gull** previously reported at L. McMillan was possibly there Mar. 12 (PS), but this record is indefinite. Late Bonaparte's Gulls were one near Roswell May 2 & 7 (KW) and three at Morgan L., May 6 (HHL). The only California Gull was a sub-adult at Maxwell N.W.R., May 15 (WH). Very rare in spring, two Sabine's Gulls were at Zuni Apr. 13 (DC). Least Terns arrived at Bitter Lake N.W.R., May 8–13, and eight and a nest were located May 28 (KW).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Maximum counts for the period for more-or-less resident populations of White-winged Dove included 20+ at Socorro (JS), 51+ in the T or C/Percha Dam area (DM et al.), and at least four in Tularosa-Alamogordo (RJ et al.). Earlier-than-usual arrivals in summer-resident populations included Mar. 28 at Mangas Springs (RF) and Mar. 16 in Post Office Canyon, Hidalgo—where up to 60 were present by mid-April (RS). In Lincoln, vagrants were at High Rolls Apr. 21 (J. Talley) and at Mt. Park (J. & J. Cadwalader). A vagrant Inca Dove was in Albuquerque Apr. 1–May 2 (PS, RT), while local maxima included five at Socorro (JS) and two at Alamogordo (RJ et al.). A pair of feral Blue-crowned Conures (*Aratinga acuticauda*) with an imm. raised in the wild in 1986 were still in the North Valley area of Albuquerque in the period (E. Fontaine-Prentice).

An undetailed Groove-billed Ani was reported at Randal's Pool May 22 (D. Taylor, fide BZ). A Com. Barn-Owl was at Espanola Mar. 31 (M. Cromer), while early were four Burrowing Owls near Tularosa Mar. 18 (RJ et al.). Two ad. Spotted Owls were in the submontane Blackrock Arroyo on the Zuni Reservation May 28 (JT). A new addition to the avifauna of New Mexico is **Boreal Owl**, of which two to three were present s. of Cumbres Pass, Rio Arriba, Apr. 15–16 & 19 (J. Rawinski, D. Stahlecker; ph., tape-recordings). An undetailed nighthawk at Clayton Apr. 7 was reported as a Common (WC), but the early date suggests a vagrant Lesser instead.

Several Chimney Swifts were in the Roswell area in May (J. Montgomery, fide KW), for the only reports. Early White-throated Swifts included one at Glenwood Mar. 2 (SW) and six at Bandelier Nat'l Mon., Mar. 7 (CR). Two Magnificent Hummingbirds were at Cloudcroft May 21 (N. Dobbins). Lucifer Hummingbirds returned as has become usual to Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mts., with the first male Mar. 31 and the first female Apr. 4; up to 10 birds were present there by the end of the period, with at least three females likely nesting (RS). Late Belted Kingfishers were singles May 23 at Zuni (DC) and near Mesilla (BZ).

The last Lewis' Woodpecker observation for the Silver City area was May 3 (fide RF); on the same date, a seeming migrant was flying N over Santa Fe (JH). A vagrant Gila Woodpecker was at Pleasanton Mar. 5 (SW). A Downy Woodpecker at Ruidoso Apr. 6 (R & VM) was in an area where the species is rarely reported. The only Yellow-shafted (N.) Flicker reported was one at Bosque Ref., Mar. 3 (RT).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH NUTHATCHES — A probable N. Beardless-Tyrannulet near Redrock, Grant, Apr. 25 (D & JH) was well n. of the usual range. Two Gray Flycatchers were singing e. of White Lakes May 25 (JH). The Black Phoebe has consolidated its range at Zuni, where 8 pairs were counted May 28–29 (JT). One Black Phoebe and one E. Phoebe were near Sena, San Miguel, May 25 (JH, JV), for the only report of either species in the Upper Pecos Valley. Now rare in *Dona Ana*, a single Vermilion Flycatcher was at Durling's Farm Mar. 24 (JD, BZ). Single E. Kingbirds at Encino Apr. 30 (CR) and Bitter Lake N.W.R., May 22 (fide KW) were in areas where the species is rarely reported. Two-plus Purple Martins at a ponderosa pine snag e. of White Lakes May 25 (JH) were in a new area for the species. Fifty-plus Bank Swallows at Zuni May 1 (DC) made a high count for the area, as did 18–20 Barn Swallow nests (all active?) near San Simon Cienega, Hidalgo, May 23 (RF).

The Blue Jay at Silver City was last seen there May 12 (fide RF); several wintered at Raton, and eight were still there Apr. 21 (R. Yaksich). Outside the usual habitat were single Scrub Jays near the UNM campus Apr. 14 (WH) and at Holloman L., Apr. 2 (JM). South of the usual range was a Black-billed Magpie at Rio Rancho Mar. 5 (RR), as was another at I-25 and Galisteo Wash May 3 (SW). An Am. Crow nest on the Zuni Reservation May 28 (JT) was one of the few known for that area. Five birds were in the Farmington area May 9 (AN et al.). A single Bushtit was near the UNM campus Apr. 29 (WH), and nests were found near Los Alamos May 27 (B. Lewis) and in Santa Fe May 2 (JH, JV). Most unusual, a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches was excavating an apparent nest cavity in a pinyon Apr. 2 at Sheridan Corral, Catron (SW); this location is in evergreen woodland and chaparral on the s. flank of the Mogollon Mts.

WRENS THROUGH VIREOS — A vagrant Cactus Wren was at Pleasanton Mar. 1–20 (M. Renfro, SW). Early House Wrens that may have wintered were singles at Percha Dam Mar. 5 (DM), near Three Rivers Mar. 21 (RJ et al.), Marble Canyon, Otero, Mar. 22 (JM), and Rattlesnake Springs Mar. 31 (CR). The only Winter Wren report was of two birds at Bandelier Nat'l Mon., Mar. 7 (CR). A submontane record of Am. Dipper was of a single bird at Los Ojos, Rio Arriba, Apr. 18 (CR). A lowland record of Golden-crowned Kinglet was of three

birds at Holloman L., Mar. 8 (RJ *et al.*), other records included two to three birds at Zuni Apr. 12 & 16 (DC) and four to six at Sheridan Corral Mar. 13–Apr. 2 (SW). Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Rattlesnake Springs Mar. 31 (CR) may have been wintering birds.

The only w. report of E. Bluebird was of three birds s. of Los Lunas Mar. 22 (WH). Easterly W. Bluebirds included one at Roswell May 2—late—(KW) and 10 at Hobbs Mar. 24 (PS). Also easterly were four Mountain Bluebirds at Bitter Lake Mar. 26–28 (KW) and one or more on the Black R., Eddy (*fide* MF). Late lowland/southern Townsend's Solitaires included singles in s. Dona Ana May 6 (JD, BZ), Roswell May 12 (PRS), Albuquerque May 24 (SH), and Peloncillo Mts., May 27 (V. Pinto). American Robins were present in the hundreds in the period in the T or C Percha Dam area (DM), and a "wave" was noted at Clayton Mar. 12 (WC).

Unusual was a Gray Catbird at Redrock May 21 (PS), and also westerly was a Brown Thrasher at Santa Fe May 3–5 (JH). Bendire's Thrashers in areas where infrequently reported were three each at Laguna Pueblo Apr. 18 (WH) and near Cotton City May 29 (PS). A Curve-billed Thrasher persisted at Santa Fe until Mar. 12 (S. Boles), and there were nestlings at Pleasanton May 2 (SW). Cedar Waxwings were fairly widespread and numerous w. of the Pecos Valley, with birds persisting into late May even in s. areas (v.o.). Peripheral records of Phainopeplas were one in the Magdalena Mts., Mar. 18 (JS), three near Alamogordo May 17 & 22 (GF), and one or more at Rattlesnake Springs May 18 (*fide* MF). The only Gray Vireo report was of two at Zuni May 26 (JT). A greenish Solitary Vireo at Donaldson's Farm, s. Dona Ana, Mar. 28 (JD, BZ) may have been a wintering bird.

WARBLERS THROUGH EMBERIZINE FINCHES —

Most unusual was a fairly well-detailed **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Bosque Refuge Apr. 14 (C. Brozek). Other reports of rarer warblers included (undetailed records are asterisked): one to two Tennessees at *Albuquerque May 24 (SH), Redrock May 1 (CR), and *Rattlesnake Springs May 9 (*fide* MF); a singing *N Parula at Tesuque (W. West); single *Chestnut-sided Warblers near Ft. Union, Mora, May 11–15 (RB) and Rio Rancho May 18 (RR); and *Ovenbird at Rattlesnake Springs Apr. 19 (*fide* MF). Notable were easterly occurrences of single Painted Redstarts at Aguirre Springs, Organ Mts. Mar. 29 (JM) and Alamo Canyon near Alamogordo Mar. 14 (RJ *et al.*).

A new locality for Hepatic Tanager was e. of White Lakes, where two birds were present May 25 (JH). A Summer Tanager was reported May 14 at Clayton (WC), where there are only 2 confirmed records of the species.

A probable nesting pair of N. Cardinals was present in April and May at Randal's Pool (BZ *et al.*), an area in which this species is very local and rare. Peripheral records of Pyrrhuloxias were of one at Roswell (KW) and two in the Gila Valley (RF *et al.*)—both May 2. At least six ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported, these statewide in the period Apr. 28–May 26 (v.o.). Noteworthy were five Indigo Buntings at Maxwell N.W.R., May 15 (WH) and six Painted Buntings at L. McMillan May 10 (PS *et al.*). Unusual in spring, a ♂ Dickcissel was at Durling's Farm May 6 (JD, BZ). Three Brown Towhees were at L. McMillan May 10 (CR *et al.*), an easterly point of occurrence for the species. A singing Cassin's Sparrow near Hawikuh on the Zuni Reservation May 29 (JT) was definitely outside the normal range. Also worth noting were seven singing near Sabinoso, San Miguel, May 30 (PI, CR) and eight n.e. of Las Cruces May 23 (CR). Sixteen Brewer's Sparrows were at Maxwell N.W.R., May 15, along with 25+ mostly singing Vesper Sparrows (WH). The first Black-chinned Sparrow singing at Pleasanton was Mar. 26 (SW), and in the Sandia Mts., Apr. 15 (WH). An early Sage Sparrow was at Zuni Mar. 1 (DC). A westerly Lark Bunting was at Zuni Apr. 26 (DC), and two were in the Farmington area May 9 (AN *et al.*). Three singing Grasshopper Sparrows were at Maxwell N.W.R., May 15 (WH), and the first was noted at Clayton May 14 (WC). The only Fox

Sparrow was a bird of a grayish race at Pleasanton Mar. 24 (SW). Late were single Song Sparrows at Percha Dam May 2 (PI, CR) and Bitter Lake N.W.R., Apr. 25–May 1 (KW). An ad Golden-crowned Sparrow was near Alamogordo Apr. 23 & 26 (GF) for the only report. At least five Harris' Sparrows were reported in the San Juan, Rio Grande, and Gila valleys (v.o.), with the latest at Socorro May 8 (PB).

ICTERIDS THROUGH CARDUELINE FINCHES —

Rare in spring, a ♂ Bobolink was near Tularosa May 26 (J. Hutto). A survey of grasslands near Zuni yielded 18 singing E. Meadowlarks—versus 118 Westerns—May 27 (JT). Seven Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Holloman L., May 21 (JM) were somewhat late. A colony of Great-tailed Grackles formed at San Rafael, Cibola, with the maximum count of 53 Apr. 13 (DC). Twelve were at Zuni Mar. 1, dwindling to a maximum of five Apr. 20–May 31 (DC). The first at Española were three Mar. 15, and near Santa Fe, one Mar. 22 (PI *et al.*); the high count in the Gila Valley was of 38 May 2 (RF *et al.*). Earliest Com. Grackle reports included Clayton Mar. 22 (WC), Albuquerque Apr. 8 (WH), and Santa Fe Apr. 18 (JH). Westerly were four in the Farmington area May 9 (AN *et al.*), while local firsts were four at Velarde May 14 (LH) and three at Encino Apr. 30 (CR). Peripheral Bronzed Cowbirds were single pairs at T or C May 30 (DM), Silver City on unspecified dates (M. O'Byrne), and Rattlesnake Springs May 24 (CR). Peripheral orioles included a Hooded at Rattlesnake Springs May 18 (*fide* MF) and single Scott's at Farmington May 9 (AN) and near Trujillo, San Miguel, May 30.

Small numbers of Cassin's Finches were present to early or mid April in the Los Alamos, Santa Fe, Zuni, and Sandia Mts. areas (v.o.); other reports included singles at Tularosa Mar. 29 (J & NH) and Ruidoso Apr. 5 (R & VM). Small numbers of Red Crossbills were also reported, included near Ft. Union May 11–15 (RB), Santa Fe May 30–31 (JH, L. Herrmann), Sandia Mts., May 17 (RR), and Sacramento Mts., Mar. 15 and May 2–3 (RJ *et al.*). Lowland Pine Siskins included generally small numbers in the San Juan, Rio Grande, and Pecos valley areas into May (v.o.). American Goldfinches were fairly widespread in the state into May, but the numbers were generally small (v.o.). Evening Grosbeaks were rather widespread and moderately numerous in montane areas into May, including in the Jemez, s. Sangre de Cristo, Sandia, Pinos Altos, and Sacramento mts. and the Sierra Blanca area (v.o.). Submontane occurrences included 90 at Farmington May 9 (AN *et al.*), 36 or more at Santa Fe throughout the period (JH *et al.*), two-plus at Zuni Mar. 1–Apr. 5 (DC), eight at Rio Rancho Apr. 29 (RR), and one at Albuquerque May 2 (RT).

OBSERVERS — Pat Basham, Richard Beidelman, David Cleary, Wes Cook, Jeff Donaldson, Ralph Fisher, Jr., Grace Flinn, Mark Flippo, Lois Herrmann, Dick & Jean Hoffman, Stephen Hoffman, William Howe, John Hubbard, Joe & Nancy Hutto, Patricia Insley, Robert Jenness, H.H. Lesperance, John McNelly, Robert & Virginia Messick, Doris Miller, Alan Nelson, Ross Rasmussen, Terence Rhoades, Chris Rustay, Robert Scholes, John Shipman, Patricia R. Snider, Paul Steel, Ross Teuber, John Trochet, James Vaught, Kathy Wood, Sartor Williams III, Barry Zimmer.—**JOHN P. HUBBARD, 2016 Valle Rio, Santa Fe, NM 87501.**



D. D. Gibson, T. G. Tobish, Jr., and M. E. Isleib

On the Alaska mainland south of the Brooks Range, spring 1987 was generally warm with below-average precipitation. Indeed, in Central Alaska the entire season was described by the National Weather Service as a drought. Elsewhere, there was variety on and near the Pacific coast, in Southwestern, Southcoastal, and Southeastern Alaska. High temperatures in April and early May at Anchorage, for example, were regularly 5–10 degrees above the norm, but, in contrast, temperatures in the western Aleutian Islands were at or below normal. Most widespread species were seen on schedule and in unremarkable numbers. Because of severe constraints of space, the following brief look at spring 1987 includes only some highlights of the season in the 586,000 square miles that constitute this Region.

HERONS TO RAPTORS — One Am. Bittern at Ketili Cr., Stikine R., May 23 (MEI) provided one of the earliest records of this scarce, local s.e. Alaska "specialty." A Great Egret observed in the vicinity of Cape Chiniak, Kodiak I., May 19+ (JH; †ph. RAM, ph. DWM, JBA) provided Alaska's 3rd and westernmost record of the species. Eight Black-crowned Night-Herons discovered at the Mendenhall wetlands, Juneau, May 17 (MEI) roosted there through the close of the period (m.ob.). All 5 prior Alaska records—of single birds in the Aleutians or the Pribilofs—were probably of birds from the e. Palearctic; the Juneau birds, on the other hand, are only likely to be examples of Nearctic *N. n. hoactli*. There is yet no Alaska specimen.

A Graylag Goose (*Anser anser*) observed in a fly-by at Attu I., June 4 (†NSP et al.) added a species to the Alaska Unsubstantiated List. The necessarily brief written details point to *A. a. rubrirostris*, the e. subspecies, apparently a rare winter visitant in s. and c. Japan. Two "waves" of waterfowl migrants were noted at Kodiak Apr. 29 and May 6 (RAM); the first of these produced high counts of 107 Greater White-fronted Geese, 250 Green-winged Teal, and 450 N. Shovelers at Womens Bay alone (JBA). A pair of Falcated Teal at Attu May 20 (DDG) furnished what was, except for an April 1917 record in the Pribilof Is., the earliest spring record in the State. Garganeys were recorded at Attu (up to five) and at Shemya (up to three, DWS) in the 2nd one-half of May. In SE a pair of Cinnamon Teal was present from the end of April on the Mendenhall wetlands, Juneau (DEM, MWS, RHA, RJG); a male was seen at Sergief I., Stikine R. mouth, May 22–26 (MEI, PW); and five (four males and a female) present at Barnes L., Stikine R., May 23–25 (MEI, PW) provided a high count for Alaska.

Common Pochards were observed only at Shemya (up to two, May 20–26, DWS) and at St. Paul (2 pairs, May 13–19, ILJ). Smews were reported from a number of localities: a pair at Attu May 20–21; up to four birds at Shemya May 20–22 (DWS); one female at Adak April 25–May 18 (TRE, GTM, CFZ et al.); and an ad. male at St. Paul May 30–June 1 (STZ, ILJ, RAS). A pair of Ruddy Ducks discovered at Northway May 23 (BAC) was present on the same pond for the ensuing month (m.ob.), but apparently did not breed. The species is a casual visitant in Alaska.

An Osprey reported at Gambell June 3 (LP et al.) may have been a first for St. Lawrence I. An imm. Bald Eagle photographed at close range in flight at Shemya I., May 3 (ph. DE, via DWS) furnished the first recent record of the species in the westernmost Aleutians. Up to 2 nesting pairs at Buldir Island (Byrd and Day 1986, *Arctic* 39:114), 105 km e. of Shemya, make up the w. fringe of this species' present breeding range. An ad. White-tailed Eagle in the vicinity of the Temnac River aerie



in early June was the only one seen at Attu this spring. (See Tobish and Balch 1987, *Condor* 89:433–434.)

