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NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

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Volume 55: No. 3, 2001 • March 2001–May 2001

SPRING MIGRATION



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CONTENTS

THE SPRING MIGRATION: March Through May 2001

NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS • AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION • VOLUME 55: NUMBER 3 • 2001

- 252 First North American Record of Greater Sandplover
Sue Abbott, Steve N.G. Howell, and Peter Pyle
- 258 The Changing Seasons: Drifters
Edward S. Brinkley
- 265 Editors' Notebook
- 373 Whither field ornithology? Perspectives from the "inside"
Wesley Hochachka, John W. Fitzpatrick, and Kenneth V. Rosenberg
- 375 First successful United States nestings of
Heermann's Gull: Challenges of an Urban Colonist
Don Roberson, Stephen F. Bailey, and Rita Carratello

The Regional Reports

269 Atlantic Provinces

Blake Maybank

272 Québec

Pierre Bannon, Samuel Denault, Yves Aubry, and Normand David

274 New England

Simon Perkins

278 Hudson-Delaware

Joseph C. Burgiel, Robert O. Paxton, and David A. Cutler

284 Middle Atlantic Coast

Marshall J. Iliif

288 Southern Atlantic Coast

Ricky Davis

291 Florida

Bill Pranty

297 Ontario

David H. Elder

298 Appalachia

Robert C. Leberman

301 Western Great Lakes

Jim Granlund

304 Middlewestern Prairie

Kenneth J. Brock

308 Central Southern

B. Mac. Myers and Phillip A. Wallace

311 Prairie Provinces

Rudolf F. Koes and Peter Taylor

313 Northern Great Plains

Ron Martin

314 Southern Great Plains (Fall Migration 2000)

Joseph A. Grzybowski

318 Southern Great Plains (the Winter Season 2000-2001)

Joseph A. Grzybowski

321 Texas

Chuck Sexton

325 Idaho-Western Montana

David Trochlell

327 Mountain West

Van A. Truan and Brandon K. Percival

330 Great Basin

Ted Floyd

332 Arizona

Gary H. Rosenberg and Roy M. Jones

336 New Mexico

Sartor O. Williams III

339 Alaska

Thede Tobish

342 British Columbia-Yukon

Donald G. Cecile

347 Oregon-Washington

Steven Mlodinow, Gerard Lillie, and Bill Tweit

351 Middle Pacific Coast

Don Roberson, Daniel S. Singer, Scott B. Terrill,
Steven A. Glover, and Thomas P. Ryan

355 Southern Pacific Coast

Guy McCaskie and Kimball L. Garrett

359 Baja California Peninsula

Robert A. Hamilton, Richard A. Erickson, and Eduardo Palacios

361 Mexico

Héctor Gómez de Silva

366 Central America

H. Lee Jones

368 Hawaii

Robert L. Pyle and Peter Donaldson

370 West Indies

Robert L. Norton and Anthony White

381 Pictorial Highlights



Under appropriate meteorological conditions, trans-Gulf migrants such as this Hooded Warbler can materialize far to the west of typical range. At least 15 Hooded Warblers were found in the Southern Pacific Coast Region this spring, the biggest showing since 1992; this male was near Desert Center, Riverside County on 13 May. *Photograph by Larry Sansone.*



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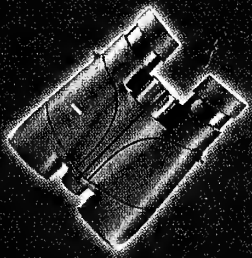
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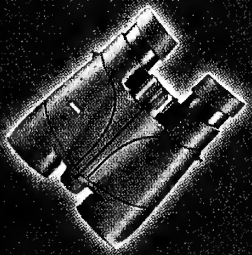
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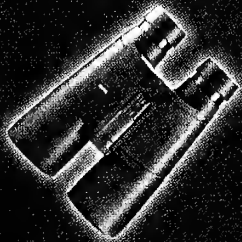
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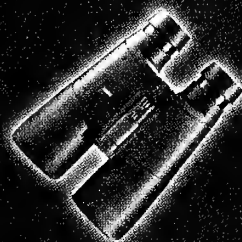
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First North American Record of Greater Sandplover

Sue Abbott
Steve N.G. Howell
Peter Pyle
Point Reyes Bird Observatory
4990 Shoreline Highway
Stinson Beach, California 94970



Greater Sandplover on Bolinas Lagoon, 5 February 2001.
Photograph by Peter LaTourrette.

On the afternoon of 29 January 2001, during a Point Reyes Bird Observatory (P.R.B.O.) shorebird and waterfowl census, an unfamiliar *Charadrius* plover was discovered roosting on the southern shore of Bolinas Lagoon, Marin County, California. At approximately 1300 Pacific Standard Time, Abbott and Howell were finishing the census at Seadrift, a gated community in Stinson Beach, when the bird was spotted and initially identified it as a Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*). When Howell looked at it more closely, however, he knew that it was not a Snowy Plover. Its body size, long legs, large bill, and lack of a white hind collar suggested that it was a sandplover.

For about 15 minutes, while the bird roosted next to a Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*), Howell and Abbott observed it in good light at about 30-40 m through 60x telescopes, made sketches, and took notes. Abbott then left to contact P.R.B.O. biologists, including Pyle, who arrived at about 1400. Pyle's initial reaction when he saw the bird through binoculars at about 300 m range was that it was a Snowy Plover; but upon closer examination, the large bill and pale legs suggested a Wilson's Plover (*C. wilsonia*). Howell noted, however, the lack of a white hind collar, the olive-colored legs, and turnstone-like call, thus ruling out Wilson's Plover. Based mainly on bill size and leg color, both Pyle and Howell agreed that it was unlikely a Mongolian Plover (= Lesser Sandplover; *C. mongolus*) of the east Asian *mongolus* subspecies group, to which all North American records refer. Both observers had prior field experience with Greater Sandplover (*C. leschenaultii*) and considered that possibility, but neither felt confident that it was not a large-billed Lesser Sandplover of the west Asian *atrifrons* subspecies group (see Hirschfeld et al. 2000 for taxonomy).

Due to the difficulty of distinguishing between Greater and Lesser Sandplovers, the bird remained unidentified for several weeks. Birders arrived at Bolinas Lagoon from across North America, beguiled by a bird that even experts could not identify in the field. It remained faithful to the site, most often seen alone, but at times, particularly when feeding, it associated loosely with other shorebirds. Its preferred feeding habitat was relatively sandy mud (N. Warnock, pers. comm.); when the tide inundated this area, the bird roosted among high tide debris on a near-

by sand spit. Its behavior was largely dependent on tidal cycles, and there were periods of up to a week when it was not found. After initial debate, most opinion favored Greater Sandplover. For example, based on examination of photos and observations on a birding website (<http://fog.ccsf.org/~jmorlan/sandplover.htm>), E. Hirschfeld and T. Hardaker (both versed in sandplover identification) felt strongly that this was, indeed, a Greater Sandplover.

On 15 March 2001, the bird was captured on Stinson Beach by P.R.B.O. biologist Doug George and was measured, photographed, and released without harm by Pyle and Howell. Based on comparisons of these measurements to those of museum specimens (Table 1), we confirmed the bird as a Greater Sandplover—the first record for North America. The last corroborated sighting of the bird was on 8 April 2001 (Howell and Richard A. Erickson). Seadrift personnel received sightings by unknown observers through 28 April, including reports that the bird had “turned orange,” but these remain as yet unconfirmed.

DESCRIPTION

Size, Structure, and Bare Parts: Howell and Abbott considered the bulk of the sandplover to be about one-third that of a Black-bellied Plover. Compared to Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) present at the same site, Pyle estimated the bulk of the bird to be about one-and-one-half times greater. The bird was approximately half the height of a Black-bellied Plover and slightly taller than Dunlin and Sanderling (*C. alba*). When compared directly with a Snowy Plover (on 1 April), the sandplover appeared at least twice as large. When standing, the wing tips projected well beyond the tail, with the tail tip about equal to the tip of the eighth primary. The sandplover appeared “flat headed,” similar to Snowy and Wilson's Plovers, but its longer legs gave a comparatively lanky appearance. Pyle estimated its tarsus to be about one-and-one-half to one-and-three-quarter times that of a Sanderling. Leg color usually appeared medium-pale, dull yellowish olive (Frontispiece, Figures 1-2); in bright sun, the legs looked paler, while in overcast lighting they seemed duller and more grayish. A dull flesh or pinkish tone to the legs was apparent in low angle sunlight and in the hand. The bill was black, heavy, and stout

(Figure 1), the “nail” (the distal bulge of the upper mandible) appeared to comprise about half of the bill’s length, and the bill tip was relatively pointed (Figure 2). The large bill was proportionally comparable to that of a Black-bellied Plover. When observed in flight, there was a slight, yet distinct, toe projection beyond the bird’s tail (Figure 3).

Plumage

The plumage markings and color of the sandplover (Figures 1-5) were remarkably similar to those of a Snowy Plover in basic plumage. Its crown, auriculars, upperparts, and chest patches were sandy gray-brown, and its nape was only slightly paler, sandy-buff brown, unlike the distinct white hind collar shown by similar North American *Charadrius*. As in Snowy Plover, there was a small patch of white just above the sandplover’s bill and lores; the whitish supercilium appeared variable in extent and shape, depending on lighting and angle of viewing; and the throat and underparts were entirely white. When seen alongside a female-plumaged Snowy Plover on 1 April, the sandplover’s upperparts appeared slightly darker and grayer. The upperwings showed dark remiges with a whitish wingstripe broadest across the inner primaries (Figure 3); the underwings were bright whitish overall, but their appearance varied greatly with lighting. The uppertail coverts and tail base were pale sandy, contrasting with the dark brown subterminal tail band and sandy gray-brown back and rump. In bright light, however, the rump and uppertail often appeared concolorous, while in overcast conditions the paler uppertail coverts and tail contrasted noticeably with the rump.

In late January, the striking contrast between fresher (first basic) scapulars and worn, bleached (juvenile) upperwing coverts immediately identified the bird as being in its first winter (Figure 4); a scattering of mantle and scapular feathers were also juvenile. (Adults would show a more uniform appearance at this time of year.) The bird continued to molt throughout its stay, gradually replacing the juvenal tertials, tertial coverts, scapulars, and most median and lesser upperwing coverts. The longest juvenal tertial was retained on 29 January, when the inner tertials had been shed; on 13 February the longest juvenal tertial had been shed (Figure 4), the new inner tertials were mostly grown, and some outer lesser and median coverts had been shed. By 12 March, the longest new tertial had grown in, as had the new, white-tipped subscapular, and many juvenal median and lesser upperwing coverts had been replaced, but a worn and faded juvenal covert panel remained in the carpal region (Figure 5). The juvenal primaries, secondaries, and rectrices had been retained.

Vocalizations

On 29 January (during windy conditions), Howell and Abbott heard the bird call in flight and likened it to the call of a Black Turnstone (*Arenaria melanocephala*): a dry, rattled, three-syllable *trr-i-rrt* or *tri-i-it*. On later dates (in calm weather), the call sounded mellower, more reminiscent of a Ruddy Turnstone (*A. interpres*): a three-syllable, slightly sharp, rattled *tu-tu-tu* or *teu-t-tu*, in slightly descending series or with the middle note slightly higher (Figure 6). The bird also gave simpler, two-note calls, such as *tu-tu*, and less frequently a single *tu* or *teu*.

Measurements

With the bird in hand (Figures 7-9), Pyle and Howell independently measured (hence the range of values) and double-checked various parameters: exposed culmen length (24.0-24.7 mm; Figure 7); bill nail length (12.2-12.9 mm); bill depth at base (7.3-7.4 mm); bill depth at deepest point of distal bulge (5.4-5.5 mm); wing chord (137.7-138.0 mm); and tarsus length (35.8-37.0 mm). In addition, Pyle measured the flat wing (139.1 mm) and tail length (48.3 mm).

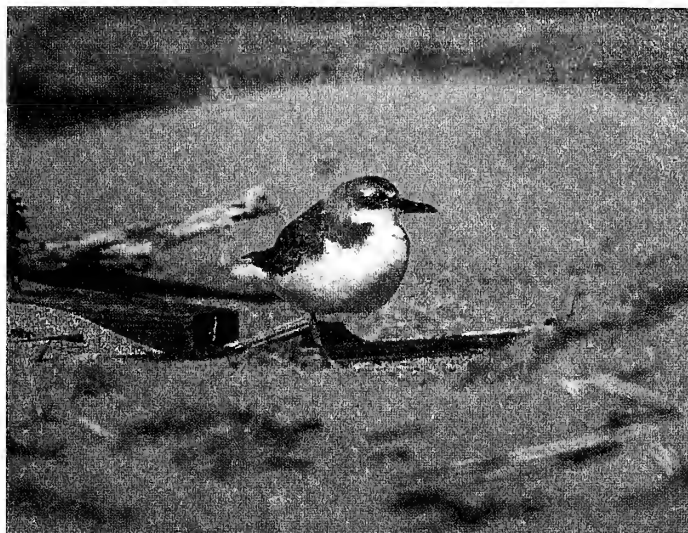


Figure 1. Greater Sandplover roosting on Stinson Beach, 15 March 2001. Note large bill with long nail and relatively pointed tip. Photograph by S. N. G. Howell.



Figure 2. Greater Sandplover on Bolinas Lagoon, 5 February 2001. Note the heavy, black, stout bill. Compare this with other photographs presented here: in various postures, against different backgrounds, and under various lighting conditions, the bird took on rather different appearances. Photograph by P. LaTourrette.



Figure 3. Greater Sandplover in flight at Bolinas Lagoon, 1 February 2001. Note slight toe projection beyond tail tip and shape of wing stripe. Photograph by L. Sansone.

DISCUSSION

Sandpipers differ from superficially similar North American *Charadrius* (e.g., Figure 10) by a combination of their brownish nape, bill size and shape, leg color, and call. Field separation of Greater versus Lesser Sandplover in basic plumage has long been a contentious issue. Identification criteria for this pair were detailed by Taylor (1982), Shirihi et al. (1996), and Hirschfeld et al. (2000). Bill size and structure, leg color, toe projection in flight, shape of the wing bar, and contrast of the subterminal tail bar have been considered characters of particular importance in separating the two species.

The bill of Greater is more pointed than the relatively blunt-tipped bill of Lesser, has a longer nail, and, excepting the westernmost subspecies of Greater (*C. l. columbinus*), is heavier and longer than that of Lesser. Leg color of Greater is characteristically dull yellow-olive, paler than the dark olive-gray to blackish legs of Lesser. In flight, Greater shows noticeable projection of toe tips beyond the tail, whereas Lesser shows little if any projection. The wing bar of Greater bulges more along the primaries and narrows along the secondaries; that of Lesser is more even in width. The subterminal tail band of Greater averages darker, contrasting more with the rest of the tail.

On the Stinson sandplover, we found bill size and structure (particularly nail length) and leg color to be the most useful field identification features; these were typical of Greater (Table 1, Figures 2, 7) and outside the range of Lesser. Toe projection was consistent with Greater, but this feature shows overlap between the two species in Australia and can be difficult to evaluate in the field (C. Corben, pers. comm.). While wing bar and tail pattern were also consistent with those reported for Greater (Figure 9), examination of birds in the hand in Bahrain (A. Forsten and A. Lindholm, pers. comm.) and published photos (pers. obs.) suggest that these features may not be diagnostic.

Other field marks we found helpful included upperpart color and posture. Greater Sandplover has relatively paler and sandier upperparts than the darker and browner upperparts of Lesser (Taylor 1982; C. Corben and D. I. Rogers, pers. comm.). In addition, the Stinson bird characteristically held a horizontal posture while standing and feeding (recalling a Black-bellied Plover), in contrast to the more upright posture typically shown by Lesser (which recalls a Pacific Golden-Plover, *Pluvialis fulva*) (Hirschfeld 1991; Howell and Pyle, pers. obs.).

Many shorebirds replace upperwing coverts and tertials in their first year, but over-winter molt of these feathers occurs mainly in the tropics and southern hemisphere, not at the latitude of central California, where this molt usually occurs before winter (Howell and Pyle, pers. obs.). In Australia, Greater Sandpipers complete this molt from late November to March (Marchant and Higgins 1993), relative to which the California bird exhibited a slightly retarded schedule—perhaps not surprising for a vagrant. Of note is that the tertial molt greatly affected the visible primary projection: on 29 January three primary tips projected beyond the longest tertial, which fell about equal with the tip of the seventh primary; on 13 February, four primary tips projected beyond the tertials, the longest of which fell about equal with the tip of the sixth primary (Figure 4). By 12 March, with the new longest tertial fully grown, the primary projection had reverted to that of 29 January.

Voice of the two sandplover species has received variable treatment in the literature, with both species' calls often likened to those of Ruddy Turnstone. Taylor (1982) reported shorter, harder calls for Lesser and longer, trilling calls for Greater. This is the opposite of the Stinson Greater Sandplover (shorter calls) compared to Lesser Sandpipers (longer calls) in Alaska (Howell, pers. obs.) and Australia (C. Corben, pers. comm.). Most recently, Hirschfeld et al. (2000) suggested "that voice is of virtually no use when identifying vagrants." Critical attention to analogous calls,

involving spectrographic comparisons, may elucidate the field identification potential for calls of these species.

Measurements and ratios of the Stinson sandplover are close to mean values for Greater Sandplover and fall outside of the ranges for Lesser Sandplover (Table 1). A comparison of measurements for the Seadrift bird to those of Hirschfeld et al. (2000) reveals slight overlap in wing and tarsus lengths with the maximum values recorded for Lesser (although this may be due in part to different measuring techniques). In each case, however, the values for exposed culmen and bill nail, along with ratios or combinations of measurements (e.g., wing length and bill length), fall well outside the range of Lesser and confirm the Stinson bird as a Greater Sandplover.

For birds in the field, Millington (1988) indicated that the tarsus-to-bill-length ratios calculated from photographs can be useful for separating these species: 1.43-1.78 for Greater versus 1.70-2.16 for Lesser (also see Table 1). Prior to the Stinson bird's capture, Pyle and Howell independently took measurements from 12 different photos of the bird in profile and calculated tarsus-to-bill-length ratios of 1.58-1.71 (Pyle, from 8 photos), and 1.55-1.67 (Howell, from 4 photos), both indicating Greater Sandplover. Thus it appears this method can be helpful.

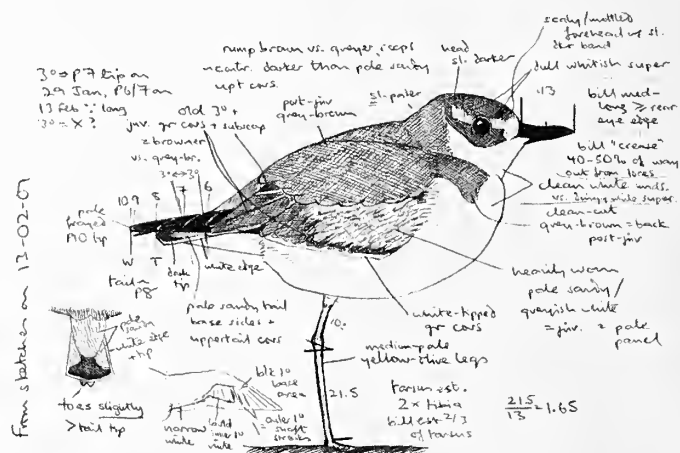


Figure 4. Field sketch and notes of S.N.G. Howell.

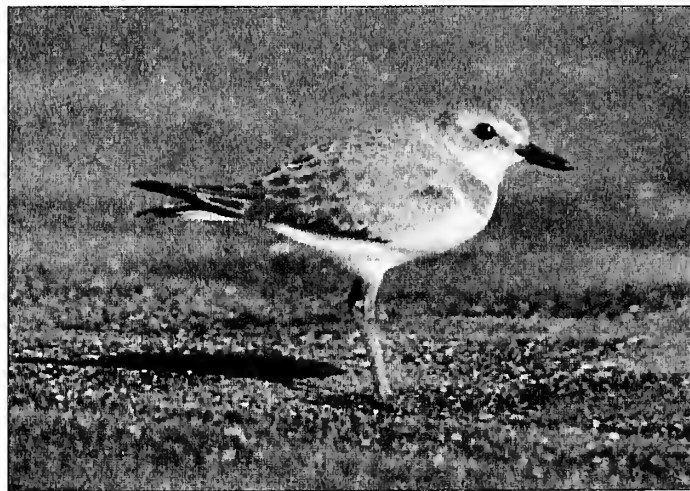


Figure 5. Greater Sandplover on Stinson Beach, 12 March 2001. Note the relatively uniform upperparts with mostly new wing coverts and tertials. Compare this with Figures 2 and 4 and with the frontispiece for plumage and posture differences. Photograph by S.N.G. Howell.

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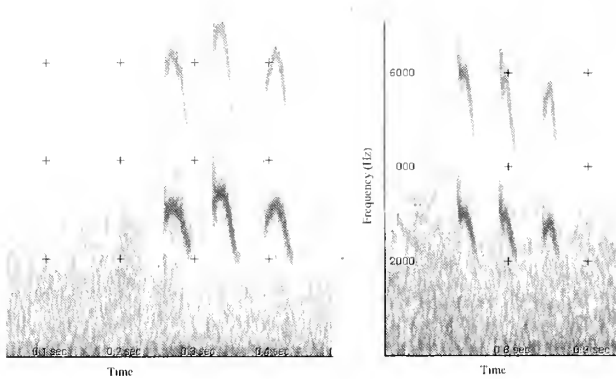


Figure 6. Two examples of flight call of the Greater Sandplover, Bolinas Lagoon, 1 March 2001. Three-note calls, such as these, were most commonly given either with the middle note higher (on left), or with notes in slightly descending series (on right). Recorded by S. N. G. Howell.

There are three subspecies of Greater Sandplover: nominate *leschenaultii* breeds in Mongolia and north-central China; *crassirostris* in southwestern Russia and Afghanistan; and *columbinus* in the Middle East. In winter, *leschenaultii* ranges from southeastern Africa to Australasia (with migrants rare but regular as far east as Japan); *crassirostris* from the Red Sea to the Gulf of Oman; and *columbinus* from the southeastern Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf (Brazil 1991, Marchant and Higgins 1993, Hirschfeld et al. 2000). Measurements of the Stinson sandplover agree with those of the nominate subspecies (Hirschfeld et al. 2000), which breeds the farthest east and is the longest-distance migrant.

We will never know how this bird reached California, but the following scenario seems as plausible as any. A Great Circle line drawn from the wintering grounds of nominate Greater Sandplovers in southeastern Africa to Bolinas Lagoon passes through the region of this taxon's breeding grounds, which lie around the half-way point of this Great Circle distance. It has been suggested that circannual ("built-in") clocks predetermine for how long a young bird flies in its first fall migration which, in conjunction with a correct compass course, would take it to the species's wintering grounds (review by Gwinner 1996). Thus a young bird that flew for the predestined time period from its nesting grounds, but in a 180° misoriented course, could end up in central California, with its route passing through southwest Alaska in fall where refueling could have occurred. It is unlikely that the bird arrived at Bolinas Lagoon on 29 January, and we suspect that it was overlooked through the fall and early winter.

The Greater Sandplover has been recorded as a vagrant at least 66 times in Europe (Hirschfeld et al. 2000) but never before in North America (A.O.U. 1998). The Lesser Sandplover (*mongolus* subspecies group) is casual in North America south of Alaska, where it is a rare but annual migrant that has bred on occasion (A.O.U. 1998). In California there have been eight records of Lesser Sandplover, all from 12 July to 3 October, including one from Marin County (Erickson and Hamilton 2001). No confirmed North American records exist for Lesser Sandplovers of the *atrifrons* group.

Acknowledgments

Foremost, we thank the personnel at Seadrift Association (Dick Kamieniecki, Bob Stevens, Jim O'Miela, Kiren Niederberger, and Tommye Jarvis) for their remarkable hospitality and tolerance in accommodating almost 2500 visitors seeking the sandplover. Without the skill and patience of Gary Page and especially Doug George, we might never



Figure 7. Greater Sandplover on Stinson Beach, 15 March 2001, to show exposed culmen length of >24 mm. Ruler stop is held even with base of exposed culmen. The pale area across the culmen base was scaly, keratinous material, and not feathering; this feature is lost on museum specimens. Photograph by S. N. G. Howell.



Figure 8. Greater Sandplover on Stinson Beach, 15 March 2001. Comparison with in-hand photos of Greater (left) and Lesser (right) sandplovers from Hirschfeld et al. (2001). Photograph by P. Pyle.



Figure 9. Greater Sandplover on Stinson Beach, 15 March 2001. Note upperwing and tail patterns. Photograph by P. Pyle.

have confirmed the identification. At the National Museum of Natural History (U.S.N.M.), Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C., James Dean and Christina Gebhard facilitated Pyle's examination of plover specimens. Joe Morlan's website provided a forum for opinions from around the world; Maya Decker, Roger Harshaw, Peter LaTourrette, Les and Cindy Lieurance, Larry Sansone, and David Seay kindly contributed photographs for study; Chris Corben, Annika Forsten, Antero Lindholm, and Danny I. Rogers helped with discussions relating to field identification; Corben and Diana Stralberg produced the sonograms in Figure 6. Among many others who assisted in various ways, we would like to acknowledge Keith Hansen, Guy McCaskie, Jackie Miller, Sandy Scoggin, Lynne Stenzel, and Nils Warnock. The manuscript benefited from comments by Thomas Gardali, Erik Hirschfeld, Gary Page, and Nils Warnock.

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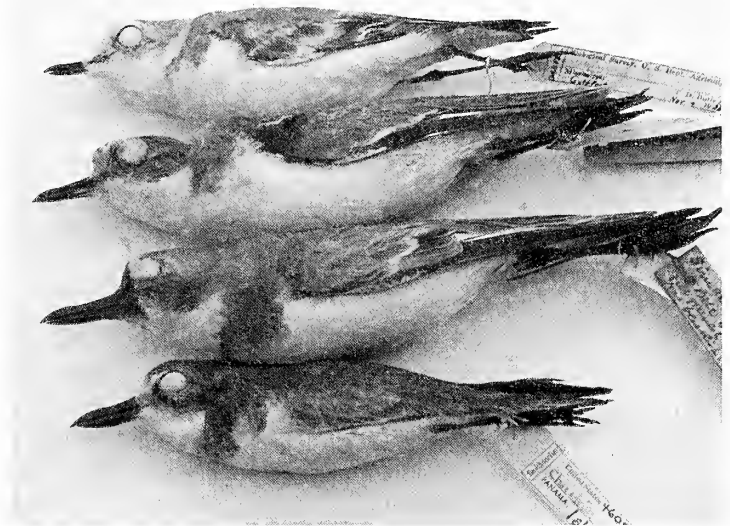


Figure 10. Comparison of (top to bottom) a typical Snowy Plover (USNM 342132; female; *C. a. tenuirostris*), Lesser Sandplover (USNM 172914; female; exposed culmen 19.8 mm), Greater Sandplover (USNM 179026; female; exposed culmen 24.5 mm), and Wilson's Plover (USNM 460599; female; *C. w. beldingi*). Note relative bill sizes and body size differences. Due to specimen preparation, hind collar differences cannot be discerned. Photograph by P. Pyle.

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Table 1. Measurements (mm) of the Stinson Beach Greater Sandplover compared to those of specimens of Greater Sandplover and Lesser Sandplover.

	Greater Sandplover ¹		Stinson bird	Lesser Sandplover ¹	
	Mean	Range	Mean ²	Mean (±S.D.)	Range (±S.D.)
Exposed Culmen	23.8 (1.09)	22.0-26.9	24.5 ³	17.6 (1.08)	16.3-19.8
Wing Chord	135.9 (3.18)	132-142	137.9	126.7 (4.18)	118-133
Culmen/Nail	1.98 (0.07)	1.78-2.11	1.94	2.26 (0.13)	2.07-2.53
Wing/Culmen	5.71 (0.27)	4.91-6.28	5.63	7.22 (0.57)	6.26-8.10

¹ Measurements taken by Pyle of 20 Greater Sandplover and 19 Lesser Sandplover specimens at the USNM. All were first-year birds collected on the wintering grounds, most in Southeast Asia (and, therefore, likely represent the nominate subspecies of both taxa); however, some were collected elsewhere in Asia and Africa. We use the international name Lesser Sandplover rather than the name "Mongolian Plover" for *C. mongolus* for the sake of convenience.

² Measurements of the Stinson bird taken by Pyle and Howell on 15 March 2001. The value reported here is the mean of 3-4 measures taken with both ruler and calipers. For each measure the range was <5.6% of the mean (see text).

³ Exposed culmen measures are subject to shrinkage between live birds and specimens; e.g., Engelmoer and Roselaar (1998) found 2.8-4.25% shrinkage in plovers. Applying these values to the Stinson bird would result in specimen culmen length of 23.5-23.8 mm.

The Changing Seasons

Drifters

From the Plains eastward, most of the continent found that the spring of 2001 lent itself to few superlatives. Bannon, Denault, Aubry, and David report from Québec that “a never-ending series of nice sunny days was not conducive to the occurrence of any big fallouts.” Leberman in the Appalachian Region: “Nearly every field observer [...] commented on the generally poor flight and lack of significant ‘fallouts’ of Neotropical migrants. At Powdermill Nature Reserve [...] this spring’s banding total of about 1800 birds was the third lowest ever and 35% below the 40-year average.” Davis in the Southern Atlantic Coast Region: “The spring migration through the Region was generally uneventful, with mostly fair weather keeping birds on the move. [...] With low numbers of migrants and no new rarities found, many observers felt that this was one of the slowest, poorest spring migrations in years.” Brock in the Middlewestern Prairie Region: “Cool conditions in late May proved unfavorable for generating migratory waves; consequently, many correspondents relegated the spring flight to the mediocre category (or worse).” Myers and Wallace in the Central Southern Region: “In general, landbird migration was quite dull. [...] At Ft. Morgan, Alabama the Sargents had the poorest banding spring of their career. Robert Duncan in nw. Florida and Myers in se. Louisiana both considered the migration among the worst in memory.” Martin in the Northern Great Plains Region: “Passerine migration was unspectacular, with warblers making a particularly weak showing.” Iliff in the Middle Atlantic Region: “Relatively little frontal activity was blamed both for the lack of many significant landbird flights and the extremely poor hawkwatching season at Ft. Smallwood. Perhaps as a result, comments on this spring’s migration were another echo that this year was even poorer than last.” Elder in Ontario: “Spring moved across the province in a series of stops and starts but with no real weather events that affected bird migration.” And Sexton in Texas: “After spectacular fall and winter seasons, it was perhaps predictable that the next avian passage would be a letdown. In most areas, both the weather and the migration were commonly termed ‘unexceptional.’”

A look back on “Changing Seasons” columns of the past reveals that not a few columnists have noted the abundance of negative adjectives in editors’ characterizations of the spring migration (Plunkett 1969, Smith 1976, Gee 1977, Howe 1978, Smith and McCrimmon 1979, Arbib 1981, Mackenzie and Weir 1985, Ralph and LeValley 1986, Lehman 1987, Kaufman 1996). Indeed, a reader of this column could easily take away the impression that the spring migration in eastern North America has shown a steady, pitiable decline in migrants, particularly Neotropical migrants over the last three decades—or that weather patterns in most recent years conspire (increasingly frequently?) to conceal these migrants from human eyes.

Arbib (1981), as is true of many later columnists here, was of the opinion that “migration seasons are not the best times of year to judge how species populations are faring: the variables of weather, fallouts, birders afield, and chance make year-to-year comparisons highly risky.” Talk of population declines in migrants is virtually taboo in the spring seasons’ columns of the past, but the



This adult Glossy Ibis in breeding plumage was along the Gila River in western Maricopa County 19-21 May, providing the first state record for Arizona. Northern California got its first record in spring 2001 as well, and the species and its close relative White-faced Ibis appeared at many unusual locations throughout the continent and through the season. To what extent are patterns of wind important in the dispersal of these and other migratory species apparently expanding their range in North America? *Photograph by Roy M. Jones.*

question of *why we so often bemoan a lack of migrants* in these pages is itself a culturally interesting one: could the persistence of our lamentation (whether attributed to weather or not) be indicative of actual population declines, or does it have some other motivation?

Initial analyses of data gathered from long-term Gulf coast monitoring projects certainly could be interpreted to suggest that the magnitude of migration is less than what it used to be in, for instance, the 1960s (Gauthreaux 1999), but interpretation of what we think of as “long-term” data sets can be difficult, particularly in light of the changing radar technologies used to monitor migrants; and radar studies do not distinguish among passerine species, of course. It is possible, too, that gradual climate changes have influenced the concentration of migrants in recent decades: as the average arrival of “spring” creeps back a bit in the calendar in this era of global warming, our migration may be more protracted, the birds spread more thinly rather than radically reduced in number. An interesting recent paper also suggested that shifts in storm activity or wind patterns in the recent decades may be linked to changing patterns of migration, vagrancy, even colonization (Butler 2000); another recent paper (Veit 2000) argues that population increases show correlation with vagrancy. Both arguments have merit.

If every other year is truly “the worst in xx-odd years of birding,” then the magnitude of (some?) migrants’ decline would seem to be precipitous. This remark is not intended to minimize or mock some birders’ perception of decline, as the decline is known to be quite real for some species (Robinson 1997). One has only to stand in the field with observers who have spent three dozen springs or more on the Gulf coast to give this perception its due. But this column has always been about field observers’ *impressions* of migration (Eubanks 1988, Kaufman 1990) rather than about comparable sets of data gathered in standardized fashion, a laudable goal for which a few Changing Seasons columnists have argued in the past (Smith and McCrimmon 1979, Lloyd-Evans et al. 1980, Adams 1982). Given that birders’ expectations, impressions, activities, goals, and (one must confess) energy levels can change over a lifetime, and because we gather and compare “data” largely in narrative form in this journal, our regional reports—and especially this column—are vulnerable to nostalgia, to a yearning for the “old days” of birding when migrants fairly dripped from the trees by the hundreds. It is safe to say that nearly every generation claims that “children were better behaved” in times past; likewise, rose-

colored memories of more-abundant birdlife in the past may have common cultural underpinnings that distort, if only slightly, our perceptions of the present.