SHOREBIRDS TO SWIFTS — Common Greenshanks were reported on schedule from Attu (up to five, earliest May 18) and Shemya (one, May 21 & 23, DWS), where annual. East (and n.e.) of the westernmost Aleutians, the species is casual. One greenshank was seen at Adak I. (May 22–23, †DKN et al.), where it provided a first for the c. Aleutians; four were present at St. Paul I., Pribilofs (May 29–June 4; ILJ, STZ); and two were observed at Gambell, St. Lawrence I. (one May 22–27, †JW et al.; another June 1, MDC, †LP et al.). Because it is our most numerous and most widespread Palearctic shorebird, Wood Sandpiper is often used as a yardstick to measure the Old World shorebird migration in the Bering Sea. Peak of a good passage this season was at the end of the 3rd week of May, when maxima were recorded at Attu (88 birds May 20), Shemya (55 May 21, DWS), and St. Paul (15 May 22, ILJ, STZ, GVB). The species was recorded as far n. as Gambell (one bird, June 5–6, JLD et al.) and Wales (one, May 27, PJB, RE). Single Far E. Curlews put in appearances at Shemya (May 21–24, ph. DWS) and Attu (May 27), and one Black-tailed Godwit was seen at Attu (May 30). One Marbled Godwit at Womens Bay May 2–3 (JBA, RAM, DWS) furnished the only report from Kodiak; one at Sergief I., Stikine R. mouth, May 22 (MEI, PW) provided a first local record of the species.

Three Great Knots at Gambell were certainly newsworthy. One bird was seen May 28 (†MDC et al.), a 2nd individual was studied June 1–3 (m.ob., incl. †JLD, †LP), and the 2nd bird was joined by a 3rd June 3 (†LP, †JLD, ph. EG, et al.). (Another reported at Kongkok Basin, St. Lawrence I., in late May [USFWS] was not described.) Rufous-necked Stints were widely reported in small numbers, with earliest birds at Attu May 19, Shemya May 21 (DWS), Adak May 23 (FGD, TRE, DKN), St. Lawrence May 28 (JW), and St. Paul May 31 (RAS, ILJ). Little Stint was recorded only at Shemya, where one bird was seen May 22 (ph. DWS). (The writers cannot evaluate

sightings of Temminck's or Long-toed stints unless such reports include, at minimum, written descriptions.) Providing only the 3rd record anywhere in s.w. Alaska (all of them from the Pribilofs), a single full-plumaged Stilt Sandpiper was studied closely June 11–13 at St. Paul (ILJ, GVB, †JLD *et al.*). For one of few spring records in the Aleutians, a Long-billed Dowitcher was observed at Attu May 28 (GBR *et al.*). A pair of Wilson's Phalaropes at a beaver pond on Ketili Cr., Stikine R., May 23 (MEI) furnished one of few spring records in s.e. Alaska and the only report in the Region this season.

Single Band-tailed Pigeons at Mitkof I., May 3, 10, & 16 (PW), were the earliest of the year. A ♂ **Oriental Cuckoo** observed at length and heard calling at Attu June 4 (GBR *et al.*; *) provided Alaska's first record since 1946 and 6th overall. Eighteen Black Swifts May 26, accompanying 100+ Vaux's Swifts and 400 swallows over the Stikine R. delta tidelands, set a new Alaska arrival record by one day (MEI, PW). A cooperative **Fork-tailed Swift** seen by many June 3–4 at Attu (EH *et al.*) became the 8th Regional record; occurrences of this bird span the period May 24–Sept. 27.

MUSCICAPIDAE — An unparalleled passage of **Red-breasted Flycatchers** in the w. Aleutians included at least 14 individuals at Attu June 4. The to-be-expected Gray-spotted Flycatcher was represented by only two birds there, however, singles May 28 and June 5.

Siberian Rubythroat arrived in Alaska record-early in 1987, a male at Attu May 19 (TGT). Singing males, and a few females, were present at Attu at intervals thereafter; maximum count was of seven June 5. At St. Paul, where there had been only 2 prior records of the species (see AB 40:513), a ♂ rubythroat was present June 9–12 (RAS *et al.*), a female was seen June 10–12 (ILJ, GVB, DED), and another male was seen June 13 (ILJ). A (the?) major passage of Bluethroats in the Bering Strait area took place at the very end of May–early June: five at Gambell May 29–30 (JS *et al.*, *fide* JLD), one female there June 3 (JLD *et al.*), and a singing male June 5 (JW *et al.*, *fide* JLD); two at Cape Prince of Wales May 29, 10+ May 30, 12+ May 31, and two June 1 (all PJB, RE). Unprecedented in spring were Bluethroats in the Aleutians; at least four singing males arrived at Attu June 4 (TGT), and one was still present June 6 (DDG). There had been only one previous record anywhere in Alaska s. of St. Lawrence I. [one, September 1984, Attu, GFW]. A ♀ **Red-flanked Bluetail** observed near Halfway Point, St. Paul I., June 10 (ILJ, DED, GVB*) provided the 2nd Alaska record and first specimen.

Having gone just as far N and W as possible without departing the mainland, a ♂ Mountain Bluebird was observed at the tip of Point Barrow May 31 (LTQ, *fide* RHD). There are a few other records from Alaska's arctic coast, including 2 prior records at Pt. Barrow. A Hermit Thrush May 27 (†JW), a ♂ Am. Robin May 28–June 5 (MDC *et al.*, †JLD), and a ♀ Varied Thrush June 4 (JW) at Gambell were all casual visitants on St. Lawrence Island. Eye-browed Thrush occurred in the w. Aleutians on time (May 22–June 5) in small numbers; at least one male at St. Paul May 31–June 3 (ILJ, STZ, RAS) was e. of the normal Alaska range of the species. Single Dusky Thrushes were recorded at Attu May 24 and at Gambell May 30 (MDC *et al.*, †JW, †LP).

EMBERIZIDS THROUGH FINCHES — Well-described by the lone observer, a first-spring ♂ **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** seen near Petersburg June 15 (†PW) furnished the 2nd Alaska record, both of them within the past year (see AB 41:131). A ♂ Western Tanager seen at Homer June 8 & 10 (LPo, photos examined GCW) was new to s.c. Alaska and provided only the 4th record anywhere w. of s.e. Alaska. A Lincoln's Sparrow described at Gambell May 27–29 (MDC *et al.*, †JW) was new to St. Lawrence Island and furnished only the 2nd record w. of the Alaska mainland. Other mainland-Alaska species that were newsworthy at Gambell included a ♀ Yellow-rumped "Myrtle" Warbler June 3–4 (m.ob., †JLD) and single Am. Tree Sparrows

June 4 (SIT, *fide* JLD) & 6 (GR, *fide* JLD). Regularly noted as spring visitants beyond their breeding ranges, Dark-eyed "Slate-colored" Juncos were recorded at Pt. Barrow (one, May 30–June 2, LTQ, *fide* RHD), at Cape Prince of Wales (one, June 1, PJB, RE), and at Gambell (one, June 2, JW, LP, VL), and White-crowned Sparrows at Pt. Barrow (one, May 28–June 2, LTQ, *fide* RHD) and at Gambell (one, May 20, †JW). Five Rustic Buntings at Attu May 21 was the maximum this season. Furnishing Alaska's 4th record of the species, a wary ♀ **Common Reed-Bunting** at Attu May 22–24 was a difficult bird to observe as it attempted to feed and take shelter amid territorial Song Sparrows (TGT *et al.*).

Bramblings occurred on schedule and in the usual small numbers in the w. Aleutians (up to eight birds/day, Attu; flock of 12, Shemya, DWS). East of the species' annual range in the Region, Bramblings were also recorded at Adak (a female at a feeder May 25, CGE, TRE, ALS; a male at Andrew L., June 3, Edgerton & DKN), St. Paul (pair May 30, RAS; up to two females June 11–13, ILJ, GVB, RAS) and St. Lawrence (one male at Gambell June 3, JM *et al.*). After being absent all winter and most of the spring, White-winged Crossbills returned in numbers to Central and Southcoastal Alaska in late May (m.ob.), apparently in response to a bumper crop of white spruce cones. Common Rosefinches at Attu in early June were the first ones recorded in Alaska in several years: two males June 4–6, plus a female June 5. A small flock of Purple Finches at Ketchikan (see Winter) comprised two males and four females from March to mid-April, when last seen (REW). There are still few Alaska records of this species, all since 1982. Hawfinches were seen at Attu for the 3rd year in a row, May 22–June 6, maximum two May 23.

CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS — Unattributed Attu Island observations are by ATTOUR (T.G. Tobish Jr., D.D. Gibson, N.S. Proctor, T.L. Savaloja, G.B. Rosenband, R.L. Scher *et al.*)—J.B. Allen, R.H. Armstrong, P.J. Baicich, G.V. Byrd, M.D. Carmody, B.A. Cooper, R.H. Day, F.G. Deines, D.E. Dragoo, J.L. Dunn, R. Eastman, C.G. Edgerton, T.R. Edgerton, D. Erbey, R.J. Gordon, E. Greaves, E. Hagen, J. Harris, I.L. Jones, V. Langhans, R.A. MacIntosh, J. Mariani, G.T. McClellan, D.E. McKnight, D.W. Menke, D.K. Niven, L. Paul, L. Post (LPo), L.T. Quakenbush, G.B. Rosenband, G. Rosenburg, M.W. Schwan, J. Skirletz, A.L. Snyder, D.W. Sonneborn, R.A. Sundstrom, S.I. Tingley, G.F. Wagner, P. Walsh, J. Wells, G.C. West, R.E. Wood, C.F. Zeillemaker, S.T. Zimmerman † details, ph. photograph(s), * specimen referenced here are all on deposit at University of Alaska Museum.—D.D. GIBSON, University of Alaska Museum, 907 Yukon Drive, Fairbanks, AK 99775; T.G. TOBISH JR., P.O. Box 90662, Anchorage, AK 99509; and M.E. ISLEIB, 9229 Emily Way, Juneau, AK 99801.



NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Philip W. Mattocks, Jr. and Bill Harrington-Tweit

It was an early, warm spring in the Pacific Northwest. The temperature at the Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver weather stations averaged several degrees warmer than usual each month. Combined rainfall at the three stations was about normal, but it fell on fewer days, so the season felt dry as well as warm.

Adding spice to the relatively quiet and generally early migration were Magnificent Frigatebirds from the tropics, a Common Grackle from back east, and Costa's Hummingbirds, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Black-throated Sparrows from the southwest.

ABBREVIATIONS — Q.C.I. = Queen Charlotte Is., B.C.; S.J.C.R. = South jetty of the Columbia R., Ore.; V.I. = Vancouver Island, B.C. Place names in italics are counties.

LOONS THROUGH STORM-PETRELS — The early May peak in the N migration of Pacific Loons was marked this season by 2000 seen May 3 at Reifel I., Delta, B.C. (JI), "hundreds" passing Ocean Shores, Wash., May 8 (G & WH), and "very heavy movement in early May" at the S.J.C.R. (HN). Five Yellow-billed Loons were scattered from Garibaldi, Ore., to Skidegate, Q.C.I., during March and April. During May 9–17 an apparent passage of Yellow-billed was noted with singles found at the S.J.C.R. (†HN), the mouth of the Necanicum R., Clatsop, Ore. (†JG, †HN, ph. JG, J. Kemp), well offshore Westport, Wash. (BT, TW), and at Discovery Park, Seattle (†DB).

Single Clark's Grebes were reported during March at Yaquina Bay (DFa, D. Lusthoff), Mar. 11 in Charleston, Ore. (S. Summers, T. Crabtree, HN), and Mar. 28 at Westport (P. Osburn, *vide* HN) and Mar. 29–Apr. 6 in Seattle (D. Granstrand, †DB). The latter two provided only the 6th and 7th records for w. Washington.

A Laysan Albatross was seen Apr. 30–May 2 about 40 mi due w. of Florence, Ore. (SA, G. Steiger), among an estimated 500 Black-footeds there. Pelagic birding forays May 10 about 45 mi out of Westport, Wash. (TW) and 20 mi out of Hammond, Ore. (DFi, JE) noted 24 and five Black-footeds, respectively, lower than usual numbers for those areas. Counts of N. Fulmars on those trips were normal, with 129 off Westport and about 40 at the mouth of the Columbia R. Likewise for Pink-footed Shearwaters with 25 off Westport, one off Hammond, and one to six per day during Apr. 27–May 4 at 20–50 mi offshore (SA). No Flesh-footed Shearwaters were noted, and Sooty Shearwaters were abundant as usual. SA noted three Short-tailed Shearwaters Apr. 27–30 about 40 mi w. of Florence, Ore., and one May 6 about 20 mi off Leadbetter Pt., Wash. Also one or two were "well-seen" out of Hammond May 10 (DFi, T. Lund, JE). A Leach's Storm-Petrel, not often seen from shore, was observed Apr. 19 from the Ocean Shores, Wash., jetty (†B. & G. Reichert, R. Wright).

PELICANS THROUGH IBISES — Single Brown Pelicans had arrived at Bandon, Ore., by Apr. 5 (Betty Smith, *vide* LT) and at Cape Meares by Apr. 8 (DI). Several were noted May 7–10 at the S.J.C.R. and 20+ passed there May 29 heading into Washington (HN). An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird stayed Mar. 7–11 in the Charleston boat basin, Coos Bay (BF, D. Edwards, m.ob.), for one of very few Oregon records. Photos by OSC showed the white head and partial breastband, ageing it as a first-stage juvenile (Harrison 1983, *Seabirds*, p. 310+) and eliminating Great Frigatebird. An ad. ♀ Magnificent Frigatebird was reported Mar. 4 s. of Yachats, in Lane, Ore. (Martha Sawyer et al.), and Mar. 5 from 2 nearby locations in coastal Lincoln (*vide* ME). This could have been the bird reported to Mar. 19 at Cannon Beach, Clatsop (*vide* DFa).

Following record numbers of Great Egrets in Washington



this winter, there were more than usual spring reports also. Multiple sightings of one to two Great Egrets were obtained during May at about 7 locations in the Vancouver, B.C., area (JI, †WW, m.ob.). A Great Egret seen Apr. 29–May 3 at Cowichan estuary furnished the 9th record for V.I. (*vide* DFr, ph. E. Lofroth). Five roosted in the large Great Blue Heron rookery on Samish I., Skagit, Wash., throughout May, but no further indication of nesting was obtained (Lisa Nielsen). Single Snowy Egrets remained at Yaquina Bay, Ore., until May 8 (R. Olsen,



Immature Magnificent Frigatebird at the Charleston Boat Basin, Coos Co., Ore., Mar. 9, 1987. Photo/Owen Schmidt.

fide DfA), appeared briefly at Ocean Shores, May 6–7 for the 6th record for w. Washington (M. McCallum, ph.), and visited Saanich May 14–27 for the 3rd record for V.I. (G. Calvert, J. Tatum, m.ob., ph. DFr). One to two Cattle Egrets along the Coquille R., s. Oregon, Mar. 11–13 (M. Archie, JE, D. Anderson) were unusual for spring.

Two to six Black-crowned Night-Herons at Somenos L., near Duncan, May 6–31 (AM, RS, B. Diakow, m.ob.) provided only the 3rd record for V.I., and the first involving more than one bird. The White-faced Ibis that wintered at Port Hardy, V.I., was last observed Mar. 16 (D. Solecki, C. Aitchison) and had begun molting into recognizable breeding plumage. An amazing flock of 29 White-faced Ibises flew S along North Spit at Coos Bay, Ore., May 11 (LT, BG). A White-faced Ibis seen May 28 at Steigerwald L., near Vancouver, Wash. (MH, Bob Bicknell), furnished the 5th record for w. Washington.

WATERFOWL — At least 5000 Greater White-fronted Geese passed N over Toketee R.D. on the slopes of the Cascades e. of Roseburg, Ore., between Apr. 27–May 3 (DFi). This must be a major flight route for the species. A flock of 75 at the S J C R., Apr. 22 (HN) provided the only other report of more than 30 individuals. Based on near-daily censuses, the departure of Snow Geese from Reifel I., Delta, B.C., was more or less gradual through mid-April, with 2000 remaining Apr. 25 (JJ). The next day only 200 were present and the last sighting of any was May 1. A Ross' Goose that wintered on Finley N.W.R., Ore., was last seen Mar. 4 (R. Aarons *et al.*, *fide* TM & ME). An Emperor Goose that wintered near Salem stayed until Mar. 3 (J. Anderson, BB). The Emperor Goose in Seattle was last seen Mar. 16, but by then had become tame enough to eat bread from the hand and many observers doubted its wild origin. High counts of Brant from n.w. coastal Oregon, coastal Washington, and the Vancouver, B.C., area all were Apr. 22–25. A yellow neck-collared "Cackling" Canada Goose was sighted Apr. 20 in the San Joaquin Valley of California (*fide* MH) and Apr. 27 at Kent, Wash. (DB).

Eight Eur. Green-winged Teal reports, a normal number, were spread throughout the Region. A very early ♂ Blue-winged Teal was sighted Feb. 28 on Green L., Seattle (TH, JP), followed by early pairs Mar. 31 near Newport, Ore. (D. Snow, *fide* DfA) and Apr. 5 near Carnation, e. of Seattle (Bob Pepper). Widespread arrival was in late April-early May, slightly earlier than usual. Cinnamon Teal appeared throughout the Region earlier than usual also, with first reports in late March-early April. The 26 ♂ Eur. Wigeon Mar. 5 with 1000 Am. Wigeon on the Samish flats, Wash., furnished the high count (GG). A conspecific pair of Eurasians was noted in Victoria Mar. 16 (RS).

The ♀ Tufted Duck that wintered in Stanley Park, Vancouver, B.C., was last seen Mar. 1 (M. Gebauer), and a ♀ Tufted Duck was seen Mar. 6 at Ocean Shores (G & WH). Single ♂ Tufted Ducks made appearances Mar. 28 on the Duncan, V.I., sewage ponds (H. van der Pol, KT) and May 3 on Esquimalt Lagoon, V.I. (J. & G. Anderson, C. Harper). The male at Green L., Seattle, seen almost daily until Apr. 12 (m.ob., ph.), had a dark gray back and short tuft and its possible hybrid origin is being argued. A subad. ♂ King Eider stayed May 4–11 on Birch Bay, Whatcom, for the 3rd spring record for Washington (†Paul Sulivan, m.ob.).

VULTURES THROUGH COOTS — The major movement of Turkey Vultures noted this season, totaling 172 birds, passed the Ashland, Ore., area Mar. 13–23 (MM). First arrivals on V.I. and in the Vancouver, B.C., area were in late March. Ospreys returned on schedule in late March-early April to an increasing number of nest sites. Black-shouldered Kite nesting locations in the Region are either very few or very well hidden. A pair at the Raymond, Wash., airport was seen in various stages of courtship behavior, but only up to May 17 (BT, T. Burger, J. Palmer), and no nest has been found. A N. Harrier nest with 5 eggs was located May 12 near Steigerwald L., e. of Vancouver, Wash. (WC, ph.). A Cooper's Hawk was found at a nest on Neil

Mt., near Ashland, Ore., Mar. 31 (S. Shane, *fide* MM), and a pair was calling near last year's nest site in Saanich, V.I., Apr. 26–May 5 (BW). The "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk on Sauvie I., near Portland, stayed to at least Mar. 7 (Bob O'Brien). Two "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawks were noted Mar. 13 near Stanwood, Wash. (Bud Anderson). Very few Rough-legged Hawks were reported, and the one seen May 6 near Bellingham, Wash., was very late (BT, TW, GW).