I plead guilty to this sort of nostalgia. My childhood on the banks of old Paradise Creek in Norfolk, Virginia, was spent in anxious anticipation of each spring migration. If I woke to a warm light rain or fog along the Elizabeth River in early May, I knew the Live Oaks would brim with scores of warblers—Blackpolls, Bay-breasteds, Cape Mays, sometimes even numbers of Tennessees. To return to places where one spent one's formative years birding and fail to see the spectacles of the past is painful: even though I know now that those years were ones of "artificially" high populations for the "spruce budworm" warblers during the budworm's spread through the boreal forest (Morse 1989), it is nonetheless profoundly disappointing to go through spring after spring without their company (the Blackpolls, I should note, are still numerous).

Arbib (1981) would not have stood for all this pining and mooning: "although most reporters and regional editors dismissed [this spring season] as dull, uneventful, lackluster, dismal, or worse, the reactions were much more to personal experiences and dashed expectations (and perhaps to a dearth of mid-week birding) than to what might have actually been happening above us, or beyond us." Kaufman (1996) was similarly blunt: "On the upper Texas coast it is an annual pastime to complain about how terrible the migration is in each particular spring. (This has been standard practice at least since the early 1970s, when I started visiting there.)" If one were just to skim the regional reports this spring, the season might in fact seem a dull one in many respects for the sport of birding. It is customary in this column to combat that impression in an accounting of all that was rare and rich in the season and to caution against any conclusions about the migration in the tortured "relationship between our perceptions and reality" (Eubanks 1988). Twenty years of this column's admonitions about negative characterizations of spring migration have not changed these characterizations; perhaps something really has changed.

Whatever the situation with migration generally or with particular migrant species, when so many Regions report that their seasons were "uneventful," our Changing Seasons chalkboard is refreshingly uncluttered, which provides us pause to glance back over the past 40 spring columns, many of which were written by specialists in bird migration studies. Exceptions within this otherwise uneventful spring were plentiful; comparing them to events of the past, we note to our guarded satisfaction that some of that theories advanced in this column in years past, particularly those that link singular weather events to birds' movements in migration and vagrancy, are borne out again and strengthened by the events of spring 2001.

The Weather Report

March: March was wet and cool or cold through much of the East, where groundings of migrating waterfowl here and there were observed but little movement of landbird migrants in most places. Heavy snow cover stretched from the northern and middlewestern prairies east to New England and Newfoundland, where the season total of 630 cm in St. John's broke all manner of records for the city, the province, and the country. In Québec, the month was merely "a continuation of last winter," and this held true through much of the northeastern quadrant of the continent, which had endured a cold and snowy winter. Monthly snowfall totals such as 114 cm in Syracuse and four or five times that in some places farther upstate in New York appeared to retard the progress of early-season migrants, as was felt to be the case in snowy New England, where an early April snowpack up to two meters brought Perkins to ponder: "Do northbound migrants respond to the presence of a pronounced snow line? Large numbers of jaegers have been observed in spring stacking up along the pack ice off Alaska, and it seems reasonable to assume that other spring migrants, especially insectivores like phoebes, and ground-feeders like woodcocks, would avoid proceeding too far beyond the southern limit of the snow pack."

By contrast, March in the far West showed signs of mildness but later turned wet and cool, particularly in British Columbia and Alaska, where all of April was

spent in "an endless funk of cold, wet, windy weather" according to Tobish. California's editors report that weather conditions were rather dry and "uneventful," but in the Southwest and southern Great Basin, a wet winter and early spring produced a lush, green spring, particularly in Arizona. The Prairie Provinces, Northern Great Basin, and Montana, on the other hand, were dry.

April: While March in much of the continent continued patterns from winter—a "wet front" in eastern Texas at the close of March was a welcome exception—April and early May were memorable in most of the Midwest and East for high temperatures, as the jet stream retreated northward, allowing southerly winds to blow roughly to the east of the Rockies, from southern Manitoba through to New England. In Colorado, according to Percival and Truan, spring was two weeks ahead of average, and trees were leafed out by 1 May. In Boston, temperatures soared to 85° F on 22 April, bringing a similar early leaf-out. The track of the jet stream meant that most low-pressure systems tended to ride north, toward the United States–Canadian border, so storms were relatively few that would impede the progress of migration, and conditions were also extremely dry through much of the East. In the Southern Atlantic, by contrast, April was slightly cooler than average. An early leaf-out, often cited as a problem for detecting numbers of migrants (e.g., Smith 1976), probably poses fewer difficulties for modern birders than some have opined, but if temperatures are low and song infrequent, then this can naturally lead to the impression that few migrants are about. Such may have been case in the Midwest and southern Great Lakes through New England; similarly in western Texas through Arizona, a verdant spring probably contributed, as Sexton notes, to "dispersed migration (and thus migrants are perceived to be at low densities)."

It is not unusual to have a warm April in the southern states, but the early, sustained warmth of April 2001 that ranged up to southern Canada was well above the average. In a "typical" year, southerly or southeasterly winds blow with regularity east of the 105° W meridian from the Gulf of Mexico, a fetch set up by the development in April of a high-pressure cell (the "Bermuda High") off in the North Atlantic, and this flow continues into May. As the continent's eastern portion lies roughly on the western edge of this area of high pressure, winds from the south are relatively reliable. On this past April's infrequently interrupted southerly winds (coastal Texas's fallout 23–24 April was an exception) rode waves of record early birds, along with notable "overshooting" individuals well north of typical range.

In the Maritime Provinces, particularly in Nova Scotia, a fallout of granivores, chiefly Blue Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, occurred early and on the heels of a coastal northeaster ("Carolina Low") that moved rapidly up the coast 18–19 April. It would appear that northbound migrants move offshore and downwind in the southerly winds on the "tail" of the low, and this sometimes happens in the autumn, when, rather than "overshooting" the behavior is usually termed "reverse migration" (McLaren et al. 1999). Similar fallouts have occurred in previous springs (cf. Howe 1978, Kaufman 1991). Likewise in New England, Simon Perkins reports that "all the regular passerine 'overshooters,' including Blue Grosbeak, Summer Tanager, and Yellow-throated, Hooded, Kentucky, and Prothonotary Warblers, made their usual spring (mostly coastal) cameos"; most of these can likewise be linked to sustained southerly flows. At both northern and southern latitudes through the interior, east of the Rockies, birders found almost countless record-early individuals on the south winds. Québec birders had at least a dozen record early arrivals, most of them warblers, whereas "scores of early dates" were set in Illinois, Indiana, and elsewhere in the Middlewestern Prairie Region. "Numerous early dates" were recorded for migrants through Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin, and Wallace and Myers likewise recorded too many early dates in the Central Southern Region to list out individually.

Readers of this column will recall warm, dry Aprils in the East from 1967, 1985, 1986, 1988, 1991, 1998, and to a lesser extent 1981 (Bagg 1967, Mack and Weir 1985, Ralph and LeValley 1986, Eubanks 1988, Kaufman 1991, Wamer 1998; Arbib 1981). Naturally, quite a few springs do not have the warm April (or

warm April combined with cool May) of 2001: years such as 1966, 1971, 1973, 1975, 1982, 1989, 1995, and 1996 had cool or rather cold Aprils (Bagg 1966, Paxton 1971, Gauthreaux 1973, Gauthreaux and LeGrand 1975, Adams 1982, Kaufman 1989, 1995, 1996), with in some cases a cool or partly cool May, whereas 1981, 1990 and apparently 1970 had alternating warm and cool weather through both months (Arbib 1981, Kaufman 1990, Craig 1970).

May: May's first week was balmy, even blistering in the East, with thermometers in Boston and New York City topping over 90 degrees each day between the second and fourth of May. In northeastern Canada, the early and middle dates of May saw a Purple Gallinule on St. Pierre, a Chuck-will's-widow in Nova Scotia, and Labrador's first Eastern Kingbird. These birds were all noted just after a pronounced period of mostly southerly winds aloft that extended into May and preceded a two-week period of northerly winds in the second half of May in the Region. During the same May stretch, Québec's lower St. Lawrence region had its first Orchard Oriole, Winnipeg a Prothonotary Warbler, and Massachusetts and New Hampshire single Anhingas, while wayward Swainson's Warblers were locally very rare on Naushon Island, Massachusetts, in Nashville, Michigan, Washtenaw County, Michigan, and in Berks and Westmoreland Counties, Pennsylvania. It is worth noting that although air temperatures were below average when some of these "overshoots" were discovered (11–15 May or so), 11 May was the first Friday following the cool-down, which happened after the previous weekend.

The month changed utterly in the second and third weeks across much of the Midwest and East, as the jet stream dug a trough deep into the Southeast and several fronts passed in quick succession. On 7 May, temperatures throughout most of central New England went rather suddenly from a genuine heat wave in the upper 80s to lows in the mid-twenties. This shift back from a warm April toward a cooler mid-May is a familiar pattern from 1968, 1974, 1976, 1977, 1983, 1984, and, roughly speaking from 1992 (Andrews 1968, Gauthreaux and LeGrand 1974, Smith 1976, Gee 1977, Hamel 1983, Roberson 1984, Kaufman 1992). Grzybowski's simile likening the 1992 spring migration to "a chunk of taffy shot out of a gun" is apropos: "some of the birds got out there fast, but the season was still drawn out and sluggish" (Kaufman 1992), a situation reminiscent of the 1976 season where "the early spring was early and the late season late" (Smith 1976).

Normally, the groundings of migrants associated with "good birding" at hotspots on the Gulf Coast, Great Lakes, and Eastern Seaboard are easily tied to the interaction of the southerly windflow and frontal activity, especially low-pressure cells (cyclones) with precipitation (Gauthreaux and LeGrand 1974); northerly winds on the east side of high-pressure cells; the presence of fog; or in some cases, combinations of all of these (Richardson 1978). After the warm, undramatic April, the stage in May was thus set for fallouts, and these took characteristic forms, with most of them north of Texas occurring around the middle of the month or third week of the month. On 17 May, light southerly winds that moved into a fog bank on the north shore of Lake Erie brought one of those nowadays-elusive mega-fallouts at Point Pelee National Park in Ontario, with many thousands of migrants observed. *Imagine* seeing 110 Philadelphia Vireos in a morning—and this was only one of several all-time records for the Park set that day (actually, Texas fallouts have held at least up to 113 Philadelphias, but who's counting? [Lehman 1987]). As thrilling as that morning must have been, David Elder's comments are ominous: "Veteran Pelee birders fortunate enough to be there recalled similar days in the distant past when such occurrences were apparently much more common."

In the Carolinas and Georgia, mid-May saw several frontal passages with moderate northerly winds that produced the spring's only groundings of migrants. In Virginia and Maryland and north to southern New Jersey, a substantial fallout of largely Neotropical migrants occurred on the coast 19–20 May. Southerly and southwesterly winds on 18 May brought the birds into place; on that evening, a high-pressure area with three wet low-pressure areas on eastern and southern flanks moved coastward, changing favorable winds to northerly

and northwesterly winds. As two of the lows settled offshore, precipitation from Delaware Bay south to southern Virginia held hundreds of birds grounded for a full day, including some rather late individuals of species one thinks of as early migrants (Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Savannah Sparrow). As one of the lows moved northward offshore, prevailing winds went westerly, then northerly, occasioning a smaller fallout between Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey 22–23 May. What birders along the Atlantic coast call a spring fallout, of course, consists typically of hundreds of migrants at a given location; one exception on the Delmarva Peninsula 27 April 1965 reportedly numbered in the many millions (Bagg 1965).

The states of the western Gulf coast, the only places with spring spectacles to rival or exceed Point Pelee's, also count their fallouts by the hundreds—per minute (Eubanks 1988). Coastal Texas, arguably *the* Migration Capital of the continent, had a significant grounding of migrants 23–23 April that orchestrated all the key elements for a Texas "classic": initial southerly winds from the Yucatan Peninsula and farther south; winds shifting to southeast and east over much of the Gulf out to Florida and the passage of a Great Plains low-pressure system ahead of a high-pressure cell over northern Texas, producing precipitation and north winds all along the western Gulf Coast just as the migrants were arriving. Another fallout 4–6 May saw no contrary (northerly) winds for migrants, but they continued to have the persistent easterly crosswinds from Florida out over most of the central Gulf, along with precipitation along the coast. An atypically late fallout 22–25 May, more evidence of the "late season late," was clearly occasioned by the arrival of another inland high-pressure cell 22 May, with a strong frontal boundary that hugged the Texas coast from Corpus Christi to the Louisiana border that day. It gradually drifted out over the Gulf, producing north winds over much of the northwestern portion of the Gulf over the next day or so. All events were consonant with what is known about migration in this marvelous place. Wind patterns, on the other hand, conspired to produce little in the way of fallouts farther east on the Gulf Coast, in Alabama and the Florida panhandle.

The four corners

Though the Lower Rio Grande Valley's avifauna and weather are distinctly subtropical, most of the weather in Texas fits in familiar context. The outermost margins of our continent, on the other hand, are usually ruled by weather conditions beyond the spring's mid-continental clashes of warm tropical air from the Gulf and systems tracking along the jet stream. In Alaska, as in much of the Northwest, the absence of El Niño conditions allowed us all a break from reading about warming trends there, at least for a time. Tobish writes that "the Aleutian Low apparently stabilized in a position such that continental high pressure developed over the Mainland. In this process, North Pacific storms tracked mostly south of the Aleutians and a few lows crept into the Region in the northern Bering Sea." One consequence of the passage of these North Pacific storms to the south of the Aleutians was a cool, stormy, wet May in British Columbia, where Western Tanagers flocked to suet feeders by the many dozens. Another apparent consequence was a relatively quiet season for Aleutian rarities. For only the second time in several decades, Attu was without birding tour groups, but Shemya was well covered, and a mid-May storm's passage there dropped dozens of wagtails and pipits, a pair of Smew, a Red-flanked Bluetail, three Siberian Rubythroats, a Dusky Thrush and up to 17 Eyebrowed Thrushes per day, three Rustic Buntings, and 176 Bramblings. (Unrelated to the mid-May storm were another Smew, a Northern Goshawk, a Lesser Yellowlegs, and a Great Spotted Woodpecker here, the latter one of two in Alaska in May.) The connections of spring weather and fallouts/vagrancy in the Aleutians are nearly as well known as those on the Gulf Coast; it is hoped that birders can devise another beachhead for Aleutian trips in years to come.

On 15 May, the day that Shemya's weather turned hard and Asian birds began to appear, persistent northerly winds from an offshore low blew in eastern Newfoundland and continued to blow for two weeks, stalling migration through much of the Northeast and transporting eagerly sought-after European

birds to Newfoundland, including the Region's largest fallout of Northern Wheatears—42 of them—which spilled over a bit into Québec (one) and New England (three). The "Iceland Express," as Kaufman (1994) termed Atlantic low-pressure systems situated to the southwest of Iceland, apparently played a role in bringing a Black-tailed Godwit, a Garganey, and a Common Greenshank to Newfoundland; of these, only the godwit nests on Iceland, but the other two vagrate to Iceland from Europe or Africa. State-first *islandica* Black-tailed Godwits found earlier in April in Connecticut and Long Island, birds thought to be the same individual, were clearly *not* related to this phenomenon; they (or it) may have wintered in the New World. Perhaps more intriguing still, the French island of St. Pierre, not far from Newfoundland, had reports of two *Streptopelia* species in the same May period: European Turtle-Dove and Eurasian Collared-Dove, both of which have strayed to Iceland. Did the latter make it from Europe or from our burgeoning North American population, the nearest records being from New York—or does the bird's description, which includes a "pink bill," cast a bit of doubt?

In Florida, after a few weeks of southerly winds in early April, east winds blew from 16 April until mid-May in the eastern Gulf of Mexico (with the exception of 20 April, which had southeast winds, and 3 May, which had east-southeast winds). The prevailing winds at this time of year can be from the east, but there are typically longer periods of southerly winds here. Accordingly, Pranty documents a shift in migrational pathways of several species toward the west: "Caribbean-wintering species, such as Cape May, Blackpoll, and Black-throated Blue Warblers, American Redstarts, and Common Yellowthroats, were abundant along the Gulf coast and in the Keys. In contrast, migrants that winter in the Tropics, such as thrushes, Scarlet Tanagers, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, were conspicuously absent; these presumably were blown west of the Region." This is a phenomenon remarked upon for at least three decades (cf. Gauthreaux 1972, 1999) and is certainly supported by the migrational shift of "record numbers" of Cape May Warblers onto the coast of Texas, along with "an analogous bumper crop of Black-throated Blues" there this spring, according to Sexton. Secondary evidence of such a shift is provided by the wave of "southeastern" migrant warblers and vireos into central and southern California.

Ah, California. What part of the continent doesn't envy a state that manages to record a rush of trans-Gulf migrants among such other fare as an Eyebrowed Thrush (a long way from Shemya's fallout and a week or so later), a Nazca Booby, a Black-backed Oriole, a Varied Bunting, and several of the "now annual" Dark-rumped Petrel—a species the A.O.U. has reportedly just voted to split into the (nearly?) indistinguishable Galápagos Petrel (*Pterodroma phaeopygia*) and Hawaiian Petrel (*P. sandwichensis*)? (As if the boobies' split weren't challenge enough!) California took the lion's share of another displacement of what must have been many hundreds of trans-Gulf migrants this spring. There have been other such displacements in the past, but only one known to have been larger, that of May-June 1992 (Kaufman 1992, Terrill et al. 1992). The species involved—White-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, Northern Parulas, Kentucky and Hooded Warbler—went almost unrecorded in the Pacific Northwest but, with the interesting exception of Hooded Warbler, were also noted through Wyoming and Colorado in smaller numbers. Northern Parula and Kentucky Warbler were likewise recorded on the Baja California Peninsula of Mexico, where quite rare.

Methods of transport

Dare we ask: How did these birds get there? Strictly speaking, we cannot know with the data available to us. But let us hazard some thought anyhow. As Gauthreaux and LeGrand (1975) point out, we stumble if we look to understand the conveyance for eastern birds into California's southwest in the vector-resultant wind charts that represent average wind direction and velocity at low altitudes, because in the West, "rough topography greatly affects the surface wind patterns to the extent that mean monthly winds are not as representative of synoptic weather patterns as they are in the East." Wind directions at higher altitudes, where birds often migrate, are obscured in the lower-altitude charts. Thus charts depicting surface winds show no obvious continu-

ous pattern of wind flow toward California on a continental scale, whereas charts showing wind direction at higher altitudes, where birds migrate, gives a better sense of why birds initially moved westward from their trans-Gulf migratory path would end up both in the continent's center and along the lower Pacific coast but *not* necessarily in Oregon or Washington, for instance.

Just as patterns of winds in the eastern half of the continent generally follow the curve of the Bermuda high-pressure cell (anticyclone), recurving back toward the east and even east-southeast, so the winds in the southwest follow the edge of the low-pressure area (cyclone) typically present in the vicinity of northern Mexico (Gauthreaux 1972, Gauthreaux and LeGrand 1975). The resulting wind patterns are far from static or symmetrical with respect to the continent's mass, but one might use the visual mnemonic of a lopsided *fleur de lis* superimposed on the continent to envision how the spring winds blow. Thus, it is possible in some springs, for instance, to have migrants arriving in the piedmont of South Carolina from the northwest, having flown along a "dogleg pattern" to arrive on the nesting grounds (Gauthreaux 1972).

In 1992, the juxtaposition of cyclone and anticyclone off the corners of the continent appears to have been appropriate *both* for moving southeastern birds to the west (with easterly and northeasterly winds on the Gulf coming off the southern edge of the Bermuda High) and thence into California, as the southwestern region's cyclone produced 24 days of easterly and southeasterly winds in May (Terrill et al. 1992). The apparent effect on migrating birds was in effect to roll them along as on a conveyor belt toward California (and to a lesser extent elsewhere). In some seasons, these atmospheric features are not propitiously positioned, the conveyor belt does not function, and Californians find only very small numbers of these trans-Gulf migrants. The year 1996 was one such year, but it was noteworthy that the Southwest and areas just east of the Rockies held a slew of Hooded, Kentucky, and Worm-eating Warblers, among other southeastern species; and 1990 showed a similar pattern (Kaufman 1990, 1996).

Most intriguing is a recent paper by Patten and Marantz (1996) that documents an increasing trend in appearances of these southeastern warblers and vireos in California; the authors consider a range of possible factors and conclude that both favorable weather patterns and population increases in these species, rather than pesticide-induced misorientation, observer bias, or shifts in winter range, are fuelling this relatively recent and growing trend. If the westward shift in southeastern warblers' and vireos' migrational routes occurs as theorized, one could likewise look to population dynamics and patterns of weather to account for the remarkable, mostly mid-May showing of dozens of Indigo Buntings and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks out of range in California, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, British Columbia, Oregon, and Washington this year (much as was the case in 1999; cf. *N.A.B.* 53: 448). Why these mainland migrants were detected this spring across an area so much broader than the central/southern California region than held their trans-Gulf brethren is far from clear: perhaps because both species' breeding ranges include areas relatively farther north and west than the southeastern species, their dispersal on easterly and southeasterly winds tends to encompass the higher latitudes more routinely than does the more insectivorous southeastern species' dispersal.

And still more questions pose themselves. Bill Evans (pers. comm.), who has been conducting Texas coast migration studies using monitoring of nocturnal flight call-notes since 1994, suggests that pattern of "eastern birds showing up in California and the West was likely related to the lengthy easterly wind phenomenon, but the exact mechanism here is really anyone's guess. The Dickcissel flight over south Texas, for instance, peaked during this period of easterly winds but did not seem to be similarly affected, except that it was about five days later than last year's. Possibly the Dickcissels took longer because more were coerced into flying around the Gulf than usual. The number of calls detected across the south Texas acoustic transect was extraordinarily similar to spring 2000. See <<http://www.oldbird.org/comp0001.htm>> for a display of the comparison between spring 2000 & 2001." Could it be that different species are affected in different manners by crosswinds?

Semantics of movement: displacements, shifts, overmigrants, overshooters ...

In these pages, Howe (1978) considered movements of migratory birds out of their core ranges in two categories: "I use the term 'shift' to describe an apparent movement of numbers of a given species east, west, or north of its normal migrational route. 'Displacements' are occurrences of isolated individuals well outside their normal route but not clearly part of a phenomenon involving a whole population of a species." Howe allowed that both could be "functions of a partially innate tendency to disperse" or "they may simply be proximate results of local weather happenings." Kaufman (1990), in a pivotal *Changing Seasons* essay, reconsidered his earlier positions between these two explanatory models: "I have argued for years that most birds out of range get there because of their own mistakes, not because of weather, but this spring made me pause to reconsider." Our quandary at present is partly that we, scientists and nonscientists alike, remain relatively agnostic about any particular bird's "innate tendency to disperse," much less about the causes of various impairments to such tendencies (Able 1999). In the field, with binoculars, we necessarily see effects rather than clear causes. Was a given bird genetically predisposed to disperse in spring migration well away from its natal area? Were there other pressures on the nesting grounds, such as a saturation of available territories, that brought about a move? How important was the direction of wind in determining where the bird ended up?

As fascinating as these questions might be, we don't really need to have them answered in order to monitor and think about bird movements in relation to weather. We know that a migrating bird prone, for whatever reason, to move in a particular direction may be entrained by weather that works completely against its bearing, much as a seabird is entrained by a tropical cyclone (e.g., McLaren et al. 1999). We know too that "reverse" migration is a very common response to contrary winds or to unfavorable stopover sites in both spring and fall (Richardson 1971). An overemphasis on (what appears to us to be) "passive" downwind transportation that discounts other factors in birds' out-of-range movements would be unwise, but field birders' most convenient access is to meteorological data, so it makes sense to attempt to correlate these data with observations of birds, including birds apparently out of range. ("Range," of course, is a human convention to describe what is known about past distribution of most members of a species; as European experiments with Blackcaps and other species have shown, "range" is a most malleable thing, subject to rather rapid change through alteration of migrational pathways.) What fascinates many die-hard fans of bird migration, and what this column has suggested on many occasions, is that so many species that one might have put into Howe's "displacement" category come to fall squarely under his rubric of the "shift," as more and more birders seek out migrants and vagrants, more birders learn *how* to seek out such birds (through birding strategies of many sorts), and increasing numbers of people communicate and document and their finds. Clear patterns emerge where once random "accidentals" were perceived before. And so many of these patterns do seem to follow the flow of wind and weather, as birders in Iceland and the British Isles have demonstrated for decades.

Patterns need not reveal themselves to us. The species that most of us term "overshooting" birds, such as the smattering of southern species that reach Canada and New England (which Smith [1976] described as "birds 'surfing' the warm fronts a little too aggressively"), fall largely into Howe's category of the more or less singular "displacement." But if one considers the topography and especially the vegetation in the East, it is certainly conceivable at least that our scattered records of Swainson's Warbler (Michigan, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts) or the Hooded Warblers in the Northeast this spring might hint at more widespread phenomena involving many more individuals. After all, *four* of those 20+ California Hooded Warblers were seen *together* at Butterbreed Spring, a cove of just a few trees in an otherwise rather blank area, a classic western vagrant trap. The forests and swamps of the East would no doubt have given these birds far more opportunities to conceal themselves. Gauthreaux

and LeGrand's (1975) suggestion that windflow may correlate with some patterns of vagrancy goes a long way to explaining why western vagrants in the East are invariably very few in number in the spring, never in the numbers of eastern birds in the West (the few weak exceptions prove the rule, e.g., the springs of 1973 and 1979 [Gauthreaux 1973, Smith and McCrimmon 1979]). We in the East would prefer to believe this; the idea that unseen western warblers lurk in our thickets in spring is odious.

Ornithologists often refer to "overshooting" events as "overflights" or more generally as "overmigration" (Gauthreaux and LeGrand 1974). This happens both beyond the typical limits of a given species's range as well as rather commonly at coastal and offshore sites; a team of observers on San Clemente Island off California's southern coast this spring had the advantage, as McCaskie notes, of detecting even modest flights or fallouts of birds based on waves of overmigrants. On the mainland there, weak flights of birds are much more difficult to determine with certainty.

On the other hand, the waves of southeastern warblers and vireos in California or the fallout of Northern Wheatears in the northeastern portion of the continent would be considered a "shift," in Howe's terms. Most specialists in migration studies, however, would refer to the California example as a *longitudinal displacement*. Hundreds of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks falling out in eastern Florida or hundreds of Bramblings on Shemya would also constitute significant longitudinal displacements, as these species migrate mostly through Central America and eastern Asia, respectively. However one might name these occurrences, what both "shifts" and "displacements" have in common, usually, is that birds in both instances fly with the direction of air currents, as do most migrating birds (Lowery 1951, Gauthreaux and Able 1970, Gauthreaux 1999). It is not the case, by any means, that spring migrants simply follow the wind (Richardson 1971), but in the cases of apparent overmigrants and assemblages of birds out of range, at least part of their journey can often be linked convincingly to the direction of the wind. So perhaps instead of juggling five or six terms, we could conceive of overshoots/overmigrants also as displacements, whether they appear to arrive in neat patterns on a single front or otherwise. They may not be longitudinally so much as latitudinally displaced. But what about birds that we segregate in yet another category, those apparently undergoing range "extensions" or "expansion" through the spring and warmer months?

Range expansions: the slow wave

"It is interesting that almost all range changes noted in the regional reports were all northward expansions" (Smith 1976)—25 years later, this holds true, with a handful of exceptions (such as Tree Swallows nesting in South Carolina). I have always liked the rather unscientific description of species expanding their ranges as a "slow wave" (Ralph and LeValley 1986), and one can only wonder whether a careful study of records of such "expanding" species would find any significant relationship with continental weather patterns. We have to this point considered obligate long-distance migrants; the concept "migration," after all, is applicable to a "broad spectrum of behavioral solutions to the ecological problem posed by variability in the environment" (Able 1999). What about other instances of movement?

Stars of the slow-wave scene this spring were Glossy and White-faced Ibises, birds whose gradual northward spread on several fronts on the continent has been often cited in these pages (recently cf. Patten and Lasley 2000), but their appearances out of range this year were called "extraordinary" on many fronts. Glossy Ibis were out in force on the periphery of their range, with 11 upstate New York records, 13 in Ontario, 17 in the Middlewestern Prairie states, seven in Colorado, three in Michigan, one in Wisconsin, and Regional firsts in Arizona and the Middle Pacific Coast. White-faced Ibis made a similarly spectacular drive into the East, perhaps its strongest showing yet: records of singles came from Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, Virginia, Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, with at least three and as many as five in New

Jersey. Growing populations, along with dry conditions in the northern Great Basin and interior West generally, may have fuelled the dispersal of White-faced Ibis, as appears to have been the case with Black-necked Stilt (both invaded Oregon and Washington this year). The spread of Glossy Ibis, described as a series of rapid “bursts” of range expansion since the early 1800s (Patten and Lasley 2000), may or may not have recent drought in Florida as a cause in this most recent spring. Other Ciconiiforms, as every year, landed well beyond typical range (in most cases, this means to the north), but no species approached the ibises’ push. The four Limpkins in South Carolina may have been drought refugees.

Nearly as impressive as the movement of ibises has been the northward thrust of kites, in particular Mississippi Kites but to a lesser extent Swallow-tailed Kites. Both typical spring overmigrants, their flights appear to be carrying them farther afield each year—consider Nova Scotia’s second Swallow-tailed Kite (on 25 March) and South Dakota’s third Mississippi Kite (on 15 May). Both records were made in a context of substantial influxes, such as a record 13 Mississippis in Massachusetts, a healthy dozen in the Hudson-Delaware Region, “continued increase” in the Middle Atlantic, where the species nests, and as far north as Ontario, where three were seen, and Duluth, Minnesota, where Nicoletti found one on 16 May. Swallow-tailed Kites were seen in the much the same areas but in about one-third of Mississippis’ numbers, as has been true in recent years (Wood 1999, 2000).

The doves on the move—White-winged and Inca Doves and Eurasian Collared-Dove—continue to spread beyond core range in both gradual and more sudden patterns, with populations beyond typical range consolidating themselves and growing and records of “vagrants” on the increase. Eurasian Collared-Dove has now reached the Baja Peninsula!

One may ponder what part directions of wind currents play in the “slow wave” spread of such birds as the ibises, kites, and doves. Iliff in the Middle Atlantic Region puzzles over why the collared-dove “has taken an amazingly long time to investigate the East Coast” north of North Carolina—in rather surprising contrast to the Southeast, Southwest, and center of the continent. Might it be that the prevailing spring winds tend to bring dispersing birds more to the Southeast coast, the Great Plains, the Midwest and southern-central part of the continent generally, and the Southwest (cf. Figure 4c in Romagosa and McEneaney 1999)? Certainly, this species has a well-documented pattern of dispersal in Eurasia, but the areas it reaches first may end up showing some correlation with patterns of wind.

Many birders active today did not experience the invasion of Cattle Egrets in North America in mid-century. After the first specimen was collected (in April 1952, in Massachusetts), Changing Seasons columnists wrote with wonder about numbers such as 30,000 in a single roost in Florida—only ten years later. What even fewer birders will recall is that the columnists for that season, Aaron and Theodora Bagg (1962), produced a painstaking account that showed a startling, complex correlation between patterns of wind and singular appearances of Cattle Egrets at new locations: “while early April occurrences of this species in the Northeastern Maritime Region must be related to airflows associated with Atlantic coastal disturbances, subsequent spring occurrences of these egrets north of Chesapeake Bay are products of *overland* southerly airflows in which members of expected, native species similarly arrive in such areas.” One could make the case that general meteorological patterns of the spring of 2001 do appear to correlate, for instance, with the appearances of ibises out of typical range—that is, the birds by and large appeared in these areas during or following winds that blew from the direction of the species’ respective core ranges. Patten and Lasley (2000) refer to most records of Glossy Ibis in the West as being of “overshoots” in the April-May period. As with so many Changing Seasons items, the ibises’ movements and their relations to weather phenomena could fill a small volume. Clearly, to leave the level of surmise will require careful vetting, computerization, and analysis of such records over the long term.

Are the movements of the spring’s “slow-wave” birds in part theorizable using the principles we apply to the “onrushing wave” of migrating landbirds (Bagg et al. 1950)? For the past nearly three decades, active birders and ornithologists interested in migration have resolved several general principles about landbird migration by which to (attempt to) forecast birds’ appearances: 1) that most migrating birds, aside from those in special circumstances (offshore overshoots returning landward; and “mirror” migrants) and seabirds, tend to move toward their destinations when tailwinds are available, that is, on a following wind; 2) that under most circumstances, strong contrary winds, fog, and precipitation can ground migrating birds rapidly, in what Bagg et al. (1950) called an “arrested wave”; and 3) that crosswinds can shift the migrational path of substantial numbers of birds and that subsequent encounters with other weather features can displace birds even farther from typical range (Lack 1960, Richardson 1978, Gauthreaux 1999).