The 30+ Merlins and 27+ Peregrine Falcons reported were about normal numbers for the season. However, excluded from this rough index of sightings were the ever more numerous nesting pairs of Peregrines in the Region. Appropriate secrecy and vagueness accompany this information, but there are possibly 6 active eyries in w. Oregon (*fide* DFi). The equally politically sensitive Gyrfalcon was reported only from the wide arc of its regular hunting habitat stretching from Boundary Bay, B.C., through the Samish and Skagit flats to Dungeness, Wash. The last sighting was Apr. 12.

Just for the record, individual coots with the yellow-tinged, white facial shield of the "Caribbean" form (*F. caribaea*) were closely observed on Goodacre L., Victoria, during March 1984 (ph. Tim Zurowski) and on Green L., Seattle, Feb. 28 of this year (JP, TH). Surely these are color variants of the Am. Coot

SHOREBIRDS — The 18 Lesser Golden-Plover sightings made an average number for the past several spring seasons. For nine of these the subspecies was not reported, including one n. to the Queen Charlotte Is. by Apr. 18 (RC). Seven were identified as *P. d. fulva*, the Pacific Golden-Plover: six seen May 3–5 in Delta, B.C. (MF *et al.*) and one May 9 at the S.J.C.R., Ore. (†JG). The remaining two, seen and photographed May 11 at Ocean Shores, Wash. (†Ian Paulsen), were *P. d. dominica*. Based on a nationwide examination of Pacific Northwest specimens by DP, this is the first documentation of an ad. *dominica* here in spring.

Black-necked Stilts were prominent visitors during April, as in 1984 and 1985. About 80+ birds were reported. The first was at Fern Ridge Res., Eugene, Apr. 11 (SH). Nine were there a few days later (PS) and 17 were on the Forest Grove, Ore., sewage ponds Apr. 16 (LW). Two appeared Apr. 17 at Reifel I., Delta, B.C., and 13 were there Apr. 19 (JJ). One to three were found at 4 other mainland British Columbia locations. Three were seen Apr. 27 at Clover Pt., Victoria (RS, AM), one was in Saanich and Oak Bay May 5 (B. Sendall, T. Leedham), and six were present May 1–5 at the Courtney, V.I., sewage ponds (C. Brant). There was only one previous record for V.I. One at Ridgefield N.W.R., Apr. 21 (MH) and six at Leadbetter Pt. (FS) Apr. 26 furnished the 5th and 6th w. Washington sightings. The birds were last seen in both British Columbia and Oregon May 3–5.

American Avocets displayed a variation of the same theme. About 61 birds were reported. The first were two in Ashland Apr. 15–16 (OSw, MM) for one of only two Oregon reports. An amazing 39 were together on Sequim Bay, Wash., Apr. 28 (D & SS). Seven appeared at 3 locations in the Vancouver, B.C., area May 12–28 for about the 17th–19th records there, and four were seen at Tofino May 7 (AD) for the 4th record from V.I. Three on Lopez I., Wash., May 25 provided the 2nd record for the San Juan Is. (M. Mallea, *fide* ML).

The 150 Greater Yellowlegs on the n. shore of Willapa Bay, Wash., Apr. 10 (BT), the 100 on Reifel I., B.C., Apr. 16 (JJ), and 80 at Tillamook, Ore., Apr. 18 (JG, JJ) were large concentrations. The 30 Solitary Sandpipers reported made about an average total. Ten of these in the Vancouver, B.C., area Apr. 26–May 10 were more than double the normal number there. The first Wandering Tattler of the season landed on board ship Apr. 23 about 40 mi w. of Reedsport, Ore. (SA). The 134 Whimbrels at Tillamook May 6 furnished a high count (HN). A much grayer Whimbrel at Ocean Shores May 16 showed an extensive white rump and base of tail and was possibly of the Siberian race *variiegatus* (†Thais Bock).

As usual, Red Knots were concentrated at sites around Grays Harbor, Wash. This season the high counts were of a low 200 at Ocean Shores May 8 (G & WH) and 150 at the Elk R. mouth May 10 (WW). A Semipalmated Sandpiper seen Apr. 26 at Gilbert Beach, Richmond, was the earliest ever for the Vancouver, B.C., area (MF). Two Semipalmateds were at the Nehalem sewage ponds, Ore., May 6 (HN, ph.), and five others were noted during May. Sightings of 17 Baird's Sandpipers, 11 of these at Richmond and Delta, B.C., were about triple the average count of the last 8 years. The 33 Pectoral Sandpipers reported made almost a record high. Nine of these in Surrey, B.C., May 19 was the high count (WW). The peak of the Dunlin migration was represented by the count of 20,000 on Reifel I., B.C., Apr. 18 (JJ), with 10,000 there the next day, and "very heavy movement" noted along the n. Oregon coast Apr. 22-29 (HN).

A Wilson's Phalarope nest with 4 warm eggs and another freshly-scooped nest depression were discovered at the Diamond L. sewage ponds, e. Douglas, Ore., May 19 (DFi). This site is 4 mi w. of the Cascade crest at 5300'. Pairs and small groups of presumably migrant Wilson's were widely noted as usual throughout May, but no other actual nesting evidence was obtained, also as usual.

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — Three Pomarine Jaegers were seen from the Ocean Shores jetty Mar. 20 (G & WH) and one was off the S.J.C.R., Mar. 27 (Tom Love, *fide* HN). A daily count of eight to 10 Pomarines was reported from 20-50 mi offshore Apr. 27-May 4 (SA).

Northward movement of Bonaparte's Gulls was roughly monitored at Active Pass in the Gulf Is., B.C., with 700 counted there Mar. 29 (MF), 1400 Apr. 12 (AM), and 7500 Apr. 26 (RC). The latest reported Thayer's Gulls this season were singles at Cannon Beach, Ore., May 8 (DFi) and in Richmond, B.C., May 9 (MF), and 20 off Hammond, Ore., May 10 (DFi). Eight Glaucous Gulls were reported, a typical number, from 7 locations, with one May 3 at Yaquina Bay, Ore., the latest (OSC). A possible 2nd-year Kumlien's Iceland Gull was closely studied at Cannon Beach, Ore., May 8 (†DFi). The thorough description is under review by several gull-watchers experienced with this species. Many more Black-legged Kittiwakes than usual were found at the mouth of Grays Harbor, Wash., this spring (G & WH). About 200, of which 10% were adult, were counted there from a boat Apr. 4 (GG). The Ross' Gull at Yaquina Bay, Ore., was last reported Mar. 9 (W & FB, *fide* Dfa).

The first Caspian Tern sighting of the season was on schedule at Willapa Bay N.W.R., Wash., Mar. 30 (JA). A Com. Tern along the Fraser R. at Steveston Apr. 12 was the earliest ever for the Vancouver, B.C., area (JI *et al.*). Elsewhere arrivals were in late April. High counts for the season were of 400 at Steveston May 4 (WW) and 425 off Westport May 10 (TW). Following a storm front passage over s. Oregon, an Arctic Tern was observed standing with three Com. Terns on the Kirtland Road ponds, Ashland, May 30 (H. Sands, †MM *et al.*). Four Black Terns visited the L.C.C. sewage ponds in Eugene, Ore., May 17 (PS, TM) and one graced the Auburn, Wash., ponds May 24 (DB).

ALCIDS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — A flight of about 1000 Com. Murres per minute passed N by Cape Meares, Ore., during one-half hour Mar. 29 (BB). The 58 Cassin's Auklets seen off Westport, Wash., May 10 (TW) and 70 counted out of Neah Bay, Wash., May 25 (J. Buchanan) again matched the highest-ever counts here for spring (TW).

The last Snowy Owl stayed on Boundary Bay, B.C., until Mar. 22 (JW). Then one was seen on a downtown Vancouver rooftop Mar. 29 (Bill Crins *et al.*). The most surprising migrant owl, however, was the Burrowing Owl flushed into a maple tree on Skinner's Butte in Eugene, Ore., Mar. 31 (SH). The last sighting of the two wintering at the Eugene airport was Mar. 12 (TM). On Mar. 7 a Great Gray Owl sat in view for 10 minutes along the Hyatt-Howard Prairie Road e. of Ashland, Ore. (MM, S Plante). This is not far from the resident birds near Klamath Falls. A pair of Long-eared Owls was observed Mar. 12 & 21

near Corvallis (M & EE), and one was noted on Reifel I., B.C., until at least May 10 (JJ), but no nesting evidence was obtained.

A Com. Nighthawk seen and heard in Richmond, B.C., May 10 was extremely early (P. & B. Spittmann). The only other report this season was of one at the Carson, Wash., fish hatchery (JD). First sightings of Vaux's Swifts were of a flock of 15 over Mt. Finlayson, V.I., Apr. 4 (DFr) and several in Eugene Apr. 6 (A. Contreras). Widespread arrival began about 10 days later.

Two newly-fledged young Anna's Hummingbirds were at a feeder on Uplands Road, Landsdowne, V.I., Apr. 8-22 (B. Gates, KT, ph.). A pair of Calliope Hummingbirds was present Apr. 21 at the Merlin rest stop along I-5, Josephine, Ore. (Al McGie, *fide* ME). Single ♂ **Costa's Hummingbirds** were seen and photographed in Lillooet, B.C., May 17-19 (M. Bentley *et al.*) and Burnaby, B.C., May 20+ (J. & N. Jellett, N. Chesterfield *et al.*, ph. DK), for the 5th and 6th records for the province. Rufous Hummingbirds returned early, with males noted Feb. 24 on Willapa N.W.R., Wash. (JA), and a record-early Mar. 5 in N. Vancouver, B.C. (A. Poynter). First arrival on V.I. was Mar. 19 in Highlands (RS). A ♂ Rufous with a solid green back was found dead in late April on Stuart I., San Juan, Wash. (ML, * to U.W. Burke Museum), and a green-backed *Selasphorus* was seen Apr. 18 in Philomath, Ore. (R. & J. Krabbe).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH LARKS — Red-naped Sapsuckers, scarce migrants here, were noted Apr. 12 in Seattle (MC), Apr. 21 in Richmond, B.C. (†A. Stewart), and May 2 in Vancouver, B.C. (†MF, MB, GA). A pair of Three-toed Woodpeckers was excavating a cavity May 10 in a potential nesting location, Cypress P.P., W. Vancouver, B.C., but they were not present on subsequent visits (MF).

The first sighting of an Olive-sided Flycatcher was Apr. 26 in Glendale, s. Douglas, Ore. (EP). First arrivals from Eugene n. to Vancouver, B.C., were Apr. 30-May 7. Western Woodpeewees were first noted in Eugene Apr. 25 (PS) and Vancouver, B.C., Apr. 30 (MF), with first arrivals reported elsewhere in early May. First reports of Willow Flycatchers in Oregon were May 5-15, and in Washington and British Columbia May 19-30. Arrival of Hammond's Flycatchers was noted Apr. 18-22 from Toketee L., Ore. (DFi), Eugene (SH), Portland (JJ), and Vancouver, B.C. (A. Schutz). In contrast, arrival of W. Flycatchers was spread over Mar. 28-Apr. 28 in Oregon and Washington, and Apr. 20-26 in British Columbia. Dusky Flycatchers had returned to known breeding areas in Toketee R.D., Ore., by Apr. 28 (DFi) and on King Mt., Jackson, Ore., by May 3 (EP). Migrant Dusksies were noted in Portland Apr. 30 (DI), Eugene May 2 (SH), and Kent, Wash., May 10 (†DB). The Say's Phoebe passage was right on schedule Mar. 1-Apr. 3, but the 17 sightings from 10 Oregon and Washington locations represented many more birds than usual. The now usual movement of W. Kingbirds n. of the Columbia R. was marked this year by 12 birds at 9 locations in Washington, two in Vancouver, B.C., and three on V.I., all Apr. 25-May 30. Out-of-range E. Kingbirds were at Dungeness, Wash., May 8 (SS) and near LaConner, Wash., May 29 (J. O'Connell). A vagrant **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** found May 16-18 on the far side of V I at Pacific Rim P.P. (AD *et al.*) provided the 4th record for the island.

The 5th annual spring census of Eur. Skylarks on the Saanich Peninsula, V.I., located 44 singing males at 9 locations (AM, BW). This compares well with the 42-45 found in 1983-1985. Last year's apparent decline is believed to have been due to inclement weather during the census periods. The skylarks prefer short-grass fields (Victoria airport), fallow, weedy fields, and fields planted with daffodils or tulips. The usual handful were in residence at the nearby s. end of San Juan I., Wash (JP, ML, BT).

SWALLOWS THROUGH THRASHERS — The first N Rough-winged Swallows were noted Mar. 18 in Ashland, Ore (OSW), and Mar. 27 at the Carson, Wash., fish hatchery (JD). First arrivals throughout the Region were reported Apr. 5-12

A single Bank Swallow May 10 at Tillamook, Ore., furnished the only report (Roy Gerig). The vanguard of the Barn Swallow migration was noted Apr. 3 in Ashland (R. Skibby, *vide* MM), Apr. 8 at North Bend (BG) and Tillamook (HN), Apr. 9 in Seattle (Tom Schooley), and Apr. 11 at Iona I., B.C. (T. Plath, L. Koch). Cliff Swallows, like Rough-wingeds, appeared to arrive in s. Oregon and wait before heading farther north. First arrival in Ashland was Mar. 14 (OSw). They were first reported in Washington Apr. 6–11, n. Oregon Apr. 8–13, and in British Columbia Apr. 13–15.

A few Mountain Chickadees remained at feeders in Vancouver, B.C., and near Vancouver, Wash., until late April–early May. The White-breasted Nuthatch that wintered in Saanich, V.I., was last seen Mar. 28 (B. Pellow). GW banded the young of 2 pairs of White-breasted Nuthatches during May at a n. breeding outpost in Lakewood, Pierce, Wash. A migrant Rock Wren was seen Apr. 8 on the coast at Garibaldi, Tillamook, Ore. (DI). Single Canyon Wrens were noted on the e. edge of the Region at Emigrant L., near Ashland, Ore., Feb. 28 (B. Morrow, *vide* MM) and at a possible breeding location on the cliffs of Pig Iron Mt., e. Douglas, Ore., May 24 (DFi).

Eleven pairs of W. Bluebirds were utilizing nest boxes during May at a n. breeding outpost on Mt. Tuam, Saltspring I., n. of Sidney, V.I., and another pair was at a box on nearby Mt. Galiano, Galiano I. (H. Pollock). More than 160 pairs were on territory on Ft. Lewis, near Tacoma, Wash. (GW). This was an increase from 25 pairs there in 1984. The first Swainson's Thrushes noted were in N. Bend, Ore., Apr. 22 (BF), in Delta, B.C., Apr. 25 (JW), and at Pt. Roberts, Wash., Apr. 28 (MF *et al.*). First arrivals at other locations were Apr. 29 and May 6–11. The N. Mockingbird that wintered in Bellingham, Wash., stayed to at least Mar. 10 (TW); the one w. of Hoquiam, Wash., stayed to Apr. 26 (MC, m.ob.). Others were noted on Whidbey I., Wash., in mid-April and at Newport, Ore., May 10–12 (EP, J. Dunham). Vagrant Sage Thrashers were sighted May 13 at the S.J.C.R. (HN) and May 23 at Plat I Res., near Roseburg, Ore. (†DFi, S. Gordy).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Solitary Vireos were first observed Mar. 26 at Toketee R.S., Ore. (DFi) and Apr. 9 on Vashon I., King, Wash. (CE). Widespread first arrivals were reported Apr. 12–24. First arrivals of Warbling Vireos were Apr. 21–28 in all reporting areas of the Region. Red-eyed Vireos, arriving from the east, were somewhat early May 14 at Alaksen N.W.A., Delta, B.C. (MF), May 21 in Seattle (Bob Sundstrom), and May 22 just e. of Vancouver, Wash. (WC), and on time May 26 in C. Saanich, V.I. (WW), and May 30 near Oakridge, Ore. (SH, PS).

Arrival of Orange-crowned Warblers across most of Oregon and Washington was Mar. 28–Apr. 2. The first migrant Nashville Warblers reported were at Skinner's Butte, Eugene, Apr. 16–18 (SH, TM), Discovery Park, Seattle, Apr. 27 (DB), and Queen Elizabeth Park, Vancouver, B.C., where they are rare, Apr. 30 (MF, GA). Nashvilles were on territory on the Cascade slopes at Toketee R.S., Apr. 24+ (DFi), and a female was on the coast, where they are very scarce, at Ft. Stevens S.P., Ore., May 9 (DFi). "Heavy migratory movement" of Yellow-rumped Warblers was noted near Portland Apr. 13–15 (JD, HN), and a high count of 150 was obtained Apr. 20 at Jericho Park, Vancouver, B.C. (B. Self). The arrival of Black-throated Gray Warblers proceeded N in regular fashion: Apr. 6–7 & 13–18 in Oregon, Apr. 16–19 in Washington, Apr. 20–24 in British Columbia. Arrival dates were similar for MacGillivray's Warbler: Apr. 15–26 in Oregon and Apr. 25–30 in Washington and V.I. In contrast, first sightings of Com. Yellowthroats in Oregon, Washington, the Vancouver, B.C., area, and V.I. were all Apr. 3–5. Some localities in all areas noted first arrivals through Apr. 19.

Hermit Warblers returned early to Oregon this season: Apr. 17 at Toketee R.S. in the Cascades (DFi), Apr. 18 in Eugene (SH), and Apr. 22–25 in the Coast Range, near Philomath, and at Toledo (TM, J. & K. Fairchild, DFa). A singing ♂ N. Waterthrush was noted May 24 e. of Mule Deer campground, Man-

ning P.P., B.C. (DP), w. of the presently-known breeding range. Nine Yellow-breasted Chats were reported May 9+ from 7 localities between Corvallis and Portland, generally n. of the species' regular nesting areas. Two were at Nisqually N.W.R., Wash., May 23–27 (E. Beerman, M. Rucker, T. Mallory), and one was in Langley, B.C., May 15+ for the 9th ever and 3rd spring Vancouver area record (Glen Ryder, †WW, m.ob.).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — First arrival of W. Tanager throughout the reporting areas of the Region was Apr. 24–May 1. An early Black-headed Grosbeak was in Delta, B.C., Apr. 25 (JW). Otherwise the reported arrival in Oregon was Apr. 22–29, in Washington May 1–7, and in the Vancouver, B.C., area May 5–6. Lazuli Buntings were first noted Apr. 26 near Ashland (J. Keller, *vide* MM), and May 1–2 in Corvallis, Albany, and Eugene (M & EE, Bill Dale, SH), right on schedule. A ♂ Lazuli was noted May 29 in Vancouver, B.C., where it is scarce (D. Smith).

A singing ♂ Vesper Sparrow at Dungeness, Wash., Apr. 5+ was early (D & SS). Three vagrant Black-throated Sparrows were found: one anomalously early Mar. 13 in Salem, Ore. (†J. Luehrs), one May 23–27 in Corvallis, Ore. (†S. Moore, M & EE *et al.*), and the 3rd May 26 on Henry I., San Juan, Wash. (†FS, C. Howe). The latter provided the 5th record for w. Washington, all of which have been during May 16–June 23. Vagrant Sage Sparrows appeared Mar. 14–15 at the Montlake fill, Seattle (S. Schaefer, S. Henry, DB) for the 3rd spring record for w. Washington and the 2nd from that location, and Apr. 1 at Cape Meares, Ore. (HN). Single wintering Swamp Sparrows were last seen at Sauvie I., Ore., Mar. 8 (JG) and the Skagit W.R.A., Wash., Mar. 14 (BT, GW). Another was at Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene, Ore., Mar. 24–Apr. 4 (SH, TM). Thirteen White-throated Sparrows were reported, an average number for the past 5 years. Five of these were in Washington, more than usual for that state, during March, and the one Apr. 26 in C. Saanich, V.I. (Mrs. Luney) was the latest. Arrival dates for the pugetensis race of White-crowned Sparrow in Washington were Mar. 30–Apr. 4 (CE, JD, TW, A. Richards). Fourteen Harris' Sparrows were evenly spread through the Region, with the one seen May 2 at Tou Velle Park, n. of Medford, Ore., the latest (LW, P. Muller). There were no further sightings of the Rustic Bunting at Kent, Wash., after Mar. 22.

The ♀ Rusty Blackbird found this winter on Sauvie I., Ore., was last seen Apr. 5 (SH, †DFi, m.ob.). Another Rusty Blackbird, in breeding plumage, appeared May 21–22 at Pacific Rim P.P. for the 4th spring record for V.I. (†J & RS). A Common Grackle was found May 1+ at Veneta, by Fern Ridge Res., Eugene (†TM, m.ob., ph. OSC), for the first record for w. Oregon. First reports of N. Orioles were Apr. 16 in Ashland, Ore., Apr. 23–26 in the s. Willamette Valley, and May 1–9 elsewhere.

A Cassin's Finch seen Apr. 30 in Queen Elizabeth Park fur-



Female Cassin's Finch at Sequim, Wash., May 15, 1987. Photo/Eugene Kridler.

nished the 3rd documented record for the Vancouver, B.C., area (fMF). A ♀ Cassin's Finch was netted and banded May 15 near Sequim, Wash. (fE. Kridler, ph. D & SS), for one of few documented records from the w. Washington lowlands. Red Crossbills were absent from the s. Oregon Cascades (DFi), but present in usual numbers at most coastal and lowland locations elsewhere. Adults were feeding young Apr. 22 at Yachats, Lincoln, Ore. (W & FB, fide DFa). A few White-winged Crossbills were noted Apr. 13–20 at Tlell, Q.C.I., for the only report this season (RC). After 4 years' residence at Toketee R.S., Douglas, Ore., separated from the nearest small town by 40 mi of forest, DFi sighted his first pair of House Sparrows there Apr. 29.

ADDENDUM — A Palm Warbler seen at Leadbetter Pt., May 22, 1983 (R. Widrig, R. Knapp), for the 4th spring record for Washington, was inadvertently omitted from that season's report.

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MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

Kurt F. Campbell, Richard A. Erickson, and Stephen F. Bailey

Dryness continued, with mildly drought-like conditions beginning to show, especially in the interior. Sierra snowpack was very light. A widespread migration 'push' was noted May 4–7. Reports in sum hinted that while migration timing was average to late, breeding in landbirds was early. There was little comment on total numbers of migrants, except for warblers, said to be scarce. The vagrant season was one of the poorest in 14 years. It seems that the combination of late migration and few vagrants leads to fewer reports than otherwise, rather than negative reports or comments; observers mistakenly assume they are simply missing "goodies" others are finding.

After providing us with the excellent *Monterey Birds*, Don Roberson is trying hard to make it out-of-date; with R.E. Roberson, he intensively surveyed the Carmel River Valley this May, producing a thick report and much valuable data (a few highlights are included here).

Seawatches were conducted on 38 mornings February 26 to May 31 at El Jarro Point, 1.5 miles northwest of Davenport, Santa Cruz County. A total of 72 species of waterbirds was recorded in 71.8 hours (DLSu).

ABBREVIATIONS — C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.V. = Central Valley; O.S.P. = Open Space Preserve; S.F. = San Francisco; S.W.M.A. = State Wildlife Management Area; ph. = photo on file with the Regional Editors. *Italicized names refer to counties.* All records from Palomarin, Marin, and S.E. Farallon I. (hereafter F.I.), S.F., should be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory (P.R.B.O.). References to the Gull refer to Golden Gate Audubon Society's publication, whose observation column is written by Helen Green. Most such records were originally reported to Joseph Morlan for the N. California Rare Bird Alert.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — Loons passing El Jarro Pt., Santa Cruz, included 2713 Red-throats (7% of identified loons), 34,059 Pacifics (88%), 2014 Commons (5%), and 1540 unidentified loons (DLSu). The peak period was Apr. 19 to May 21. Yellow-billed Loons were seen at Eureka Mar. 10–11 (FJB, fGSL, fLPL) and 2–3 mi off Monterey Mar. 28 (fDEQ, DLSh). Red-necked Grebes continued to be scarce, with only 17 reported, including seven at Sea Ranch, Sonoma, Mar. 29 (JML). Eared Grebes were, unexpectedly, virtually absent throughout Tulare and e. Fresno (RHG). Soquel Cove, Santa



Cruz, was a major staging area for *Aechmophorus grebes* Apr. 21–May 30 (DLSu). The W. Grebe count there peaked at over 8100 Apr. 30, and over 2050 were still there May 30. Clark's Grebes peaked at about 540 May 20, when they represented 30% of those identified, and 258 remained May 30.

Continuing the return of **Short-tailed Albatross** to our waters, a first-year bird was seen 20 mi w. of Cypress Pt., Monterey, Apr. 18 (fDGA). At El Jarro Pt., counts totalled 43 Black-footed Albatrosses Mar. 14 to May 31 and one Laysan Albatross Mar. 24 (fDLSu). Three Laysans were reported offshore Princeton Harbor, San Mateo, Mar. 14 (ToJ), and another was offshore Monterey Apr. 5 (D. & N. Lemon, fide DLSh). A white-bodied albatross that sailed over Crescent City Mar. 6 (JAR) was probably the same one scoped from nearby Pt. Saint George later the same day (fADB).

Northern Fulmars remained scarce except for 100 at and beyond Cordell Bank, Marin, Mar. 29 (SFB, KFC). About 100 *Pterodroma* petrels, all believed to be **Solander's Petrels**, seen

Apr 10–21 more than 20–50 mi offshore, from Cordell Bank to w of Cypress Pt., mostly were speeding N and NW (†DGA). If these were correctly identified, then Solander's Petrel must be the most abundant North American bird that remains to be added to the official continent list. In any case, there certainly are many "large dark *Pterodromas*" migrating out there. Extremely few Pink-footed Shearwaters were seen, mostly May 17+ A concentration of 50,000 Sooty Shearwaters offshore Monterey May 17 (DLSH, PJM) was earlier than in most years, but numbers on this order have arrived even in April. Up to an estimated 700,000 Sooty Shearwaters nearshore from Capitola to Pajaro Dunes, Santa Cruz, May 28–30 were probably feeding on anchovies (DLSu). A Black-vented Shearwater was seen from Pt. Pinos Mar. 23 (DR), and at El Jarro Pt., one was seen Mar. 24 and two Apr. 3 (DLSu). Two Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were flying inshore at Soquel Cove Mar. 4 following 40+ mph SW winds (DLSu).

Brown Pelicans returned in numbers unprecedentedly early. One at Santa Cruz Mar. 2 (DLSu) was first, followed by 14 at Moss Landing, Monterey, Mar. 3 (DEG) and 13 at Pigeon Pt., San Mateo, Mar. 9 (PJM). Other first county arrivals (all singles) were: Crescent City, *Del Norte*, Apr. 2 (ADB); Trinidad, *Humboldt*, Apr. 13 (GSL, LPL); Palo Alto, *Santa Clara*, May 9 (PMB, BGR) At Santa Cruz there were 55 by Mar. 30 and 640 by May 16 (DLSu). Details received late of a frigatebird at Pigeon Pt., Feb 5 (†J.R. Blair *et al.*) were not sufficient to identify the species

HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — An Am. Bittern at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Mar. 7 (WEH, SMS) was significant as either a very early migrant or an overwintering bird e. of the Sierra/Cascade crest. The record single-site high count of Great Egrets in Santa Cruz was established by 45 at drying College L. near Watsonville May 12 (DLSu). The only Cattle Egrets reported on the coast after March were one to two at Arcata May 2–9 (KFC *et al.*). Two Green-backed Herons at Fall River Mills, Shasta, May 2–17 (SB) were in an area where the species has been rarely reported.

Nesting colonies of White-faced Ibises at Colusa N.W.R. and Mendota W.M.A. were reported as stable at 100 and 50 pairs respectively (*vide* BED). An unknown number of ibises in the Sutter Bypass at Hwy 113 in May (date?) provided one of very few Sutter records (*vide* BED). On the n. coast, White-faced Ibis made its strongest showing ever with up to 15+ in the Arcata/Eureka area of *Humboldt* May 3–13 (GSL, JCS *et al.*).

A Fulvous Whistling-Duck at San Luis N.W.R., Mar. 24 (D. Severson, *vide* HMR) was the first seen in the Region since July 1985. Within our Region, the species has not been recorded outside the San Joaquin Valley for over 10 years.

The imm. blue morph Snow Goose wintering at Santa Cruz was last seen May 6, when body molt was still incomplete (ph. DLSu *et al.*). Two blue morph Snow Geese were on Empire Tract, San Joaquin, Mar. 6 along with a blue morph Ross' Goose and a blue morph Snow/Ross' intermediate (all †DGY). Another blue morph Ross' Goose was at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Apr. 18 (RE). Lingering white Ross' Geese were on the coast to May 20 in the Arcata Bottoms (JCS) and June 12 at Pajaro Dunes (DLSu). At El Jarro Pt., 5345 Brant were counted migrating north. Nearly 90% were tallied in the period Apr. 10–25 with 2842 seen in 130 minutes Apr. 10 alone (DLSu). Inland Brant were at Merced N.W.R., Mar. 4 (J. Silveira, *vide* HMR) and Tule Lake N.W.R., Mar. 7 (since February—RE).

Two pairs of large Canada Geese (race *moffitti*), one followed by three young, on the Trinity R. just downstream from Willow Creek, *Humboldt*, May 27 (PPa) followed the sighting of two at nearby Tish Tang campground May 4 (KFC). These sightings may have been the result of local introductions, but more likely represent an extension from their normal breeding range in w Siskiyou (Grenfell & Laudenslayer, eds., 1983. *The distribution of California Birds*. Cal. Dept. Fish & Game/U.S. Forest Service). A pair of Canada Geese with young at San Ramon, Contra Costa, Apr. 19 (W. Sweet, *vide* HG) represented either further expansion of the introduced east S.F. Bay population

or another local introduction. An "Aleutian" Canada Goose (race *leucopareia*) at Lodi L., May 12 provided San Joaquin's latest record of this form (DGY).

A ♂ Eur. Green-winged Teal at Hayward Mar. 4–16 (RJR *et al.*) was the 7th in the Region since the first of the year. Fourteen Blue-winged Teal (11 males) at Arcata Marsh May 26 (JCS) was a record high count for the n. coast. Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal hybrids were again noted, with males e. of Merced N.W.R., Mar. 1 (DLE, †DLSu *et al.*), at San Luis N.W.R., Mar. 14 (†PJM, RSTh), at the Lodi sewage ponds Mar. 12 (†DGY), and at Santa Clara Apr. 23–May 27 (BB). A Eur. Wigeon at Limantour Estero, Marin, Apr. 30 (*vide* HG) was the only one reported after March.

A ♂ Ring-necked Duck x scaup hybrid in Oakland Mar. 14 was believed to be the same bird seen there in February 1985 (JM). Tufted Ducks continued to make news, with a male inland near Grenada remaining to Apr. 13 (ph. RE) and new finds at L. Merritt, Oakland, Mar. 19–Apr. 5 (male—S. Morris, †SEF *et al.*), Elkhorn Slough Mar. 25–27 (female—†BMMo, †DLSu), and Belmont Slough, San Mateo, Apr. 19 (male—†SEF, PJM). These brought the total for the 1986–1987 season to at least 12.

At El Jarro Pt., 12,354 Surf Scoters were noted passing Mar 6–May 31, representing over 96% of all scoters seen there April 3–25 yielded 76% of the total, with 4908 seen in 130 minutes Apr. 10 alone (all DLSu). An ad. ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye at Irongate Res., Siskiyou, May 14 was considered likely a very late migrant, as the nearest known current nesting area is in the Cascade Mts. of Douglas, Ore. (MFRb). Nevertheless, the optimistic cannot help but hope this species might once again nest in California as was the case 50+ years ago. Common Mergansers were found nesting on the Carmel R., Monterey, for the first time, with 4 pairs documented nesting from San Clemente Res. downstream in May (DR, RER).

RAPTORS — A major northward migration of 375 Turkey Vultures passed Kings River College, Fresno, Mar. 9–10 (RHG). Among the piscivores feeding at Goat Rock Beach, Sonoma, Apr. 12 were 20–25 Ospreys, an unusual aggregation (†FRAR). This season added San Mateo and Santa Clara to the counties reporting a large increase in breeding Red-shouldered Hawks, and both counties had Golden Eagles at new locations. A light morph ad. Swainson's Hawk near San Ardo Apr. 8 (†PEL) provided "only the 2nd spring Monterey record in 15 years" (*vide* DR). Late Merlins were at Los Altos, Santa Clara, Apr. 23 (PLN), Santa Cruz Apr. 30 (DLSu), Stockton May 6 (GSL), and most remarkably late on May 21 at Manressa State Beach, Santa Cruz (BSh).

QUAIL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — "Good numbers" of native Mountain Quail at San Clemente Res. (600–650' el.) in May were said to be the first recorded below 1000' in Monterey (DR, RER). Farther n., a pair at Castle Rock S.P., Santa Cruz, May 7 (DLSu) and one nearby in Steven's Cr. Canyon, Santa Clara, May 10 (PLN) were in an area where there have been no official releases for over 20 years, so private releases are suspected (*vide* WGB).

The planned and manipulated freshwater marshes developing at Arcata Marsh continue to produce significant records of species dependent upon that habitat. A Com. Moorhen there May 17–26 (J. Brack *et al.*) was only the 5th to be found in *Humboldt*. A major exodus of Sandhill Cranes was noted over Sacramento Mar. 12–21 (TDM, WEH *et al.*).

A Black-bellied Plover at Gray Lodge W.A., Apr. 17 was surprisingly one of very few ever recorded in Butte (JHS). Wintering Lesser Golden-Plovers were last reported on the coast at Pt. Reyes (SFB) and Half Moon Bay (PJM) Apr. 12, Dillon Beach Apr. 29 (*vide* HG), and inland at the Modesto sewage ponds Apr. 19 (HMR). Additional sightings were of one at Albany, Alameda, Mar. 13–24 (*vide* HG), one at the Salinas sewage ponds Apr. 9–21 with another one there May 5 (both DEG), and two of the race *fulva* at the Modesto sewage ponds May 3 (ERC). Semipalmated Plovers apparently passed through the

C.V. in far smaller numbers than normal as none was seen in San Joaquin (DGY), and only one each was reported from the greater Sacramento area (*vide* TDM) and Tulare (RHG).

Twelve Black-necked Stilts were at L. Earl, Del Norte, Apr. 26 (JAR), and one at the Ukiah sewage ponds May 12 (LPL, GSL) may have furnished the first Mendocino record. At Arcata Marsh, up to five stilts were present after Apr. 10, with 2 nests present by the period's end (JMH *et al.*). Two copulations were observed among eight Am. Avocets at the Las Gallinas sewage ponds near San Rafael Apr. 29, although the species is still unknown as a nesting bird in Marin (DAH).

Eleven Wandering Tattlers at El Jarro Pt., May 8 was a high number, the most ever in Santa Cruz (DLSu). Also establishing record high counts in Santa Cruz were 226 Whimbrels passing El Jarro Pt., May 8 and 225 at College L., May 12 (both DLSu). A Whimbrel with Long-billed Curlews at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Apr. 18 (RE) was a rarity away from the coast or C.V. Rare Santa Clara sightings at the mouth of San Francisquito Cr. included two to seven Ruddy Turnstones Apr. 25–May 13 (WGB *et al.*) and a Red Knot May 13 (PMB, BGr). Two Sanderlings at the Modesto sewage ponds Mar. 15 (HMR) were presumably the same two seen in January (and a year before) but they could not be found in the interim.

This season's only Semipalmated Sandpiper was at the Lodi sewage ponds May 2–3 (fDGY). Drying College L. near Watsonville hosted a record 525+ W. Sandpipers for Santa Cruz, where good habitat is generally lacking (DLSu). College L. also held a Baird's Sandpiper May 12, amazingly said to be one of only 2 or 3 Santa Cruz records at any season (fDLSu). Another Baird's was at the Salinas sewage ponds Apr. 9 (fDEG). Pectoral Sandpiper was also well represented with up to two at the Salinas sewage ponds Apr. 21–28 and a 3rd there May 28 (all fDEG) and one in the Arcata Bottoms May 20 (JCS). Baird's and Pectoral sandpipers have each been recorded in all but 2 of the last 15 springs.