With each passing decade, birders get better at predicting and perceiving patterns in the spring migration. Where Bagg (1967) saw “paradox” and in what Eubanks (1988) called “a meteorological hodge-podge more paradoxical than patterned,” we cannot pretend to produce in the journalistic endeavors here a unified theory for spring bird movements. On the other hand, it should be apparent that the reports in this journal, and their summaries in this column, are far more than collections of curiosities, high counts, early arrivals, and baseless speculations, “too subjective” and based on “flimsy, localized impressions” (Andrews 1968). To judge from Internet postings, many veteran observers out there were able to anticipate the rhythms of this migration by glancing at the daily weather charts, and their findings *very often* accorded with their predictions. It might take years to hone an ability to predict such phenomena on a local level, and of course long-time observers are regularly surprised by nuances of various weather phenomena and the birds they reveal (or fail to reveal); indeed, some of the more savvy watchers of weather and birds on the coasts of the Gulf of Mexico suggest that confident prediction is for the unwary (cf. Muth 1993). Nevertheless, on both a local and a continental level, careful study of past weather patterns and their apparent connections to birds’ movements clearly provide at least the rudiments for such prognostications (Eubanks 1988).

Smith and McCrimmon (1979) wrote that the “data upon which the spring and fall migrations in the ‘Changing Seasons’ are based remain largely the result of *uncoordinated* efforts and random observations.” But they also wrote that “the correlational approach is often all we have from which to form opinion; the processes we measure are of such a scale that experimental manipulation to determine causative relationships more precisely isn’t possible.” We pursue the birds of spring, through bounties and busts, for the pleasure they give us, including the intellectual insight into their movements, and we should not shy from forming and testing our notions of spring bird movements’ relations to weather phenomena in these pages, despite the present limitations to our inquiries. If we err, as we often will, we cast our thoughts into the wind again next spring. Epistemologically, we continue to be both humbled and spurred on by our relative ignorance of avian navigation. But we live in an era in which biometeorology, an attempt to understand “the relationship between atmospheric phenomena and living organisms” (Eubanks 1988), will flourish beyond its remarkable beginnings in the twentieth century’s second half, and we should not underestimate our potential contributions to the field. Collectively, though, we should keep ourselves abreast of scientific research in the field. If you’re new to the subject, read up on it in *A Gathering of Angels: Migrating Birds and their Ecology* (Able 1999) and *How Birds Migrate* (Kerlinger 1995). If radar ornithology captures your fascination, check out Clemson University’s website: <<http://virtual.clemson.edu/groups/birdrad/>>. And if you’re game to see how birders and scientists might coordinate ground efforts with migrational data gathered both by radar and nocturnal listening stations, go to the BirdCast pilot project’s website at <<http://www.birdcast.org>>. Happy surfing.—Ed.

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Editors' Notebook

¡Bienvenido Mexico!

It gives us more pleasure than we can express to welcome all of Mexico to the *North American Birds* family in this issue. After two issues with Baja California and the seven countries of the Central American region—Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Belize, and Guatemala—in the fold, we have begun to close the gap in our coverage of Middle America through the tireless editing work of Héctor Gómez de Silva, our newest regional editor. Welcome aboard, Héctor! Our reporting regions now dovetail with the area covered by the American Ornithologists' Union's *Check-list*, although we do not currently formally cover Arctic Canada in the territories of Nunavut or Northwest Territories.

Those of you who have visited Mexico know that it's nearly impossible to suppress a smile when reflecting on the birding there. Mexico is simply an incredibly rich country for birdlife. With 105 endemic bird species, its level of endemism is *second only to that of Brazil* in the New World. But one smiles on thinking of Mexico as much for the warm hospitality of its citizens, the beautiful vistas on the coasts and in the mountains, and the great historical treasures one inevitably encounters while birding. If you have yet to visit, consider looking through the new field guides and travel guides now available to birders—and take the plunge. It's certainly one of our favorite countries to visit, and though some spots get regular birding attention, Mexico represents a real frontier for amateur field ornithology, not to mention professional ornithology, in many aspects. Within nearly all of our regions, there are still large areas that receive little coverage and little commentary, but areas south of the U. S. border are in particular need of closer study, for several reasons. Conservation concerns for all wildlife abound in Mexico, and so our readers' contributions of bird records can begin to fill in substantial gaps in knowledge of Mexican birds' distribution, both geographic and seasonal. Because North American and Middle American countries share so many bird species, both resident and migrant, sharing advances in knowledge in a common forum is imperative and long overdue in this journal. And so recent editorial decisions to include the countries of Middle America are made on the basis of a solidarity amongst people interested in bird study across political boundaries, as well as out of concern for our hemisphere's birds and their habitats. We thank Richard Erickson for his help and encouragement in this recent endeavor.

What is true of all bird records is critically important for a fledgling *North American Birds* region: make sure that the documentation that you send to Héctor is careful, thorough, and clear. If your notes include records of rare or vagrant species, these records should contain as much information as you can reasonably provide, including field notes and sketches and some discussion of how you ruled out similar species. And photographs are always welcome!

News to us

Sometimes editors can feel as though we live under rocks (or under computers)! Your cards, letters, emails, and phone calls in response to the last Editors' Notebook have been both gratifying and humbling. In the Omissions Department: it seems that in addition to White-winged and Slate-colored Juncos, *all other* forms of Dark-eyed Junco—Pink-sided, Oregon, Red-backed, and Gray-headed Juncos—were documented at feeders far from typical winter ranges, possibly another aspect of the western montane species' exodus that began in fall 2000. Editorial and Scientific Advisory Board member Ken Rosenberg commented "Why, I



Providing a first record for the Florida Keys was this Curlew Sandpiper at Boca Chica Key 25-28 April 2001; this image was taken on the final day of its stay. Few of Florida's previous records were of birds in alternate plumage, and perhaps none has been documented so beautifully. *Photograph by Gary Rosenberg.*

saw four Oregon Juncos in the East last winter!" Ah, but if these records never make it to our reporting network, then we who live under rocks (and under deadlines) fail to see these patterns, and it's unlikely that researchers in the future will be able to trace the pattern by combing through dozens of state and regional journals and newsletters. Ken was aware of the pattern because of his work at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, where the continent-wide citizen-science project called Project FeederWatch has been underway for 13 years. So Ken was in a good position to perceive the proliferation of "other" juncos last winter, many of which were very well documented by their hosts. A researcher looking through this journal's regional reports for winter would have noted claims of Oregon Junco from Québec, South Carolina, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky, plus three from Iowa, but it's hard to find a strong pattern here, as this race is an annual visitor to the East in small numbers. If we add in three more from New York and one more from Massachusetts, it starts to look more like a pattern. Your editorial team hopes, fervently, to establish strong reciprocal ties to census programs such as Project FeederWatch, as well as to bird observatories, birding tour companies, and other organizations whose remarkable findings might not find their way into the permanent *North American Birds* record.

Splits?

We note that several species carefully scrutinized of late have been found by international organizations of ornithologists to consist of multiple species. Our own A.O.U. reportedly plans to publish a decision in 2002 to recognize Galápagos Petrel (*Pterodroma phaeopygia*) as distinct from Hawaiian Petrel (*P. sandwichensis*). The two have been combined in that organization's *Check-list* as Dark-rumped Petrel (*P. phaeopygia*), but growing published evidence suggests that a number of characteristics differ between these two closely related populations. It is not clear yet

what characters might be used to distinguish the two in the field, but seabirders in Hawai'i and the Galápagos will certainly be photographing and studying both birds carefully in coming years. This journal would welcome sharp photographs of both species for a coming photographic salon.

Also of interest, on the other side of the Atlantic, the British Ornithologists' Union has joined other European organizations in recognizing that *Anas crecca crecca*, a bird this journal has called "Common Teal" or "Eurasian Green-winged Teal," is a species distinct from North America's Green-winged Teal, *Anas crecca carolinensis*. The latter split is not currently recognized by the A.O.U., but it's clear, with many records of Common Teal from across the continent last winter (and a fair number of records of hybrids with Green-winged Teal), that birders are scrutinizing these small ducks very carefully—perhaps in anticipation of a split? The A.O.U. may take this one up in the near future as well. For more information on this pair, see the 1999 article by Johnson and Sorenson (*Auk* 116: 792-805).

Eating crow

Despite the best efforts of everyone involved, errors do creep into our beloved journal, and we're overdue a few apologies and corrections from past issues (our most recent corrigenda were in *N. A. B.* 54: 3 & 349). In the Fall Migration issue (*N. A. B.* 55: 120), the photograph of the Shy (Salvin's) Albatross from Cordell Bank, California, was miscaptioned; the text should read "Unlike previous North American records, identified as pertaining to *T. [c.] cauta* (Shy Albatross) or *T. [c.] stadi* (White-capped Albatross), this bird was apparently *T. [c.] salvini* (Salvin's Albatross), the first photographic record of this taxon for the northern hemisphere. These forms are recognized as distinct species by some authors." As long as we're on the subject, the article on Virginia's Black-browed Albatross (*N. A. B.* 53: 228-231) inadvertently omitted mention of two specimen records from Greenland, both from Lille Hellefiskebanke off Maniitsoq/Sukkertoppen, one from August 1935, the other from July 1958 (Boertmann, D. 1994. An annotated checklist of the birds of Greenland. *Meddelelser om Grønland* 38: 1-63). Thus the Virginia record is *not* the first confirmed western North Atlantic record but is the first documented in the A.O.U. and A.B.A. areas, which exclude Greenland (an island also excluded from Palearctic avifaunal lists). A caption for the photograph of a juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger (*N. A. B.* 54: 22) erroneously stated that the bird was "exhibiting some unusual behavior" by feeding on berries. The most recent "Changing Seasons" (*N. A. B.* 55: 135) suggested the Central Southern Region had no record of Calliope Hummingbird prior to 1998. In fact, it was the region of *northwestern Florida* that lacked records of the species until 1998; the Central Southern Region's first record was back in 1982. In the same issue, the photographs of the Black-tailed Godwit (*N. A. B.* 55: 234) should have indicated that the bird "island-hopped from Maui to O'ahu." The attribution of the photograph of the Cape May Warbler (*N. A. B.* 55: 124) to Rich Stallcup was in error; the photograph was taken by W. Ed Harper. The photograph of the Hooded Warbler (*N. A. B.* 55: 119) was taken by Andy Chen. The Northern Mockingbird in Alberta (*N.A.B.* 55: 185) should be credited to Terry Korolyk, whose name was misspelled. The Wood Ducks at Ketchikan, Alaska, were miscaptioned; they were photographed by Steve Heinl. Our apologies to Mr. Harper, Mr. Chen, Mr. Korolyk, and Mr. Heinl. Thanks to Rudolf Koes, Brian Patteson, Don Roberson, and B. Mac. Myers for bringing these items to our notice.

Photographic submissions

Captions have often been the source of corrigenda, as long-time readers

will notice. After much effort in communicating the need for labeling of slides and photographs, a largely successful campaign at *American Birds*, we find ourselves in a new and bewildering era of computer-manipulated imagery. We receive a great deal of material in electronic format, some of which was taken with digital imaging techniques, while other pieces have been scanned into electronic format from conventional photographs. We often feel back at square one, with a great many unlabeled images; but still worse, we find ourselves unable to publish *most of the material we receive in electronic form*.

The format "jpeg" (file extension: .jpg) is very popular among our readers, but it is a "lossy format," meaning that the compression of pixels in this format produces a most undesirable loss of quality of the original image. We have tried to limit jpeg files that we do publish to those with a resolution of at least 350 dpi at four by six inches. But even these often reproduce rather poorly. We now request that all electronic images sent to us be either in "tiff" format, which retains more of the original quality of the image, or the PhotoShop® format ".psd," which has the added advantage of being able to include a caption/credit that does not show up on the image. For best reproduction of images, original or high-quality duplicate slides are still unbeatable. But don't forget to label them.

A modest proposal

In the recent past, *North American Birds* has been the grateful recipient of financial grants from **Sea and Sage Audubon, Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Dayton Audubon Society, the Chevron Research and Technology Company**, as well as from friends of the journal and A.B.A. members. These partners have seen us through the tough transition years after National Audubon Society concluded its partnership with American Birding Association in publishing the journal. In expressing our gratitude, we add that although these gifts have helped us to stand on our own as the journal's sole publisher, we could certainly benefit from similar contributions from birding and conservation organizations in the future. Our coverage of our continent's birdlife continues to improve and expand, and countless regional editors would like to go into greater depth on their areas' birdlife. *We would like to bring you, our readership, more articles, more color photographs, more feature pieces—more of what you want to read.*

To do so, we need to stand on solid fiscal ground, and the best way to do that is to appeal to you, our faithful readers, to consider participating in a grass-roots subscribership campaign. If you're planning on attending a public field trip, or bird club meeting, or ornithological congress, would you consider taking a stack of this journal, and a stack of subscription forms, with you and talking the journal up to your fellow birders and ornithologists? If so, please write to us (at ensifera@aol.com) and we'll send you the materials as quickly as we can.

The situation at *North American Birds* has improved markedly with the support of generous donors and of A.B.A. Board member Jon Dunn, whose recent fundraising has been the lifeblood of the journal. But several thousand more subscriptions would make a world of difference for the journal's well-being, and it is up to our core of faithful to "beat the bushes" for those still undiscovered subscribers. Think of them as vagrants in need of some documentation...

—Edward S. (Ned) Brinkley, Editor

—Matthew F. Sharp, Photo Editor

—Alvaro Jaramillo, Associate Editor

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How to Read the Regional Report

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE REGIONAL REPORTS

Abbreviations used in place names

In most regions, place names given in *italic* type are counties. Other abbreviations:

A.F.B.	Air Force Base
B.B.S.	Breeding Bird Survey
C.B.C.	Christmas Bird Count
Cr.	Creek
Ft.	Fort
Hwy	Highway
I.	Island or Isle
Is.	Islands or Isles
Jct.	Junction
km	kilometer(s)
L.	Lake
mi	mile (s)
Mt.	Mountain or Mount
Mts.	Mountains
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.P.	National Park
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
P.P.	Provincial Park
Pen.	Peninsula
Pt.	Point (not Port)
R.	River
Ref.	Refuge
Res.	Reservoir (not Reservation)
S.P.	State Park
Twp.	Township
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
W.T.P.	(Waste) Water Treatment Pond(s) or Plant

Other abbreviations and symbols referring to birds:

ad. (ads.)	adult(s)
imm.	immature
juv. (juvs.)	juvenile, juvenile(s)
ph.	photographed
sp. (spp.)	species (plural)
subad. (subads.)	subadult(s)
tape	audio tape-recorded
v.t.	videotaped
†	written details were submitted for a sighting
*	a specimen was collected

Birds have no respect for range maps. Bird distribution in North America is constantly changing, as birds expand their ranges into new areas, disappear from former strongholds, or alter their patterns of migration.

Our knowledge of bird distribution is also changing constantly, as discoveries continue to come in. Keeping up with all these developments is a challenge for ornithologists, conservationists, and birders.

The Regional Reports, published four times a year, contain a wealth of information about North America's dynamic birdlife. When seeing the reports for the first time, they might appear difficult or technical, but they are not; anyone with any birding experience will find the reports easy to understand. We invite you to read the report from your area of the continent; we predict that the information there will alternately surprise you and confirm your ideas about birdlife in your region. To help you get started, here are answers to some questions that may occur to first-time readers.

What kind of information is included? Do the Regional Editors just report everything that's reported to them?

Regional Editors do not report every sighting of every bird. Such a list would be huge, unwieldy, and not very useful. Instead, they solicit reports from as many observers as possible, screen the records for accuracy, choose those that are most significant, look for trends and patterns of occurrence, connect scattered bits of information, and ultimately come up with a concise, readable summary of the real bird news—the important avian events and trends of the season throughout their region.

Why are there so many abbreviations in the text?

We abbreviate some frequently-used words and phrases to save space. Most of these are easy to understand and remember. (See the list of abbreviations at the end of this section.) In addition to these standard abbreviations, some Regional Editors use shortened versions of the names of some birding hot spots; they list these local abbreviations in a separate paragraph, just after their introductory comments and just before their main species accounts.

What do the initials in parentheses mean?

Most records published in each report will be followed by initials, to indicate the source: the person(s) who found or reported the bird(s) mentioned. The initials may be followed by *et al.* (short for *et alia*, meaning "and others"), or preceded by *fide* (literally, "by the faith of"—meaning that this is a second-hand report, and the person initialed is the one who passed it along to the Regional Editor). A dagger (†) before the initials means that this person turned in written details on the sighting.

There are good reasons for giving credit to the observers involved. Readers may be reassured about the accuracy of surprising sightings if they know who the observers were; researchers who want to know more about a certain record may be able to contact the observers directly. In some cases, when a bird was seen by many birders, the Regional Editor may add "v.o." (for "various observers") or "m.ob." (for "many observers") after the first sets of initials.

Who are the people who send in their sightings?

All observers are invited to send in notes to their Regional Editors: details on rare sightings, species that were scarcer or more numerous than usual during the season, unusual concentrations or migration, and so on. Reading the reports for your region for a few seasons is the best way to find out what kinds of information are desired. Although the Regional Editors cannot cite every record that they receive, every contributor helps them to produce a more thorough and accurate summary.

Why are some bird names in heavier or blacker type?

We use **boldface** type to draw attention to outstanding records of rare birds. General categories of birds that the Regional Editors would place in boldface would include: any species that has been recorded fewer than 10 times previously in a given state or province; any new breeding record for a state or province; or any bird totally outside established patterns of seasonal occurrence. (For the most part, records are not boldfaced unless they are backed up with solid details or photographs.) Birders who like to know about rare birds (and most of us do) can get a complete run-down of the season's outstanding rarities by scanning all the Regional Reports for those boldfaced birds.

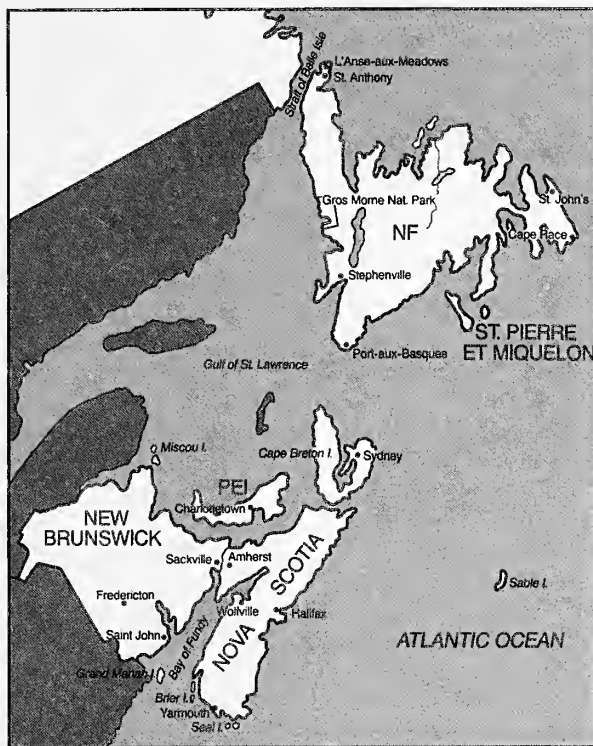
Why are some of the place names in italic type?

In most of the regional reports, place names given in *italic* type refer to counties. (Italics represent parishes in Louisiana, and in parts of Ontario they may refer to districts or regional municipalities.)

What are the boxes in the text marked "SA"?

"SA" stands for "Special Attention" (and, by coincidence, is pronounced "essay"). The purpose of the boxed essays is to draw attention to particularly noteworthy phenomena or trends. Likely SA topics include new population trends or new bird distribution patterns, unusual invasions or migration events, field research yielding new data, specific conservation problems that have an impact on birdlife, or detailed discussion of an outstanding (or perplexing) rare bird record. Experienced readers of *North American Birds* make it a point to flip through all the Regional Reports and read all the S.A.s, even in regions where they do not read the rest of the text.

Atlantic Provinces



early Black-crowned Night-Heron was on White Head Island, Grand Manan archipelago, NB 28 Mar (Richard Brooks), and the individual at St. John's, NF, first discovered in Jan, survived until at least 5 Apr, thereby officially overwintering. This is a rare Regional occurrence and is particularly noteworthy in light of the city's snow accumulation this past winter. Green Herons were scarce, although one reached SPM 21 Apr (Philippe Hacala).

Table 1. Herons, egrets, and ibis recorded in the Atlantic Provinces in spring 2001.

	NS	NB	NF	SPM
Great Egret	12	2	0	1
Little Blue Heron	2	2	2	0
Snowy Egret	2	8	0	0
Tricolored Heron	1	1	0	0
Cattle Egret	1	0	0	0
Green Heron	0	2	0	1
Glossy Ibis	4	13	0	0

WATERFOWL

Ice left lakes and marshes up to five weeks later than "normal," but this did not evidently impact waterfowl, which were reported in near-normal numbers across the Region. The island of Newfoundland, as always, hosted most of the European ducks, but numbers were lower in the Maritimes, with Nova Scotia faring poorly, even being shut out in the Tufted Duck department for the first spring in many years (Table 2). Three of the Newfoundland Eurasian Wigeon were paired with American Wigeon, and they departed in Apr to who-knows-where to produce who-knows-what. Not included in the Table 2 is a drake Eurasian Wigeon at Labrador City 12 May, apparently a first Labrador record (BD).

Spring Snow Goose flights are becoming routine: 225+ were reported in New Brunswick, the bulk 17-27 Apr, including 100 at Atholville Marsh 25 Apr (Margaret Doyle) and 52 at Memramcook Marsh 23 Apr (Alain Clavette). In Nova Scotia, there were five reports of 18 birds, including 13 at C.S.I. in mid-Apr, with 3 blue morphs mixed in (v. ob.). Newfoundland's 2nd Garganey was a male on a St. John's farmyard duck pond 24 May (BMt et al.), a date coincident with the arrival of other European species. A Blue-winged Teal at Saint Rest's Marsh, NB 16 Mar was a record early arrival for the province (DG, SS). The same marsh also hosted an early Northern Shoveler 23 Mar (Merv Cormier). In the absence of New Brunswick waterfowl count data, the only indicator of scoter numbers came from the N.A.M.C., with totals of 116 Black, 846 Surf, and 1760 White-winged. Otherwise, a concentration of 150 Black Scoters off B.I. 13 Apr (EM) was significant. A fine count of 1000 Common Goldeneye 22 Mar was made at Oak Point, Saint John R., NB (Jim & Betty Evans). On

Blake Maybank

144 Bayview Drive
White's Lake, Nova Scotia B3T 1Z1
(maybank@ns.sympatico.ca)

Along, harsh winter was followed by an indifferent, reluctant spring. The residents of St. John's, Newfoundland may be forgiven if they thought spring might never arrive: the city received 630 cm of snow, setting a new annual snowfall record for any Canadian city with a population over 30,000! And snowfall continued well into May.

In other weather news, a southerly flow in Nova Scotia 18-19 Apr brought blues and reds in the form of Blue Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks to many areas, with concentrations on islands: Brier, Cape Sable, and Cape Breton. Constant northerly winds across eastern Newfoundland brought a welcome (if tardier-than-average) arrival of European birds, with at least four different species involved. Coverage was excellent from Nova Scotia and Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, good from New Brunswick and western Labrador, good from eastern Newfoundland, and poor to absent elsewhere. No data were received from New Brunswick's spring waterfowl migration count at Point Lepreau, and there were no sightings submitted from Prince Edward Island.

Abbreviations: SPM (Saint Pierre et Miquelon, France); B.I. (Brier Island, Nova Scotia); C.S.I. (Cape Sable Island, Nova Scotia); N.A.M.C. (North American Migration Count; Nova Scotia only: 12 May).

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

A pair of breeding-plumaged Red-throated Loons was at the mouth of the LaHave R., NS on the late date of 19 May (EM). The cool, late spring may explain why a few Horned and Red-necked Grebes lingered along the Nova Scotia coast until 12 May (N.A.M.C.). New Brunswick's first (and the Region's 2nd) Western Grebe was discovered 6 May off Pt. Lepreau (Tracey Dean, m. ob.), where it lingered until at least 17 May. Three Double-crested Cormorants at Little Wabush L., Labrador City 19 May may represent a first for Labrador (BD).

Unsurprisingly, the heavy heron flight of 2000 was not repeated in 2001 (Table 1). Nova Scotia had the lion's share of those Great Egrets that deigned to appear, while New Brunswick hosted the majority of the Snowy Egrets, as well as most of a strong showing of Glossy Ibis, including 3 together at Sackville 30 Apr (Andrew Macfarlane) and 2 at Hammond River, Kings 11 May (Ian Cameron). The latter observer at the same latter locale also had the only multiple sighting of Snowy Egret, with 3 on 5 May. A very

18 May, Little Wabush L., Labrador held 150 Greater Scaup, 16 Lesser Scaup, 200 Surf Scoter, and 200 Long-tailed Ducks (BD).

Table 2. European waterfowl recorded in the Atlantic Provinces in spring 2001.

	NS	NB	NF
Eurasian Wigeon	3	5	8
Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal	1	1	4
Tufted Duck	0	1	8

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

There were 21 Turkey Vultures on the N.A.M.C., a typical number for Nova Scotia, but the species seems to be strengthening its toehold in New Brunswick, where there were 14 reports totaling 31 birds, including 6 in n. New Brunswick. One of the season's highlights was Nova Scotia's (and the Region's) 2nd Swallow-tailed Kite, seen 25 Mar at Glace Bay, Cape Breton (Cathy Murrant, Susann Myers). The observers enjoyed a 30-minute show, as the kite first circled e. of town, then headed nw. over the town and along the coastline, offering marvelous eye-level views. The date is fully consistent with patterns of overshooting migrant Swallow-tailed Kites on the Atlantic coast of the United States.

Red-shouldered Hawks are barely annual in Nova Scotia and usually appear in autumn or winter, so an ad. soaring with Broad-winged Hawks above B.I. 12 May was an unexpected delight (Richard Stern et al.). The Red-shouldered was soaring with a kettle of Broad-winged Hawks numbering 60 birds (BMy et al.). Rough-legged Hawks were numerous across the Maritimes, with more than 20 birds in Nova Scotia, including a late individual 25 May on B. I. In New Brunswick, an impressive concentration of 9 at Tantramar Marsh 17 Mar (Miller, Kathy Popma) and two early May records. There were seven May sightings on SPM, more than is typical (*vide* RE). A Gyrfalcon 1 May over Dorchester Island, NB was quite tardy (Alain Clavette et al.).

A pair of Sandhill Cranes at Havelock, NB 18 Apr was behaving as though nesting (*vide* Jim Brown), and another in the province spent two days at Woodstock 22-23 Apr (George Peabody). In Newfoundland, a Sandhill Crane walked farm fields on the outskirts of St. John's 20-27 May in the same location where one appeared in spring of 2000 (Doug Phelan). A Purple Gallinule strolling the streets of St. Pierre, SPM 18 May was caught and released in better habitat (Laurent Jackman et al.). Only two of the 16 Nova Scotia American Avocet records have been in spring; this year, a bird made a 20-minute visit to Cherry Hill Beach 27 May (SE, James Hirtle). A Black-bellied Plover at O'Donnells, NF 3 Mar

was likely a "month first" for the province (BMt et al.). A single pair of Semipalmated Plovers nested again on C.S.I.; this is the species's southernmost breeding site in North America, a locale they share with the northernmost breeding site for American Oystercatcher. Three ad. oystercatchers returned to C.S.I. in Apr (4 had departed south last autumn), and one pair was on eggs by the end of the period.

Newfoundland's 2nd Common Greenshank was at Harbour Grace, Conception Bay 27-29 May, on precisely the same stretch of beach that hosted the province's first occurrence in Dec 1983 (Chris Brown et al.). The bird was part of the province's mini-invasion of European species, and presumably the same phenomenon propelled the province's 9th Black-tailed Godwit to a Goulds farm field 24-25 May (D. Fifield et al.). There have been fewer than 10 Nova Scotia records of the Eurasian (nominant) race of Whimbrel; this spring a particularly cooperative bird lingered at Morien Bay, Cape Breton, NS 10-13 May (SM, C&AM). Red Knots are gradually becoming more commonplace in spring across the Region. A flock of 53 on C.S.I. 12 May (N.A.M.C.) may have included the 37 birds that successfully overwintered there. Twenty-eight knots were at Maisonette Dune, NB 30 May (Marcel David). Pectoral Sandpipers are rare Regionwide in spring, so Bev Schneider was pleased to find one at Saint's Rest Marsh, NB 19 Apr. Spring Ruffs occur in Nova Scotia roughly every two years on average, and this year C.S.I. enjoyed its first local spring record, a Reeve 2 May (JN, MN). Dunlin have traditionally been scarce in spring, but as more successfully overwinter in the Region, they may become more routine. There were May flocks of 4 & 5 in New Brunswick and 3 in St. Pierre et Miquelon.

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

Just where were Bonaparte's Gulls in Nova Scotia this spring? A single bird on the N.A.M.C. was the only report after Mar. Perhaps the cool Apr dissuaded them from appearing in their usual Northumberland Strait haunts. Nova Scotia's ad. Black-tailed Gull, last seen Nov 1999, returned to Cape Breton; DM rediscovered it at Big Pond Beach, Florence 6 May, where it remained through the rest of the period. An ad. Yellow-legged Gull was seen in St. John's, NF 11, 16 & 25 Mar (BMt et al.); this species has been annual here of late. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were routine, with sightings spread across the Region: Nova Scotia (4); New Brunswick (8); Newfoundland (20+); and St. Pierre et Miquelon (one). The only Mew (Common) Gulls were in St. John's, NF, which held 4 different birds, the last seen in early Apr. An occupied Great Black-backed Gull nest on Big Wabush L., Labrador City 20 May, was the first confirmed nesting for interior Labrador; the nest apparent-

ly failed in late Jun (BD)

We received two reports of storm-driven arrivals. Mactavish noted that "on 28 Apr, a rapidly moving low-pressure area was responsible for an extraordinarily early influx of Arctic Terns to the Avalon Peninsula. Some 22 individuals were seen in the St. John's area 28 Apr, with several others on the Avalon Peninsula in the ensuing days (BMt et al.). Newfoundland's breeding Arctic Terns typically arrive a month later." Dalzell related that "quite a few northward-migrating Thick-billed Murres in the Gulf of St. Lawrence are believed to have been blown inland over Prince Edward Island by strong easterly gales on both 5-6 Mar and 9-10 Mar. Most reports of grounded birds came from se. New Brunswick and n. Nova Scotia, but many were found close to shore, down the Bay of Fundy and into Maine."

DOVES THROUGH STARLING

On 13 May, Nova Scotia's 7th Chuck-will's-widow was watched by Sheilagh Hunt as it landed on a Halifax driveway, whereupon it was dispatched by an American Crow. Hunt was able to

SA The most intriguing tale this spring comes from St. Pierre et Miquelon. Roger Etcheverry reports that "between 15 and 20 May, a European Turtle-Dove was seen and photographed by Thierry Vogenstahl in St. Pierre. Then a Eurasian Collared-Dove was reported by Philippe Lucas in Miquelon, where it hit a window 28 May. It was captured (and photographed) two days later on a building of the Agriculture department. It was almost as pale as a Ringed Turtle-Dove, but the undertail coverts were like the Eurasian Collared-Dove; the bird had a pink bill. I talked on the radio about this bird as we thought it was possibly an escapee, but we did not get any response. So, two strange species of Columbidae in our islands this spring. Can we consider them wild birds, and new species for us?"

Could the arrival of these two birds be linked to the European influx in e. Newfoundland at the same time? Or did the probable collared-dove arrive from the expanding populations to the south?

retrieve tertials that clinched the bird's identification. Nova Scotia's wintering Northern Hawk Owl in Cumberland was last reported 1 Apr. An Eastern Phoebe reached St. Pierre et Miquelon 29 Apr (Jacky and Christine Hébert); the species is less than annual there. A much-appreciated Fork-tailed Flycatcher was found by MN (m. o b., ph.) on C.S.I. 5-6 May; this is about the 10th or 11th provincial record. An overzealous visiting

photographer apparently occasioned the bird's departure. An Eastern Kingbird near Churchill Falls 12 May (Annette Janes) is likely the first record for Labrador (*vide* BD). EM reports that N.A.M.C. observers recorded an "astonishing total of 489 Blue-headed Vireos throughout Nova Scotia 12 May." A Northern Rough-winged Swallow, scarce in Nova Scotia in spring, was at Publicover L., Lunenburg, together with Tree Swallows, 26 May (SF). Brown Creepers are rare on St. Pierre et Miquelon, so one on 5 Mar was welcome there (Sylvie Allen-Mahé).

Carolina Wren, a vagrant to the Region, was found at Islandview, Fredricton, NB 21 Mar (Murray Neilson). Given the date, it seems more likely to have been an overwintering bird. Probably more Blue-gray Gnatcatchers than usual were seen this spring, all between late Apr and late May, including five reports of 6 birds in

Nova Scotia, and 5 different individuals in New Brunswick. New Brunswick's 3rd Fieldfare, which spent the winter in Fredricton, was last reported 15 Mar. A Northern Mockingbird was found on St. Pierre et Miquelon 24 May by two independent observers; the species is vagrant to the islands.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

New Brunswick had the monopoly on rare warbler sightings, with a Blue-winged Warbler at St. Andrews 8 May (Tracey Dean), an Orange-crowned Warbler at Alderwood, Acadian Peninsula 23 May (Nicole Benoit, Jollande St-Pierre), and the rarest, a Cerulean Warbler, at North Head, Grand Manan archipelago, NB 10 May (Jim Leslie)—there are fewer than 10 New Brunswick records. Also in New Brunswick, a new breeding site for the local Pine Warbler was dis-

covered at Salmon R., Kent, when Denis Doucet located 4 singing males and a female 21 May. Observers on St. Pierre et Miquelon discovered some record-early warbler arrivals, especially notable given the harsh weather this spring. A Cape May Warbler 9 May (FPA) was record-early by six days (Frédéric & Patricia Allen-Mahé), while a Black-and-white Warbler 11 May was a week earlier than average. A Black-and-white Warbler (male) at Labrador City 27 May (Cheryl Davis) may have been a first for w. Labrador (*vide* BD).