Although Wilson's Phalarope has wintered at Moss Landing before, two there Apr. 3 were considered record-early for the Region; a 3rd was there by Apr. 10 (fDEG). Unexpectedly, a ♀ Red-necked Phalarope on Elverta Rd., May 2 (GEW) was said to provide one of very few Sacramento records (*vide* TDM). A major movement of this species was noted from Humboldt to Monterey May 17–21.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — The El Jarro Pt. seawatch tallied 87 Pomarine Jaegers Feb. 26 to May 31, six Parasitic Jaegers Mar. 6 to Apr. 25, and five unidentified jaegers (DLSu). An ad. Laughing Gull flying N past El Jarro Pt., May 23 furnished the 5th Santa Cruz record, all from spring (fDLSu). Three ad. Franklin's Gulls visited: Stockton sewage ponds Apr. 13 (ALE, GFB, PAW), Moss Landing May 10 (fDLSu *et al.*), and Lower Klamath N.W.R., May 23 (RE, MFRb). By Apr. 1–13 there were three ad. Little Gulls at Stockton sewage ponds (DGY, ALE *et al.*). Two of these remained to Apr. 22, but they departed the next day as did all of the Bonaparte's Gulls, the earliest exodus on record (DGY). The El Jarro Pt. seawatch totalled 11,639 Bonaparte's Gulls, with the peak passage of 6030 in 130 minutes Apr. 10 (DLSu). Other large concentrations were 5000 eating krill over Monterey Canyon, Monterey and Santa Cruz, Apr. 17 (DLSh), 2650 (96% adults) at Santa Cruz Apr. 25 (DLSu), and 2000 (mostly immatures) at Pajaro R. mouth May 17 (PJM). Only small numbers of Heermann's Gulls returned early, Apr. 25+ (DLSu *et al.*). After maxima of 200 Black-legged Kittiwakes off Pt. Saint George Mar. 5 (ADB, GMCC) and 144 passing El Jarro Pt., Mar. 6 (DLSu), numbers decreased rapidly to the last individuals Apr. 25 (DLSu *et al.*).

Elegant Terns returned much earlier than ever before. It seems likely that the Feb. 15 bird mentioned last season provided our earliest, not latest, record. Another was at Moss Landing Mar. 3–18 (fDEG) and four foraged at Sunset State Beach, Santa Cruz, Apr. 5 (fDLSu). On Apr. 10, 29 Elegants flew N past El Jarro Pt. (DLSu) while 21 others were at Pajaro Dunes (J. & R. Warriner). Later the same day, 26 were at Moss

Landing (fDEG), so at least 55 and possibly 76 individuals had arrived! An Arctic Tern at Mountain View Forebay Apr. 26 (fDLSu, fPLN) furnished the 2nd Santa Clara record. Five Least Terns returned to Alameda Apr. 25 (HG *et al.*). This species is seldom seen migrating along our coast, so a "pair" flying N past El Jarro Pt., May 31 (DLSu) was noteworthy. Reports of Black Terns from the C.V. almost universally stressed this species' rarity this spring. Only 8 reports of up to five birds were received. Such low numbers warrant close attention.

Of 61 Pigeon Guillemots seen in Monterey waters Apr. 17, 20 were atypically 4–18 mi offshore (DLSh). Two Xantus' Murrelets were 18–20 mi offshore Monterey May 17 (PJM, RSTh) After the usual March sightings, two Ancient Murrelets at El Jarro Pt., May 21 (DLSu) were very late. By May 30, at least 20 Rhinoceros Auklet burrows were active on Ano Nuevo I., with half of the new artificial burrows occupied (GJS). This species continued to expand its breeding range S, with nesting attempted on 2 mainland cliffs in Santa Cruz (DLSu, RAM). One site had 2 pairs copulating, with one carrying fish by May 29, plus 3 other probable nesting pairs. Four mi to the n., 2 pairs were displaying and landing on the cliff. This expansion is especially welcome in light of the recent oil spill mortality. A Tufted Puffin passed El Jarro Pt., Apr. 6 (DLSu), and three were reported from Pigeon Pt., May 15 (BS). Two were offshore Monterey Mar. 22 (RS) and one was there Apr. 17 (DLSh).

PIGEONS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Band-tailed Pigeons suddenly increased in Santa Cruz about Mar. 7, after few present in winter there, with 550+ noted that day (DLSu). A coastal influx or migration in spring is usual, but details remain unclear for this erratic species. A White-winged Dove at Palo Alto Flood Control Basin May 25 (TAC *et al.*) was apparently our 3rd for the Region in the spring period. Seven Greater Roadrunners in foothills near Chico Mar. 22–Apr. 2 (JHS) was an impressive count. According to BED, a "waterfowl research crew had banded over 100 (Short-eared Owl) nestlings by the end of the period" at Grizzly Island S.W.M.A., Solano—an impressive figure for so decimated a species. Lesser Nighthawks at Meiss and Ione Rds., Sacramento, May 2–26 (EKS, CNS, m.ob.) were found nesting May 19 (GEW), the first such for that county. Four "Nighthawk sp." were reported (Santa Cruz to Humboldt), Apr. 26–May 13; all were almost certainly Lesser Nighthawks, by date. A Com. Nighthawk at River Springs L., Mono, May 22 (PJM) tied the earliest record for the entire state; it cannot be overstated that observers should be cautious in reporting this species before the last few days in May; it is the latest-arriving of all our breeding landbirds. Another late migrant is Black Swift; records earlier than May cannot be accepted without full documentation. Observers need only check the bar graphs in *Birds of Northern California* (McCaskie *et al.*) for baseline information about migration timing. A count of 438 Vaux's Swifts passing over Summit Meadows, Santa Cruz, May 7 in 2 hours (DLSu) was impressive but not unprecedented for spring.

Of note were four Black-chinned Hummingbirds in upper Carmel Valley, Monterey, Apr. 26, with two to May 9 (CT), DR states: "same area as one male last summer; apparently has extended breeding range up from Arroyo Seco on other side of pass." At least six Costa's Hummingbirds were seen n. and/or w. of their limited Regional range, Mar. 1+. Additionally, the status of this species in Shasta and Siskiyou needs clarification; it has been seen annually in recent years at Redding and Copco L. (BY & MFRb respectively), and was seen in 3 other locales in those counties this season as well. Calhope Hummingbirds made news in the s.w. quarter of our Region singles at Coyote Cr. Riparian Station, Santa Clara, Apr. 15 (*vide* PLN & M. Rigney) and El Granada Apr. 27 (BS), the latter only the 3rd for San Mateo (*vide* PJM), and 15+ at China Camp, Monterey, Apr. 26 (CT, JB, BJW).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — A modest coastal irruption of Lewis' Woodpeckers this winter continued into spring, with last reports May 7 at Summit

Meadows, Santa Cruz, and May 9 at Chews Ridge, Monterey (both DLSu) The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Nicasio remained from the winter through Mar. 9 (*fide Gull*); a 'new' individual was discovered at Sycamore Grove, just n. of Santa Cruz, Mar. 23–29 (BMMo, †DLSu, m.ob.). Single Hairy Woodpeckers were out of range at Folsom Peninsula May 2 (JML, MJL; very rare at low elevations in the C.V.) and in Lincoln P., S.F., May 9 (ASH—"second record for county?"). A Pileated Woodpecker described from Henry Coe S.P., Mar. 13 (†B. Breckling) gave Santa Clara its 2nd record.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher on upper Trout Gulch Rd., Santa Cruz, Apr. 5 (DLSu) was quite early. Questions about wood-pewee voice-identification continue. A frequently calling "mystery" wood-pewee was studied in Pacific Grove Apr. 28–May 11 (†DR, RER *et al.*), and tapes were sent to Calif. Academy of Sciences for sonograms. To summarize, while the bird was most similar to W. Wood-Pewee in appearance, calls more closely fit those now expected from E. Wood-Pewee. DR writes: "I have compared those calls to the [tape] I have of the Dec. 14 Carmel bird [tentatively identified as Eastern—see last season's article]. . . our April bird has a sweeter (less plaintive), more two-part [call]. However, even noting those differences, the calls are very alike. The Dec. Carmel bird gave its calls over a four-day period without ever giving any other note; this April bird likewise gave only these upslurred calls (perhaps 100/hr.) without any other note interspersed." Sadly, Willow Flycatcher is becoming a real rarity as a migrant before June, anywhere w. of the Sierran crest. A total of 3 records was all we managed this season: May 3 in w. San Jose (JAC), and two May 24 in Reichmuth P., Sacramento (TDM, AM). A small irruption of 12 Hammond's Flycatchers on the coast and C.V., Apr. 11–May 9 included six on F.I. Five Dusky Flycatchers were noted as coast region migrants Apr. 23–May 5, and seven Gray Flycatchers were identified w. of the Sierran crest Apr. 16–May 8—both totals are above the average. A Say's Phoebe on Glen Canyon Road, Santa Cruz, Mar. 31 (BSh) was a late coastal lingerer, but even more exceptional in this was one n. of Orick Apr. 1–9 (GSL). The Tropical Kingbird at Monterey Bay Academy, Santa Cruz (see last season's report) was last noted Mar. 6 (DLSu). As expected, the first W. Kingbird in the C.V. was much earlier than the first for the coast district: Mar. 15 at Gun Club Rd., Merced (T. Poole), versus Apr. 4 at Gilroy Hot Springs, Santa Clara (PLN).

SWALLOWS THROUGH VIREOS — Bank Swallows were well-reported, and very good news was the estimate by GJS of about 400 active nest holes at Año Nuevo State Reserve: "I believe this is quite an increase from last year, by about twice." Is the whole coastal population growing? A coastal Clark's Nutcracker lingered at the n. end of Swanton Rd., Santa Cruz, Apr. 6–25 (DLSu). Five Black-capped Chickadees were noted in lowlands of the Humboldt Bay area Mar. 20–May 21; only scattered records exist there, although the species has bred. Not too far away, a Mountain Chickadee on Trinidad Head Mar. 22 (KI) was noteworthy on the coast. Red-breasted Nuthatches showed well in the C.V., with one as late as May 10 in Modesto (HMR). A Marsh Wren on F.I., Apr. 1 was said to be the first ever noted there in spring, apart from one June record (P.R.B.O.). An Am. Dipper at Año Nuevo State Reserve Apr. 2 (GJS) was the first recorded there, and remarkable on the immediate coast away from Monterey. In the latter county, a pair fledged young at San Clemente Dam this May (DR, RER), apparently the first record of any sort for the species on the Carmel R.! A ♀ Mountain Bluebird on Año Nuevo Pt., Mar. 5 (GJS, M. Knudson) provided San Mateo's 3rd record for that species. A Swainson's Thrush report for Apr. 5 without details could not be accepted; the species has been found to be exceptional throughout the Region before the 3rd week of April. One at Reichmuth P., May 24 (TDM) was on the C.V. floor, where rare.

Of two N. Mockingbirds at Lava Beds N.M., May 17 (CSt), MFRb writes: "casual e. of the Cascades. This is the second record of this species for the Lava Beds." Single Sage Thrashers

were coastward in Santa Cruz Apr. 27–30 (RTb, †DLSu *et al.* — 3rd for Santa Cruz), Arcata Marsh May 5–6 (FJB, GSL, LPL) and along Arthur Cr., Santa Clara, May 11 (DLSu). Brown Thrashers appeared in Lincoln P., S.F., Mar. 1 (G. Leo, E. Lance) and on F.I., May 24–25. An impressive passage of 724 Cedar Waxwings in 2 hours May 7 was reported from Summit Meadows, Santa Cruz; numbers through the county were documented as conspicuously higher Apr. 22–May 15 than before or after, indicating a spring movement (both DLSu). The **Brown Shrike** first noted Nov. 28 (see last season's report) stayed with us near Olema Marsh, Marin, through Apr. 26 (m.ob.; *fide Gull*) A N. Shrike noted at Merced N.W.R., Mar. 3 (*fide Gull*) gave us our third-most southerly record away from the Great Basin (there are also a few coastward records for s. California). A Loggerhead Shrike in the Arcata Bottoms May 2–3 (KFC, JCS) was rare and late on the n. coast. Problematical was a Solitary Vireo on the U. of Calif. Santa Cruz campus Mar. 16 (DLSu) It seems likely that "extremely early" birds such as this have simply wintered in the Region—but timing and habits in the transition from overwintering to migration are still a "black hole" for us for many species.

WOOD WARBLERS — Both Tennessee Warblers for the Region were on outer Pt. Reyes: May 17 (*fide Gull*) and May 23 (AME). Single wintering Nashville Warblers were last seen in Santa Cruz Mar. 3 (DLSu) and Pacific Grove Mar. 22 (DR), the species was widely considered late and in low numbers (no numerical comparisons given). A N. Parula was on outer Pt. Reyes May 22–24 (*fide Gull*; AME). Perhaps of greater significance were three records for N. Parula *earlier* than the expected timing for vagrants: May 4–24 at Pt. Reyes Nat'l Seashore Headquarters (a territorial male—*fide Gull*; JM, AME), May 5 near Half Moon Bay (†JMS), and May 9 in Golden Gate P., S.F. (ASH). With timing equal to eastern birds of this species at this latitude, these may hint that recent breeding attempts in Marin (see previous reports) will indeed lead to a viable population. A Magnolia Warbler visited outer Pt. Reyes May 23 (AME; *fide Gull*). The Region's 2nd record of **Black-throated Blue Warbler** for spring/summer was furnished by a first-year male on outer Pt. Reyes May 30 (JM). An intergrade "Myrtle x Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler was well-described from the "Western Ag. Dairy" in Del Norte Apr. 3 (†ADB). All suspected intergrades, just as hybrids, need thorough study and documentation to be considered more than 'possibles.' Known-wintering Black-throated Gray Warblers departed Azevedo P., Sacramento, Mar. 25 (DLO) and Capitola, Santa Cruz, Mar. 27 (DLSu) The latter bird was believed present for 186 days! Pacific Grove's Blackburnian Warbler (see last season) was found through Mar. 22 (DR). Nine Palm Warblers, all in coastal lowlands, were exceptionally many for March to May. Also impressive for the Period was a Blackpoll Warbler on F.I., May 19–27. A Black-and-white Warbler noted there May 21 was our only one this season. An Ovenbird was on outer Pt. Reyes May 22 (*fide Gull*). Two N. Waterthrushes were notable for earliness and locations away from the immediate coast: Alum Rock P., May 1 (*fide Gull*) and Coyote Cr. Riparian Station May 7 (*fide PLN* & M. Rigney), both Santa Clara. Less surprising was one in Santa Cruz May 29 (†DLSu). A ♀ Kentucky Warbler on F.I., May 9 (†PP—P.R.B.O.) furnished the "tenth and earliest Island record, all of which have occurred in spring/early summer." An ad. ♂ Hooded Warbler at Palomarin, Marin, May 7 was early, and a first for there; another male was singing in S.F., May 17 (D. Edwards). Yellow-breasted Chats were heavily reported (although first arrivals were notably late). The species was noted along the Carmel R. in May, with nesting confirmed (DR, RER); it had not been reported there in 15+ years. The first real surprise of Santa Clara's new Breeding Bird Atlas project was the discovery of 4+ pairs of nesting chats along Uvas Cr. near Watsonville Rd., May 13–31 (DLSu, WGB). Is this species increasing in the Region?

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — The Summer Tanager at Watsonville (see last report) stayed to Mar. 7 (SEF, PEL,

DLSu). A W. Tanager in Sacramento Mar 26 (BM) gave us one of few March Regional records (see Solitary Vireo comments above), but arrival otherwise appeared to be on time. The only Rose-breasted Grosbeak reported was on F.I., May 31. A ♀ Black-headed Grosbeak on upper Empire Grade Rd., Santa Cruz, Mar. 1 (†BSh) was our only wintering individual, none being reported last season. At least three Blue Grosbeaks were present along Patterson Pass Rd., e. Alameda, May 15–23 (R. Samino, RJR, ALE, JSL, RAE). Commented RAE: "Possibly nesting as several (both sexes) noted here over a period of time . . . probably fewer than 5 previous county records." A female settled in on F.I., May 21–June 9. Lazuli Bunting arrival was unreported for most areas (late?). Three Indigo Buntings made nearly our seasonal average: F.I., May 9 & 18, and outer Pt. Reyes May 23 (*fide* Gull). Dickcissels were represented by singles on F.I., May 22 & 28–30.

A Brown Towhee wandered N to Trinidad Head May 13–26 (KI, GSL, LPL), where there is but one previous record according to JCS. A Rufous-crowned Sparrow singing at Stewart's Point, Sonoma, Apr. 13 (DR, RER) was a little n. of the known range on the immediate coast. Only five Chipping Sparrows were reported from the C.V., Mar. 22–Apr. 19 (DoM, TDM, HMR)—a very poor showing. The species arrived on time coastally, Apr. 7+, based on the few reports. Four Clay-colored Sparrows visited the Region, all on F.I. as is usual for spring, May 6–22. Brewer's Sparrows also gave preferential treatment to P.R.B.O. with one at F.I., May 30–June 1, and Palomarin banding station's 2nd-ever May 31. Ten separate reports of Black-chinned Sparrow, from 5 widely-scattered counties Apr. 26+, indicated a somewhat above-average year for this very erratic species (presumably in response to dry conditions). A Vesper Sparrow in Davenport, Santa Cruz, May 18 (GJS) was quite exceptional—there are fewer than one-half dozen records for the coast district in the period from late April through August (apart from F.I. and n. coast records). Lark Sparrows appeared to be unusually widespread this season judging from the scattered reports, several involving probable breeding in unexpected locales. Sage Sparrows too were fairly well-reported, but with probable breeding indications only. A singing Grasshopper Sparrow at Garin Regional P., Mar. 30 (RJR) was the first of many reported this spring. The last report of Fox Sparrows departing winter grounds was of one on Gazos Cr. Road Apr. 26 (DLSu, PLN)—a bit early. Similarly, the last such Lincoln's Sparrow was early (this by 2? weeks): one at Asilomar, Monterey, Apr. 19 (JML). The latter was the latest county record, underscoring our lack of reporting on departure timing for many species. Three wintering coastal Swamp Sparrows were last noted Mar. 3–27 (DLSu, FJB; *fide* Gull). Fascinating was the Region's 2nd record of Swamp Sparrow for May: an adult banded and measured at Modoc N.W.R., May 9 (†ECB). (Note: see the corrigendum in the spring 1986 report, of an erroneous date in spring 1985. The other May record, and all 3 for June, are from F.I.) Eighteen White-throated Sparrows reported, to May 1 (a bit early), were average. Oddly, all were coastal. Four Harris' Sparrows included one at El Rico Ranch headquarters, Kings, on the late date of May 4 (RAE). Six "Slate-colored" Dark-eyed Juncos (obviously a small fraction of known birds) were reported to Apr. 4, and two more fit spring vagrant patterns: May 23 & 30 on outer Pt. Reyes (*fide* Gull and †JM, respectively). A ♀ Bobolink along Dyson Lane in Sierra Valley, Plumas, May 29 (JSL) furnished only about the 6th interior record in the last 15 years. Encouraging were reports of Tricolored Blackbird colonies nesting (or appearing to) at 10+ sites previously undocumented with us, although the largest was estimated at only 1500—is the species nesting in even smaller colonies than historically, in adapting to current conditions? One male at the Arcata Marsh Project May 9 (CO, J. Brack, TM) was a vagrant to the n. coast. A good total of 15+ Yellow-headed Blackbirds was noted coastally, Apr. 24–May 18, and the species was also well-reported inland (confirmed breeding and new locales were not clarified). Lingering through Mar. 21 (†SEF, PhR; *fide* Gull), the Rusty Blackbird at Pescadero (see

last season) provided our 3rd record later than mid-February. A "Bullock's" N. Oriole at Watsonville Mar. 7 "probably wintered locally" (SEF); the species otherwise appeared to arrive on schedule, Mar. 21+.

A Rosy Finch was feeding nestlings in Mono, below Tioga Pass, on the early date of May 26 (EDG, GKN). Oddly, this fascinating species is poorly reported to us, with only 6 reports in 3 years. Purple Finches were in "modest invasion" numbers in the central C.V. through Apr. 16 (TDM, WEH, MP, m.ob.) One Cassin's Finch made landfall on F.I., Apr. 21, giving the island its 2nd spring and 5th-ever record. The apparently xanthochroistic Pine Siskin(s) wintering in Arcata (see last report) lingered to at least Mar. 5 (GMcC *et al.*). Pine Siskin departure dates in lowlands spanned Apr. 6–May 11 in various sub-regions. Lawrence's Goldfinches were again conspicuous through the Region in this Period (29 records reported, Apr. 11+). Nesting was documented: in May at Carmel R. mouth (DR) and May 31 at L. Hennessey, Napa (MMI, DTk, *fide* RL). A female at Willow Cr. Golf Course May 9 (J. Brack, *fide* JCS) was the first inland for Humboldt and one of few for the county. No reports of more than 25–50 were received. The **Oriental Greenfinch** reported last season from Arcata Marsh remained to Apr. 3 (GSL, C. Fahl). Continuing from last winter, Evening Grosbeaks were in good numbers, especially in Santa Clara and Santa Cruz. They also lingered late, with 7 reports into May. Noteworthy were a female at Elkhorn Slough, Yolo, May 15 (JML) and four at U. of Calif. Santa Cruz May 26 (DLSu—"latest county record by about 10 days").

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Guy McCaskie

A lack of storms during April undoubtedly favored migrant waterbirds moving northward out of the Gulf of California, allowing these birds to pass through southern California unobstructed; hence, far fewer loons, scoters, and certain species of shorebirds were found "downed" on such inland bodies of water as the Salton Sea and Lake Henshaw than we have become accustomed to in recent years. Cooler weather through much of May made landbirding in the eastern part of the Region much more pleasant than normal, and migrants appeared to be more numerous than in recent years. Overcast conditions along the coast in late May probably contributed to the large numbers of swifts reported at that time.

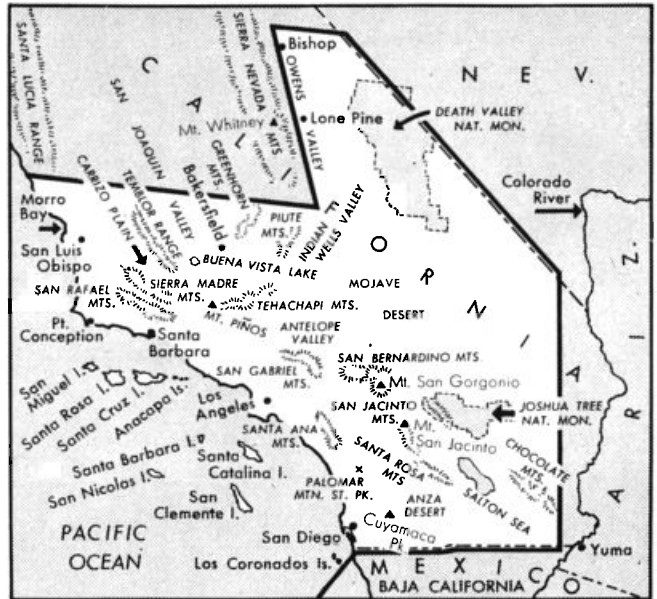
ABBREVIATIONS — F.C.R. = Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley, Inyo Co.; N.E.S.S. = north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.; S.E.S.S. = south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial County. As virtually all rarities found in s. California are seen by numerous observers, only the observer initially identifying the bird is included. Documentation is on file with the California Bird Records Committee [c/o Don Roberson, 282 Grove Acre, Pacific Grove, CA 93950] for all rarities listed in this report, and records submitted without documentation are not published.

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS — A Pacific Loon on L. Perris, Riverside Co., Mar. 11 (CMcG) was inland. As usual migrant Com. Loons were found inland during April and into early May, but four at N.E.S.S., Apr. 25 (GMcC) made the largest group. A Horned Grebe at F.C.R., May 16+ (GMcC) was at an unusual locality, especially considering the time of year.

Richard R. Veit spent May 1–13 aboard a scientific research vessel working in the waters off s. California and extreme n. Baja California, ranging as far s. as 30°25'N 124°0'W (about 500 mi w. of El Rosario on the w. coast of Baja California) and as far n. as 33°35'N 124°18'W (about 400 mi w. of San Clemente on the coast of California) and just off Morro Bay in San Luis Obispo County. Only 15 Black-footed Albatrosses were seen, the closest to shore being c. 60 mi s.w. of Pt. Conception, indicating just how scarce this species is in extreme s. California waters compared to areas farther north. Eight **Murphy's Petrels** were seen over deep water, four being together c. 100 mi s.w. of Pt. Conception May 11, and the remaining four much farther off the coast at the extreme w. limit of the surveyed area. **Cook's Petrels** proved to be relatively common far offshore with 70 seen, most being over deep water more than 250 mi offshore, but three being c. 150 mi s.s.w. of Pt. Conception May 9. A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, casual over s. California waters, was seen between Port Hueneme and Santa Cruz I., Mar. 2 (CTC). As expected Leach's Storm-Petrels were the predominant seabird encountered far offshore with 150± seen May 1–13, but seven birds were positively identified as **Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels**, all being over cold (12–14°C) deep water 150–100 mi s.w. of Pt. Conception May 9 & 11 (RRV).

An ad. Red-billed Tropicbird near the Tanner Bank w. of San Clemente I., May 5 (RRV) and another seen near the Osborn Bank between Santa Barbara and Santa Catalina I. during an organized pelagic bird trip May 10 (KLG) were quite early for s. California waters. A count of 40,000 Am. White Pelicans made during an aerial survey of the Salton Sea Mar. 7 (RMcK) shows this area to be of major importance to the North American population of this species. Thirty Brown Pelicans loafing on the Salton Sea off Salton City Mar. 7 (RMcK) were exceptional numbers for this time of year, but followed a winter when up to 20 were present on the Salton Sea.

HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — A Least Bittern in Mojave, Kern Co., May 30–June 3 (JML) was at an unusual



locality. Up to four Little Blue Herons remained around s. San Diego Bay throughout the period (EC), but the species was unreported elsewhere. A Tricolored Heron at the Santa Ynez R. mouth, Santa Barbara Co., May 5–13 (BP) was unusually far n. as well as being unseasonable, and another was around s. San Diego Bay May 16–20 (JML). Two Cattle Egrets at Deep Springs, Inyo Co., May 21+ (REW) were unusual for this time of year. The ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron present along the coast of San Diego County since October 1981 was with nesting Black-crowned Night-Herons in La Jolla Apr. 9–25 (JO'B). Two Wood Storks, now considered casual along the coast, were seen flying S over Irvine Mar. 12 (RRV), one was near Oceanside Mar. 13 (GS), and two more were near Escondido Apr. 6 (PU), but two present near Imperial Beach Apr. 5–May 3 (B & IM) built a nest and evidently laid eggs, but disappeared before any young hatched, furnishing the first nesting attempt in California.

Very few Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were to be found around S.E.S.S. this spring, with six on Ramer L., Apr. 16 (BED) being the largest group reported. A Greater White-fronted Goose at F.C.R., Mar. 28–29 (DRW) was at an unusual locality, two wintering birds remained in Santa Barbara through the late date of May 1 (JEL), and another still present in California City at the end of the period (MOC) appeared to be summering. A wintering Snow Goose on Upper Newport Bay was present to the late date of May 17 (LRH), and another near San Luis Obispo had joined a group of domestic geese and appeared settled for the summer at the end of the period (BS). A Ross' Goose near Lancaster May 6 (NBB) and another in Anaheim May 14 (PE) were both unusually late. As usual, migrant Brant moving N from winter grounds in the Gulf of California were found inland at N.E.S.S., with up to 100 seen there between Mar. 19 and May 2 (NBB, RMcK).

A ♂ Wood Duck at F.C.R., May 16+ (CM) was late for such a locality. The ♂ Eur. Green-winged Teal wintering in Goleta was last seen Apr. 3 (PEL). Two ♂ Eur. Wigeon that wintered on Morro Bay remained to the somewhat late date of Apr. 4 (PEL), and the ♂ Tufted Duck in Saticoy, Ventura Co., remained to Mar. 4 (RJM). A Greater Scaup at Death Valley Junction Apr. 15 (BED) was unexpected since virtually all found inland here in s. California are on the large and deep bodies of water. The ♂ Harlequin Duck seen at Bolsa Chica off and on since Decem-



A lingering Oldsquaw at Salton City, Cal., Apr. 26, 1987. Photo/Robert McKernan.

ber 1985 was still present Apr. 11 (LRH). A ♀ Oldsquaw, casual inland, was on the Salton Sea at Salton City Apr. 26–May 17 (RMcK). The only Surf Scoters found inland were 40 together on L. Henshaw in the mountains of San Diego County Apr. 4 (GMcC). A ♀ Hooded Merganser at F.C.R., Mar. 28–29 (DRW) was late and at an unusual locality.

HAWKS, GROUSE — A Black-shouldered Kite near Ramer L. in the Imperial Valley s. of the Salton Sea May 23 (HK) was exceptional for this date. A N. Goshawk near Schulman Grove in the White Mts., Inyo Co., Mar. 25 (DAH) is assumed to have been a wanderer, since nesting is unreported from this mountain range. A Red-shouldered Hawk in California City May 21–25 (PEL) was at an unusual locality. A Broad-winged Hawk, exceptionally rare in spring, was in Corona, Riverside Co., Apr. 21 (RMcK). Far more than the average (in recent years) number of migrant Swainson's Hawks were reported this spring with about 60 seen at numerous localities throughout the Region between Mar. 20 and May 27, including 12 over Mid Hills in e. San Bernardino County Apr. 11 (RMcK), eight over Kelso, San Bernardino Co., Apr. 12 (RMcK), eight near San Bernardino Apr. 29 (CMcG), and seven near Borrego Springs Apr. 4 (DMcK), along with single birds along the immediate coast over Irvine Apr. 6, 8, & 10 (RRV), near Anaheim Apr. 11 (DRW), near Santa Maria, Santa Barbara Co., Mar. 22–29 (AA), and over Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo Co., May 26 (BS). A Ferruginous Hawk at Deep Springs May 16 (GMcC) was exceptionally late, and a Merlin in San Luis Obispo Apr. 20 (KH) was one of the latest ever seen in s. California.

Very few Sage Grouse have been reported in this Region, s. California being too far south; hence two to three near Sierra View in the White Mts., Inyo Co., Mar. 25 (DAH) were of interest, and probably indicate the s. extreme of the species' present-day range.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS — Single Solitary Sandpipers, normally rare in spring, were in Anaheim Apr. 23 (DRW), at Finney L. near S.E.S.S., May 9 (EAC), near Riverside Apr. 11 (EAC), in Victorville Apr. 12–25 (SJM), at F.C.R., Apr. 14 (BED), and on the Kern N.W.R., Apr. 18 (RS). A Wandering Tattler, casual inland, was at Salton City May 9–17 (SEF). Concentrations of 225 Whimbrels at Lancaster Apr. 5 (KLG) and 500 there Apr. 16 (NBB) indicated the peak migration period for this species passing through s. California, and one at F.C.R., Apr. 15 (BED) was at an unusual locality. Four Ruddy Turnstones at Salton City Apr. 25 (GMcC) made the largest number found on the Salton Sea this spring, and 60 Red Knots at the same location on the same day were fewer than expected. The only Semipalmated Sandpipers found this spring were two at N.E.S.S., May 2 (RMcK), another there May 9 (JO'B), and a 4th at S.E.S.S., May 17 (JML). A Baird's Sandpiper, very rare in spring, was at F.C.R., Mar. 29 (DRW) and two more were on

the Tulare L. Drainage District Evaporation Ponds, Kern Co., Apr. 5 (JCW). Stilt Sandpipers were continuously present at S.E.S.S. through May 14 with an amazing 400+ there May 9 (EAC).

With only one spring record of a Long-tailed Jaeger for s. California it is significant to learn of one off San Clemente I., May 1 (RRV) and four more off Pt. Conception May 11 (RRV); however, these were eclipsed by the full-tailed adult at N.E.S.S., May 23 (RMcK) seen to fly N up the Coachella Valley. A S. Polar Skua at the Tanner Bank off San Clemente I., May 5 (RRV) and another off Morro Bay May 13 (RRV) were the only ones reported. A Franklin's Gull at F.C.R., Apr. 14 (BED) and another on San Diego Bay May 7 (EC) were the only ones found. An imm. Little Gull at N.E.S.S., Apr. 18–May 9 (GMcC) was the 13th to be found in s. California. An ad. Mew Gull at N.E.S.S., May 24 (HK) was unusually late, and inland. One of the two ad. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** that wintered at S.E.S.S. was still present Mar. 1 (REW), and a 2nd-year bird was seen there May 9 (GH). A Glaucous-winged Gull at S.E.S.S., May 2 (RMcK) was inland. An imm. Glaucous Gull at the mouth of the Santa Ynez R., May 18 (AA) was exceptionally late, and another at N.E.S.S., Apr. 14–May 24 (CMcG) was also inland. The only Sabine's Gulls reported were single birds off San Clemente I., May 1 (RRV) and off Morro Bay May 13 (RRV).

Up to five Gull-billed Terns were present on s. San Diego Bay Apr. 6+ (MO), and it would appear that it will not be long before this species starts nesting in this area. The first Elegant Terns of this spring were back in San Diego Mar. 7 (REW), with some progressing N along the coast earlier than normal, as indicated by 18 at Pt. Dume Apr. 12 (KLG) and two in Goleta Apr. 11 (TEW). An ad. **Sandwich Tern**, undoubtedly the same bird seen off and on in spring since 1980, and the only one ever to be seen on the w. coast of North America n. of Mexico, was in the San Diego area Apr. 18–May 16 (BF). Four Arctic Terns off San Clemente I., May 1 (RRV) were early, 10 off Morro Bay May 12 (RRV) made a large concentration for spring, and one at N.E.S.S., June 3 (GMcC) was inland. A Least Tern seen between Santa Barbara I. and Santa Catalina I., May 10 (BED) was of interest because this species is unrecorded on the Channel Is.; two at Tecopa, Inyo Co., May 31 (JT) were far inland, but one to two were at this very location exactly one year earlier. Two Black Skimmers flying N along the coast at Cayucos May 31 (TME) were unusually far north. An Ancient Murrelet at N.E.S.S., May 23 (RMcK) was only the 3rd ever to be found inland in s. California, but the 2nd at this location.

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A White-winged Dove on Pt. Loma in San Diego May 16 (CGE) was the only one found along the coast this spring. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo in the Prado Basin, Riverside Co., June 3 (RZ) was the earliest this spring, illustrating just how late in spring this species reaches California. Migrant Black Swifts, normally rarely seen, were reported from throughout the Region between May 17 & 30. As expected, most were found along the coast, being seen in all coastal counties, with up to 200 over Pt. Loma May 27–28 (MR, REW) and 20 over Oceano S.P., May 30 (TME) being the largest concentrations. Farther inland, 20 were near Saugus, Los Angeles Co., May 29 (MAP) and four were over the Prado Basin May 20 (LRH); in the e. part of the Region, where very few indeed have ever been reported, single birds were seen at N.E.S.S., May 25 (HK), at California City May 27 (JCW), over F.C.R., May 22 (JLD), and near Lone Pine May 21 (REW). Up to four Chimney Swifts returned to downtown Los Angeles, where small numbers have been present each of the past 3 summers, earlier than before, with the first seen and heard Apr. 30 (KLG). It appears this species may be establishing itself as a breeding bird in the Owens Valley e. of the Sierra Nevada, with two over Bishop May 25 (DR), up to five in Big Pine May 16+ (BED), and as many as seven over Independence May 25–26 (DR). Vagrant Chimney Swifts away from possible breeding localities included one in Goleta May 26 (CDB), two near Santa Maria May 24 (BS), another at Oso Flaco L., San

Luis Obispo Co., May 28 (PEL), and one inland at F.C.R., May 26 (DR). Two Vaux's Swifts over Goleta May 26 (PEL) were unusually late. A Violet-crowned Hummingbird in the lower portions of Bouquet Canyon near Saugus, Los Angeles Co., May 25-29 (LLV) was the 2nd ever to be found in California. An Acorn Woodpecker on Pt. Loma Apr. 25-30 (REW) was away from its normal range and habitat, and a Gila Woodpecker near Mecca at N.E.S.S., May 24 (HG) was only the 2nd ever to be found in the Coachella Valley. A Downy Woodpecker near Imperial Beach May 2 (HLJ) was s. of the known s. limit of the species' breeding range.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS — The Greater Pewee that spent the winter in San Diego was last seen Mar. 28 (B & IM). A territorial Willow Flycatcher in the Prado Basin Apr. 29 (LRH) was the first noted this spring. The only E. Kingbirds found were one at Oasis May 18 (BED) and another at Mesquite Springs at the n. end of Death Valley the same day (BED). A Purple Martin at California City May 25 (CM) and two at Mojave June 3 (MOC) were in an area where considered rare. A Brown Creeper in Mojave May 15-17 (NBB) was exceptionally late for such a locality. A Winter Wren in Kelso Apr. 12 (RMCK) was unexpected at this late date, as was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Butterbredt Springs, located in the dry foothills of the s. Sierra Nevada n. of California City May 24-25 (JLD). A Townsend's Solitaire in Laguna Beach May 31 (HLJ) was the latest ever for the coast of s. California. A pale Hermit Thrush of the *sequoiensis/auduboni* complex near Bombay Beach, Imperial Co., May 22 (HK) and another at Butterbredt Springs May 24 (JLD) were both unusually late migrants. A Gray Catbird, considered casual to accidental in California, was at Oasis May 24 (PJM), another was at the same location May 30 (CM), and a 3rd was photographed in Mojave June 5 (RS). A Brown Thrasher, a very rare to casual straggler to California, was at Deep Springs May 22 (REW) and another was at Panamint Springs, Inyo Co., May 23 (JLD). What was probably a Curve-billed Thrasher was seen at Ft. Piute in extreme e. San Bernardino Co., May 16 (BB); this species is known to breed less than 100 mi e. of Ft. Piute, and stragglers have previously made it to the Colorado R. valley, although mostly in fall and winter. However, the similar Bendire's Thrasher breeds in the immediate vicinity of Ft. Piute and is therefore more likely to occur at that location.