Seven Summer Tanagers arrived 23 Apr—mid-May, 5 in Nova Scotia and 2 in New Brunswick. Both Eastern Towhees overwintered in Newfoundland, as did 2 each in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. A singing male Clay-colored Sparrow was found 30 Apr at St-Leonard-de-Madawaska, NB (Charlotte & Roy LaPointe); there are a few previous spring records of singing birds. In Nova Scotia, 2 Field Sparrows were found on C.S.I. in late Apr, one of them lingering until mid-May (MN et al.). A more intriguing report came from Hartlen Point, NS 13 May, where IM meticulously described a Field Sparrow of the midwestern/western race *arenacea*; there are a couple of previous autumn records of this subspecies, but this is the first for spring. Two White-crowned Sparrows on St. Pierre et Miquelon 5 May tied the spring arrival record, set only a year earlier. Another was extremely early in Nova Scotia 9 Apr, where Jane McConnell found one in Falmouth, Kings, and another was found a few days later in nearby Avonport. In Nova Scotia, a southerly flow 18-19 Apr brought an influx of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (nine reports), Blue Grosbeaks (four or five), and many Indigo Buntings (40+ individuals across at least eight counties). Some lingered into May. A Bobolink in Nova Scotia 21 Apr on C.S.I. was exceptionally early (MN). Nova Scotia's overwintering imm. male Bullock's Oriole departed 12 Apr. There was a good showing of Orchard Orioles this May: 8 were found across Nova Scotia (including 3 or 4 on B.I.), and New Brunswick had 2. Pine Grosbeaks were uncommon at best in s. New Brunswick this past winter, so a flock of 35 at Caledonia Mt. 9 Mar was of note (David Christie, Mary Majka). A large very white Hoary Redpoll on the Cape Spear cliff 31 Mar was thought to be of the nominate Greenland subspecies (KK, BMt).

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SA Mactavish reports that "the event of the season in Newfoundland was the inundation of Northern Wheatears. More wheatears were seen in Newfoundland in May 2001 than in all previous springs of recorded avifaunal history. A total of 42 Northern Wheatears was tallied for the period 15-28 May. Most were in groups of 3-5 individuals. They were likely Greenland, Canadian Arctic, or Labrador birds blown off course by persistent n. winds 15-25 May." Table 3 details the distribution of sightings. As often happens, there was a spill-over into the Maritimes, with sightings in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, although the record from late Apr in New Brunswick is almost certainly not linked to the mid-May arrival.

NEWFOUNDLAND

Date	Locale	Number
15 May	Reef's Harbour, N. Pen.	2
16 May	Plum Pt., N. Pen.	1
19-21 May	Blue Cove, N. Pen.	5 (all female)
20 May	Ferrole Pt., N. Pen.	2 (male and female)
22? May	Kilbride	1 (male)
26 May	Brig Bay, N. Pen.	1
26 May	Long Beach, Cape Race	4 (2 male and 2 female)
26 May	Cripple Cove, Cape Race	4 (2 female, 2 not specified)
26 May	Cape Race Lighthouse	5 (2 male, 3 female)
26 May	Cape Race road	1 (male)
26 May	St. Shotts	1 (male)
27 May	Deadman's Bay, Cape Freels	3 (1 male, 2 female)
27 May	Cape Spear	1
27 May	Bay Bulls	1
27 May	Cape St. Mary's	4
27 May	Ferryland	4
28 May	Carmenville	2 (male and female)
	Total	42

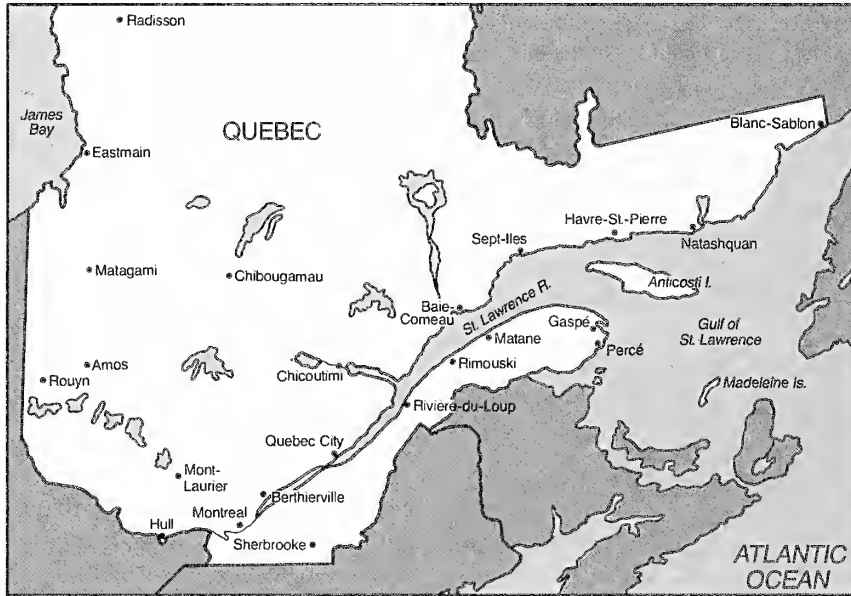
NEW BRUNSWICK

Date	Locale	Number
21-25 Apr	Val Comeau, Tracadie-Sheila	1 (female)
26 May	Miscou Island	1 (female)

NOVA SCOTIA

Date	Locale	Number
22 May	Sandhills Provincial Park	1 (female)
27-31 May	Schooner Pond, Cape Breton	1 (female)
31 May	Lockeport, Shelburne	1

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This spring, most of the Region, except the St. Lawrence valley, experienced temperatures much above normal. The highest temperatures were reached, of all places, just east of Hudson Bay, where daytime maxima near 90 degrees Fahrenheit were recorded in late May. Most of the Region also had a drier-than-normal spring. In the south, however,

March was just a continuation of last winter, and spring was not felt until mid-April. For the second half of the season, a never-ending series of nice sunny days was not conducive to the occurrence of any big fallouts. Maximum numbers of warbler species at any migrant traps were never above 12-15 species per day, a very low number considering the fact that 23 species in a day have occurred at some of these spots in previous years. The nice weather was, on the other hand, probably responsible for nearly a dozen record-early arrivals among Neotropical species.

GREBES THROUGH GULLS

A count of 250 Horned Grebes at Chambly 25 Apr topped a strong flight in s. Québec (PB, FG, NC). Now almost annual in the Region, an American White Pelican turned up at Île à l'Aigle, *Repentigny* 13 May (M. Picard et al.). Great Egrets have now been breeding in at least three different localities of s. Québec. Nesting was definitely confirmed at Grande Île, on L. Saint-Pierre, where three nests were discovered in early May (R. Augers, *vide M. Peloquin*). Nest building was also observed at Île aux Hérons, in the Lachine rapids, 30 May (PB). It was the best spring in years for s. herons. Single Snowy Egrets were encountered at *Repentigny* 30 Apr (É. Desjardins)

and at Baie-du-Febvre 4 May (*vide S. Houle*). Single Little Blue Herons were identified at Paspébiac 8 May (A. Couture) and at Rimouski 23 May (M. Lafleur). Single Tricolored Herons made one-day appearances at Baie Lavallière, *Sainte-Anne-de-Sorel* 6 May (*vide Y. Gadbois*) and at Montmagny 13 May (Y. Hamel, J. Desmeules). Cattle Egrets were detected in five different localities (*vide PB*). Glossy Ibises probably made one of their strongest incursions, with sightings from 11 different localities (*vide PB*), including peak counts of 6 birds at Saint-Roch-des-Aulnaies 3 May (R. Barbeau, J. Ducharme) and 4 at Deschambault 8 May (MA. Rubénovitch).

The northward wandering of Black Vultures manifested itself this year in the form of reports from Wakefield 25 Mar (A. Lalonde) and from Hunter's Point, 45 mi n. of Béarn, *Témiscamingue* 17 May (J. Cardinal et al., *vide JF*). Snow Geese migrating through the Gaspésie region were on the increase, as evidenced by flocks of several hundred birds on the coast of Baie des Chaleurs (*vide PP*). Accompanying the Snow Geese, a Ross's Goose at Pointe-à-Bordeau 17 May was a first for the Gaspésie region (C. Pitre). Two were also present 15 May at Canton-Tremblay, in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region, where the species had been reported for the 2nd time only last fall (CC, GS). A small individual Canada Goose showing all the features of the *minima* subspecies was well seen at Notre-Dame-du-Mont-Carmel, in the upper Richelieu valley, 25 Mar (PB). A Mute Swan 23 May+ at Lac-Kénogami was a first for the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region, although the origin of such a bird anywhere in the province always remains subject to debate (D. Lalonde et al.).

A Red-shouldered Hawk at Ville-Marie, *Témiscamingue* 11 Apr was n. of normal range (JF). Despite very poor weather conditions in Mar, Golden Eagles migrated in good numbers w. of Montréal, as shown by counts of 19 at Saint-Stanislas-de-Kotska 16 Mar (B. Barnhurst), 12 at Godmanchester 20 Mar (JP. Gagnon et al.), and 10 at Saint-Timothée 24 Mar (PB). Sandhill Cranes were seen in above-average numbers in s. Québec (*vide PB*). Single American Avocets visited Saint-Fulgence 23-30 Apr, establishing a new Regional record early date (D. Côté, C. Samson et al.), and Saint-Barthélemy 4-5 May (G. Pauzé, M. Lebel, m. ob.). A Willet at Île de l'Est, *Îles de la Madeleine* 3 May, pro-

vided the Region with a record-early date (DGG). A flock of 96 Purple Sandpipers at Les Escoumins 1 Mar confirmed this site as an important wintering area for the species (CA, CG). Three Ruffs, two females and a male, at Saint-Paul-de-l'Île-aux-Noix 6 May, probably represented one of the higher concentrations reported for a single locality in eastern Canada (NC, FG, R. Belhumeur, m. ob.). Rare inland in spring, 3 Black-legged Kittiwakes stopped at Cabano 25 Apr (M. Beaulieu).

OWLS THROUGH ORIOLES

A Barn Owl that spent the day at Île des Soeurs 21 Apr delighted dozens of observers, but many more were disappointed the next day as the bird could not be relocated (R. Chartier, ph. Y. Leduc). Last winter's invasion of n. owls gradually came to an end through the season, with a few birds lingering well into late May. The latest Great Gray Owl was located at l'Isle-Verte 28 May (L. Simard, S. Duchemin). The ad. male Red-bellied Woodpecker that overwintered in Îles de la Madeleine continued to be seen in Mar while visiting a feeder at Cap-aux-Meules (MS. Vigneau). A female was also spotted at Saint-Nicolas 10 May (H. Morin, C. Morin).

The 3rd Regional Scissor-tailed Flycatcher since Oct 2000 was sighted at Rimouski 27 Apr (L. Dubé, *fide* R. Pitre). Not seen every year, the White-eyed Vireo that appeared at Île Bizard Nature Park, *Montréal* 12-19 May was a good find (PB, G. Zenaitis, m. ob., ph. Claude Morin). The singing male Yellow-throated Vireo that showed up at Guigues 30 May was the 2nd only for the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region (JF). A Northern Rough-winged Swallow at Boucherville 11 Apr was record early (P. Dubuc). A high count of 22 Tufted Titmice was tallied at Philipsburg 26 Mar, confirming the successful establishment of this species in s. Québec (JGP). A nesting pair of Carolina Wren at Île des Soeurs throughout the season was worthy of mention (m. ob.). Rarely reported in the past few years, a male Northern Wheatear at Pointe-de-l'Est, *Îles de la Madeleine* 27 May, was perhaps part of a more widespread incursion of this species in Atlantic Canada (P. Poirier et al.). A Townsend's Solitaire feeding on wild berries in the company of American Robins made a one-day appearance at Saint-Fabien-sur-mer 12 Mar (B. Houde).

Among vagrant warblers, a singing male

Blue-winged Warbler was seen at Saint-Armand 25 May (FG et al.). A female Black-throated Blue Warbler at Chandler 27 Apr (JR. Lepage) and a male Black-throated Green Warbler at Île des Soeurs 21 Apr were both record-early for the Region (PB et al.). Also becoming more regular, a Prairie Warbler visited Sainte-Foy 17 May (F. Dion, R. Dion). A Cerulean Warbler at Philipsburg 5 May was record-early (G. Lachaine et al.). Providing the 2nd record ever for the Québec City region and the 9th for the Region, a Prothonotary Warbler at Cap Tourmente 12-25 May caused great excitement (G. Lemelin et al.). A Worm-eating Warbler was well heard at Philipsburg 19 May (JGP). The Common Yellowthroat at Châteauguay 19 Apr ended a long list of record-early warblers (D. Gendron). An imm. male Summer Tanager graced Beauport 15-18 May (L. Guay, *fide* ML), while the record-early Western Tanager at Saint-Majorique, *Gaspésie* 6 May was our 4th spring record, all since 1998 (A. Bouchard, *fide* Denise Gagné).

The Spotted Towhee that overwintered at Beauport was last reported in mid-Mar (*fide* ML). A Clay-colored Sparrow returned to its breeding ground 27 Apr at Lorrainville, *Témiscamingue*, providing our earliest Regional record (JF). A Le Conte's Sparrow appeared at Cap Tourmente 27 Apr, also establishing a record-early arrival (R. Lepage). The Harris's Sparrow that overwintered at l'Ange-Gardien was last seen 4 Mar (É. Razurel). In the category "bird of the season," the award must be assigned to the ad. **Golden-crowned Sparrow** well observed and heard at Île Bizard Nature Park 11 May, representing a long-awaited provincial first (P. Hilton). The now-annual northward spring wandering of the Orchard Oriole gave the Lower St. Lawrence region its first record: a first-year male brightened Rimouski 12 May (J. Larivée, Diane Gagné).

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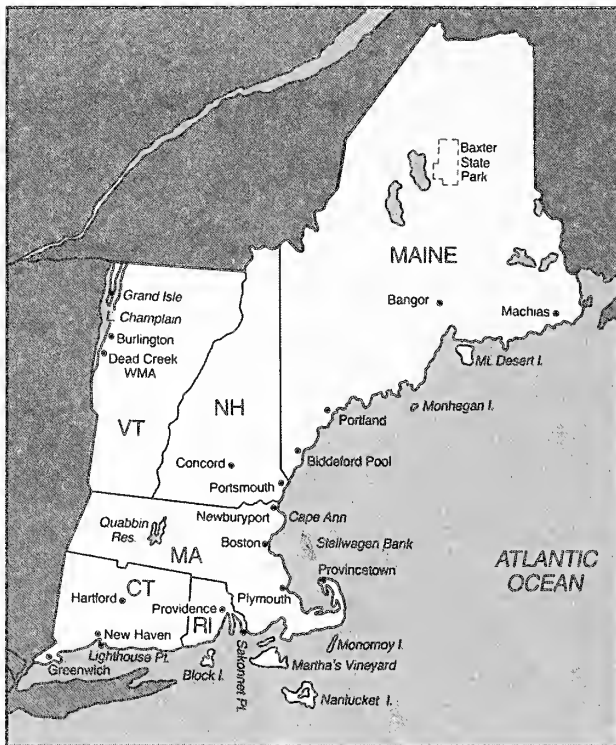
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New England



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T rue to its reputation, the New England weather this spring was punctuated by several big mood swings. Following a cold and very snowy March and early April, the mercury in Greater Boston reached 85 degrees F on 22 April. This brief hot spell was followed by a very early but meteorologically official (at least three consecutive days of 90+ degrees) heat wave on 2-4 May. As a result, the foliage swung from being roughly two to three weeks behind to at least a week ahead of schedule. The final radical swing came on 7 May, when temperatures throughout most of Massachusetts bottomed out in the mid-20s. By then, virtually all species of spring migrants had returned but were apparently unscathed by the late freeze. However many trees, including oaks, maples, and ashes were badly "nipped," and the potential long-term effects of this sudden freeze on birds remain to be seen.

While snowfall in the Boston area in March was nearly a foot over the monthly average, precipitation thereafter was far below normal, with total rainfall in April totaling a mere eight-tenths of an inch, and May totals being only slightly higher. The big March snows produced a wide-

spread and very deep snow pack across much of the Region. Through the first week of April, nearly three feet of snow remained on the ground in the towns of northwestern Massachusetts. In central New Hampshire at about the same time, the snow pack was still six feet deep. Through the third week of April, even though the snow was finally beginning to melt, most of New England still looked utterly wintery. The exception was the area encompassing southeastern Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and southern and eastern Connecticut, which, by virtue of the ameliorating effects of the ocean, received mostly rain and was essentially snow-free for most of the season.

Do northbound migrants respond to the presence of a pronounced snow line? Large numbers of jaegers have been observed in spring stacking up along the pack ice off Alaska, and it seems reasonable to assume that other spring migrants, especially insectivores like phoebes, and ground-feeders like woodcocks, would avoid proceeding too far beyond the southern limit of the snow pack. Whether such stacking has ever been documented in our Region, or for that matter, whether it *could* be documented, is unknown, but the question seemed especially appropriate this year.

Species recorded in never-before-seen numbers included White-faced Ibis, Mississippi

Kite, and Northern Wheatear (spring total), and among numerous other rarities, potential first state records, pending review by the respective records committees, included Anhinga in New Hampshire, Black-tailed Godwit in Connecticut, and probable Long-toed Stint in Massachusetts.

Abbreviations: B. O. (*The Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts*); First Encounter (First Encounter Beach, Eastham, MA); H.B.S.P. (Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison, CT); M.A.R.C. (Massachusetts Avian Records Committee); Martha's Vineyard (Martha's Vineyard I., *Dukes*, MA); Monhegan (Monhegan I., *Lincoln*, ME); Nantucket (Nantucket I., *Nantucket*, MA); Plum I. (Plum I., including the Parker R. N.W.R., and the towns of Newburyport/Newbury/Ipswich/Rowley, *Essex*, MA); Tuckernuck (Tuckernuck I., *Nantucket*, MA); V.I.N.S. (Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Pacific Loons in the Region this spring included a basic-plumaged bird off Cape Elizabeth, *Cumberland*, ME 10 Apr (PDV), and a bird in transitional plumage off Plymouth, MA 15 Apr (SP, TM). An above-average total of 4 Eared Grebes was present in four different states. These included the annual overwinterer (6th year!) in Gloucester, MA through at least 21 Mar (J. Soucy et al.), one off Napatree Pt., RI 20-21 Mar (CR), another in Waltham, *Hancock*, ME 14 May (K. Emerson), and one on a reservoir at West Hartford, CT 9 Apr (A. Shapiro). The latter 2 were especially unusual in being at inland sites.

Noteworthy tubenose reports included a single, early Leach's Storm-Petrel at First Encounter 7 Mar (BN), a count of 50 Northern Fulmar off Mt. Desert Rock in the Gulf of Maine 18 May (WT), and two land-based counts of fulmars from that perennially productive promontory, Andrew's Pt., Rockport, MA: 126 during a storm 5 Mar and another 273 under similar conditions 15 days later (RSH).

Two sightings of *Anhinga*, one in West Newbury, MA 13 May (L. Pivacek, E. Salmela) and the other in Stratham, NH 14 May (D. Abbott), probably involved the same individual. The latter represented a first state record. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons reached as far n. (and e.) as Portland and Newagen, ME on 18-19 May (LB) and 18-25 May (N. Bither), respectively. An unprecedented total of 3 **White-faced Ibis** appeared in the Region this spring. A White-faced in Middletown, RI 21-26 Apr (R. Larsen et al., ph.) represented the first fully documented record for the Ocean State, one in Scarborough, ME 5-10 May (LB) represented the 2nd in that state, and another appeared at H.B.S.P. 21-26 Apr

(J. Hough) for a 4th state record.

Black Vultures were a bit less pioneering this spring, with none seen n. of Massachusetts. Nonetheless, in Rhode Island, individuals were reported in each of the three months within the reporting period, and among a new seasonal high total of 12 in Massachusetts, 5 were seen in the Berkshire town of Pittsfield 5 Apr (S. Cook). Meanwhile, Black Vultures continue to be so common in w. Connecticut each spring that local compilers no longer enumerate the totals there.

WATERFOWL

The 5 Greater White-fronted Geese that were reported from four localities in Massachusetts (B.O.) represented what has become a fairly routine seasonal total, but the single Greater White-fronted in Vergennes, VT 13 Apr (V.I.N.S.) was much less expected in that state. Although Vermont invariably yields by far the greatest counts of geese within the Region, most of these are Snow Geese, e.g. about 15,000 at Grand Isle 24 Mar and another 14,500 in Panton 4 Apr (V.I.N.S.). The next-highest counts for this species in the Region usually come from w. Massachusetts, where there were three counts of 300 each, in Ashfield, Northfield, and Hadley, all in the first week of Apr (B.O.).

Brant detected inland this spring included three different flocks in early May on Lake Champlain, VT, the largest containing 75 birds (V.I.N.S.), and a single in West Bridgewater, MA 1 Apr (N. Samson et al.). A dark-bellied Brant in Newburyport, MA 4-5 May (RSH, JT et al.) was thought to belong to the Old World subspecies, *Branta b. bernicla* (Dark-bellied Brent), a form not previously recorded in New England. A Tundra Swan was present in West Bridgewater, MA 4-22 Apr (WRP).

Eurasian Wigeon away from more traditional coastal sites included one or 2 on Lake Champlain, VT and one in Boylston, Worcester, MA. Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal were especially well represented this spring, with five sightings coming from Massachusetts, one from Connecticut, and another from Maine. Additionally, two Green-winged x Common Teal intergrades were noted, one in Eliot, York, ME 6 Apr (SM) and another in West Bridgewater, MA 29 Mar (J. Johnstone). Tufted Ducks continued to be a feature this spring. A Regional total of 4 included one in Providence, RI 16 Apr (D. Harrison), 2 Massachusetts birds, in Westport 18 Mar (ML) and Clinton 8-10 Apr (F. McMenemy et al.), and a 4th, seen in two different towns on Lake Champlain, VT, in Colchester and South Hero, on the same day, 14 Apr. (V.I.N.S.). The Vermont record was the state's 2nd, following last year's first. Where might a pair of Tufted Ducks nest if they chose to do so in the

Americas? It's hard to imagine that the increasing numbers of Tufted Ducks in North America all return to the Old World to breed, so this question is now beginning to loom large. L. Champlain also produced a spate of Barrow's Goldeneye reports, though the exact numbers involved were impossible to ascertain. The maximum seen at any time was 4 at Colchester/South Hero 1 Apr (V.I.N.S.). The only other inland Barrow's were 2 seen roughly 30 mi from the coast in Waterville, Kennebec, ME 11 Apr (WS).

KITES THROUGH CRANES

As it did last year, the kite season started a bit early with the appearance of a Swallow-tailed at Nantucket on Easter Sunday, 15 Apr (E. Ray et al.). Then, in May, Massachusetts birders blew the doors off all previous Regional high counts for Mississippi Kites. All but two of an astonishing 13 reports of the species came from Cape Cod, though the actual numbers of birds accounting for this total will remain a matter of conjecture. Equally surprising was the fact that they were seen nowhere else in New England, a point that brilliantly illustrates just how effective the Cape is as a spring kite trap.

During a relatively tame raptor migration, big days were all but lacking. Season-high counts for selected species, all in Massachusetts, included 333 Broad-winged in Barre 23 Apr (EMHW), 441 American Kestrels at Plum I. 22 Apr (TC), and 49 Merlins, also at Plum I. 22-24 Apr (TC). An ad. Swainson's Hawk was reported from N. Truro, MA 18 May (D. Manchester, *vide* B.O.). Though no details regarding this sighting reached this writer, in recent years, the outermost Cape towns of Truro and Provincetown have hosted well-documented, late spring and summer records of Swainson's Hawks. Two Golden Eagles in Vermont included birds in Bridport 24 Mar, and Brandon 27 Apr (V.I.N.S.), and another Golden, a bird that probably spent the winter there, was still at Quabbin Reservoir, Worcester, MA 10 Mar (JH). Gyrfalcon reports numbered two each from Vermont and Maine. However, only one, from Gouldsboro, Hancock, ME 24 May (WT), included details. Merlins have been breeding regularly in the Region near the Canadian border for about the last five years. A pair of Merlins discovered nesting in Hanover, NH 22 Apr (*vide* W. Scott), was roughly 100 mi farther s. than any pair had been known to breed in the Granite State.

A report of a Yellow Rail in Pittsford, VT 4 May did not include details (*vide* V.I.N.S.). Sandhill Cranes put in another very solid showing in the Region, continuing their recent trend, though the precise number of individuals accounting for the numerous sightings was unknown. Four reports of single birds from four

different towns in Maine probably involved no more than 2 individuals seen 9 Apr-31 May. These reports came from the adjacent towns of Durham and Brunswick, and Sidney and Belgrade, the two pairs of towns being roughly 30 mi apart (*vide* JD). In Massachusetts, single Sandhills were seen in Fairhaven, Chatham, and Groton 1 Mar-20 Apr (B.O.). One Sandhill was present again on an island in the Connecticut R., viewed from Barnet/Monroe, VT 19 May (V.I.N.S.), and other individuals were in South Kingston, RI 2 May (B. Gervels) and Southbury, CT 25-26 Apr (J. Longstreth).

SHOREBIRDS

American Golden-Plovers are typically very scarce spring migrants in New England, so six reports of single birds, all in Massachusetts (B.O.), were noteworthy. One of them was very early in Duxbury 16 Mar (D. Furbish). Northernmost and easternmost American Oystercatchers in the Region included one or 2 in Biddeford and Scarborough, ME 21 Apr+. Oystercatchers have been nesting at Stratton I., Saco, ME for several years, and the above reports probably pertained to those breeders (*vide* JD). Another oystercatcher in Maine was a bit farther afield on Monhegan in mid-May (B. Boynton). A Willet in Turner's Falls, MA, on the Connecticut R. 8 May (M. Fairbrother) furnished a very rare inland record for this species in New England. It is mildly surprising that we do not see more Western Willets stopping over at inland sites during mid-summer when most *C. s. inornatus* are arriving on our coast from the prairies. Connecticut's first **Black-tailed Godwit**, seen initially at Milford Pt. 19 Apr (K. Hubbard et al.), and then Waterford 26-29 Apr (B. DeWire, et al., vt.), was no doubt the same individual that was present on Long Island, NY earlier in the season. All these reports apparently pertained to the race *islandica*, which is an endemic nester on Iceland that winters in Britain.

Byproducts of the Patagonia Rest Stop Effect at the Plum I. Salt Pannes included a Western Sandpiper 15 May (RSH), a Curlew Sandpiper 10-16 May (SP, RSH, ph.), and up to 2 Ruffs 11-23 May (C. Ralph, D. Sandee, ph.). Western Sandpipers are very rare in New England in spring, a somewhat surprising fact given their relative abundance on the s. Atlantic seaboard in winter and very early spring. The Plum I. Western Sandpiper was, from a seasonal standpoint, more significant than the Ruffs, which are annual in spring. The "Pannes," a single relatively small (250 x 150 m) pool, have produced an extraordinary collection of rare shorebirds over the years. In addition to this year's highlights, others records there have

included Spotted Redshank, Long-billed Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Terek Sandpiper (still the only North American record away from the Pacific coast and Bermuda), and Little Stint. The only Ruff outside Massachusetts was a black-and-white male at Barn I., Stonington, CT 7-10 May (GH). Aside from the usual records offshore, phalaropes in the Region included an early Red-

SA One of the most exciting (though somewhat enigmatic and frustrating) events of the season was the appearance of a small *Calidris* sandpiper at Plum I. 4 May (†SP, RSH, JT et al.) that possessed many characteristics consistent with an alternate-plumaged **Long-toed Stint**. Seen among Least Sandpipers at the famous Salt Pannes at the Parker River N.W.R., the bird possessed scapulars, coverts, and tertials with jet-black centers and broad, bright, rusty-red margins, as well as yellow legs. Though the dorsal plumage rendered it much more vivid than any of the Least Sandpipers, behaviorally and structurally, it appeared nearly identical. At no time did the bird assume the more erect stance often adopted by Long-toed Stint. Following the initial sighting, the bird was observed twice again: 9 May (†N. Soulette, B. Stevens et al.) and 13 May (†M. Sylvia et al.). Unfortunately, all of the sightings were frustratingly brief and/or distant. Though the pattern of the forehead was never discernible during the 4 May sighting, this feature was clearly seen 9 May. If accepted as a Long-toed Stint, this record would constitute the first in e. North America and only the 4th or 5th outside Alaska.

necked during the 7 Mar storm at First Encounter (BN) and single inland Red-necked in Grafton, MA 24 May (B. Kamp) and Great Meadows N.W.R., Concord, MA on the same day (JH).

SKUAS THROUGH ALCIDS

A Great Skua was noted along the Continental Shelf break near the 1000-fathom curve s. of Nantucket 17 May (K. Hartel). The same storm that produced the early Red-necked Phalarope on Cape Cod 7 Mar was also responsible for the season's largest single count of Black-legged Kittiwakes, 2450 at First Encounter. In addition to the usual reports of Black-headed and Little Gulls at various coastal localities came reports of a Black-headed Gull inland at L. Memphremagog, Newport, VT 29 Apr (V.I.N.S.) and an Iceland Gull on L. Champlain in Grand

Isle, VT on the late date of 22 May (DH). On the heels of the enormous incursion of Lesser Black-backed Gulls into coastal Massachusetts last summer, numbers of Lessers, not surprisingly, were up elsewhere as well. Among a total of 9 in New Hampshire, a collection of 5 in Rochester 20 Apr (SM) represented a new single-site maximum for the state. From 29 Apr onward, a pair of Forster's Terns was seen sporadically in the Plum I. marshes (B.O.), suggesting that they were again nesting at New England's only breeding outpost.

The 7 Mar storm was somewhat odd insofar as it apparently distributed different types of birds to different places on the Massachusetts coast. For example, despite the fact that it dumped thousands of kittiwakes into Cape Cod Bay, it produced virtually no alcids there. Yet on the same day on Cape Ann, a storm-chaser tallied a very high total of 485 Thick-billed Murres from Andrew's Pt. (RSH). From the same vantage point, during the 22 Mar storm, the same observer counted 1210 Razorbills. These sorts of Razorbill numbers are fairly typical in winter and early spring in the waters around Cape Cod. For example, 4200 unidentified large alcids, the vast majority of which were probably Razorbills, were off N. Truro 24 Mar (BN). But away from Cape Cod, such numbers are exceptional. The only Atlantic Puffin not reported from the Gulf of Maine was in Gloucester, MA (arguably in the Gulf of Maine) 3-4 Mar (S. Hedman).

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A remarkably early, well-described Yellow-billed Cuckoo was studied carefully as it sang repeatedly in Ashfield, MA 6 Apr (SS). Numbers of Short-eared Owls at Nantucket and Tuckernuck, the only remaining nesting localities known in New England, numbered one and 4 (two pairs), respectively. The Tuckernuck total was down from 11 pairs only two years ago. This could have been due to the local rodent populations simply being in a down cycle, or it could have been the direct result of the loss, on both islands, of the globally endangered Coastal Heathland habitat that is critical to the owls' local existence. The owls have been losing ground to both natural ecological succession and to development. Let's hope this year's dip is just part of the latest cycle and not something more permanent. A **Northern Hawk Owl** remained in Sidney, *Kennebec*, ME 4 Mar-2 Apr (D. Ladd).

Reported from at least eight different sites in Massachusetts (though, curiously, nowhere else in New England), Chuck-will's widows have never been so prevalent in the Region as they were this spring. They almost certainly now nest each year on Martha's Vineyard, though positive proof is still lacking. Away from the Vineyard, reports came from Wellfleet (where a bird has

been heard singing for several successive summers and was present again through this reporting period), Mattapoisett, Bourne, Nantucket, Tuckernuck, Gloucester, and Royalston. The latter site is the only inland locality. The amazing female Rufous Hummingbird that just spent her 5th winter in a greenhouse in Northampton, MA was released as usual this spring (3 May). And, as usual, she flew off, not to be seen again. What makes Black-backed Woodpeckers prone to wild wandering as often as they are? "Exhibit A" this spring was a bird that materialized on Martha's Vineyard 16 May (S. Whiting).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

If accepted by the M.A.R.C., a report of a Say's Phoebe in Concord, MA 24 Apr (B. Windmiller) would represent the first state (and possibly Regional) record in spring. Two Loggerhead Shrikes reached New England this spring. One was in Brattleboro, VT 29 Mar (V.I.N.S.) and the other appeared at Monhegan 16 May (T. Martin et al.). Fish Crows continue to consolidate their positions in both the Massachusetts section of the Connecticut R. Valley and in the Champlain Valley of Vermont: 6 were reported from four sites in the former, and a pair was in Burlington, VT 1 May (V.I.N.S.). A single Fish Crow at the higher elevations of Woodstock, VT 22 Apr (V.I.N.S.) provided further evidence of this species's increasing comfort with more boreal surroundings. No reports were received this year of the Fish Crows that presumably still occupy the northeasternmost outposts near Portland, ME.

A Barn Swallow in Chilmark, Martha's Vineyard 23 Mar (M. Pelikan) returned from the s. a bit early. Four Sedge Wrens in Massachusetts included singles in Barnstable 19-26 May (J. Liller et al.) and at Plum I. 3-5 May (RSH), and a pair in Athol 17 May (J. Johnstone). Two additional singletons were in South Windsor, CT 12-16 May (P. Cianfagione et al.) and Addison, VT 6 May (V.I.N.S.).