A White-eyed Vireo at Deep Springs May 21 (CDB) was only the 7th ever to be found in s. California, the previous six all having appeared in spring. Two Bell's Vireos at Butterbredt Springs May 8-9 (JCW) and another in nearby Jawbone Canyon May 10 (PEL) were far from areas of known occurrence. A Solitary Vireo of the gray plumbeus race in Goleta Apr. 16-21 (PEL) was only the 2nd to be found in Santa Barbara County during spring migration, but this form is expanding its breeding range W into California, as well as occurring as a very rare winter visitor in extreme s. California; hence, it can be expected to occur with increasing frequency throughout s. California during periods of migration. A Yellow-throated Vireo, a casual straggler to California, was in Goleta Apr. 30 (CDB). A Hutton's Vireo at Butterbredt Springs May 8 (JCW) was well away from its normal range.

WOOD WARBLERS — This was an exciting spring for those many California birders who invest much time each year searching for vagrant warblers at desert oases and at chosen localities along the coast. All 11 of the expected w. species were encountered in better than expected numbers both along the coast and inland, and an additional 26 species considered local breeders, rare migrants, or stragglers were reported, for a total of 37 species in all, leaving only nine species on the California State List unreported!

A ♂ Blue-winged Warbler at Butterbredt Springs May 9 (MOC) was followed by a female there May 29-30 (JLD) bringing the total number now found in s. California to 10. A ♂ Golden-winged Warbler, about the 25th to be found in s. California, was at Oasis May 23 (PJM) and another was accom-



Golden-winged Warbler at Butterbredt Springs, Cal., May 30, 1987. This male Golden-winged was associating with the female Blue-winged present on the same date. Photo/Larry Sansone.

panying the Blue-winged Warbler at Butterbredt Springs May 29-30 (JCW), stimulating talk of possible "Brewster's Warblers." Seven Tennessee Warblers were fewer than expected, but included an exceptionally early male in breeding plumage at Morongo Valley Apr. 2 (MAP) and another earlier than expected individual in Santa Barbara Apr. 14 (PEL), both of which may have wintered along the w. coast. A ♂ Lucy's Warbler at Oasis was a little n. of the species' normal range. Northern Parulas were more numerous than usual with 17 reported between Apr. 20 and June 13, most of which were inland. The only Chestnut-sided Warblers found were a female at Oasis May 25 (REW) and a male in California City May 30 (JML). Four Magnolia Warblers were seen with single males in Mojave May 10 (SEF), at Butterbredt Springs May 11 (SE), at Oasis May 25 (REW), and in the Saline Valley May 25 (LS). A ♂ Cape May Warbler, a casual spring vagrant, was on Pt. Loma May 30-31 (BF). A Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler at F.C.R., May 27 (BED) was late. A ♂ Black-throated Green Warbler photographed near San Diego June 7 (LW) was only the 9th to be found in s. California in spring. A ♂ Yellow-throated Warbler, another casual spring vagrant, was in California City May 14 (NBB). A ♂ Grace's Warbler in Ventura Mar. 14-Apr. 4 (RJM) had undoubtedly wintered locally, but was a different bird from that known to have spent the past 3 winters there, being more than a mile from where that bird winters.



Yellow-throated Warbler at California City, Cal., May 14, 1987. Photo/Larry Sansone.

A ♂ Pine Warbler in Torrey Pines S P near San Diego June 5–6 (JO'B) was only the 3rd ever found in California in spring. Two wintering Palm Warblers remained in Orange County through Mar. 7 (DRW) and another remained at Morro Bay through Apr. 19 (GPS); five together at Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co., Mar. 23 (RJM) and another near Imperial Beach Apr. 19 (RM) had most likely wintered locally, but one on Pt. Loma Apr. 26 (PEL) was with a group of w. migrants. The only Bay-breasted Warbler found was a male at Thousand Palms Oasis May 23 (RMcK). Nineteen Black-and-white Warblers and 21 Am. Redstarts were about average numbers. Three Prothonotary Warblers were found, with a male at Butterbrecht Springs May 10 (PEL), a female in nearby California City May 28 (AS), and the 3rd on the coast in Oceano May 28 (VP), and two Worm-eating Warblers were found with one in Morongo Valley Apr. 30 (NBB) and the other at Butterbrecht Springs May 10 (PEL). Ten Ovenbirds between May 9 and June 3 were more than normal, but six N. Waterthrushes between Apr. 30 and May 22 were fewer than expected. Totally unprecedented was the occurrence of 11 Kentucky Warblers with single males in Morongo Valley May 17 (DRW) & 24 (DG), a male at Galileo Hills near California City May 15 (JCW), a male in Mojave May 10 (SEF), a male at Butterbrecht Springs May 27–29 (JSR), a male near Weldon May 16 (WCH), a male at F.C.R., May 30 (MAP), a male at Deep Springs May 25–27 (MJL), a female at Oasis May 25 (BLaB) followed by a male there May 27 (JML), and a male along the coast on Pt. Loma May 5–7 (REW), this doubling the number of spring occurrences in s. California. A ♂ Mourning Warbler at F.C.R., May 25 (GT) was the 7th to be found in s. California in spring. Six Hooded Warblers were reported, with single females in California City May 16 (JML) & 26 (BED) and at F.C.R., May 25 (GT), and males in Goleta May 16 (PEL), Lompoc May 30 (DF), and Cambria June 7 (PEL). A ♀ Canada Warbler in Morongo Valley May 24 (MMT) was only the 7th to be found in s. California in spring. Single Painted Redstarts, casual spring stragglers to California, were in Morongo Valley Apr. 30 (NBB) and May 9 (BAC) and at Ft. Piute May 23 (LS).



Evening Grosbeak at Montana de Oro S.P., Cal., May 9, 1987. Photo/Karen A. Havlena.

TANAGERS THROUGH SPARROWS — The ♀ Hepatic Tanager that wintered in Irvine remained through Apr. 13 (DRW). Seven Summer Tanagers along the coast between Apr. 27 and June 7 along with nine more at desert oases between May 14 & 31 were about average, all of these birds suspected to be of the race *rubra* straggling from the East rather than birds of the w. race *cooperi*. A ♀ Scarlet Tanager in Coronado, San Diego Co., May 7 (EC) was one of a very few to be found in California in spring. A pair of N. Cardinals along the Colorado R. near Vidal Apr. 15 (BED) was in the very limited area within California still supporting this species. Eight Rose-breasted Grosbeaks during May were far fewer than normal, but 35± Indigo Buntings during the same period were above average with an early male seen at Vallecito, e. San Diego Co., Apr. 15 (BA). A ♂ Painted Bunting at Scotty's Castle May 22 (PEL) was only the 2nd to be found in s. California in spring. A Dickcissel

at Oasis May 25 (PJM) and another in Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo Co., June 8 (MCB) were the only ones found this spring. A Clay-colored Sparrow, most unusual in spring, was at Ramer L. near S.E.S.S., May 9 (EAC) and another was photographed in California City May 10 (JCW). A Black-chinned Sparrow in Bow Willow Canyon, e. San Diego Co., Mar. 15 (SM) was exceptionally early if it had not wintered locally. A Black-throated Sparrow in Crystal Cove S.P., Apr. 7 (NK) was on the coast where considered casual. A Grasshopper Sparrow in Goleta Apr. 29 (JLD) was clearly a migrant. A Swamp Sparrow at Butterbrecht Springs May 14–18 (AS) and another at Mesquite Springs at the n. end of Death Valley May 18 (BED) were both late vagrants. A Golden-crowned Sparrow at Butterbrecht Springs May 28 (JLD) and a White-crowned Sparrow in Mojave June 5 were both exceptionally late. A Harris' Sparrow, rare in spring, was on Pt. Loma Apr. 14–26 (B & IM) and another was at Oasis May 23 (PJM). A Lapland Longspur in San Diego Mar. 21 (JW), another near Oxnard Mar. 22 (JSR), and up to five near Lakeview Apr. 25–28 (AMC) were all unusually late for s. California.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES — The only Bobolink reported was a male at F.C.R., May 23–24 (JML). Great-tailed Grackles continue to be found along the coast with one near Imperial Beach Apr. 17–May 10 (GD), one at the upper end of Newport Bay Jan. 4–Apr. 25 (HLJ), and two more in nearby Balboa Mar. 20–Apr. 9 (JE). Two Com. Grackles, casual stragglers to California, were at Oasis May 24 (CDB). The ♂ Bronzed Cowbird found wintering near Oceanside remained through at least Apr. 21 (JR). Two of the three Orchard Orioles that spent the winter in the Newport-Irvine area remained through Mar. 23 (RRV), but none was found during the late May-early June period. The only N. (Baltimore) Oriole reported was a male in Oceano May 7 (CM). A ♂ Scott's Oriole in the Bitterwater Valley of e. San Luis Obispo County in May (JLD) was somewhat n.w. of the species' normal range, and another in San Diego May 11 (REW) was on the coast where rare. Three Purple Finches in California City Apr. 17 (RS) were at an unusual locality. Up to 15 Red Crossbills on Mt. Pinos in March (JCW, NBB) were the only ones reported. Small numbers of Evening Grosbeaks moved through the desert areas of the n.e. portion of the Region during May as indicated by two in California City May 9 (NBB) along with single birds in Palmdale May 16 (KLG), F.C.R., May 16 (BED), Deep Springs May 22–23 (PJM), and Oasis May 24 (PJM), and one was photographed on the coast in Montana de Oro S.P., May 9 (EVJ).

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Robert L. Pyle

Precipitation during the spring season was above normal over most of Maui and Moloka'i, bringing calendar year accumulations to the surplus side at all stations on those islands. Also in the Waimea saddle region of Hawai'i Island the anomalous 3-times-normal rainfall of last winter continued unabated through the spring. In the rest of Hawai'i Island, an in the northern islands of O'ahu and Kaua'i, rainfall continued to be woefully subnormal, with 1987 accumulations remaining 30% to 60% below average at all stations. Moisture conditions were probably sufficient to avoid catastrophic nesting failure for landbirds and wetland birds this year, but the cumulative long-term effects of several years' precipitation deficit may well be having some significant impacts.

ABBREVIATIONS — H. = Hawai'i I.; K. = Kaua'i I.; M. = Maui I.; O. = O'ahu I.; J.C.N.W.R. = James Campbell Nat'l Wildlife Ref. on O'ahu; P.H.N.W.R. = Pearl Harbor Nat'l Wildlife Ref. on O'ahu; BPPM = specimen catalog number prefix for B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu.

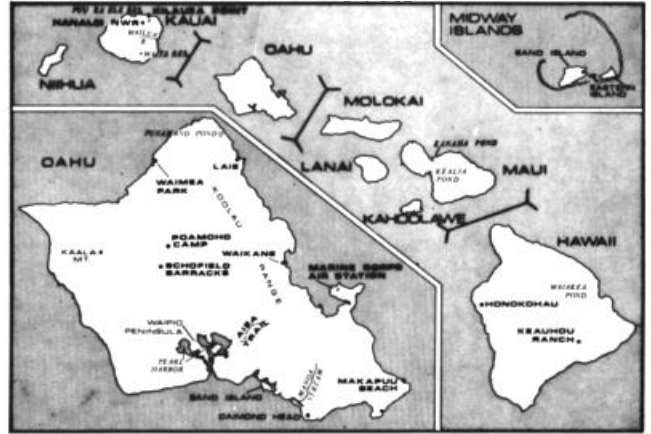
GREBES THROUGH HERONS — The Pied-billed Grebe colony is still flourishing at Aimakapa Pond, H. At least eight individuals, including a very young chick riding on an adult's back, and a nest with 3 eggs visible were observed there Apr. 2 (RD).

Laysan Albatrosses started 4 nests at Kilauea Point N.W.R., K., this year. One egg failed to hatch, but the remaining 3 progressed to fully feathered chicks in June with fledging expected in July (DM). The nests were in a portion of the Refuge cleared of exotic vegetation and fenced securely for protection against dogs. Up to 30 birds were seen on the Refuge during March and April, many of them practicing courtship. However, dogs destroyed all 6 nests this year in the adjacent Crater Hill area (DM), which is receiving much attention now as a potential addition to the Refuge. Across the island at Pacific Missile Range dogs killed most of the birds, but three survivors were transferred in April to Sea Life Park on O'ahu (DM). The Laysans frequenting Oahu's n. shore decreased during March and April. Late reports included two flying off Sandy Beach on the s. shore May 7 (JE) and three around Ulupa'u Crater May 9 (RLP). One also was seen in early May flying off Kalapana on the s.e. coast of Hawai'i I. (SM).

A Christmas Shearwater observed well flying off Ulupa'u Crater, O., Apr. 20 (PD) was a notable sighting. A few pairs nesting on Moku Manu islet off Ulupa'u Crater make up the only known colony of these in the populated Hawaiian Is., and the species is very rarely identified from shore.

Five White-tailed Tropicbirds were at Pauwahu Pt., M., Mar. 29 (PC), and on the same island five were in view at once May 22 near Kealaloloa Ridge (RLP). The latter is an interesting locality for this species in the s. part of the w. Maui Mts. A Red-tailed Tropicbird was found on a nest at Makapu'u Pt., O., Mar. 15 (BE et al.). No reports were received this spring of the Red-tailed nesting colony on Manana I., opposite Makapu'u Pt. High numbers of Masked Boobies (10+) were seen on Moku Manu islet from Ulupa'u Crater Mar. 29 and May 9 (RLP). A Great Blue Heron, vagrant in Hawai'i, was flushed from a pond at Honouliuli Unit, P.H.N.W.R., Apr. 13 & 17 (DW), but could not be found again thereafter (PD).

GEESE THROUGH COOTS — Numerous Hawaiian Geese (Nene—Endangered) were observed at several locations in Haleakala Crater, M., during spring, the largest count being of twenty-four (including eight goslings) at Paliku Cabin May 6 (PC). Eight Canada Geese reported flying over Hilo, H., Mar. 3



(BC) was an extraordinarily high number for wild Canadas on Hawai'i I., and the birds may well have been escapees.

A group of five Green-winged Teal at Ki'i Ponds, J.C.N.W.R., Mar. 15 was reported to include three females with one male each of the Eurasian and North American races (DP). On Maui, which had the main concentrations of wintering ducks this year, N. Shovelers at Kealia Pond were down to 30–40 Apr. 12 (SB) and down to seven 2 days later (PD, RD). But at least 60 shovelers remained at Kanaha Pond, M., Apr. 14 (PD, RLP); and at Honouliuli Unit, P.H.N.W.R., 30 and 17 were still present Apr. 20 & 28 respectively (PD). Seven Ring-necked Ducks were still at Kealia Pond, M., Apr. 14 (PD, RD); and a very late female was at Aimakapa Pond, H., May 11, but had departed by May 15 (RD).

The most bizarre report of the season was of a Hawaiian Hawk ('Io—Endangered), a Buteo, small by North American standards, perched in a tree eating a Wild Turkey. The turkey, a juvenile, was not quite as large as the 'Io (LF). Oahu's Osprey was reported at J.C.N.W.R., Mar. 15 (DP) and around Apr. 1 (DW), and the one on Kaua'i was seen at Lihu'e May 4 (TT). Last report received of the Peregrine Falcon on the Pearl Ridge Square highrise condominium was Apr. 28 (GG). Other sightings of probably the same individual were at Waipi'o Feb. 28 (DP) and Makapu'u Pt., Mar. 15 (BE et al.).

Two Erckel's Francolins and 15 Com. Peafowl (including two ad. males) were observed May 13 above Peacock Flats in the Wai'anae Mts., O. (JL). A Gambel's Quail was found dead on Saddle Rd. near Pohakuloa, H., and four live ones were seen on nearby Keanakolu Rd., both Apr. 13 (JL). This introduced species is very rarely reported, although still apparently extant on Hawai'i, Lana'i, and Kaho'olawe.

Ten active nests of (Hawaiian) Am. Coot (Endangered) and some very young chicks were seen on Aimakapa Pond, H., Mar. 15 (RD). Three downy chicks were with 11–12 adults at Honouliuli Unit, P.H.N.W.R., Apr. 25 & 28 (PD). A coot of the field-identifiable North American race, thought to occasionally reach Hawaii with wintering ducks, was seen alone in an isolated pond near Kealia Pond, M., Apr. 14 (RLP).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS — A Black-bellied Plover, a casual migrant to Hawaii usually found in coastal wetlands, was observed carefully Feb. 18 & 20 and Mar. 14 with Lesser Golden-Plovers in a pasture at about 4500 ft elevation in Makawao Forest Reserve, M. (FD). Black-bellieds were reported widely this spring: at Paiko Lagoon, O., Mar. 31 (PB), Kealia Pond, M., Apr. 14 (PD, RD), Waipi'o, O., May 5 (PD), and two flying along the shore at Malaekahana Park, O., May 25 (TP). A (Hawaiian) Black-necked Stilt (Endangered) found freshly dead May 15 on the shore of tiny Nihoa I. (SC), 260 km n.w. of Kaua'i, may well have furnished the first record (*BPPM

175823) of this Hawaiian endemic away from the main Hawaiian Islands. The unusual wintering Bristle-thighed Curlew at J.C.N.W.R. was last reported Mar. 2 (PD) and Mar. 15 (DP).