The Veery that survived the winter in Bristol, Grafton, NH disappeared 3 Mar (*vide* PH). A male Varied Thrush made a brief showing in Worthington, MA 22 Mar (D. McLain) and 2nd report of a Varied Thrush from Alton, *Belknap*, NH also 22 Mar (B. Baed et al.) is pending evaluation by the state records committee. A Northern Mockingbird observed from a boat more than 10 mi off the coast of New Hampshire 3 May (SM, DJA) was clearly vying for top honors in this year's Darwin Awards. In a year unlike most recent years, in which Bohemian Waxwing made virtually no forays into Massachusetts, the species was, nonetheless, still relatively numerous into the spring season in its usual winter haunts. In Maine, 200 were

tallied in Houlton, *Aroostook* 27 Mar (L. Little), and 2 were still in Augusta 2 May (N. Famous). Roughly 100 Bohemians were noted in Morristown Corners, VT 9 Apr (V.I.N.S.).

WARBLERS THROUGH CROSSBILLS

Warbler migration was fairly routine. The most notable exception came in the form of the Region's second-ever *Swainson's Warbler*. Immediately following its "discovery" at Naushon I., Gosnold, MA 19 May (ph. TM, A. Jones et al.), a summer resident there realized that the unfamiliar song that she had been hearing since 11 May belonged to this species. The bird continued to sing from the same thicket until at least 2 Jun (SSt).

All the regular passerine "overshooters," including Blue Grosbeak, Summer Tanager, and Yellow-throated, Hooded, Kentucky, and

SA Northern Wheatear is a very rare spring visitor to New England. The appearance of 3 in the Region, an event unprecedented in a single spring season, was directly related to the massive influx of wheatears into the Canadian Maritimes in late May, which included a confirmed nesting record on the Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland later in the nesting season. In Massachusetts, a male wheatear adorned the dunes in Provincetown 19 May (S. Highley et al.), and a female, found 60 mi from the coast in Petersham 16-17 May (J. Baird et al.), represented the first spring record in w. Massachusetts. Amazingly, this individual was discovered less than one mi from where the same observer found another wheatear in Sep 1995. In Connecticut, where the species had been recorded in spring only twice previously, a wheatear was seen at H.B.S.P. 26 May (L. Kendall et al.).

Prothonotary Warblers, made their usual spring (mostly coastal) cameos. Those found farthest n. included a Yellow-throated Warbler in Biddeford, ME, and another Yellow-throated and 2 Summer Tanagers at Monhegan. Instead of reorienting and withdrawing southward as spring overshooters usually do, a singing male Kentucky Warbler chose instead to establish a territory and remain in Southwick, MA 20-31 May (SK). As far as anyone knows, a mate never took the bait.

The numbers of spring Clay-colored Sparrows in the Region have increased significantly within the last 10 years, and during this same time frame, Clay-coloredreds have been known to nest at least twice. The upward trend was reflected this

year in the total of seven reports from three states: Vermont (2), Maine (3), and Massachusetts (2). Conversely, the number of Regional records of Western Meadowlarks has decreased in the last 20 years. A singing male *S. neglecta* (so called because ornithologists overlooked them during the earliest w. collecting expeditions) was studied meticulously during its stay in Norridgewock, *Somerset*, ME 25-31 May (WS, L. Bevier et al.).

A Harris's Sparrow visited a feeder on Naushon, Gosnold, MA 29 Mar-1 Apr (SSt), and another was reported from Putney, VT 1 Apr (V.I.N.S.). The prolonged visit by a male *Painted Bunting* to a feeder in Malden, MA 7-25 Mar (R. & J. Wootton) made news in several local newspapers. The only Lark Sparrow of the season appeared at Plum I. 10 May (RSH), and this spring's Regional Dickcissel total was 4: one in Maine and 3 in Massachusetts.

Three Boat-tailed Grackles were first noted back at Stratford, CT 20 Apr (D. Varza). This remains the only known breeding locale for the species in New England. A Yellow-headed Blackbird added an additional splash of color to Southport, *Lincoln*, ME 1-4 May (M. Dauphin), and a Bullock's Oriole that spent the winter at a feeder in S. Dartmouth, MA, remained at least until 15 Apr (J. Bullard, ph.).

Following a "bumper crop" winter season, in which the species nested for the first time in Massachusetts, White-winged Crossbills remained in the Bay State through the spring season. A flock of 30 was found in Ashfield 23 Mar (SS), and smaller numbers were reported from at least eight different towns in Mar and Apr (B.O.). On 18 May, single males were seen in Windsor and Savoy (ML), and 2 males and 4 "young" were noted at Mt. Greylock, *Berkshire* 20 May (T. Gagnon). The latter 8 were apparently the first ever recorded in w. Massachusetts in the month of May. A European Goldfinch, presumably an escapee, visited a feeder in Milford, CT 16 May (T. Zawislinski).

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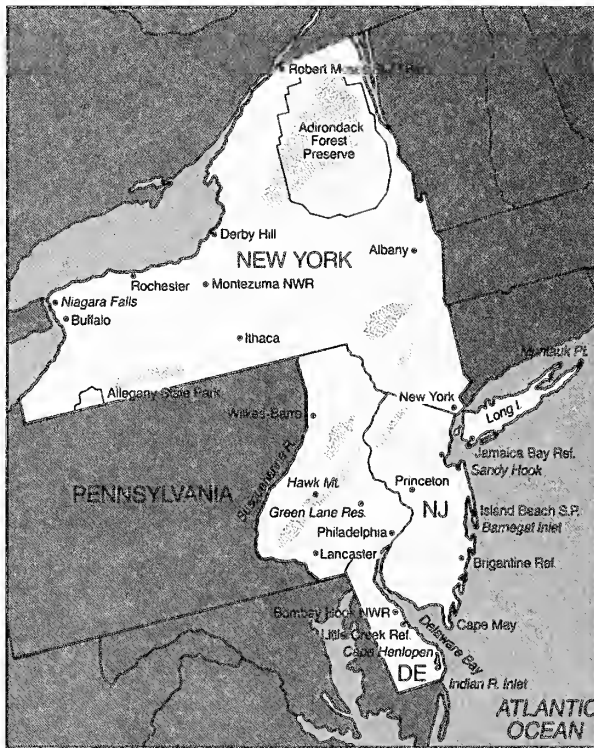
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As described very succinctly by Yunick, four weather events entirely dominated the season: March snows; April-May drought; April-May heat wave; and late May clouds, rain, and cool weather. The cold, wet March brought 45 inches of snow to Syracuse and even more to the northeast corner of New York, delaying early migrants. April, however, was warmer than average, and by mid-month, migrants were streaming in. The migration caught up, possibly even surpassing normal with early arrivals. During the last week of April and the first three weeks of May, there

was virtually no rainfall. The warm weather of April developed into a heat wave with record high temperatures in New York City in the first four days of May, and migration ground nearly to a halt. By about 20 May the weather cooled, with frequent clouds and rain through the end of the month, but this period produced the largest fallout of the season on 22 and 23 May, one that covered the southern three states of the region.

Highlights included Black-tailed Godwit and Lewis's Woodpecker in New York, Cinnamon Teal and multiple White-faced Ibis in New Jersey, and Black-backed Woodpecker in Pennsylvania. Also noteworthy were Sabine's Gull in New Jersey; Swainson's Warbler in Pennsylvania; two Boreal Owls and, continuing from last season, Mew Gull in New York.

Abbreviations: Bivalve (Public Service Electric and Gas Impoundments near Bivalve, Cumberland, NJ); Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook N.W.R., Kent, DE); Braddock Bay (Hawkwatch at L. Ontario, Monroe, NY); Brigantine (Brigantine Unit, Forsythe N.W.R., Atlantic, NJ); C.H.S.P. (Cape Henlopen S.P., Sussex, DE); Derby Hill (Hawkwatch at L. Ontario, Oswego, NY); Logan Tract (Ted

Harvey Conservation Area/Logan Lane Tract, Kent, DE); Middlecreek (Middlecreek N.W.R., Lancaster, PA); Montauk (Montauk Point S.P., Suffolk, NY); Peace Valley (Peace Valley Park, Doylestown, Berks, PA); Sandy Hook (Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway National Recreation Area, Monmouth, NJ); S.C.M.M. (South Cape May Meadow, W. Cape May, NJ).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Horned Grebes were numerous, with peak counts of 408 at the Hamlin Beach lake watch, Monroe, NY 15 Apr (William Symonds) and 220 in Rehoboth Bay, DE 1 Apr (FR). Counts on inland ponds were good too, with a high of 64 at L. Ontelaunee, Berks, PA 16 Apr (KK). And with nearly 70 reported, Red-necked Grebes also enjoyed a good season. Single Eared Grebes were observed at Peach Bottom, Lancaster, PA 12-20 Mar (Rick Blom, Brian Monk, m. ob.); Pt. Lookout, Nassau, NY 3-24 Mar (R. J. Kurtz, m. ob.); probably the same individual at nearby Ft Tilden 2 Apr; at Lansing, Tompkins, NY 19 Mar (KM); and possibly the same individual at Ithaca, Tompkins, NY 18 Mar (Pete Hosner, Bruce Tracey). About 40 observers on a pelagic trip from Barnegat Light, Ocean, NJ to the Hudson Canyon 26 May were treated to 39 Northern Fulmars. The peak count of 200+ Sooty Shearwaters was recorded at McCrae Shoal 29 May (MG). The only Manx Shearwater was seen from Democrat Pt., Fire I., Suffolk, NY 23-24 May (PLi, SM et al.). And 3-5 Leach's Storm-Petrels were observed at Hudson Canyon 26 May (ABR et al.).

Control measures for Double-crested Cormorants on L. Ontario and L. Erie have strongly reduced the number of imm. present along the New York Great Lakes' shores. A high count of 86 Great Cormorants was at Sandy Hook 3 Mar (MF), while 10 was an excellent number farther s. at Claymont, New Castle, DE the same day (MS). And well out of place was a single individual at Derby Hill 22 Apr (GP, Gerald Smith). Similarly out-of-place herons included a Snowy Egret at Grand I. Erie, NY 11 May (†RoK) and probably the same individual at nearby Motor I. 23 May (RoK); a Little Blue Heron at Braddock Bay 28 May (DT); and a Tricolored Heron at Hogan Pt. Monroe, NY 12 Apr (DT). A White Ibis was an excellent find at Nummy I., Cape May, NJ 24 Apr (fide VE). Glossy Ibis made an incursion into a number of areas where they are quite rare, including 2 at Chazy, Clinton 18 Apr (MH) for a 5th county record; 2 at N. Rose, Wayne 11 Apr (Don & Donna Traver); one at Braddock Bay 1-4 May (DT, Mike Davids); 4 at



This is one of three Ross's Geese, near Sharptown, Salem County, New Jersey, photographed 9 March. The species continues to increase as a visitor to the East, South, and Far West along with the numbers of its congener Snow Goose. Photograph by Tom Bailey.

Derby Hill 14 Apr; one at Iroquois N.W.R., Orleans/Genesee, NY 5–15 May (Bill Burch, †Tom O'Donnell, †BK); and one at Middlecreek 19 Mar. More unusual, 3–5 **White-faced Ibis** were present in New Jersey simultaneously; there are only about a dozen previous state records. An ad., observed near Reed's Beach, Cape May 9–19 May (m. ob.), was joined by an imm. a few days after first found (m. ob.). Another ad., discovered at Bivalve 12 May (S. Rottenborn, et al.), was also later joined by an imm. and remained a few days. The imm. was last seen 27 May. And an ad. was present at Brigantine 16 May–2 June (m. ob.). Black Vultures, rare in ne. Pennsylvania, were recorded one each at Tunkhannock, Wyoming 21 Mar (BR), and Scranton, Lackawana 24 May (BR), both probably first county records. On 8 Apr, an unprecedented flight of Turkey Vultures took place along the L. Ontario shore, with 5834 at Braddock Bay (JG), 2643 at Derby Hill, and 4514 on the Buffalo Ornithological Society's April Count, totaling nearly 13,000 and far surpassing any previous Regional records.

WATERFOWL

Fourteen Greater White-fronted Geese were reported, 5 of them at Peace Valley and nearby Pine Run Dam until 11 Mar (DF). Again Middlecreek produced the peak count of Snow Geese, 80,000 on 3 Mar (Carl Bruce), with

huge flocks at several other locations; and 12,000 were observed near Centerville in n. Delaware (Winston Wayne), where they were nearly unknown just a few years ago. A count of 12 Ross's Geese was near normal, with maxima of 3 each reported from Salem, NJ 31 Mar (TB), and from Middlecreek for most of Mar (DH). Eight small Canada Geese were reported, with 5, all from nw. New York, specifically identified as *hutchinsii*, continuing the trend of recent years. Black Brant were reported, one each, from Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York City 19 May (AG, AW), from Liberty S.P., Hudson, NJ 7 Apr (m. ob.), and from Brigantine 8 Apr (m. ob.). And a Barnacle Goose of unknown origin returned to Lysander, Onondaga, NY 29 Apr–1 May, where it had been recorded last year. Four Trumpeter Swans remained at Fair Haven, Cayuga, NY, with the last present 31 Mar. Nine Eurasian Wigeon was about normal, but a Eurasian x American Wigeon hybrid at Plymouth, Luzerne, PA 31 May (Rko) was unusual.

An ad. male **Cinnamon Teal** at a park pond in Northfield, Atlantic, NJ 29 Mar–6 Apr (K. Post, m. ob.) will provide that state with its 3rd record, pending a decision on its origin by the New Jersey Bird Records Committee. No fewer than 10 Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal were reported, 3 from New York, 6 from New Jersey, and one from Delaware. And Common x Green-winged Teal hybrids were

reported from Maurice R., Cumberland, NJ 8 Mar (JD, Clay Sutton) and from the Logan Tract 18 Mar (MS). Springport, Cayuga, NY produced the top count of 3000+ Redheads 10 Mar (Matt Young), continuing the recent trend in that part of New York. But elsewhere in the Region, where much smaller numbers are typical, it was also an excellent season with more than 125 reported. L. Parsippany, Morris, NJ held an amazing total of 3500+ Ring-necked Ducks on 14 Mar (Glenn and Eileen Mahler). This small pond has produced a number of surprises in the past. Tufted Ducks remained at South Hampton, Suffolk, NY until 11 Mar (AG et al.) and at Oswego, NY until 12 Mar (*fide* BP). Twelve King Eiders were recorded in the L. Ontario Littoral, NY 3 Mar (KM), while singles were present at Montauk 4–24 Mar (m. ob.) and on Grand I., Erie, NY 18 Mar. The only Common Eiders of the season were observed at Montauk, with a maximum of 7 on 25 Mar (m. ob.). About 15 Harlequin Ducks remained from winter, with a high of "several" at Barnegat until late Mar. Though Montauk produced maxima of 3000+ Surf Scoters and 5000+ White-winged Scoters 15 Apr (HM), there were very few Black Scoters there. McGuinness points out that this is curious because good numbers of Blacks were migrating along the s. shore of Long I. at the time. In general, however, only very small numbers of Black Scoter were reported, with the only other

exception being at Cape May, NJ where a mixed flock of thousands of Surfs and Blacks with about 25 percent Black was observed 22 & 23 Apr (Richard Crossley). Six Barrow's Goldeneye remained from last season, 4 in New York, and one each in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

Kites made a respectable showing but did not repeat last year's extravaganza. Five Swallow-tailed Kites graced the Region, one each at W. Sayville, *Suffolk*, NY 13 Mar (*fide* TL); Bridgehampton, *Suffolk*, NY 18 Apr (Chris Roberts); Cape May, NJ 2 May; Tewksbury, *Hunterdon*, NJ 4 May (Evan Obercian); and near Dover, DE 22 Apr. Meanwhile about a dozen Mississippi Kites were reported. The usual 3-4 were at Cape May (m. ob.), and 2 different individuals at Sandy Hook, one each on 4 & 10 May (Bruce McWharter). Meanwhile, about 6 visited Pennsylvania, where it seems on its way to becoming annual: one at several locations near Bethlehem, *Northampton* 18 Apr-20 May (AK et al.); an ad. at Middlecreek 2 May (DH); 2 at Chickies Rock, *Lancaster* 28 May (Joe Yoder); one seen twice in May at L. Nockamixon, *Bucks* (DF, Bill Etter); and one at Blue Marsh L. *Berks* 12

(JS) & 24 May (KK). Several hawkwatches reported record high counts of Bald Eagles. Outstanding among these were Derby Hill with 59 on 27 May and 224 for the season, both new records, and Braddock Bay, with a new single day record of 46 (JG). A pair of Northern Goshawks at Burlington I., *Burlington*, NJ 12 May and a single one patrolling that area two weeks later (WD) suggested possible nesting, unusual for the area but not unheard of. Part of a major hawk flight, Broad-winged Hawks peaked on 23 Apr with 22,600 at Braddock Bay and 10,813 at Derby Hill. Swainson's Hawks were about normal, one each at Derby Hill 8 Apr (Jan and David Muir, GP), Braddock Bay 8 Apr (Michael Tetlow, †DS), and Hogan Pt. *Monroe*, NY (DT). Golden Eagles were well represented even away from hawkwatches. Twenty-three were recorded at Derby Hill on 23 Apr, only 2 short of the record. American Kestrel numbers were quite low. The Sandy Hook hawkwatch recorded only 655 for the year, their worst year ever. Last winter's Gyrfalcon at Fair Haven, *Cayuga*, NY remained until 26 Mar, while another was reported in Hector, *Schuylers*, NY (John and Sue Gregoire), but as yet no details are available.

Rediscovering a 60-year-old site, two observers found a Yellow Rail at Bombay Hook 30 Apr (JL, AE). Black Rails reported in Delaware included a peak of 2 on 14 May at Port Mahon, *Kent* (JL) and 2 at Big Stone Beach marsh e. of Milford, *Sussex* 17 May (Jeff Gordon, Jim White, AE). The only one reported from New Jersey was at Jake's Landing, *Cumberland* 9 May (*fide* PL). With about 75 reported, Sandhill Cranes continued in the high numbers of the past two seasons. A report of 35, a flock substantially larger than any in the past, flying over New Era near Wyalusing, *Bradford*, PA 15 Mar (Trudy Gerlach, *fide* BR) was astounding. The crane flock comprised of Sandhill Cranes and Common Crane and hybrids between the two species at L. Bostwick, *Cumberland*, NJ had 9 holdovers from winter (WD). On 31 Mar Dasey observed 2 of the hybrids mating. The flock gradually dwindled during the season, with the last one seen at the end of May (WD). In light of these observations, birders throughout the East should use caution in the identification of wayward cranes.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

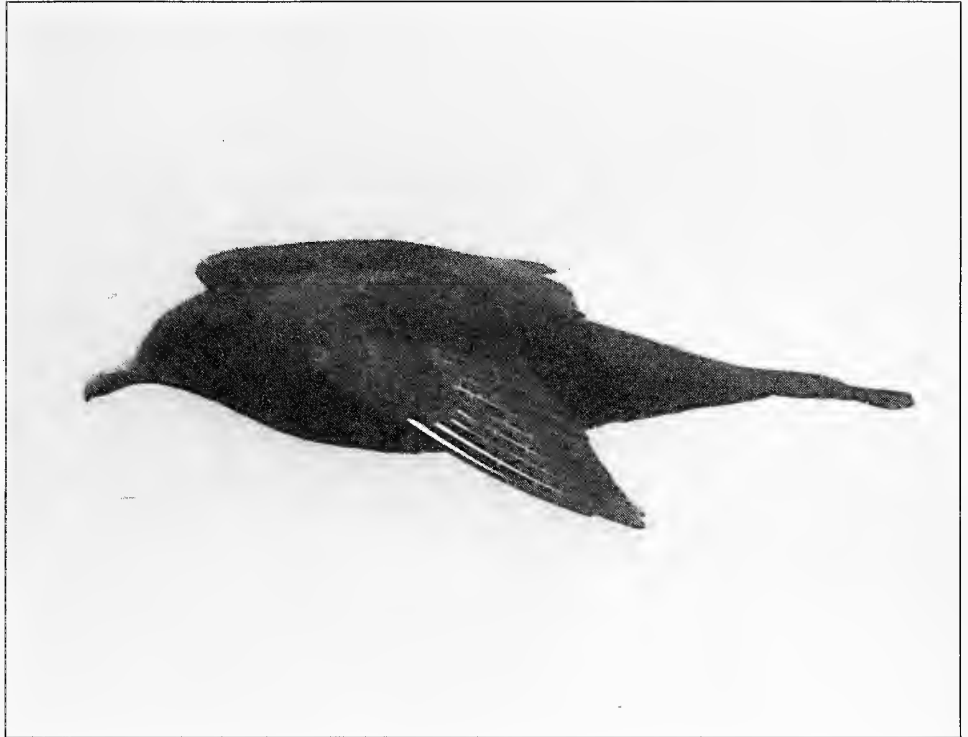
Piping Plovers continued in very low numbers, though some reports gave cause for guarded optimism. Eleven at C.H.S.P. 1 Apr (FR) was, according to Ednie, the highest single count in Delaware in decades. And a single individual at Dunkirk Harbor, *Chautauqua*, NY (DM et al.) provided New York's Niagara Frontier Region with its first spring record since the 1950s. Thirteen Black-necked Stilts were recorded in New Jersey, with 9 at S.C.M.M. 4 May (Michael O'Brien et al.), 2 at Brigantine 4 May (SK), one near Reed's Beech, *Cape May* 8 May (JD), and one at Cape May Pt. S. P. 10 May (J. Hanson). Though common enough in Delaware, Black-necked Stilts are rare just across the Bay. Numbers of American Avocets, another species common in the Region only in Delaware, peaked at 518 at Little Creek W.M.A., *Kent*, DE 13 Apr (Colin Campbell). The shorebird of the season surely was a **Black-tailed Godwit** at Eastport, *Suffolk* 5-17 Apr (Paul Gillen), New York's first and the Region's 4th, seen by hundreds and well photographed. A Hudsonian Godwit near Monty Bay, *Clinton*, NY 5 May (J&RH) and a Marbled Godwit at the Chazy Riverlands, *Clinton*, NY 6 (J&RH) & 8 May (Bill Krueger, Charles Mitchell), provided respectively the 5th and 2nd records for both the county and the state's Adirondack-Champlain Region. Another Marbled Godwit at Pedricktown, *Gloucester*, NJ 4-14 Apr (Bill and Naomi Murphy) provided that shorebird mecca with its first record.



A Ruff at Southampton Township, Burlington County, New Jersey, photographed 27 May, provided the county with its first record. Photograph by Tom Bailey.

Over 10,000 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Bivalve 18 May (VE) and 9000 at Thompson's Beach, *Cumberland*, 24 May (VE) were presumably lured in to the mudflats from the Horseshoe Crab eggs of the Delaware Bay beaches. A Baird's Sandpiper at Wilkes-Barre, *Luzerne*, PA 23 May (Rko, SG) was a very rare spring observation at a location where the species is rare at any season. Three Curlew Sandpipers in breeding plumage at Thompson's Beach, *Cumberland*, NJ 21–26 May (VE, Dave Mizrahi) were the season's highlights there. Another was present at Mecox, *Suffolk*, NY 12 May (HM); and 3 were recorded in Delaware, one at Woodland Beach Wildlife Area, *Kent* 19–21 May (Ellen Short, m. ob.), one at Bombay Hook 26 May (m. ob.), and a different individual 27 May also at Bombay Hook (M. Barnhill, ph. Mary Scott). Ruffs in unusual places were one in Southampton Twp. *Burlington*, NJ 9 May (TB, DJ) for a first county record, and single Reeves recorded at Great Swamp N.W.R. *Morris*, NJ 1–2 May (RK, m. ob.) and at Blue Chip Farm, *Ulster*, NY 19 May (TWB, Gail Benson), both well inland. Ruffs in more usual locations included 3 more in New Jersey and 3 in Delaware. An amazing 6500 Short-billed Dowitchers were at Bivalve 18 May (VE) in a season for which relatively low numbers were reported elsewhere, though 60 at a farm pond near Shartlesville, *Berks*, PA 21 May (Harold Lebo) was an excellent inland total. Very uncommon along the East Coast in spring, a report of 50 Long-billed Dowitchers identified by call at the Logan Tract 17 Mar (BGP) was astounding at such an early date; local wintering is conceivable.

A pelagic trip to Hudson Canyon on 26 May produced one imm. South Polar Skua, a high count of 49 Pomarine Jaegers, nearly all ads., 3 Parasitic Jaegers, and the season's only Long-tailed Jaeger (ABr et al.). One other Pomarine Jaeger was off Sagaponack, *Suffolk*, NY 20 May (HM, AB), and several Parasitic Jaegers were reported from shoreline locations. The winter season's Mew Gull at Shinnecock Inlet, *Suffolk*, NY was last recorded on 5 & 10 May (TL). An inland Iceland Gull provided a 3rd county record at Wyoming, *Luzerne*, PA 7 Apr (BR). Observers scouting for the World Series of Birding discovered a Sabine's Gull just n. of Nummy I. *Cape May*, NJ 8 May (Marshall J. Iliff, A. Schreck). New Jersey has 11 previous records of this attractive species, with only two of them in spring. *Cape May Pt.*, NJ yielded the only Sandwich Tern of the season on 5 May (Matt Sharp). A few Roseate Terns visited *Cape May Pt.* and *S.C.M.M.* in mid-May (*fide* VE), and singles were recorded at Shinnecock,



A dark-morph adult Pomarine Jaeger at Hudson Canyon, 89 miles east of Barnegat Inlet, New Jersey, was one of just three dark morphs noted among 49 Pomarines on 26 May. There are few higher counts from the mid-Atlantic and Gulf Stream from the spring. *Photograph by Alan Brady.*

Suffolk, NY 11 May (Orhan Birol), *Sandy Hook* 20 May (Bruce Fetz, Lou DeMarco), and *C.H.S.P.* 17 May (MG). Very intriguing was a report of 2 Arctic Terns near Columbia, *Lancaster*, PA 22 May (Jason Horn, Bob Schutsky). With only one or two previous records in Pennsylvania, documentation of this report will be important. A 2nd report of this rare tern was of one seen at long distance off Indian River Inlet, *Sussex*, DE 19 May (MG, BGP). Also rare, a Common Murre found at Montauk 18 Mar (Al Ott) was seen there sporadically until 7 Apr. A bit less rare, last winter's Thick-billed Murre at Montauk was relocated 3 Mar (Eric Salzman, Paul Osenbaugh), and 3 were there 19 Mar (*fide* HM), with one to 2 present until 7 Apr. One other was reported from the e. end of Moriches Bay 25 Mar (Andy Murphy). Razorbills were reported in excellent numbers, with a high count of 511 off Montauk 3 Mar (AB). And 2 Atlantic Puffins 60 mi. e. of Barnegat Inlet, *Ocean*, NJ rounded out a pelagic trip on 26 May (ABr, †JB et al.), while another washed ashore moribund near Mecox Bay, *Suffolk*, NY 28 Mar (*fide* Gini Frati).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Eurasian Collared-Dove at Derby Hill 15 May (†Marge Rusk) was the first recorded in

New York's Oneida Lake Basin, marking the continued spread of that species. A **White-winged Dove** at the Niagara-Mohawk Energy Information Center, Scriba, *Oswego*, NY 9 May (GP, Dave Cowell), also with details, was the 2nd of its species recorded in the same Region. Both Northern Hawk Owls from the winter season remained into Mar, the one at Exit 31 of the Adirondack Northway, *Clinton*, NY until 17 Mar (NO), and the one at Bloomingdale Bog, *Franklin*, NY until 19 Mar (NO). Two Boreal Owls visited New York, one photographed at Manitou, *Monroe*, NY 25–28 Mar (T. MacDonald, Carolyn Cass, †Kurt Fox), while the other at Tifft Nature Preserve, Buffalo 6 May (†Robert Andrl, †BK) provided the Niagara Frontier Region of the state with its 2nd record. There are about two dozen previous records of this species in New York, with the Tifft report much later than most. May produced a flood of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Seventy-two were accidentally netted then released at the banding station at Manitou, *Monroe*, NY after 9 May (B.B.B.O.). Over 30 were recorded on 22 & 23 May at *Sandy Hook* (MF, TBo, Dave Roche). And a record total of 28 was banded at *Jenny L. Saratoga*, NY after 11 May (RY). An ad. **Lewis's Woodpecker** surprised an observer at Fort Drum, *Jefferson*, NY 1–3 May (†Jeff Bolsinger).



Providing only the third spring record for New Jersey, this Sabine's Gull (on right) was discovered by Marshall Iliiff at Hereford Inlet on 9 May while scouting for the World Series of Birding. Photograph by George L. Armistead.

If accepted by the New York State Avian Records Committee, this will be the 4th or 5th record for New York and the first for the state's St. Lawrence Region. Reports of 30 Red-headed Woodpeckers—with 18 coming from areas where it has become scarce—made for a good showing. Pennsylvania's 2nd **Black-backed Woodpecker**, at the Pocono Environmental Education Center, *Pike*, PA 6 Mar–16 May (Kristine Dzurison, Jack Padalino, ph. Rick Wiltraut), was enjoyed by hundreds of observers during its extended stay.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

A Western Kingbird was present at Democrat Pt. Fire I, *Suffolk*, NY 25–27 May (PLi, SM), a species of which New York has only about a half-dozen spring records. Two or 3 Loggerhead Shrikes visited New Jersey, where it has been very rare for the past decade or so. The first was near Eldora at the *Cumberland/Cape May* line 3 Apr (David Freeland); another, possibly the same individual, at Heislerville, *Cumberland*, 18 Apr (J. DiOrio) and seen again 7 May (WD, m. ob.); and the last at Springfield Twp., *Burlington* 6 May (TB). And a single Loggerhead Shrike at Carlton, *Orleans*, NY (†MM, †W. D'Anna et al.) 18–19 May provided the first May report for that region since 1981. An outstanding total of 34 Northern Shrikes was reported.

There was an unusually large number of Philadelphia Vireos (16) reported this spring. A single Cave Swallow was observed at S.C.M.M. 8 May (George L. Armistead). There are 17 previous New Jersey records of this species with the first in 1990, though only three in spring. With very few migrants, Red-breasted Nuthatch remained scarce for another season. Brown-headed Nuthatch continues to hold on in Delaware, with a maximum of 8 at S. Bethany, *Sussex* 27 May (John Jankowski), and smaller numbers at a few locations farther n. A Sedge Wren was observed at Panama, *Chautauqua*, NY 18 May (Kirk Vanstrom), where it is rare. Other singles were found at Bivalve, *Cumberland*, NJ 25 Apr; at Bombay Hook 30 Apr (JL); and at Port Mahon, *Kent*, DE 17 May (AE), all locations where it is at least uncommon. Following their winter absence, Bohemian Waxwings were reported at a half-dozen locations, with a maximum of 70 at Chateaugay, *Franklin*, NY 22 Mar (MH) and small flocks at the other sites. Sandy Hook was swarming with Cedar Waxwings, with 2000 present 24 Mar (RK). By 9 Apr the flock had diminished by half (MF).

A Blue-winged Warbler at Crown Pt. State Historical Site, *Essex*, NY 12 May (Gillian Horgan, Gary Lee, JP) and banded on 14 May provided the county with its 4th record, all four at this location. And while Golden-

winged Warblers were very scarce, curiously enough, 5 Lawrence's Warblers and 5 Brewster's Warblers were reported. Though Tennessee Warbler reports remained sparse, this year's exceeded last year's total. A high count of 11 was recorded in woods near Linden, *Union*, NJ 14 May (RR). Cape May Warblers, however, showed little sign of recovery. Prothonotary Warblers increased considerably in their strongholds and were observed elsewhere in better-than-average numbers. One of the more unusual sites was Wilkes-Barre, *Luzerne*, PA, where a Prothonotary was observed on 26 Apr (SG). A Swainson's Warbler at Blue Marsh L., *Berks*, PA 19–20 May (†Peter Githens, †JS) provided the first county record, pending a decision by the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee. Connecticut Warblers at Manitou, *Monroe*, NY banded 24 May (B.B.B.O.), and at Stony Valley, *Dauphin*, PA 23 May (Tom Smith) provided unusual spring reports. And Yellow-breasted Chats in unusual locations were one at Dunkirk, *Chautauqua*, NY 15 May (Joanne Goets, DM) and one banded at Manitou, *Monroe*, NY 17 May (B.B.B.O.).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

With 31 reported in n. New Jersey and se. New York, Summer Tanagers spread out from their more favored areas farther s. A bird showing characters of a Spotted x Eastern Towhee hybrid was observed at Central Park, New York City 22 Apr (Michael Stubblefield, Deborah Allen), and photographs are currently being studied. Clay-colored Sparrows were observed at Central Park, New York City 1 May (AG), a part of the Region where it is rare in spring; at Island Cottage Woods, *Monroe*, NY 3 May (RS); and at Ward, *Alleghany*, NY 20 May (Vivian & Michael Pitzrick), possibly a new breeding location. Rare in spring, a Lark Sparrow visited C.H.S.P. 8 May (John Pilgrim), for about the 2nd spring record in Delaware, pending a decision by the Delaware Records Committee. Lark Sparrows also appeared at a feeder in Scarsdale, *Westchester*, NY 9–13 Mar (Sandra Marafino), and in Scriba, *Oswego*, 14 May (K. McIntyre, J. Cashier, m. ob.). Exceedingly rare in New Jersey in spring, a Henslow's Sparrow was recorded at Cape May 22 Apr (VE et al.). And about 18 others were reported in parts of the Region where they are more traditional. Several Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were observed along the shores of Delaware Bay through late May. Ednie points out that we still have more to learn about their spring migration and departure dates. Over 100 Lapland Longspurs along Nations Road between Avon and Geneseo, *Livingston*, NY 7

Mar (Jim Kimball) was the season high. And a peak count of 900 Snow Buntings was recorded at Somerset, *Niagara*, NY 18 Mar (BK). A male Blue Grosbeak was out of place at Dunkirk, *Chautauqua*, NY 4–5 May (Joe Gula, DM), where it was the 3rd record for New York's Niagara Frontier region. High counts of Rusty Blackbirds were 400+ at Derby Hill 7 Apr (Scilingo, Mickey) and 200 near Lafayette, *Sussex*, NJ 29 Apr (JB, Tom Halliwell). The only Brewer's Blackbird of the season was a female at Sharptown, *Salem*, NJ first found 10 Mar (TB, DJ) and rediscovered 17 Mar (Laurie Larson, WD). Orchard Orioles made a northward incursion in New York, with reports as far as *St. Lawrence*, *Oswego*, and *Madison*. A Bullock's Oriole was observed at Braddock Bay 10 May (†DS); New York has no more than a dozen previous records of this species. With two exceptions, winter finches were again scarce. While only a small handful of Red Crossbills were reported, White-winged Crossbills were abundant in New York's Adirondack and Tug Hill regions, with numerous flocks along the roads, irruptions into many towns, and young being fed as early as 20 Mar (BL). *Clinton*, NY acquired its 2nd and 3rd atlas breeding records, and pairs were found throughout n. *Herkimer* and *Oneida*. Pine Siskins were recorded in large flocks also in the Adirondack and Tug Hill regions but were scarce otherwise. With few exceptions, Evening Grosbeaks were also scarce.