A bird carefully identified as a **Little Stint** coming into breeding plumage was observed closely at leisure and photographed Apr. 25, 28, & 30 in the West Ponds at Waipi'o, O. (PD, AE, RD, RLP). A Dunlin in breeding plumage, rarely seen in Hawaii, was at Kealia Pond, M., Apr. 14 (PD, RD, RLP), and two Com. Snipe were flushed from Ki'i Pond, J.C.N.W.R., Mar. 2 (DP). A Red Phalarope in winter plumage was photographed at sea 2-3 mi off Kailua-Kona, H., Apr. 5 (RD).

Two imm. Laughing Gulls and a winter-plumaged Ring-billed Gull were at Aimakapa Pond, H., Mar. 10 (BH). The Ring-billed and one Laughing were still there May 2 when a fine breeding-plumaged Franklin's Gull happened by (RD). The Franklin's was not seen again, but the others remained through season's end. A small tern at Waiawa Unit, P.H.N.W.R., Apr. 30 was identified as probably a Least (rather than a Little) Tern by the pale gray of the mantle extending uninterruptedly to the central tail (RD, PD). The bird's calls were inconclusive. It was seen again May 5 at nearby Waipi'o (PD). A White Tern was photographed at sea off Kailua-Kona, H., Apr. 16 (*vide* RD). On O'ahu, this species continues to be reported widely around Honolulu.

DOVES THROUGH OWLS — The introduced but very elusive Mourning Dove apparently still persists in very small numbers on w. Hawai'i I. One adult in good plumage was confidently identified at Pu'u Lani Ranch Apr. 19 (RD). An escaped Great Sulphur-crested Cockatoo was seen 3 times in late February near Pukalani, M. Twice it was flying with Cattle Egrets in late afternoon, possibly heading toward a roost (FD).

One of two Rose-ringed Parakeets was seen to disappear into a hole in a tree in Makiki Valley Park, O., Mar. 25, and a month later one was seen to enter the same hole (JL). A few Rose-ringed have been observed on O'ahu for years, but positive evidence of breeding has been lacking. One pair did raise one young successfully on Hawai'i I. in 1981, but the species has not been reported on that island before or since. On Kaua'i, three Rose-ringed Parakeets were seen together Mar. 7 landing in a eucalyptus tree at the edge of Lihu'e-Koloa Forest Reserve n. of Kalaheo (AE).

An unusually large flock of 33 *Amazona* parrots, probably mostly Red-crowned, has been observed roosting in eucalyptus trees in evenings during April and May above Pearl City, O., sometimes on Waimano Ridge and sometimes on nearby Manana Ridge (TP). Smaller numbers have frequented Kapiolani Park near Waikiki for years, with as yet no direct observation of breeding.

A strange die-off of owls is occurring on Kaua'i. From Mar. 25 to June 7, 38 Com. Barn-Owls and six (Hawaiian) Short-eared Owls (Pueo) have been found sick or dead on the island. Although most often found on roadsides with evidences of vehicle collisions, all have been weak, anemic, and generally emaciated, suggesting that some disease factor may be the underlying reason for their attraction and proximity to highways. Analysis of specimens by several pathologists has thus far failed to identify a conclusive cause. Other tests are being conducted. Widespread distribution of casualties seems to rule out an isolated use of rodenticides (all *vide* TT).

On a happier note, the Pueo chick reported last season in the Wai'anae Mts., O., was gone (hopefully successfully fledged) when the nest was revisited Apr. 5 (JO, SP). One infertile egg remained in the abandoned nest. A Pueo was seen by Audubon hikers at nearby Palikea Peak May 17 (BE), and another was seen the same day across the island in upper Aina Haina Valley (MH). This is good news for O'ahu, where this Hawaiian endemic subspecies has been reduced to critically low numbers compared to other islands.

SWIFTLETS THROUGH HONEYEATERS — Three Gray Swiftlets were seen together along the ridge bordering N. Hal-

awa Valley stream, O., Mar. 28 (PD, RD), where there have been a number of previous sightings.

S.A.

News about the Hawaiian Crow ('Alala—critically Endangered) is all bad. Despite a large observational effort, the annual 'Alala survey this spring for the first time failed to record any observation of the species, audio or visual. Later, one 'Alala was seen and another heard at Waiea in the s. portion of McCandless Ranch (JG, FD), and one was heard above Honaunau May 13 (SM). One can only hope that these will not be the final reported observations of this species in the wild.

The captive breeding flock fared no better in the new quarters at Olinda, M. Although 4 pairs showed some courtship and nest-building activities, only one pair advanced to the stage of egg-laying. Two eggs laid Apr. 30 and May 6 (delayed) did not develop. The pair refurbished the nest for a 2nd clutch and the female sat on it for several days, then died June 11. She was found to be egg-bound from a large growth blocking the oviduct. This reduced the captive flock to four males and four females. Some switching of mates may be tried before next year's breeding season, when once again we will be fervently hoping for some desperately-needed reproductive success.

Two 'Elepaio observed Mar. 7 in exotic forest above Kalaheo, K., at the edge of the Lihu'e-Koloa Forest Reserve, were out of normal habitat at an unexpectedly low elevation (AE).

Two more reports were received this spring of a **Kamao** (Endangered) along the Pihea Trail near Koke'e, K. (AE Mar. 9, RD May 22), where this extremely rare species has been reported a handful of times in the past one-half dozen years.

The last known remaining **Kaua'i 'O'o** ('O'o'a'a) was heard (but not seen) in its traditional locale near Halehaha Stream in the Alaka'i Swamp, K. It was heard twice Apr. 28 and 3 times Apr. 29 (CK, JK). With no current plans for future F & W.S. surveys in this very remote area, one wonders when, or even if, this species will ever be seen again.

EMBERIZIDS — Two dead ♂ N. Cardinals (*BPBM 175824, 175825) found on Nihoa I., May 14 & 15 (DH, *vide* SC) were apparently accidental stragglers from the main Hawaiian Is., the nearest of which is some 260 km to the southeast. One vagrant male had been observed alive on Nihoa in April 1983 (SC), for apparently the only prior record of vagrant cardinals in the N.W. Hawaiian Is. The introduced Yellow-faced Grassquit, first discovered in 1974 on a trail above Pearl City, O., was reported several times in March and April in short-grass lawns down near the start of the trail (PD). In the past year or 2 the species has been observed in other parts of the Ko'olau Mts., including a report of one heard singing Mar. 1 this year above Wilhelmina Rise in e. Honolulu (TP). The vagrant ♀ Great-tailed Grackle residing on Waipi'o Peninsula for at least 7 years was observed again at the West Ponds Apr. 25, 28, & 30 (PD, RD, AE, RLP).

HAWAIIAN HONEYCREEPERS — Laysan Finches (a Hawaiian Honeycreeper—Endangered), endemic to Laysan I., were found there in good numbers in March although their nesting cycle seemed to be almost a month delayed, perhaps because of unfavorable winter weather this year (MM). Six Kaua'i Creepers along Pihea Trail Mar. 8 (AE) furnished a good count. A pair of ad. Maui Creepers was watched feeding two juveniles in upper Waikamoi Preserve, M., Mar. 24 (FD). Three nests of the rare Hawai'i race of 'Akepa (Endangered) were found Apr. 12–May 24 in the new Hakalau N.W.R., H. (JL). The earliest of these apparently fledged young successfully. Two juv. 'Iwi were seen in Waikamoi Preserve Mar. 24 (FD), and numerous juvenile 'Apapane were found there Mar. 24 (FD), Apr. 15 (PD, RD), and June 13 (Nature Conservancy staff).

The native forest birds of Lana'i I have been reduced to rather low numbers of a single species, the 'Apapane. Thus it was significant when two dead 'Apapane were found this spring within a mile of each other near Lana'i Hale summit, on Apr. 11 (decomposed) and May 24 (freshly dead) (fide AM).

ESTRILDIDS — Two ♀ Red-cheeked Cordonbleus observed in Kailua View Estates, H., Apr. 25 (JL) were a considerable distance from Pu'uana'hulu where a few have been seen occasionally in recent years. One ad. Warbling Silverbill observed Mar. 7 along Navy Road, one and one-half mi n.w. of Kekaha, K (AE), was one-quarter of the way around the island from

Po'ipu, where this species was first discovered on Kaua'i several years ago

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WEST INDIES REGION

Robert L. Norton

Precipitation during the spring as measured at Cruz Bay, St. John, was mixed with regard to monthly averages and trends. March rainfall was 80% above normal, April was 96% below normal, and May 60% above normal, yielding a total 23% above average for the spring period. In fact, rainfall during late May caused severe flooding in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Rainy conditions in Guadalupe, the Lesser Antilles, may have affected observation of some resident species in late May. But in the southern Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands, there has been no appreciable rainfall since the preceding summer!

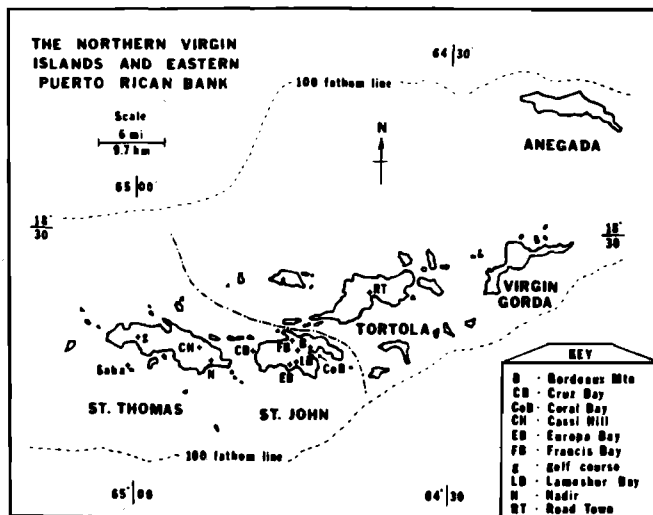
Contributors covered the length of the West Indies, from the northern Bahamas to the mid Lesser Antilles, this season.

ABBREVIATIONS — G.B. = Grand Bahama Island; P.R. = Puerto Rico; T & C = Turks and Caicos Islands; V.I. = Virgin Islands.

SHEARWATERS THROUGH TERNS — A colony of Audubon's Shearwaters was noted in early March near Providenciales, T & C (BA). Twelve to 20 Audubon's were also seen off Peterson Cay, G.B., Apr. 29–30 (ST). A Wilson's Storm-Petrel was seen in the vicinity of Great Isaac Light, G.B., Apr. 28, and five Masked Boobies were seen off Peterson Cay, G.B., the same day (ST). Aldridge reports that eight to 10 White-tailed Tropicbirds were noted in breeding activity from Mar. 19 through April at Providenciales. Some 50–80 Am. Flamingos were seen daily through the spring at West Caicos, T & C, and two Roseate Spoonbills (considered rare in the T & C) were also seen at W. Caicos Mar. 4 (fide BA). Five Great Blue Herons were observed Mar. 15–19 at Anegada, where they may nest among the great expanses of mangroves (GM). On May 1 a Least Bittern and six Blue-winged Teal were seen at West End, G.B. (ST). A N. Pintail observed at St. Croix Mar. 9 represented one of the few spring reports for the V.I., and a N. Shoveler was seen there Mar. 20 (FS).

On Apr. 27, three Sharp-shinned Hawks were observed moving N in the vicinity of Great Isaac Light, G.B. (ST). A resident Sharp-shinned Hawk was sighted at Maricao Forest, P.R. (PM, CD). Two Merlins May 1 and a Peregrine Falcon May 2 were also noted at West End, G.B. (ST). From Mar. 1 to Apr. 2, a Peregrine roosted daily on the radio antenna at Cabo Rojo N.W.R. headquarters, allowing several observers (PM, m.ob.) an opportunity to stay tuned. Two Peregrines were seen at St. Croix Mar. 9 (FS), adding to the evidence of the improved status of this species in recent years.

Gambel's Quail have been introduced to Providenciales,



where four were seen Apr. 4 (BA). Ten Soras and a Purple Gallinule were noted at West End, G.B., May 2 (ST). Six Snowy Plovers were noted at Anegada, where they nest in small numbers along inland salt ponds and the outer beaches, and 12 Whimbrels were observed there Mar. 19 (GM). Sladen found 2 Willet nests on St. Croix in March and suspected there were 4 more in the area he searched. Six godwits (sp.) were seen Apr. 30 along the beach at West End, G.B. (ST), but a positive identification could not be made. A **Bar-tailed Godwit** at Sandy Point N.W.R., St. Croix, May 19 and May 22–27 (FS, RLN) was photographed for the first documented record for the West Indies. At Providenciales, Semipalmated Sandpipers numbered 50+ Apr. 8 and Short-billed Dowitchers numbered 50+ Apr. 20 (BA). Three light-phase ad. jaegers, identified as two Pomarine and one Parasitic, were seen flying N 25 mi s.w. of G.B., May 2 (ST). A single Ring-billed Gull was at St. Croix Mar. 4–17 (FS). Two Gull-billed Terns were at St. Croix May 13 (FS) and two more were at Providenciales May 20, while a pair of Roseate Terns at Providenciales Apr. 25 provided a local first (BA). Nesting Roseates numbered about 100 pairs at Flat Cay, St. Thomas, May 21 (JC), and 25 Sandwich Terns were also there. On May 23 at Providenciales, 26 Least Terns were noted as nesting (BA).

DOVES THROUGH BLACKBIRDS — More than 15 Eur Collared-Doves were seen near Lucaya, Freeport, G.B., Apr. 29 (ST). A Com. Barn-Owl was found dead at West End, G.B., May 2 (ST). Although the species is resident on G.B., this individual could have been a stressed migrant/vagrant from

Florida or other Bahamian islands Chuck-will's-widows were calling at Lucaya Marina, G.B., Apr. 28, but were not heard Apr. 29 (ST). A Com. Nighthawk was identified by call May 1 at West End, G.B. (ST). McKenzie noted that Apr. 6 was the first arrival date of Antillean Nighthawks at Cabo Rojo N.W.R., P.R. On May 23, eight Antillean Nighthawks were noted as breeding at Providenciales (BA). Wauer had one of the few sightings of Short-tailed Swift on St. Croix, the only V.I. location where they have been recorded, May 17. A Chimney Swift at Lucaya, G.B., Apr. 29 (ST) represented one of few spring records for the Bahamas. An extraordinary number of Antillean Mangos (18) was counted in mid-March at Anegada (GM), indicating they may be holding on in the e. islands of the P.R. Bank. A **Purple-throated Carib** visited a feeder with Green-throated Caribs at St. John Apr. 17 (AH, RLN et al.), providing a first record for the V.I. Remarkably, another Purple-throated Carib came to a feeder on St. Croix May 3 (FS). Although photography of the St. John bird was attempted (RLN), only the St. Croix bird could be photographed, albeit poorly. From the photos and Sladen's description, it appears the St. Croix bird was indeed a different individual. More details are expected elsewhere.

A Purple Martin seen Apr. 18 at Providenciales (BA) furnished one of few records from the s. Bahamas, while another was seen farther n. at West End, G.B., May 2 (ST). A single Cuban Crow was noted Mar. 10–Apr. 15 at Providenciales; the species has a limited distribution in the T & C. Wauer visited a published location for the Guadalupe House Wren with no results during a 3-hr. search May 23. Despite the very rainy conditions in late May, the lack of results portends badly for the species; RW stated that the habitat did not appear to have been altered since 1973, and provided some of the best birding on Guadalupe. A Lesser Antillean endemic, the Forest Thrush, was noted May 23 at Guadalupe (RW). Eight Cedar

Waxwings at West End, G B , May 1 (ST) provided one of few spring records for the n. Bahamas. Also at West End, ST noted a Eur. Starling feeding young May 1.

A Chestnut-sided Warbler seen May 14 furnished a first record for Providenciales and for the T & C. Five of the locally resident Olive-capped Warblers were noted among the pines at Lucaya, G.B., Apr. 28, and four Pine Warblers, also resident on G.B., were noted at Freeport Apr. 29 (ST). Blackpoll Warblers noted on migration through the Bahamas included one at Providenciales Apr. 21 (BA) and 15+ on G.B., May 2 (ST). Another resident warbler of the West Indies is Plumbeous Warbler, which was noted to be fairly common at Guadalupe May 23–24 (RW). Bobolink numbers at West End, G.B., increased from four May 1 to 39 May 2 (ST), indicating a migration pathway across the Gulf Stream from the Bahamas to North America. A N. Oriole was observed at the Pitahaya icterid roost near Cabo Rojo N.W.R., P.R., Apr. 1 (PM). Two N. Orioles were noted upland of Maho-Francis Bays, St. John, Apr. 17 (RLN) for one of the few recent records for the V.I. Six Yellow-shouldered Blackbirds, a critically-endangered endemic species, were noted May 2 at Cabo Rojo N.W.R., P.R., representing an "uncommon concentration for that area" (PM).

ADDENDUM — Two Laughing Gulls at St. Martin Dec. 3, 1986, provided one of the few winter records for that island (RW). Three notable records for the island of Saba, Netherlands Antilles, were furnished by a White-winged Dove Dec. 1, 1986 (perhaps a local first), three Smooth-billed Anis Dec. 3, 1986 (first for the island), and an Ovenbird Nov. 30, 1986 (also a first—all by RW).

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Golden-crowned Kinglet (Regulus satrapa). Illustration/James Coe.

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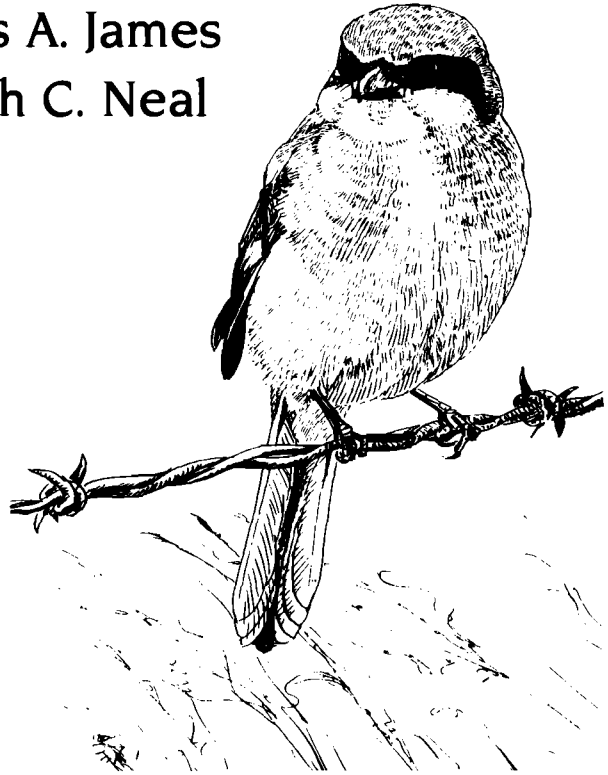
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