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Two Atlantic Puffins, 60 miles east of Barnegat Inlet, New Jersey, were seen while returning from Hudson Canyon 26 May. *Photograph by Alan Brady.*

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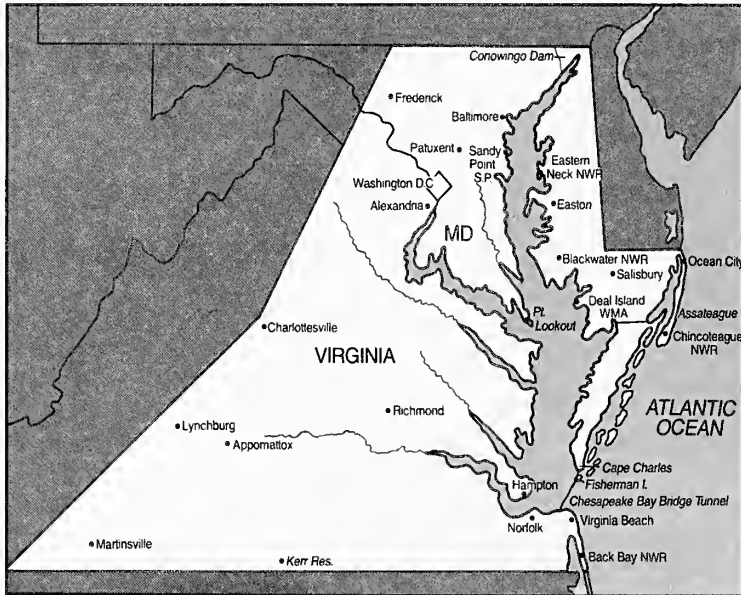
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Relatively little frontal activity was blamed both for the lack of many significant land-bird flights and the extremely poor hawkwatching season at Ft. Smallwood. Perhaps as a result, comments on this spring's migration were another echo that this year was even poorer than last. Among the season's highlights were a spectacular coastal fallout 19-20 May (compliments of one of the few fronts that did pass through) and yet another year of record-high Mississippi Kite numbers. The season was punctuated by such rarities as Pacific Loon, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Painted Bunting in Maryland, and White-faced Ibis, several Swallow-tailed Kites, Swainson's Hawk, Eurasian Collared-Dove, and possible Lark Bunting in Virginia.

For the 3rd year, the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory (formerly K.E.S.T.R.E.L.) has employed a field worker to survey the birdlife at the southern tip of the Delmarva Peninsula. Calvin Brennan returned for a second year and conducted regular surveys at

Kiptopeke S.P., Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R., and other hotspots in Northampton County, Virginia. Of particular interest were the comparative data he provided for the 19 May fallout, as well as a couple great rarities and an unusual Myrtle Warbler migration event. Note that due to reporting biases, all locations can be assumed to be in Maryland except that each Virginia location is mentioned the *first time* it is mentioned in the text.

Abbreviations: Bay (Chesapeake Bay); C.B.B.T. (Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, s. of *Northampton*, VA); Chinc. (Chincoteague N.W.R., *Accomack*, VA); D.C. (District of Columbia); Deal (Deal Island W.M.A., *Somerset*, MD); E.S.V.N.W.R. (Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R., *Northampton*, VA); Hart (Hart-Miller Dredge Spoil Containment Facility, *Baltimore*, MD); Huntley (Huntley Meadows C. P., *Fairfax*, VA); K.A.G. (Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, D.C.); P.R.N.A.S. (Patuxent River Naval Air Station, *Saint Mary's*, MD); Vaughn (E.A. Vaughn W.M.A., *Worcester*, MD).

GREBES THROUGH WATERFOWL

Although Maryland has a number of reports now, an ad. **Pacific Loon** in nearly full alternate

plumage at Ocean City Inlet 15-25 May (ph. †MJI, GLA, m. ob.) provided only the 2nd well-documented record for the state, the first documented record for *Worcester*, and the latest spring report. Out-of-place Eared Grebes included one 20 Mar (MH, DP) at Bald Friar Rd., seen in both *Harford* and *Cecil*, one at Hart 24 Mar (EJS), and one at traditional N. Beach, *Calvert* 8 Apr (JLS). A Red-necked Grebe was at Solomons, *Calvert* 6-7 Apr (B. Millsap, v. o.).

Observers had fairly good luck with Sooty Shearwaters from shore, including several sightings of singles at Ocean City 17-20 May and one at Chinc. 21 May (V. Kitchens et al.). More unusual were 2 Greater Shearwaters seen from Ocean City Inlet 24 May (DM, LB). A subad. Great Cormorant lingered somewhat late at Ocean City 15 (MJI, GLA) & 19 May (MJI, GLA, MH), while an ad. was late and out of place at Sparrows Pt., *Baltimore* 13 May (EJS).

Easterly winds overnight and on the morning of 20 Mar produced a major Northern Gannet flight into the Bay, with at least 10,000 counted in 3 hours (ESB). An American White Pelican at Havre de Grace 13-15 Apr (A. Hirvonen, ph. vt. †m. ob.) provided the 2nd well-documented record from *Harford*. Interestingly, one showed up to the n. in *Centre*, PA the next day. Since they are such a recent arrival in the Maryland portion of the Bay, we are just now learning the pattern of arrival for Brown Pelicans. Six at Smith I. 22 Mar (MC) and 2 at Elliott I. 25 Mar (HTA) were the first arrivals. On 5 May Armistead and party only found 6 on a full-day survey of *Dorchester*, but by 12 May (HTA et al.) there were 52, indicating a recent influx. Few were seen any farther up the Bay this spring until Jun.

A Tricolored Heron at K.A.G. 18 May (GM, BC, MB, MP) was a D.C. rarity. Likewise a Cattle Egret at Haines Pt., D.C. 27 May (PP) and one at L. Elkorn, *Howard* 20 Apr (B. Ott) were unusual inland. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Smith I. 12 Mar (MC) was quite early but not surprising at this cen. Bay location. This is the first year that there has been regular observer coverage there through the winter and early spring. Surprisingly irregular in *Worcester*, an ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at W. Ocean City Pond 2 Apr (MJI) bested the 23 Apr 1992 record-early date for the county. An ad. **White-faced Ibis** found at Chinc. 6 May (ph., †MJI, †GLA) and seen again 11 May (ESB et al.) furnished only the 4th report for Virginia, with all previous reports also hailing from Chincoteague in 1979, 1998, and 1999. It is possible that the same wandering ad. has been frequenting Glossy Ibis colonies in the area since 1998, but it is certain that White-faced Ibis is

being found Regionally and across the East far more frequently than in the past. An ad. White Ibis at Chinc. 19 Apr (†LN) corresponded to a weak pattern of mid-Apr occurrences n. of their regular range at Fisherman I. Always unusual in the Region and especially so in spring, a report of 10-12 Wood Storks flying over Hanover Courthouse, VA, was a shocker 10 Apr (D. Hopler).

The overwintering Greater White-fronted Goose at Harrison Rd., *Fauquier*, VA was last seen 13 Mar (SH), while a Ross's Goose at Blackwater N.W.R., *Dorchester* 11 Mar (HTA) was the last of the season and one of Maryland's later reports. The enigmatic Schoolhouse Pond swan remained through 23 Mar (JLS). Annual in the Region in recent years, and probably soon to be accorded status as a full species, a Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal at E.S.V.N.W.R. from the winter season remained to at least 3 Mar (ESB, CB), when it was seen at nearby Kiptopeke S.P. Eurasian Wigeon from the winter season were last noted at Fairlee, *Fauquier*, VA 7 Mar (SH) and at Chinc. 9 Mar (*vide* ESB), and another was at W. Ocean City Pond 1 Mar (E. Lawler). Harlequin Ducks lingered at C.B.B.T. through at least early May (CB). A female Hooded Merganser was found sitting on 12 eggs in a Wood Duck box at Huntley 25 Mar (K. Hollinga). While the species breeds at Huntley regularly, confirmation is more often in the form of nestlings, such as the 5 seen with a female 25 May (S. Eccles). A Common Merganser at K.A.G. 31 May (MB) was late.

HAWKS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

The Ft. Smallwood, *Anne Arundel* hawkwatch logged 70 more hours of coverage this year, with 514 total hours 9 Feb-8 Jun (*vide* SR). Despite the record coverage, the season total was a depressing 9785, the 3rd lowest total since regular (350+ hours) coverage began in 1993. The poor totals were blamed on the lack of good frontal passages, which resulted in a persistent lack of strong southerly or westerly winds needed at this site. Seasonal totals of 130 Northern Harriers, 333 American Kestrels, and 717 Broad-winged Hawks were all notably low. Mississippi Kites, however, continued their streak at the Fort, being seen for the 5th consecutive year. The first was seen 5 May, followed by others 8 & 14 May, 6 (a new single-day high count) on 23 May, and singles 28 & 29 May. The 11 Mississippi Kites surpassed the previous seasonal record of 4. The 5 May Mississippi Kite was an ad., the only one out of the 27 Mississippi recorded here since 1993.

Mississippi Kites elsewhere also reflected a

continued increase in the Region. The recently resident pair that must be nesting near Huntley returned there 6 May (D. Hinkley). A selection of other reports included one ad./subad. in Annapolis 11 May (DM), one at the Rte. 235 intersection with Rte. 5, *Saint Mary's* 15 May (MC), a subad. at P.W.R.C. 17-18 May (D. Dawson, m. ob.), one at Selby's Landing, *Prince George's* 22 May (DBY), an ad. at E.S.V.N.W.R. 24-28 May (BT, ESB), and singles at Woodbridge (B. Studholme) and over Leakin Park, *Baltimore* 27 May (RFR et al.). **Swallow-tailed Kites** put in another strong showing in *Northampton*, VA, with one at E.S.V.N.W.R. 15 Apr (CB), one near Oyster 21 Apr (*vide* CB) that was possibly the same bird, and one at Weirwood Station 26 May (R. L. Anderson, T. Tran). Another at Pickering Cr. Audubon Center 5 May (J. Wilson, G. Ratchliff et al.) would provide a *Talbot* first but was not described. Taber manned the College Creek hawkwatch in Williamsburg, VA for 78 hours this spring and was rewarded with a dark imm. **Swainson's Hawk** 22 Apr. The dark morph *calurus* Red-tailed Hawk that wintered at the I-66 interchange with Rte. 246 was last seen in late Mar (TMD). Dark Rough-legged Hawks were last seen at Deal 14 Apr (SHD, C&DB) and at Elliott I. 13 Apr (HTA). An ad. Harris's Hawk with bands and jesses was noted in

Montgomery 9 Apr (ph. J. Wilkerson). There are at least four previous reports of such escapees in the state, so it must be quite a popular species with falconers.

Droege discovered an active **Sharp-shinned Hawk** nest at Soldier's Delight, *Baltimore* 4 May, which represents the first confirmed nesting for the Region in over 25 years. The nest was 15 m up in a Virginia Pine. Harry Armistead mentioned noticing that Osprey in the Region return earlier to freshwater locales than to saltwater locations, supported by the 28 that he counted in inland *Caroline* 17 Mar while the species still had not returned to more brackish waters around his *Talbot* home the next day. This seems to hold throughout the Region, as the earliest Ospreys often appear far up the Bay tributaries. A Peregrine Falcon seen 10 Apr (W. Cole) at the drilling structure off Cove Pt., *Calvert* appeared to be territorial. This would be a new nesting location.

Two Sandhill Cranes were seen circling n. at E.S.V.N.W.R. 14 Apr (CB, BT). Single Sandhill Cranes seen in s. *Northampton* at Capeville 20 Apr (ESB, SWH), near Eastville 23 Apr (CB), and at E.S.V.N.W.R. 13-14 May (G. Weinberger, L. Cole, m. ob.) may have been one of the same individuals. A Clapper Rail at Ft. Smallwood 21 Apr (SR et al.) provided a rare migrant record for the species on the upper Bay, and one found



This Pacific Loon photographed 24 May at Ocean City Inlet is one of few satisfactorily documented from the Region. Photograph by Marshall J. Iloff.

dead at Bay Hundred, *Talbot* 12 May (JR) was another migrant or a nester near the n. limit for the species on the Eastern Shore. Night listening in bayside *Accomack*, VA produced 81+ Clapper, 42 Virginia, and 3 Black Rails 11 May (ESB et al.). Unusual inland Common Moorhens appeared at Warfield's Pond, *Howard* 15 May (K. Schwartz) and Piney Run Res., *Carroll* 25 May (D. Perry).

Although the Virginia barrier islands (Cedar, Metompkin, and Assawoman) where they nest are not far away, a Wilson's Plover at Chinc. 9 May (ESB et al.) was a surprise, as they have not been regular here for over 20 years. One plowed field along Ironshire Rd., *Worcester* held 1060 Black-bellied Plovers along with a few other shorebirds 15 May (MJI, GLA), and another near Oyster, *Northampton*, VA held 1500 19 May (CB). An American Golden-Plover joined 500+ Black-bellied Plovers in a disked field near Carmean Rd., *Worcester* 20 May (SHD). Black-necked Stilts were noted at E.S.V.N.W.R. on several dates, with a 4 May (CB) high of 7. A Willet reported from Lakeside Ponds 22 Apr (LN) would furnish only a 2nd *Harford* record, and one from D.C. was about as rare at Haines Pt. 26 May (PP): both were identified as the w. subspecies *inornatus*. A male Ruff visited a drawn-down impoundment at Deal 13 Mar (C&DB). A few Stilt Sandpipers are noted each spring, and this year there were singles at Hart

14 & 22 Apr (EJS), at Deal 18 Apr (MJI), and at Blackwater N.W.R. 5 May (HTA et al.), and one was at E.S.V.N.W.R. 22-25 May (CB). Always rare in spring, single Western Sandpipers and Long-billed Dowitchers at Hart 12 May (EJS et al.) were perhaps all the more noteworthy given the low numbers of other species of shorebirds that day (e.g., 4 Semipalmated Sandpipers and 2 Short-billed Dowitchers). Another Western Sandpiper was described from Hunting Cr. 19 May (†SS), but several others reported were not described and some were probably misidentified. Observers should keep in mind that Western Sandpiper is quite rare in the mid-Atlantic area in spring. Shorebirds numbers at Hart built by 20 May (EJS), with 14 species including at least 665 Semipalmated Sandpiper and 492 Dunlin, as well as 3000 small shorebirds too distant to identify. Five White-rumped Sandpiper at Kingman L. 31 May (MB) were rare for D.C. In Maryland, Poplar I. held Purple Sandpipers at least until 19 May (MJI, GLA, MH), another late upper Bay record (the species is always present in small numbers at the C.B.B.T. and on the jetties at Cape Charles through late May and early Jun). Long-billed Dowitchers continue to be found in early spring in Lower Eastern Shore marsh areas of Maryland where they probably winter. Two to 3 were at Deal 29 Mar (SHD), 13 (C&DB) & 14 Apr (SHD), and 10 were at

Elliott I. 25 Mar (HTA). Inland Whimbrel passage was evidenced by 13 at Havre de Grace 26 May (D. Webb). A female Wilson's Phalarope at Cedartown Rd., *Worcester* frequented a rain puddle 15-16 May (ph. GLA, ph. MJI, SHD).

SA Heatwole had one of the more interesting discoveries this season when a Short-eared Owl seen 17 May was seen again 20 May leaving prey at various points in a hayfield at her *Culpeper*, VA farm. On 29 May she discovered 2 young, thus confirming breeding activity. The Region has very few prior indications of nesting. Maryland has three older nest records from *Montgomery*, *Caroline*, and *Dorchester*, as well as several other summer observations of suspected nesting. Virginia has two previous Piedmont nest records, the most recent in 1972. Given the recent discovery of a nesting site barely outside the Region in w. Maryland (displaying birds present 2000 and 2001, young found Jul 2000) and suspected nesting this year at Alligator River N.W.R. in coastal North Carolina, we may be witnessing a slight increase in nesting activity in this species at the s. margins of its range in the East.

GULLS THROUGH PIPITS

Little Gulls were much enjoyed this year in the Back R. W.T.P., *Baltimore*, with 18+ reports 29 Mar–21 Apr (BC, GM, m. ob.). Highs included 5 on 31 Mar, 5 & 7 Apr, but age ratios suggested that at least 7-10 individuals were present. More unusual were 2 on the Susquehanna R., *Harford/Cecil* 20 Mar (MH, DP), with one remaining through 24 Mar (MH, JLS). Rarest were the first Little Gull records for *Montgomery* and the first Piedmont record for the Region (away from the Susquehanna R.). One was at Sycamore Landing 6 Apr (†, vt. DC), and 2 ads. were at Riley's Lock 27 Apr (vt. DC, v. o.). The only Black-headed Gulls this season were first-winter birds at Ocean City Inlet 21 Mar (C&DB) and on the Susquehanna R. at Lapidum, *Cecil* 9 Apr (MJI, MH). A Franklin's Gull identified 5 Apr (E. Blom, B. Monk) at Diamond Pt., *Baltimore* supplied one of few Apr sightings in the Region. Three to 5 imm. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen on several dates 15-24 May (MJI et al.) in the Ocean City area, an above-average but not surprising total for the area. A second-winter Glaucous Gull at Hooper's I. 13-20 Apr (HTA,



This White-faced Ibis was first noted 6 May at Chincoteague N.W.R., Virginia, where all of the Region's records have been made. Photograph by Marshall J. Iliff.

v. o., ph. MJI, SA) was locally interesting for *Dorchester* and a bit on the late side. Iceland Gulls included a first-winter at Ocean City through 2 Mar (C&DB, ELP) and an ad. at Ocean City 25 Mar (DC, MAT). One first-winter in a large gull flock (with 7 Lesser Black-backed) at the Indiantown Pig Farm, *Dorchester* was getting late 29 Apr (MH, JLS, KF). Finally, the reliable Maryland **Kelp Gull** was seen only on 8 Mar (L. Schindler) and 24 May (*vide* J. Kostenko) this spring. It has typically been sporadic in spring and returns to be regular again in mid-summer.

Roseate Terns have been semi-annual at Ocean City recently, and this year one was seen 16 (M.L. Hoffman, SHD) & 19 May (vt. DC, M. A. Todd, JLS). Least Terns returned to the D.C. metro area again, with one at Greenbelt, *Prince George's* 6 May (D. Mozurkewich), one at Kingman L., D.C. 10 May (MP), and sightings at Hunting Cr. starting with 2 on 19 May (SS). One Razorbill was seen in the Northern Gannet flight at the C.B.B.T. 20 Mar (ESB), and 3 remained at Ocean City Inlet from the winter season through at least 3 Mar (K. Lambert).

Eurasian Collared-Dove seems to be taking an amazingly long time to investigate the East Coast, especially given the rapid and far-reaching progress that it is making in sweeping through the Midwest and West. This year, one singing in Sterling, *Loudoun* 10-28 Mar (B. Hill, G. Wheaton, v. o.) provided Virginia's 3rd and was at the same location as the first state record, seen just one year ago. Common Nighthawks sometimes arrive early on southerly winds. One was seen this year in Baltimore 9 Apr (J. Martin). A Chuck-will's-widow at Soldier's Delight 4 May (SD) was at a regular location; more unusual was a migrant seen during the day at Ft. McHenry 19 May (S. Crabtree, Jim Peters), perhaps the 2nd record for Baltimore City (*vide* K.E. Costley). The imm. female Rufous Hummingbird in Portsmouth, VA remained through 6 Apr (D. L. Hughes).

Among 4 migrant Alder Flycatchers reported, one at K.A.G. 25-27 May (PP, v. o.) was perhaps most noteworthy. A male **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was back at the same *Culpeper*, VA location where they nested last year 4 May (KH) and remained into the summer, though a mate was not seen this year. Another Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Dameron 12 May (†, ph. PC et al.) provided a new record for well-birded *Saint Mary's* and is the 14th species of flycatcher recorded there. The Northern Shrike at P.R.N.A.S. remained late into spring, last being seen 20 Mar (A. Ripley). Loggerhead Shrikes persist in the Virginia Piedmont, with several

SA On 18 May, a stationary front began moving n. through the Region, producing cloudy conditions and southerly and southwesterly winds overnight. After midnight, a cold front moved in from the w., and winds blew lightly from the n., grounding any migrants caught offshore or near the coast. The four islands of the C.B.B.T. that anchor that span's two mile-long submarine tunnels have long been known as a great place to find grounded, tired migrants under appropriate weather conditions, but in recent decades, spring fallouts here have been mostly minor. Calling it the best spring fallout ever on the C.B.B.T., Brinkley (†) provided a summary of the sightings by Don Schwab, Tom Gwynn, Barbara Begg, and himself on 19 May: the roster that day included 47 landbird species, among them 15 species of warbler (with about 550 individual warblers counted). Most in evidence were Common Yellowthroats, which were conservatively counted at 234 and estimated at about 350. At least 96 Magnolia Warblers and 65 Blackpoll Warblers rounded out the species that were present in abundance. Some species were observed in active migration (Indigo Buntings, Bobolinks, Eastern Kingbird, Blackpoll Warblers, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, various swallows) over the day, whereas others remained on the islands' bare ground just a meter or more from observers. At least 28 additional species, including 12 shorebirds, were observed that day, with the most notable being Veery, Swainson's, and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, both cuckoos, Marsh and Sedge Wrens, Least, Willow, and Acadian Flycatchers, Nelson's and Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows, and singles of Least Bittern, Black Tern, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and Wilson's Warbler. The presence of early season migrants such as a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, a Savannah Sparrow, 3 Swamp Sparrows, and a Seaside Sparrow was interesting but not surprising given the magnitude of the fallout. The next day, many of the Magnolia Warblers remained, Blackpoll Warblers had dropped to 40, and Common Yellowthroat numbers had fallen to 45; there were new arrivals such as Summer Tanager, more Indigo Buntings, and a Great Crested Flycatcher, and the rarer flycatchers and warblers were still present but the bittern and sharp-tailed sparrows absent (Field Guides, Inc. tour; M. Iwanik et al.). This fallout was apparently a strictly coastal phenomenon and was also noted at Cape May, NJ, but it was not observed at inland sites in the Region. At nearby E.S.V.N.W.R., there was less evidence of this fallout, but Brennan did count 150 Common Yellowthroats, 50+ Blackpoll and 6 Magnolia Warblers, and 20 Northern Waterthrushes 19 May, and 10 Black-throated Blue Warblers and American Redstarts 20 May. Above-average numbers of migrants were noted around Ocean City, MD late in the day on 19 May (MJI, GLA, MH), but the extent of the fallout there could not be fully explored.

reports from several counties this spring. A Philadelphia Vireo at St. Mary's River S.P., *Saint Mary's* was record early 27 Apr (MH, KF), and a White-eyed Vireo at E.S.V.N.W.R. had an early start to arrive 17 Mar (CB), unless it wintered locally. The only other Philadelphia Vireo was at Rock Cr. Park, D.C. 15 May (GM, BC). Piedmont Common Ravens continue to be of interest, as a slight range expansion seems to be underway. Two fed on roadkill off Rte. 229 in *Fauquier* 4 Mar (TMD), one was seen off Sudley Manor Rd., *Prince William* 4 Apr (TMD), one was seen 26 Apr (KH) in *Culpeper*, and one was on Manor Rd. in *Frederick* 28 May (SA et al.). A Sedge Wren singing at Elliott I. on the night of 18 May (M. O'Brien et al.) was the only late report of the species. An early *Petrochelidon* swallow at E.S.V.N.W.R. 20 Mar (CB) could not be identified to species. A Wood Thrush in Salisbury was quite early 13 Apr (SHD), when another arrived at E.S.V.N.W.R. (CB). Single Bicknell's Thrushes were banded at Wise Pt., *Northampton* 12 May (CB) and

P.R.N.A.S. 21 May (B.Boxwell). Fairly late American Pipits 12 May included 2 at Flag Ponds, *Calvert* (AR) and one at Hart 12 May (EJS et al.).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Brennan's work at E.S.V.N.W.R. produced 32 species of warbler over the season, although many migrants recorded were single sightings of single birds (e.g. Golden-winged, Nashville, Tennessee, Bay-breasted, Wilson's). The s. tip of Delmarva has been thought depauperate for northbound migrants, which would presumably avoid crossing the Chesapeake Bay from the s., but the right weather conditions (as on 19 May) will continue to produce noteworthy coastal fallouts here, as migrant birds are pushed offshore and must work their way back to land. For several reasons, the C.B.B.T. will likely be the best place to chronicle such events, as long as access for birders continues to be permitted. On 24 Mar, an inexplicable Myrtle Warbler flight occurred at Wise Pt. on moder-

ate sw. winds under clear skies (CB). From 0600 to 0800, about 34,000 were tallied as they flew southward! A good flight was noted at Hart 12 May (EJS et al.), with 17 species of warblers on the small patch of woods on that island. A local rarity was an apparent *albilora* Yellow-throated Warbler videotaped well in Stasz's North Beach, Calvert backyard 21 Apr. Breeders in the Coastal Plain are of the nominate subspecies, and obvious migrants are rarely found and even more rarely identified to subspecies. A wintering Nashville Warbler at Hurlock, Dorchester remained through 7 Mar (ph. C. Diedrich).

Uncommon in the Piedmont, 2 Summer Tanagers at Great Falls, Montgomery 12 May (MH, K. Caughey) were noteworthy. Three single Dickcissels were noted at E.S.V.N.W.R. between 1 and 19 May (CB). A male **Painted Bunting** at a Frederick feeder 21 May (L. Solomon, *vide* M. Balestri) was new for Frederick, Maryland's 14th, and the first report since 1995. One of the wintering Le Conte's Sparrows at n. Vaughn was seen again 24 Mar (SHD), while the bird at Beltsville Agricultural Research Station, Prince George's was last seen 13 Mar (P. Osenton, M. Gustafson, ph. MJI, MH). A Lark Sparrow was seen 10 Mar (T. Barry) in the Baylake Pines section of Virginia Beach, fairly rare in the Region in spring and possibly a wintering bird. Surprisingly, other Lark Sparrows were at Back Bay N.W.R., VA 4 May (R. L. Ake) and Merkle N.W.R., Prince George's 16 May (F. Fallon). A much rarer **Lark Bunting** was described from a Lincoln, Loudoun, VA feeder 12 Mar (†M.A. Good) and is under review by the Virginia Avian Records Committee. Chino Farms continues to hold a near-monopoly on recent Regional **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows**: another imm. was banded there 6 May (ph. J. Gruber et al.). A singing Clay-colored Sparrow discovered at Kinder Farm Park, Anne Arundel 12 May (DM, LB) remained into summer, the first such record in the Region. This bird appeared to be unpaired, but breeding should be watched for in the Region. The 2 wintering Clay-colored were still at n. Vaughn 31 Mar (S. Sanford). Eight Lapland Longspurs among a Horned Lark flock at Sparks Rd., Caroline 1 Apr (B. Schreitz) made for one of the latest reports for Maryland.

A male Brewer's Blackbird 12 Apr (ESB) at Sunset Beach, Northampton, VA was the season's only unusual blackbird. For a year without any winter crossbill reports, it was surprising that a Calvert first Red was found at a Dunkirk feeder for a week around 13 Apr (J. Bourdat, DBy). Unfortunately, call notes were not recorded, and the type is unknown.

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Southern Atlantic Coast



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The spring migration through the Region was generally uneventful, with mostly fair weather keeping birds on the move. Temperatures were about normal, with April's temperatures below average. Precipitation was also below average, and quite dry conditions persisted until mid-May, when several systems brought rain and produced the spring's only observed grounding of migrants. With low numbers of migrants and no new rarities found,

many observers felt that this was one of the slowest, poorest spring migrations in years.

Abbreviations: B.R.C. (Bird Records Committee); C. Hatt. (Cape Hatteras, NC); E.L.H. (E. L. Huie Land Application Facility, Clayton, GA); H.B.S.P. (Huntington Beach S. P., SC); K. Mt. (Kennesaw Mt. National Battlefield Park, GA); P.I. (Pea I. N.W.R., NC); S.S.S. (Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper, SC).

LOONS THROUGH SPOONBILL

Always good finds inland, single Red-throated Loons were in *Gwimmett*, GA 6 Apr (EH) and 6 May (*vide* TM). The only Red-necked Grebes

reported were at H.B.S.P. 9 Mar (JE et al.) through 24 Mar (GP), with a peak of 3 there on 15 Mar (MB et al.). Eared Grebes were found away from traditional spots, with one at H.B.S.P. 9 (JE et al.) & 15 Mar (MB et al.) and 2 at L. Crabtree, Wake, NC 13 Mar (JPI). Highlights from North Carolina pelagic trips in May included 5 Herald Petrels during a two-week period, 2 **Fea's Petrels** off Oregon Inlet 25 May (BP et al.), one **Bermuda Petrel** off Oregon Inlet 27 May (MT et al.), and a single **Red-billed Tropicbird** off Oregon Inlet 27 May (MT et al.). Numbers of shearwaters and storm-petrels were down somewhat from previous springs, most likely indicative of a late seabird migration. This season's Magnificent Frigatebirds were found at Portsmouth I., NC 23 Mar (TMa), near C. Hatt. 30 May (JHo), and most amazingly inland at L. Lanier, Hall, GA 22 Mar. (BZu, *fide* JS). The latter sighting is all the more remarkable, as there were no storms that might have brought the bird inland.

Long-legged waders were found sparingly inland as usual. The most interesting reports were of a well-described **Great White Heron** at Lake Park, GA 8 Apr (KA), 5 Black-crowned Night-Herons at Granby Park, Columbia, SC 1 Apr (TK), and 12 Glossy Ibis over Brickhouse Rd., Durham, NC 11 May (SP). Georgia had the only Reddish Egrets, with three reports, including one white morph on Sapelo I., GA 10 Apr (DC). The White-faced Ibis at Savannah N.W.R., SC, present since last fall, was last seen 11 Mar (MTu). The only report of Roseate Spoonbill away from the usual s. Georgia coast was of one at Bray Plantation, Beaufort, SC in early May (*fide* TP).

GEESE THROUGH CRANE

Lingering geese included a Greater White-fronted at Eatonton, Putnam, GA 9-10 Apr (JFI, MF), a Snow in n. Mecklenburg, NC 5 May (TP et al.), and a Brant at Buxton, NC 27-28 May (ESB, DH). Locally rare but not unexpected was a Mottled Duck at H.B.S.P. 18 Apr (JP). The Sunset Beach, NC Cinnamon Teal was last noted 4 Apr (MM), the Atlantic Beach, NC Common Eider was last seen 8 Mar (JF), and the West Point L., GA Long-tailed Duck was present until at least 11 Apr (EH). A good inland report of Surf Scoter involved 4 at Sweetwater Creek, S.P., GA 1 Apr (*fide* JH); one ad. male lingered at Hatteras Village to 25 May (ESB). Nesting Hooded Mergansers were found again near Trenton, Jones, NC 10 May (CB), where a female with 6 young was observed. Eight Common Mergansers were locally noteworthy at L. Crabtree, NC 18 Mar (RD et al.), but one flyover at K.Mt. 4 May (*fide* GB) was not only late but totally unexpected.

Swallow-tailed Kites were reported at least nine times from North Carolina, with the best count being 3 at Buxton 2 May (SM) and the farthest inland being one in e. Halifax 12 May (JW). In Georgia, one was extremely early near Eulonia, McIntosh 6 Mar (BW). Easily one of the best birds of the period, a well-described **White-tailed Kite** was a one-day wonder near Waterlily, Currituck, NC 16 May (S&LMo). There are only three accepted sightings of this species in that state. The best Mississippi Kite number reported was of 22 at the Savannah N.W.R., SC 1 May (GB, PL). At the same location, 2 were extremely early 3 Mar (AC, MBo). Another real rarity was the subad. **Northern Goshawk** seen well near Decatur, GA 25 Mar (JS, JB, DB). The description left little doubt as to the identity of this bird, a review species in that state. Other raptor reports of note included a migrating kettle of 45 Broad-winged Hawks over Roswell, GA 16 Mar (SZ) and a locally rare ad. Golden Eagle at Savannah N.W.R., SC 3 Mar (RC et al.).

Purple Gallinules are prone to wandering to unusual locations, but the one found near the top of K. Mt. 20 Apr (RH, *fide* GB) was totally out of place! Continuing a recent trend of Regional sightings, the **Limpkin** staged a minor invasion! One at Savannah N.W.R., SC 1 Mar—5 May (ph. GB, TE, m. ob.) was followed by one at Magnolia Plantation, Charleston, SC 13 May (PN et al.). Then 2 were near Bucksport, Horry, SC 31 May (ph. AD, *fide* LG). And finally, Georgia had one at Harris Neck N.W.R. 29 Apr (MTe, *fide* JH). The only Sandhill Crane report of note involved one near Greenville, NC late Apr—early May (JWi, JW).

PLOVERS THROUGH RAZORBILL

The rare-in-spring American Golden-Plover was found twice, with 5 at Eufaula N.W.R., GA 20 Mar (WC) and 4 at the S.S.S. 25 Apr (SC). A rare event in the Region, nesting was confirmed for American Avocet: a nest with four eggs was observed at the S.S.S. 25 May (SC). The nest failed when the eggs disappeared, apparently predated. Rare inland Willets were found 27 Apr, with 7 near Rome, GA and 8 at L. Lanier, GA (*fide* TM). Upland Sandpipers were hard to find this spring, the best count being 3 at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm 22 Apr (TK). Apart from the several usual Georgia sightings, one Long-billed Curlew was at Shackleford Banks, Carteret, NC 1 Apr (JF) and 14 Apr (JD). Purple Sandpipers lingered late this spring, with 9 at the Little R. Inlet, SC jetty 18 May (GT) and 6 at the Ft. Macon S.P., NC jetty the same day (RN, *fide* JF). Very rare anywhere in the East in spring, a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was at E.L.H. 24-28 May (BH, CL). The Ruff was

found only at the S.S.S., with single birds 25 Apr and 2 May (SC). This location is becoming one of the most reliable spots in the Region for this species. Wilson's Phalarope was reported once, a single bird at H.B.S.P. 28 Apr (*fide* JP). Several other inland highlights involved a Black-bellied Plover at the drawn-down Tar R. Res., Nash, NC 10 May (RD), a Sanderling at Oxbow Meadows, GA 6 Apr (WC), and a Stilt Sandpiper in Miller, GA 23 Apr (MBe).

Three Great Skuas off Hatteras, NC 3 Mar and one South Polar Skua off Oregon Inlet, NC 25 May (BP et al.) were the only skuas reported. Jaegers were reported in average numbers, but only one Long-tailed was found, that being off Hatteras 28 May (BP et al.). Noteworthy gulls included two Littles and a Thayer's off Hatteras 3 Mar (BP et al.), an Iceland at C. Hatt. 4 Mar (MT et al.), a Glaucous x Herring hybrid at New Bern, NC on the late dates of 8-10 May (BHo, ph. EK), and Black-legged Kittiwake at West Point L. Dam, GA 11-15 Apr (WC, EH, BZ, SD). Another kittiwake was late at Oregon Inlet, NC 30 May (*fide* TP). Arctic Tern numbers offshore were down again, with only 2 off Oregon Inlet, NC 26 May (MT et al.) being reported. The most unusual inland terns were the 2 Least near Stateburg, Sumter, SC 19 May (DF). A good total for Georgia waters, 48 Bridled Terns off Savannah 28 May (GB et al.) constituted a high count for a spring trip. That same pelagic trip also produced an amazing total of 66 Black Terns, normally rare off that state in spring. The Hatteras pelagic 3 Mar found 252 Razorbills (BP et al.), and one was late and out of place in Pamlico Sound, NC 14 Apr (*fide* TP).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

White-winged Doves continued in the Region, with one at Oxbow Meadows, GA 8-10 Mar (WC) and one at a feeder in Wilmington, NC 14-15 May (BS). Only one Black-billed Cuckoo was reported, that being a record-early individual at K. Mt. 14 Apr (BZ et al.). Of real interest was the finding of multiple **Short-eared Owls** at Alligator R. N.W.R., NC this spring. At least 6 were present as late as 16 May (KW, CH) and at least 4 as late as 27 May (ESB, DH, Field Guides, Inc. tour). In the last several weeks of the period, several observers saw possible territorial breeding behavior! This species has not been documented as a breeder in the Region. The wintering Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker in Grady, GA was last seen 23 Mar (*fide* MBe). The always noteworthy Olive-sided Flycatcher was reported once, that being an individual near Southern Shores, Dare, NC 22 May (JL, JF et al.), providing a very rare coastal sighting. *Empidonax* flycatchers were sparse as is usual in spring. The farthest e. were single Willows in

Gaffney, SC 12 May (*fide* LC) and e. Moore, NC 12 May (BPe). Georgia had another Vermilion Flycatcher, this time a male, at Reed Bingham S.P. near Adel 4-7 Mar (JFI, EH, TJ). Last year's nesting Scissor-tailed Flycatchers returned for a 2nd year. The McDonough, GA birds were back by 29 Apr (BZ) and the Monroe, NC birds showed up during the first week of May (A&BO). Both sets of birds were seen building nests in the same towers they used last year. Another Scissor-tailed was a one-day visitor near Elgin, SC 26 May (*fide* RC).

Loggerhead Shrikes were reported a little more frequently this spring. One in *Catawba*, NC during May was considered to be at the w. edge of the normal range as a nester (D&LM, WI), and a nest with 4 young was found in *Jones*, NC during May (CB, WI), at the e. edge. The Warbling Vireo that wintered on Roanoke I., NC was last seen 2 Mar (JL). Last year's nesting Warblings at Anilorac Farm, *Orange*, NC returned for a 2nd season by 26 Apr (DS), and a nest was discovered 13 May (AJ). Philadelphia Vireos were found sparingly, with singles at Columbia, SC 24 Apr (CE), K. Mt. 11 May (GB et al.), and Roanoke I., NC 15 May (JL). A Common Raven was a surprise in n. *Greene*, GA 17 Mar (PS, CK), a first county record. This species has wandered into the piedmont of North Carolina (and Virginia) for some years now: will it start doing the same in Georgia? Nesting **Tree Swallows** were documented in South Carolina when a nest with eggs was photographed at Table Rock S.P. 29 May (SS). The summer report will have more details on this event. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was late at Bodie I. Lighthouse woods, NC 1 May (JL), and a Golden-crowned Kinglet was quite late at Bahama, *Durham*, NC 3 May (T&JKr). The thrush migration was once again generally poor. Highlights included a peak of 7 Gray-cheekeds and 375 Swainson's heard during a predawn count at K. Mt. 10 May (GB) and a late Hermit at Spartanburg, SC 12 May (*fide* LC). Also of note were a Gray-cheeked at Southern Shores, NC 21-22 May (JL) and a Swainson's on Tybee I., GA 16 May (DCh).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

The warbler migration was considered to be rather poor across the Region. Some of the rarer, unusual reports included an early male Brewster's at Eufaula N.W.R., GA 8 Apr (WC), a Nashville at H.B.S.P. 30 Apr (JP, PR), a Blackburnian at Tybee I., GA 24 May (DCh), a record-early Louisiana Waterthrush in ne. *Tift*, GA 4 Mar (JFI, EH), a Louisiana Waterthrush at C. Lookout, NC 31 Mar (JF), a record-early Canada at K. Mt. 16 Apr (GB et al.), and a

Canada at Bodie I., NC 18 May (JL). Blackpoll Warblers came through in good numbers, as evidenced by 22 on K. Mt. 6 May (GB et al.) and 33 on the Currituck Banks, NC 24 May (JL). Cerulean Warblers have been decreasing along the Roanoke R., NC for some time now, but a survey 12-14 May located 38 singing males (JR). On the positive side, a survey in the Bond Swamp area near Piedmont N.W.R., GA in May located 75 Swainson's Warbler territories (*fide* TM), certainly one of the densest populations of this species ever documented. Always noteworthy, Connecticut Warbler reports included one in *Clayton*, GA 7 May (PRa), one near New Ellenton, SC 21 May (*fide* PC), and one at K. Mt. 26-29 May (BZ, TE et al.). Hooded Warblers made news at K. Mt., where on 18 Apr a record one-day count of 66 was tallied (GB et al.). The best Wilson's Warbler sightings were one at K. Mt. 14-16 Apr (VD, GB et al.), one at Ellenton, SC 13 Apr (PC), and a somewhat late one on Roanoke I., NC 23 May (JL).

Two Clay-colored Sparrows were holdovers from the winter in *Worth*, GA 4 Mar (JFI, EH), as was one in *Baker*, GA 30 Mar (MBe). Other Clay-colored included one in n. *Greene*, GA 6 May (PS) and one singing in n. *Mecklenburg*, NC 5 May (TP), not far from where one was found during the winter. Lark Sparrows were reported twice, with one at Folly Beach, SC 11 Apr (SPa) and 2 at Bodie I., NC 6 May (JL). The latest Le Conte's Sparrow reported was the one at Broad River W.M.A., *Fairfield*, SC 28 Apr (TK). A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was a good find inland at Falls Lake, NC 18 May (GBr). Lincoln's Sparrows were found more than usual for spring, with at least eight reports received. The latest ones were near Irmo, *Lexington*, SC 2 May (RC) and Macon, GA 3 May (NK et al.). Very unusual in spring, a Lapland Longspur was a surprise at the Cedar I., NC ferry terminal 14 Apr (*fide* TP). Dickcissel reports were sparse, with only three received. Always noteworthy in the Region, a Yellow-headed Blackbird at Morehead City, NC 12 Apr (JF) provided the only report. And finally, a male Evening Grosbeak was at a feeder in Ridgeland, *Jasper*, SC 30 May-1 Jun (*fide* WP), providing an amazing occurrence, considering that this species was absent from the Region this winter.

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Florida



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Strong east winds blanketed the Region from late April into mid-May, pushing northbound migrants west of their normal routes. Caribbean-wintering species, such as Cape May, Blackpoll, and Black-throated Blue Warblers, American Redstarts, and Common Yellowthroats, were abundant along the Gulf coast and in the Keys. In contrast, migrants that winter in the Tropics, such as thrushes, Scarlet Tanagers, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, were conspicuously absent; these presumably were blown west of the Region. Along the Atlantic coast, observations from shore of storm-petrels and a few other pelagic species were another result of these east winds.

This report was prepared solely from submitted observations, but a perusal of several hundred Internet postings after "final" compilation revealed that many significant sightings were never sent in. The most important of these observations were added to this report; the others will be included in the *Florida Field Naturalist* statewide report.

Abbreviations/definitions: C.P. (County Park); E.N.P. (Everglades N.P.); N.S. (National Seashore); P.P.M. (*Polk* phosphate mines); report (any observation); record (only those reports verifiable from photograph, videotape, or specimen evidence).

GREBES THROUGH WATERFOWL

Twenty-seven Eared Grebes at P.P.M. 4 Mar (PF) nearly equaled Florida's all-time high. A moribund **Black-capped Petrel** was found at L. Griffin, *Lake*—nearly equidistant from both coasts—2 Mar and died the next day (*vide* JP, ES, *U.C.F.). An imm. White-tailed Tropicbird 19 mi off Jacksonville 13 May shocked Clark; the boat's captain had observed an ad. 42 mi out the previous day.

Largest counts of American White Pelicans were 1372 at L. Hamilton, *Polk* 25 Mar (B&LC) and 590 at L. Apopka 31 May (HR). Meanwhile, one at Dry Tortugas N.P. 19-26 Apr (PL et al.) was rare there. Somewhat surprising was the ad. Brown Pelican at L. Weir, *Marion* 20-21 Mar (ES). Glossy Ibis is an irregular visitor in the Lower Keys, so 2 at Key West 15 Apr (JO) and up to 8 at Dry Tortugas 26 Apr-6 May (PL, TD et al.) were notable. Two first-year **White-faced Ibis** remained at St. Marks N.W.R. to 7 Mar (JiC).

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continue

their colonization of the Peninsula, with one at Johnson 10 May (TH) furnishing the first for *Putnam*, 68 at Bartow, *Polk* 4 Mar (PF), and a whopping 150 in the St. Johns Marsh, *Indian River* 16 May (SRo). Seventeen Canada Geese at L. Marion, *Polk* 25 Mar (TP) may have been wild birds. Other notable waterfowl were 2 Brant at Honeymoon I. 4 Mar (WY), a Cinnamon Teal 3 Mar and 1100 Green-winged Teal 6 Mar at P.P.M. (PF et al.), 2 American Black Ducks at Whaley's Landing, *Osceola* 22 Mar (DFr, JCl), a Long-tailed Duck at St. Marks 20 Apr (AKn), and a Hooded Merganser at Grassy Key, *Monroe* 25 Mar (JoB). One of the highlights of the season was the group of **Masked Ducks** at Pembroke Pines 19 May+ (DLy, KS et al., ph. JoB, v.t. DP & BP). At least 2 males were present, one with an all-azure ("neon") bill and the other with a dark culmen; at least one observer (PB) thought that a 3rd male may have been present based on differences in plumage. The dark-culmened bird frequently engaged in bill-up, neck-ruffling displays accompanied by quiet cooing, but no females or other signs of breeding were observed.

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Insular Swallow-tailed Kites, presumably arrivals from the Tropics, were noted at Ft. De Soto 30 Mar (IH, JHk) and Dry Tortugas 21 Apr (PL et al.), while the 3 Swallow-taileds at Ft. De Soto 15 May were thought to be *south-bound* (LA)! At Torreya S.P., *Liberty*, Stoccardo observed a kettle of 20 Swallow-tailed and 20 Mississippi Kites 26-27 May, while 60 Swallow-taileds and 70 Mississippi were over Tram Road W.T.P., *Leon* 15 May (GM et al.). A White-tailed Kite nest at Pembroke Pines fledged 2 young in late May (WG et al.), while other kites were in *Osceola* 22 Mar (DFr, JCl) and surprisingly far w. at Tate's Hell State Forest, *Franklin* 12 Mar (ME). Snail Kites wandered to Bonita Springs, *Lee* 3-12 May (DSu), Picayune Strand State Forest, *Collier* 4 May (male) and 11-18 May (female; TD et al.). At Gulf Hammock, *Levy* 2 May were 7 Mississippi Kites (TR) at the s. limit of their breeding range. Rather late was the northbound Sharp-shinned Hawk at Ft. Clinch S.P., *Nassau* 18 May (PS). Of the 12 reports of Short-tailed Hawks (v. o.), one at Tate's Hell 20 Feb (ME) was extralimital, and another was rather far n. at Gainesville to 14 Mar (DSt). But the big story was the mixed Short-tailed pair that fledged one young from a nest built adjacent to a suburban back yard (!) at New Port Richey (KT et al., nestling radiotagged by KM

SA Sustained e. winds pushed the Gulf Stream close to shore along the Atlantic coast, resulting in onshore sightings of hundreds of storm-petrels from St. Augustine to s. of Ft. Lauderdale (v. o.). Confusion reigned over the identification of dozens of birds, prompting much second-guessing on the Internet. Wilson's, Leach's, and Band-rumped storm-petrels were all reported, but the validity of reports of the latter species was questioned. Based on Internet posts, 19 specimens apparently were salvaged (*U.C.F., U.F.) 30 Apr–14 May, nearly equally split between Wilson's and Leach's. The most recent previous "wreck" of (Leach's) storm-petrels occurred in the Jacksonville/St. Augustine area in May 1991.

23 May)—the first known breeding in *Pasco*. A Merlin at Kissimmee 27 May (PF, SRI) furnished one of the latest spring dates. Northbound flights of Peregrine Falcons are rarely observed in Florida, so the count of 72 at Guana R. S.P., *St. Johns* 25 Mar (DRe) was nearly unprecedented. A Black Rail was heard calling at Ft. Drum Marsh, *Indian River* 10 Apr (SRO), possibly indicative of breeding. Limpkins are casual in the Keys, so singles at Key West 1 Apr (JO) and Lower Matecumbe

Key 3 May (SL) were notable.

Shorebirds at L. Apopka included 2 American Golden-Plovers 27 Mar, 8 Solitary Sandpipers 26 Apr, one Willet 24 May, 12 Red Knots 14 May, and 45 Pectoral Sandpipers 22 Mar (HR). At Newnans L. were one Ruddy Turnstone and 80 Semipalmated Plovers 10 May (JHi), one Sanderling 10–12 May (JHi, LD), and 2 American Avocets to 28 Apr (MM). P.P.M. contained 115 Semipalmated Plovers, one Baird's Sandpiper, and 14,525 Semipalmated Sandpipers 12 May (PT, CGe)—the latter count establishes the Florida all-time high by far. Other notable shorebirds were up to 2 American Golden-Plovers at Dry Tortugas 16–22 Apr (LaM, PL et al.), 416 Black-necked Stilts w. of Loxahatchee N.W.R. 12 May (A&BL), and 2 early Solitary Sandpipers at Hague Dairy, *Alachua* 17 Mar (BM). Very high counts of Spotted Sandpipers were 81 at Chassahowitzka N.W.R., *Citrus* 27 Apr (TR) and 42 along the St. Johns R., *Lake, Seminole*, and *Volusia* 11 May (LoM et al.). Simpson observed 50 or more White-rumped Sandpipers at Merritt I. N.W.R. 26 May, while Menk counted 15 at Springhill Road W.T.P., *Leon* 30 May. Purple Sandpipers lingered at Matanzas Inlet (3) to 12 May (GB, ES et al.) and Ft. Clinch (2 in alternate plumage) 17 May (PS). An alternate-plumaged Curlew Sandpiper at Boca Chica Key 25–28 Apr

(RDo, WZ et al., ph. GR) appears to be a first for the Keys. Fellers estimated 585 Long-billed Dowitchers at L. Hollingsworth, Lakeland 13 Mar, while 7 Red-necked Phalaropes were observed between Key West and Dry Tortugas 26 Apr (PL et al.).

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The Franklin's Gull that wintered at Redington Beach, *Pinellas* stayed to 29 Apr (JE, IH et al.). Florida's first **Heermann's Gull**, discovered at Ft. De Soto in Oct, remained through spring (LA et al.). Proof of their increase in the Region, 45 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were counted at the Pompano Landfill 3 Mar (BH, JHp). Two first-summer Great Black-backed Gulls loafed at Dry Tortugas Mar–Apr (PL, JoB et al.). Royal Terns were inland at Gainesville (2) 26 Apr (MLa) and P.P.M. (3) 12 May (PT, CGe). Florida's 2nd **Elegant Tern** was observed courting, then copulating with a Sandwich Tern at Ft. De Soto 20–29 Apr (LA et al.); based on plumage characteristics, this was thought to be the same individual found there 2–29 Dec 2000. A flock of 140 Roseate Terns was w. of Key West 20 Apr (PL et al.), while 17 others briefly rested at Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, *Broward* 7 May (WG, RM), and 25 were at Key West 20–21 May (JO). The same e. winds that pushed storm-petrels to shore brought in numbers of Arctic Terns. Two were at Canaveral N.S. 4 May (DSi), another was there 9 May (JP), up to 10 were at Miami Beach 7–10 May (PB, JoB et al.), and at least 7 were along the *Broward* coast 8–10 May (WG et al.). Another Arctic remained one mi inland at W. Lake Park, Hollywood 9–22 May until it died (WG et al., *U.C.F.). Forty Forster's Terns were still at L. Apopka 31 May (HR), while 2 Least Terns were early at L. Jackson, *Leon* 31 Mar (ME, GM). Lehman found 50 Bridled Terns feeding along a *Sargassum* weedline w. of Key West 20 Apr. A boat trip out of Jacksonville 13 May netted Clark one Arctic, 2 Roseate, and 19 Sooty Terns about 20 mi offshore, while a Brown Noddy was seen 26 mi off Cape Canaveral 27 May (DSi et al.).

A White-crowned Pigeon strayed n. to Hugh Taylor Birch S.P., *Broward* 5 Apr (RM, WG). Surveys in May–Jun mapped 116 Common Ground-Dove territories at L. Apopka, more than twice last year's total (HR). White-winged Doves continue to expand their range in the Region, with singles at St. Petersburg 14 Mar and 14 Apr (A&RS), at Newberry, *Alachua* 2 Apr (LD), at Green Cove Springs, *Clay* 12 May (CGr), and several reports in the St. Johns Marsh, *Brevard* and



Leach's Storm-Petrel, photographed 5 May 2001 at Eddy Creek, Canaveral National Seashore, Brevard County, Florida. Photograph by Kurt Rademaker.

Indian River areas (SRo). Psittacids out of "routine" areas were 6 Rose-ringed Parakeets, including juvs., at St. Augustine 27 May (JHL), 2 Monk Parakeets at Gainesville 17 Mar (AB, AKe), 3 Black-hooded Parakeets at Anclote, Pasco (ad. inside cavity 26 May; ph. KT), 2 Red-masked Parakeets at Key West 26 Mar (DSi), and 5 Blue-crowned Parakeets at Bradenton 27 May (*vide* WS). Single Black-billed Cuckoos, rare in the Region, were at Key West 25 Apr (JO) and E.N.P. 7 May (SL), while 2 Yellow-billed Cuckoos were early at Cedar Key 30 Mar (DHe). The only West Indian Short-eared Owl report came from Dry Tortugas 17 Apr (LaM, CE et al.). Lesser Nighthawks were surprises at Ft. De Soto 31 Mar (male) and 1 May (female) (LA, JHk, MW). Six Rufous Hummingbirds lingered in *Franklin* and *Leon* (v. o.), the latest to 9 Apr, while a Black-chinned visited a Valrico, *Hillsborough* feeder 31 Mar (SB). Possibly the Region's rarest woodpecker, the Hairy, was spotted in n. *St. Johns* 11-30 Mar (PP), and a pair along the Tamiami Trail (JoB) may have been the first for *Miami-Dade* in several years.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Wintering Least Flycatchers lingered in *Miami-Dade* to 14 Mar and 14 Apr (JoB), while a migrant was found at L. Apopka 19 Apr (HR). There are only two breeding reports for Eastern Phoebes in Florida, both in *Okaloosa* (Central Southern Region), but 3 "singing" phoebes at Torreya S.P. 26-27 May (GS) strongly suggested breeding. Lingered Vermilion Flycatchers were seen at L. Jackson 4 Mar (DHa) and St. Marks 5 Mar (B&SD). Among the impressive tyrannid assemblage at L. Apopka were an Ash-throated Flycatcher to 4 May, a Brown-crested Flycatcher to 11 Mar, 35 Western Kingbirds 8-11 Apr and 2 until at least 14 May, a *Cassin's Kingbird* until 16 Apr, and Gray Kingbirds 22 Apr and 27 May (HR). A controversial *Tropical/Couch's Kingbird* (or 2?) at Mahogany Hammock, E.N.P. lingered to 12 Mar (TA).

A Bell's Vireo, very rare in the Region, was found at Tallahassee 17 Mar (DHa). A singing Yellow-throated Vireo at Black Swamp, *Leon* 2 Mar (GM) would establish Florida's earliest spring report if it did not winter locally. A *Warbling Vireo* of the w. subspecies group *V. g. swainsonii* was found at A.D. Barnes C.P., Miami 27 Mar-8 Apr (JoB, PB et al., ph. JoB), for only the 2nd Florida report of that subspecies. Simpson found a very early Philadelphia Vireo at Matheson Hammock C.P., Miami 31 Mar. The first Black-whiskered Vireo was noted at Key West 22

Mar (JO), while one singing at Chassahowitzka N.W.R. 27 Apr (TR) established a first for *Citrus*. Silent Black-whiskered were at Ft. De Soto 20 Apr and 11 May (LA et al.). Northern Rough-winged Swallows bred at Bradenton (WS) and Kissimmee (PF, SRi). A northerly movement of swallows past Ft. Clinch 18 May included 6 Purple Martins and 2 Bank and 38 Barn Swallows (PS). Duos of Cliff Swallows were at Bald Pt., *Franklin* 31 Mar (JD) and L. Apopka 27 May (HR), and a Cave Swallow visited the latter site 18 Mar (HR). Other Caves were at Dry Tortugas 6-9 Apr (DSi) and 26 Apr (PL et al.), and a juv. at Jupiter 12 May (†JHa). A Red-breasted Nuthatch at Cedar Key 21 Apr (DLe) furnished the sole report. A House Wren lingered at Key West to 6 May (JO), and a Marsh Wren remained at Largo, *Pinellas* to 24 May (JF). Single Golden-crowned Kinglets were found at O'Leno S.P., *Columbia* 1 Mar (JHi), Flatwoods Park, *Hillsborough* 13 Mar (DP, BP, HL), and High Springs, *Alachua* 29 Mar (DtR). Wood Thrushes were reported at four sites (v. o.), including a wintering bird that remained at Birch S.P. to 3 Apr (WG).

Bahama Mockingbirds were found this spring at John Lloyd S.P., Ft. Lauderdale 27 Apr-1 May (RM et al.), Key West 29 Apr-2 May (DSi, JO et al.), and Dry Tortugas 13 May (DSi). Common Mynas are apparently increasing in the Keys; a pair nested at Key West for the 2nd consecutive year (JO), and 6 were at Islamorada 25 Apr (PL et al.). The biggest surprise was of the myna photographed at DeLand, *Volusia* 5 Apr (KT), the northernmost report to date. Common Myna clearly meets the criteria for an established exotic species; would somebody please conduct a survey and write a formal paper?! Cedar Waxwings were found in large numbers this spring, including 2500 at New Port Richey 21 Mar (KT), which provided the all-time Florida high count.

WOOD-WARBLERS THROUGH SISKINS

A Tennessee Warbler at Loxahatchee 11 Mar (BH, CW) and single Magnolia Warblers at Ft. Meade, *Polk* 31 Mar (TP) and Barnes C.P. 13 Apr (an "ugly, molting bird"; PL et al.) probably wintered locally. Nashville Warblers were tallied in *Palm Beach* 1 Mar (DSi), at Orlando 4-13 Apr (JCI), and San Felasco Hammock, *Alachua* 13-15 Apr (MM, DtR). A male *Townsend's Warbler* enlivened Sanibel I. 15-18 Apr (VM et al., ph. BL). There were 83 American Redstarts at Bayport 10 May (CBI) and 48 at L. Apopka 14 May (HR). A singing Prothonotary Warbler at Paynes Prairie 9 Mar (HA) was early, while 13

(including pairs) along the St. Johns R., *Lake* and *Volusia* 27 Apr (LoM et al.) provided a good count of breeders. Eleven Swainson's Warblers were found in the Region 27 Mar-4 May (v. o.). Of 2 Louisiana Waterthrushes at Dry Tortugas 27 Apr, one was eaten by a Cattle Egret (PL et al.); another at L. Apopka 8 May (HR) furnished Florida's 2nd latest spring report. Also late was a Kentucky Warbler at Miami Shores 17 May (DW). Five Connecticut Warblers at Ft. De Soto 12 May (LA, MW et al.) was a nice number. The wintering *MacGillivray's Warbler* at Fern Forest Park, *Broward* remained to 10 Mar (*vide* WG), and a 2nd bird was discovered at Barnes Park 20 Apr-4 May (RDi, PL et al.). Simpson reported a *third* *MacGillivray's* 26 Mar—heard but not seen—at Key West, where he had found (the same?) one the previous Oct. A singing Hooded Warbler at St. Marks 12 Mar (JD) was quite early, while 12 at Cedar Key 30 Mar (DHe) were a nice find. About 15 Wilson's Warblers continued into spring (v. o.), including singles at Dry Tortugas 16-17 Apr (LaM et al.) and 20-22 Apr (PL et al.), and duos there 23-24 Apr (TD et al.) and 5 May (WB, SL et al.). Migrant Yellow-breasted Chats were found at Honeymoon I. 31 Mar (WY) and Ft. De Soto 12 May (LA), while probable breeding birds were at Crystal R. Preserve (3) 20 Apr (BH et al.), O'Leno S.P. (2) 12 May (JHi, CPa), and L. Apopka (5) 27 May (HR).

Western Tanagers were found at Delray Oaks, *Palm Beach* 4 Mar (BH), Captiva I. 24 Mar (VM), and e. of Ft. Myers 1 Apr (VM, WW). A *Green-tailed Towhee* at Green Key 24 Apr was seen briefly by an observer familiar with the species (NL) but was not relocated. The only previous Florida report was from 1990. Two Clay-colored Sparrows were at St. Marks 26 Apr (JD), and singles were observed on different keys at Dry Tortugas 4 & 5 May (WB, SL et al.). Ft. De Soto supported a Lark Sparrow 7 Apr, a Lincoln's 27 Apr, and Swamp Sparrows 3 & 5-7 May (LA et al.), while at L. Apopka, Robinson found one Lincoln's 25 Mar, a Swamp to 20 May, and a White-crowned to 29 Apr. A Savannah Sparrow at Orlando Wetlands Park 24 May (CPi) tied the state's 2nd latest spring report. Along the Coastal Prairie Trail at E.N.P., 2 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows 10 Mar were identified as *A. n. subvirgatus* (JoB), a subspecies seemingly never reported s. of L. Okeechobee previously. Rather late to depart was the Fox Sparrow at Paynes Prairie 10 Mar (AKr). Dozier found single Lincoln's and Swamp Sparrows at Alligator Pt. 3 May, and another Lincoln's 5 May and a White-throat-

ed Sparrow 12 May at nearby Bald Pt. A White-crowned Sparrow of the western subspecies *gambelii* was found at Dry Tortugas 26-28 Apr (PL, TD et al., ph. GR).

At L. Apopka in May-Jun, Robinson tallied the following numbers of territories based on singing males: 320 Northern Cardinals, 76 Blue Grosbeaks, 54 Indigo Buntings, and 19 Painted Buntings. A feeder at Hackberry

Hammock, *St. Lucie* supported a bunting extravaganza, with up to 56 Indigos 17 Mar, 28 Painteds 28 Jan, and one subad. **Lazuli Bunting** 25 Mar-8 Apr (ph. SC). *Another* male Lazuli visited Ft. De Soto C.P. 18-24 Apr (JHk, MW et al., ph. KT); the only previous record for Florida was obtained in 1977. At L. Apopka, site of Florida's first nesting of Dickcissels in Jun 1999, only a single bird was

noted this spring, 2-6 May (HR); 6 others remained at w. Kendall to 10 Apr (JoB et al.). Two Bobolinks at St. Marks 24 Mar (JD, JM) established Florida's earliest spring report by nine days. Shiny Cowbirds made a "poor showing" at Dry Tortugas, with only a single bird 26 Apr (PL et al.); others were up to 8 at Key West all season (JO), a male at Ft. De Soto 18-27 Apr (JeB, WY et al.), and a male at Palm

SA Many observers commented on the abundance of Caribbean-wintering migrants in many areas, but only Ken Tracey and crew documented the occurrence. At the e. edge of a small island in the Gulf of Mexico (connected to the mainland by a road) just off New Port Richey, daily counts at the "Green Key Migrant Funnel" were tallied 3-13 May (Table 1). From about 0630 to about 0900 hours, hundreds of migrants, mostly wood-warblers, streamed by the narrowest point on the key, heading e. Most birds flew by from waist-level to perhaps 15 m high (the Bobolinks were much higher). During peak periods, 2 or 3 birds per second would pass by the observation point, providing quite a challenge for the observers—and especially for the data compiler, who skillfully handled simultaneous shouts of "Redstart!" or "Black-throated Blue!" for more than two hours. Whether the birds had roosted on the island the previous night, or were simply migrating past it after having been blown over the Gulf, is uncertain. Flights were heaviest during the hour after sunrise, when poor lighting conditions prevented identification of all but the "easiest" birds (e.g., male American Redstarts), and totals declined steadily afterward. Spurred by daily Internet postings of the Green Key counts, Black conducted similar surveys 10-13 May at the Bayport bridge, *Hernando*, about 22 mi to the north. Species occurrence and abundance were similar to those at Green Key, but numbers were much lower, peaking at 274 individuals 10 May.

Table 1. Selected landbirds observed on the first seven stationary counts at Green Key Road, Pasco County; later counts reported far fewer individuals. Data provided by KT.

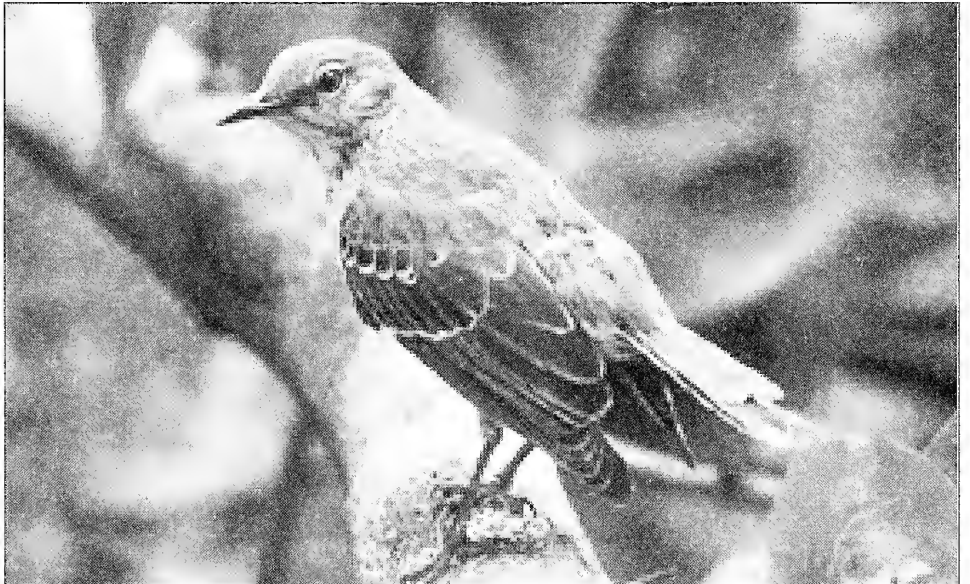
Species	3 May	4 May	5 May	6 May	7 May	8 May	9 May
Red-eyed Vireo					1		
Gray Catbird	35	3	4	10	24	13	11
Northern Parula	36	3	13	9	26	7	11
Prothonotary Warbler			1				
Black-and-white Warbler	40	16	31	12	18	7	10
Worm-eating Warbler			1				
Blackpoll Warbler	65	70	253	125	78	46	70
Black-throated Blue Warbler	67	8	47	11	28	7	33
American Redstart	208	50	110	44	96	44	109
Black-throated Green Warbler	1	2	1	1			3
Cape May Warbler	14	4	16	11	7	2	5
Bay-breasted Warbler			1				
Blackburnian Warbler			2				
Magnolia Warbler		1		1	3	4	2
Prairie Warbler	4	4	10	8	11	2	2
Palm Warbler	5	4	9	9	3	2	11
Ovenbird	4	5	17	16	4	3	2
Northern Waterthrush			13	2		2	2
Common Yellowthroat	39	16	48	23	56	39	35
Unidentified wood-warblers	420	1310	948	578	936	369	707
Blue Grosbeak				1			
Indigo Bunting	1	3					
Swamp Sparrow			1		1		
Bobolink		101	36	56	71	21	
Baltimore Oriole			1	1			
Totals	943	1619	1569	926	1372	573	1024

Harbor, *Pinellas* 17 May (JoC). Two Orchard Orioles at St. Marks 14 Mar (JD, JiC) tied the state's earliest spring date, while 10 males had established territories at L. Apopka (HR), at the s. limit of their known breeding range. Flamingo's wintering first-year male **Bullock's Oriole** remained to early Apr, by which time it had begun to sing (CJG et al., v.t.). House Finches continue their gradual colonization of the Peninsula, with singles at Spring Hill, *Hernando* 10 Mar (MLy) and 6-7 Apr (DnR, PY). Two Pine Siskins remained at Gainesville to 28 Apr (LH).

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This second-year Heermann's Gull at Fort De Soto County Park established the first record for Florida and one of very few east of the Mississippi River. Although it wandered somewhat during the winter, the Heermann's spent all of spring (and summer) 2001 at Fort De Soto, where it was discovered 24 October 2000. It has been extensively studied and photographed by Lyn Atherton. *Photograph by Lyn Atherton.*



Three Bahama Mockingbirds were found in southern Florida this spring. This one at John Lloyd State Park attracted controversy by virtue of its ruffled rump feathers and unseasonably molted rectrices, which might suggest captive origin (or perhaps a narrow escape from a predator). This photograph was taken on the second day of its 27 April-1 May visit. *Photograph by Kurt Rademaker.*

Ontario



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Spring moved across the province in a series of stops and starts but with no real weather events that affected bird migration. Thus the spring migration could be described as relatively normal, with the majority of species arriving as expected. On 17 May, weather conditions overnight and a heavy nocturnal migrant movement combined for the ever hoped-for fallout at Point Pelee National Park. Birds were *everywhere* in the Park and above it in the fog. Many species were found in record high numbers—such as 110 Philadelphia Vireos. Veteran Pelee birders fortunate enough to be there recalled similar days in the distant past when such occurrences were apparently much more common.

The massive winter owl movement and a continued high small rodent population in the northwestern part of the province resulted in both Northern Hawk Owls and Great Gray Owls staying to breed. At least 6 Northern Hawk Owl nests were found north of Thunder Bay. Much searching however, failed to turn up a Great Gray Owl nest, even though many were present in suitable breeding locations. A nice mix of unexpected rarities were found and included Glossy Ibis, Black Vulture, Mississippi Kite, Snowy Plover, Curlew Sandpiper, and Eurasian

Collared-Dove.

Abbreviations: C.A. (Conservation Authority); K.F.N. (Kingston Field Naturalists); L.P.B.O (Long Point Bird Observatory); S.T.P. (Sewage Treatment Ponds); T.C.B.O (Thunder Cape Bird Observatory). Place names in *italics* refer to districts and regional municipalities as well as to counties.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

A Red-throated Loon was off the Tip of Point Pelee N. P. 10 May (AW et al.), locally rare for the area in spring. On 1 May, a record high count of 19 was made at Presqu'ile P.P. (CEG, JEG), with singles noted at Amherst I. 2 May (K.F.N.) and Darlington P.P. 20–25 May (BH). A Pacific Loon was found 20 May at Prince Edward Point (MHE, RBS), and 2 in breeding plumage were at Pinery P.P. 24 Apr (m. ob.). An impressive record high count of 1381 Horned Grebes was made 31 Mar (AW) at Point Pelee N.P. Equally noteworthy were 300 Red-necked Grebes at Bluffer's Park 9 Apr (JI, KK). Eared Grebes were attracted to S.T.P.s across the province, with one at Townsend 22 Apr (JL et al.), 2 at Emo 27 May (RS), 2 at Rainy R. 31 May (DHE), and one at Parkhill 4 May (JL). The pair at Emo built a nest in shoreline cattails, but a subsequent lower water level meant that the attempt ended in failure.

A record early Double-crested Cormorant

was at Hillman Marsh 15 Mar (BM), and 2 flying over Tea L., Algonquin P.P. 15 Apr (RT) were five days early. A Great Cormorant was at Amherst I. 19 May (RDW), a rare spring record. Great Egrets returned to nest for the 2nd year at Presqu'ile P.P. (m. ob.). Singles appeared at the Leslie Street Spit 19 (RL) & 20 May (*vide* RBHS). A Snowy Egret was at the same location 6 May (RBHS, GC). A Little Blue Heron flew s. along the length of Point Pelee N.P. 22 Apr (AW). Individual Tricolored Herons appeared 10 May at the Breakwater (L.P.B.O.) and 27 May at Port Weller (KR, AS). A Cattle Egret was found near Sault Ste. Marie 27 May (*vide* BK), and 2 were at Amherstburg 28–30 Apr (RJ et al.). A Black-crowned Night-Heron, rare for Algonquin P.P., was found 18 May (PS). **Glossy Ibis** made an impressive showing this spring, with one 28 May near Port Rowan (L.P.B.O.) and 3 in the same area 29 May (BC). Other singles were at Cranberry Marsh 31 May (HK), Bloomfield 19–23 Apr (DC), and St. Clair Beach 27 Apr–8 May (MB et al.). Up to 3 were at Southhampton 21–25 May (CC), and 2 were found at Aylmer 11 May (DM, LW). One wandered n. to Spanish L. near Sudbury 31 May (BK).

VULTURES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A single **Black Vulture** was present at St. Clair's Bush (*Kent*) 30 Apr–1 May (GDB et al.). Two were at Point Pelee N. P. 27–29 Apr (DCB, KB) and 8–9 May (m. ob.). The Pelee birds flew up and down the Point, giving excellent views to birders who happened to look up at the right time. Toronto had a Greater White-fronted Goose that frequented the Verobeach Road Pond 28 Apr–2 May (PL). Three were at Pinery P. P. 30 Mar (PC), and 2 were found near Echo Bay 6 Apr (BK). Cobourg had 35 Snow Geese 4 Apr (CEG), the 2nd highest count for the area. A peak of 1300 Brant was seen off Amherst I. 20 May (K. F. N.). On 19 Mar 21,000 Tundra Swans stopped near Pinery P.P. (*vide* AR), with most leaving overnight. A male Eurasian Wigeon stayed at Darlington P.P. 31 Mar–30 Apr (TH), and Canvasbacks again apparently bred on the Leslie Street Spit. At least 2 pairs were noted 21 Apr–20 May (GC). An imm. King Eider was at Bluffer's Park 31 Mar–4 Apr (m. ob.), and a female Common Eider was at Amherst I. 27 May (RKE, NM). A male Harlequin Duck was at Darlington P. P. 18 Mar–30 Apr (TH). Observers on Prince Edward Pt. counted an amazing 300,000 Long-tailed Ducks 20 Mar (JHE, BR), and a male Barrow's Goldeneye was at the Leslie Street Spit 18 Mar–1 Apr (m. ob.). A very late flock of 700 Red-breasted Mergansers flew past the Tip of Point Pelee N. P. 8 May (AW).

One of the nicest surprises of the spring was an ad. **Mississippi Kite** near Rowanwood 11–12

May (RL, AC, VD). A one-year-old bird was seen over Point Pelee N.P. 10 May (AG, AGr), and another appeared briefly there 18 May (MT). Red-shouldered Hawks appear to be increasing, at least in the Sault Ste. Marie area, where spring counts totaled 37 individuals (BK). A Swainson's Hawk was found n. of Rainy R. 29 Apr (RS), and 3 very late Rough-legged Hawks were noted in the same area 31 May (DHE). Gyrfalcons were found along the shores of L. Erie, with a juv. white morph at Point Pelee N.P. and area 11 Mar–6 Apr (DJW et al.) and a juv. graymorph 17–19 Mar (DJW et al.). The Long Point P.P. area also had 2 Gyrfalcons, with a white morph 14 Apr (Jla) and a gray morph 8 Apr (BH). The only reported King Rail of the period was one at the Strathroy S.T.P. 4 May (TB). Yellow Rails were completely absent from their usual haunts near Rainy R. due to record-high water levels (DHE). Where do they go when habitat is temporarily lost?

Shorebirds put on a good show this spring both in numbers and the appearance of rare species. Cobourg had 107 Black-bellied Plovers 30 May (CL), a record high count for the area. A **Snowy Plover** delighted birders 24–31 May at Prequ'ile P.P. (DS, FH, m. ob.). Lesser Yellowlegs peaked at record high of 145 at Hillman Marsh 25 Apr (AW). Single Willets were at Thunder Bay 26 Apr–16 May and 19 May (BR, BMo). A flock of 92 Whimbrel was at Colonel Samuel Smith Park 20 May (CSAM). A Hudsonian Godwit dropped into the Rainy River S.T.P. 23 May (DHE, AH), and 2 were found at Sault Ste. Marie 30 Apr, with one remaining to 5 May (BK). Hillman Marsh hosted a total of 22 Marbled Godwits 24 Apr–4 May (m. ob.). An impressive flock of 1500 Pectoral Sandpipers was seen off the Tip of Point Pelee N.P. 13 Apr (AW, JK). Purple Sandpipers are always unusual in spring, so one at Presqu'ile P.P. 23 May (DS) is of interest. A **Curlew Sandpiper** was found 6 May at the Blenheim S.T.P. (RS, JH et al.). Individual female Ruffs were at Aylmer Police College 6 May (JH, BJ et al.), 12–15 May at Cranberry Marsh (DL), and 7 May at the Strathroy S.T.P. (AWH). Red-necked Phalaropes are rarely seen in spring at Point Pelee N.P., but one was present at the Tip 18 May (GTH et al.).

GULLS THROUGH CROWS

A Parasitic Jaeger off the Tip of Point Pelee N.P. 9 May (TRS, LVM, KAM) was the 14th spring record for the Park. Four Laughing Gulls were noted in the Point Pelee N.P. area, the earliest on 14 Apr and the last 14 May (m. ob.). Another was at Frenchman's Bay 30 May (DSh). Franklin's Gulls were scarce across the province, with 3 at Wheatley 21 Apr (AW) and 2 at Rainy R. 21 May (DHE, AH), where they are usually present in

much larger numbers. Little Gulls were at Oshawa Second Marsh in excellent numbers, with 34 there 22 Apr (JH) and 63 in the marsh 27 Apr (TH). Others noted were 5 at Hillman Marsh 11 May (DJW), 2 at Turkey Pt. 24 Mar (SW) and one at Prince Edward Pt. 24 Apr (RKE). A single Black-headed Gull was reported 15 Apr (JL) near Long Point P.P. A late Iceland Gull was at Selkirk P.P. 11 May (JM). Also rather late was a lingering second-year Glaucous Gull at Kettle Pt. (AR). Great Black-backed Gulls do not usually wander far from the lower Great Lakes, but one ad. was found near Sault Ste. Marie 17–18 Mar (BK), and another reached Thunder Bay 14 Apr (AH). On 28 May, an Arctic Tern was observed at the tip of Long Pt. (MD). If the record is accepted, it will be a first for that area.

A **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was found at Hillman Marsh 28–29 Apr (PDP), and likely the same bird found its way to the Tip of Point Pelee N.P. 5–10 May, where it gave a lot of birders fleeting and exasperating glimpses of it as it flew over the trees. It was a first record for the area and the 4th for the province. Barn Owls are very rare in Ontario, but one was found 17 May at Long Point P.P. (BJ) and again 19 May (BJ, JH). A Snowy Owl was still on Amherst I. 4 Apr (AS). The major winter incursion of Northern Hawk Owls and Great Gray Owls in the nw. part of the province continued through the period, and many birds moved right to s. areas. High small rodent populations in nw. Ontario continued well into spring and not only held many owls but encouraged breeding. North of Thunder Bay, 6 Northern Hawk Owl nests were found, primarily in large cutover areas (NGE), an unprecedented number. While numerous Great Gray Owls were reported, no nests were found. A Northern Hawk Owl lingered to 4 Apr near Joyceville (FE). A Great Gray Owl was at Amherst I. on 1 Apr. (AS), and 2 different birds were seen in Algonquin P.P. 7 Mar (TW) and 8–9 Mar (RT et al.). Short-eared Owls took advantage of high rodent populations in the Rainy R. area this spring: up to 8 could be found hunting over area fields in late May and early Jun (DHE). Food exchanges indicated probable nesting. North of Atikokan, 8 calling Boreal Owls were heard 12 Apr (DHE). Numerous other Boreal Owls were reported hunting near bird feeders during late Mar and early Apr and were likely migrants looking for mice attracted by spilled bird seed (DHE). A single Boreal Owl was found in Algonquin P.P.; it was being harassed by Gray Jays (DS).

An unexpected Acadian Flycatcher was found 27 May at Amherst I. (RKE, NM). A pair of Eastern Phoebes nested at Point Pelee N.P. 30 May (AW) for the first time in decades. At the extreme w. end of the province, **Western**

Kingbirds were found building a nest on a microwave tower n. of Rainy R. (GC); an ad. was on the nest 4 Jul (DHE). A single Western Kingbird was at Thunder Bay 21 May (MM). Rare in nw. Ontario, Loggerhead Shrikes were at T.C.B.O. 21–23 May (BRo) and at Rainy R. 31 May (*vide* GC). A White-eyed Vireo, rarely seen in the area, was found at Jackson Park near Peterborough 1 May (CJ). Another was at Thicketson's Woods 4–5 May (AB, m. ob.). On the big fallout day 17 May at Point Pelee N.P., a record high count of 110 Philadelphia Vireos was made (AW). Common Ravens nested at Cottesloe 14 May (AA), a continued example of the species's southward breeding expansion. A single bird was noted at Palgrave C.A. 10 Mar (GC). Rarely seen in Algonquin P.P., a Purple Martin was found 24 May (LP, RSt).

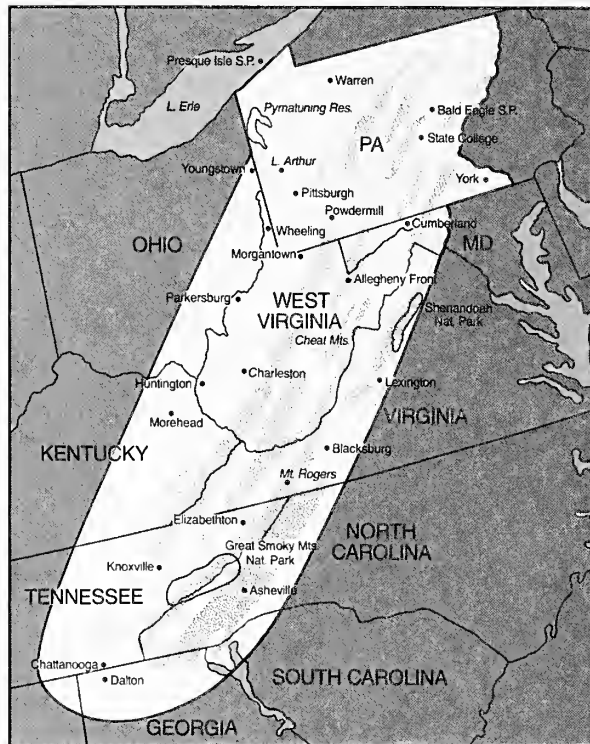
TITMICE THROUGH FINCHES

A Tufted Titmouse at Prince Edward Pt. 2 May (RKE) was unusual. The 3rd Durham region Townsend's Solitaire was in Pickering 12 May (DL), and another was at the Ganaraska Forest Centre 5 May (EK, AE). A Varied Thrush that wintered near Sault Ste. Marie was last seen in early Mar (BK). Northern Mockingbirds continue to do well in the Toronto area. In Etobicoke, 6 were seen at Mockingbird Alley (appropriately named) 6 May (SH). Two were noted at Rainy R., the first on 1 May (AH, DHE) and the second 1 Jun (m. ob.).

An Orange-crowned Warbler made a record early arrival in Ontario when one showed up at Point Pelee N. P. 12 Apr (AW). Yellow-throated Warblers were limited to one at Long Point P.P. 12 Apr. (JO) and singles at Point Pelee N.P. 23–24 Apr (FJU, AW) and 12 May (JBS et al.). A Cerulean Warbler was at Thicketson's Woods 4 May (m. ob.). Worm-eating Warblers were found a several locations in the s. part of the province. A total of 7 was at Point Pelee N. P., ranging from 9 Apr, a record early date for Ontario (AW), to 11 May (MEC). One was at Thicketson's Woods 18 May (Mba, JI), another was found in High Park, Toronto 22 May (CSAM), and 2 were at the Old Cut, L.P.B.O. 30 Apr, with one remaining to 20 May (JA). Far to the e., one was at Prince Edward Pt. 20 May (MHE, RBS, RDW). A very cooperative Kentucky Warbler was at Rondeau P.P. 10 May (m. ob.) and delighted watchers as it fed on and under a large fallen tree. Point Pelee N. P. recorded a total of 11 Kentucky Warblers 1–19 May (m. ob.). A Connecticut Warbler in Toronto 25 May (TF) was a nice find. Hooded Warblers are rare along the n. shore of L. Ontario; thus, 2 at Toronto 10 (MM) & 19 May (PNP) and one at Prince Edward Pt. 20 May (MHE, RBS, RDW) were notable. A rare and early Yellow-breasted

Chat was at Lurgan Beach (*Bruce*) 30 Apr (AWM). Point Pelee N.P. had a total of 8 Summer Tanagers 27 Apr–22 May (m. ob.), and an imm. male sang in the Wilson Tract n. of Long Point P.P. 12–31 May (RL, AC, VD). A Lark Sparrow was at Point Pelee N. P. 17 May (MB, SA), and another was at a feeder just w. of Dryden 8–21 May (CE). The same feeder hosted 2 Lark Sparrows a year earlier. Single Henslow's Sparrows were found at Point Pelee N.P. 12 Apr (AW et al.), at Wilmot Creek (*Durham*) 18 May (O&DP), and at Two Creeks C.A. (*Kent*) 9 May (DF). Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows are usually expected more often in the fall, but 3 were found at Point Pelee N.P., with single birds 1–20 May (AW et al.), 19 May (GTH et al.), and 20 May (GE). A Harris's Sparrow was at the Breakwater Field Station, L.P.B.O. 3 May (JF, SM). A second-year male Blue Grosbeak was banded in the Wilson Tract 15 May (CF, m. ob.), and a bright ad. male was at Point Pelee N.P. 5–10 May (TO, GS et al.). A Dickcissel at an Atikokan feeder 12–13 May (MCE, SP) was new for the e. end of the Rainy R. District. Another was off the Tip of Point Pelee N.P. 17 May (AW et al.) flying about in the fog. White-winged Crossbills nested for the first time in the Toronto area, where a nest with eggs was found 4 Mar at Palgrave C.A. (GC).

Appalachia



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Spring migration presented the usual mixed picture in Appalachia. There were some heavy fallouts of waterfowl, especially across western Maryland and Pennsylvania. At Erie, for example, over 30,000 ducks, mostly Canvasbacks and scaup, put down on Presque Isle Bay in mid-March. In May, good numbers of shorebirds appeared in eastern Tennessee where water levels were low in the upper lakes of the T.V.A. system. Nearly every field observer, however, commented on the generally poor flight and lack of significant fallouts of Neotropical migrants. At Powdermill Nature Reserve, Carnegie Museum of Natural History's field station at Rector, Pennsylvania, this spring's banding total of about 1800 birds was the third lowest ever and 35% below the 40-year average, but numbers of only a few Neotropical migrants (e.g., Least Flycatcher, House Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Canada

Warbler, and American Redstart) were much below average. Others, like Acadian Flycatcher, Gray Catbird, Wood Thrush, and Chestnut-sided Warbler, were well above average.

Abbreviations: P.N.R. (Powdermill Nature Reserve, Rector, *Westmoreland*, PA); P.I.S.P. (Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, PA).

LOONS THROUGH STORKS

There were more than the usual number of Red-throated Loons across w. Pennsylvania, with reports 4 Mar–22 Apr of single birds from at least 10 scattered localities. Good counts of Common Loon included 28 at L. Julian, *Buncombe*, NC 13 Apr (WF) and 42 at Codorus S.P., *York*, PA 6 Apr (PR). Over 163 Horned Grebes were at Pymatuning L., PA 26 Mar (SKa), and 100 were on L. Somerset on 27 Mar (JP). Normally rare in Pennsylvania, 13 Red-necked Grebes were at Bald Eagle S.P. 16 Apr (DHo), 2 were at Shawnee L., *Bedford* 11 Apr (RG), and 2 were at Tamarack L., *Meadville* 19 Apr (RFL). Two of the Eared Grebes reported from last season at S. Holston L., TN were seen until 11 Mar (RK), and single migrants were at Brainerd Levee,

Hamilton, TN 5 Apr (*fide* KC) and P.I.S.P. 4 Apr (JMc). An American White Pelican was a rare find at Bald Eagle S.P., PA 16–17 Apr (DH, DS). Over 1000 Double-crested Cormorants stopped at P.I.S.P. 14 Apr (JMc, LMc), and there were 34 active cormorant nests in a rookery in Hawkins, TN (*fide* BC).

In w. Pennsylvania the number of American Bitterns sighted was the best in many years, with high counts of 8 at P.I.S.P. 22 Apr (NH) and 5 near Berlin 20–23 Apr (JP). Up to 4 Least Bitterns were listed at P.I.S.P. in May (m. ob.), one was at P.N.R. 24–25 May (RCL, MS), and one at Grand R. W.A., OH 30 May (CB). Rare in this mountainous region, single Snowy Egrets were at L. Osceola, NC 25 Apr (RSe, MW), the French Broad R. Valley 30 May (WF, MW), at Austin Springs, TN 25 May (RK), and at P.I.S.P. 27–31 May (PH, m. ob.). A Cattle Egret was an unusual find so far n. as Vandergrift, Armstrong, PA on 2 May (*fide* MH). Five Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen along the Susquehanna R. at W. Fairview, PA 17 Apr (JG), one was a rare find flying over P.N.R. 29 May (RM), and at least one pair was at Elizabethton, TN (BS, HPL), where they have nested since the 1970s. Seven Glossy Ibis in Blount, TN 8 Apr were the Region's only report (JA, DJ), as was an imm. **Wood Stork** at Chickamauga L., Hamilton, TN 24 Apr (LB).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

Three Greater White-fronted Geese that had been wintering at Brainerd Levee, TN continued there until 22 Mar (*fide* KC). In Erie, PA, where they are rare, at least 50 Snow Geese were at Fairview 13–19 Mar (JMc), and a flock of 55 put down at Waterford 18 Mar (JH). During a heavy migratory movement on 11 Mar, flocks totaling 2300 Canada Geese and 475 Tundra Swans flew past the White Deer Ridge hawkwatch, Lycoming, PA (JY). The 80 Gadwalls listed in Augusta, VA 7 Mar constituted a new spring high count for that area (YL), and 90 was an excellent count at Yellow Cr. S.P., Indiana, PA on 13 Mar (SK). Always rare in the Region, up to 2 Eurasian Wigeon were at P.I.S.P. 4–22 Mar (JMc), one was at Conneaut Marsh, Crawford, PA 19 Mar (IF), and 2 at Colesburg, Potter, PA 2 Apr (JM). Heavy waterfowl fallouts at Tamarack L., Meadville, PA included 232 American Wigeon 9 Apr, 1000 Mallards 12 Apr, and 1460 Northern Pintails 25 Apr (RFL). A remarkable 700 Redheads and 3300 Ring-necked Ducks were on L. Arthur, Butler, PA 17 Mar (*fide* PH). Five White-winged Scoters were an unprecedented find at L. Julian, Buncombe, NC 24 Mar (WF, MW, BO), and during a sig-

nificant flight 16–17 Apr at least 40 White-wingeds put down on a dozen different lakes in w. Pennsylvania (m. ob.). Up to 5 Surf Scoters were rare finds on L. Arthur 18–31 Mar (*fide* PH), as were 2 were near Ligonier, PA 21 Apr (RCL, RFL). Two Black Scoters were on Pymatuning L., PA 21 Apr (RFL) for the season's only report. Good numbers of Long-tailed Ducks were spotted in w. Pennsylvania from early Mar through the 3rd week of Apr, with high counts of 50 at Shawnee L. (RG) and 60 on L. Somerset (JP) 11 Apr. A very late Common Goldeneye was at Ft. Loudoun Dam, TN 5 May (PL). A raft of 500 Ruddy Ducks on the upper lake at Pymatuning 22 Apr (IF) was unusually large for the spring season.

An impressive total of 226 Ospreys passed by the Tussey Mt., PA hawkwatch this season, with a peak of 45 on 21 Apr (*fide* GG). Pennsylvania Game Commission personnel reported 29 Bald Eagles fledged from 22 active nests in nw. Pennsylvania. A very late Northern Harrier was still at Hooper Lane, Henderson, NC 24 May (RSe, WF). At Tussey Mt., a total of 123 harriers was reported, including a high count of 46 birds 7 Apr; other unusually high spring totals there included 3473 Broad-winged Hawks, 10 Rough-legged Hawks, and 162 Golden Eagles: 22 of the latter on 11 Mar (DL, ML). A **Swainson's Hawk**, always a rare find along the Appalachians, was spotted at Tussey 11 Apr (ML). A Rough-legged Hawk at Hooper Lane 24 Mar–1 Apr was a first for that county (WF). At the Allegheny Front hawkwatch, Bedford, a total of 61 Golden Eagles was spotted, including 21 on 12 Mar (*fide* DB). Vying for rarest raptor of the season was a white-morph **Gyr Falcon** at P.I.S.P. 31 Mar & 8 Apr (*fide* JMc).

A King Rail at Geneva Marsh, Crawford, PA 27 Apr (RFL) was the Region's lone report. Eight Virginia Rails were at Grand R. W.A., Trumbull, OH 30 May (CB), and an ad. with 6 chicks was at Shady Valley 20 May for one of the few breeding records for Tennessee (WC). A dozen Sora were seen in just a small section of the marsh at Geneva, PA 16 May (RFL), where the species is apparently doing well. The first Sandhill Cranes had returned to their breeding area in Lawrence, PA by 3 Mar (BD), and sightings of migrants came from five other Pennsylvania counties, led by a flock of 19 at P.I.S.P. 15 Mar (LWa). Almost unknown in Pennsylvania 20 years ago, the Sandhill Crane's eastward range expansion is nothing short of remarkable. Elsewhere in the Region, one crane was in the French Broad R. Valley, NC 1–13 Mar (MW, WF), and one at Mosquito L., OH 18 Apr (DH).



In recent years Swainson's Warblers have been regularly overshooting their known breeding range. This bird, banded at Powdermill Nature Reserve 15 May 2001, was one of two found in Westmoreland, Pennsylvania this spring. *Photograph by Robert S. Mulvihill.*

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Unusual spring shorebird sightings included an American Golden-Plover at Pymatuning L. 27 Apr (RFL) and a record 23 American Avocets at P.I.S.P. 22 Apr (JMc, m. ob.). High counts of Greater Yellowlegs included 71 at Pymatuning 12 Apr (RFL), and a flock of 43 put down in a rainstorm at Lawrence, PA 21 Apr (BD). There were 58 Lesser Yellowlegs at Miller Pond, Pymatuning 19 Apr (RFL). An unprecedented 11 Willets were on the Tennessee R., Hamilton, TN 24 Apr (KC), and one was at S. Holston L. 17 May (RK). In an encouraging trend, more than the usual number of sightings of Upland Sandpipers was made in Somerset, PA (TM, JP) and Garrett, MD (JC, FP) this spring. Single Whimbrels were at P.I.S.P. 18 & 24 May (*fide* JMc). On 13 Apr there were 9 Marbled Godwits at S. Holston L. (RK) and 3 at the Kingston Tennessee steam plant (RH), and one was found along the Tennessee R. 24 Apr (KC). Eight Sanderlings were at Kingston 15 May (RH), a particularly high count away from L. Erie. There was an especially large flight of White-rumped Sandpipers through the Region during the 2nd half of May, particularly in Tennessee, where 40 were listed at Kingston 22 May (*fide* RK) and 20 at Brainerd Levee 23–24 May (KC). A Stilt Sandpiper was a rarity at Brainerd Levee 4 Apr (LW, JC), as was another in Washington, TN 28 May (RK). High Short-billed Dowitcher counts included 16 at Brainerd Levee 12 May (KC) and 33 on 12 May at S. Holston L. (RK). Rare in spring, the only Long-billed Dowitcher sighting came from Brainerd Levee 23 Apr (KC). Over 100 Common Snipe were listed in Lawrence, PA 21

Apr (BD). A Wilson's Phalarope in the French Broad R. Valley 14 May was a first for *Henderson*, NC (WF, BO, MW), while a flock of 10 in *Preston*, WV 21 Apr (GF) surely must be a record high total for the entire Appalachian Region!

More than the usual number of rare and unusual larids was reported from the Region. A rare find anywhere in w. Pennsylvania, 2 Laughing Gulls strayed across the mountains to L. Somerset 1–2 Apr (JP, SB), and one was seen on several occasions at P.I.S.P. 23–27 May (*fide* JMc). Up to 5 Franklin's Gulls were major rarities in the w. Allegheny Mts. at L. Somerset 21–23 Apr (MF, SB, JP). There were two reports of Little Gulls: one bird along the w. shore of the Susquehanna R. at Wrightsville, PA 23 Mar and 2 at Accomac, York 3 Apr (DHo). Rare gulls at P.I.S.P. (all *fide* JMc) included a Thayer's Gull 4 Mar, three records of Iceland Gull 4–16 Mar, a single Lesser Black-backed Gull 16 & 25 Mar, and six reports of Glaucous Gull 2–25 Mar. An ad. Black-legged Kittiwake at Shawnee L. was a first for *Bedford*, PA 8–10 Apr (J&KB, SC, DB). Among the few observations of Common Tern away from L. Erie were reports of 7 near Mercer, PA 11 May (NT) and 5 at S. Holston L., TN 17 May (RK). A Least Tern was a very rare find in *Sequatchie*, TN 18 May (HW).

DOVES THROUGH PIPITS

A *White-winged Dove* that appeared in New Castle in late Apr remained through the end of May, establishing the 2nd w. Pennsylvania record of the species (ph. CG, m. ob.). Seldom reported in the Region, a Barn Owl stayed at a silo near Ringgold, *Catoosa*, GA at least through 5 May (PL), and a pair again nested in Johnson City, TN (RK). Up to 3 Long-eared Owls could be found at P.I.S.P. 20 Mar–9 Apr (DDr, m. ob.). Increasingly common, especially in reclaimed strip-mines, Short-eared Owls were widely reported in w. Pennsylvania, where the high count was 18 at Curllsville, *Clarion* 20 Mar, with at least one still there 29 May (JF). A *Boreal Owl* captured and banded at P.I.S.P. 7 Apr (ph. DDr, JMc) provided the first Pennsylvania record since 1896! Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported from as far s. as Roan Mt., NC 1 May (RK) and Big Bald Mt., TN 29 Apr (JMg). Eleven Chuck-will's-widows were an exceptional count from *Washington* and *Carter*, TN 29 Apr (RK, FA). Early Whip-poor-wills were at P.I.S.P. (DDr) and Mt. Lebanon, PA (GO), both on 22 Apr, and high counts included 10 in *Henderson*, NC 15 May (WF) and 39 in *Sullivan*, TN 26 May (JMg). A rather early Chimney Swift was at Clarksville, PA 10 Apr (RB). A Rufous

Hummingbird that had wintered in *Hamilton*, TN was last seen 9 Mar (*fide* KC).

An exceptionally early Olive-sided Flycatcher was in *Greene*, TN 21 Apr (*fide* RK), and Olive-sideds were more frequently recorded elsewhere in the Region than usual, with three other reports from Tennessee, one from North Carolina, and seven in Pennsylvania. A record-early Eastern Kingbird was at Stuart's Draft, *Augusta*, VA 11 Apr (*fide* YL). Two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were in *Sequatchie*, TN 16–31 May (*fide* KC), and one in *Knox*, TN 1–5 May was a county first (*fide* RK). A pair of Loggerhead Shrikes was found nesting in *Washington*, TN this spring (RK). Late dates for Northern Shrike included one at Whipple Dam S.P., *Huntingdon*, PA 4 Mar (GG), one at Ellisburg, *Potter*, PA 13 Mar (JMi), and one that lingered at P.I.S.P. 8–31 Mar (LMc). A flock of 100 Horned Larks was still at Sayre, *Bradford*, PA 11 Mar (RS). A Purple Martin banded at Stuarts Draft, VA 27 Feb was record early for that locality (*fide* YL). Over 1000 Tree Swallows were observed feeding over Conneaut L., PA 21 May, a rather late date for such a large concentration, and a high count of 110 Cliff Swallows was made at Pymatuning L., near Linesville 17 May (RFL). A record-early Barn Swallow for *Augusta* was at Waynesboro, VA 16 Mar (AL), and 25 Mar was an early arrival date for both L. Arthur, PA (DD, DY) and *Wood*, WV (JB). Up to 2 Sedge Wrens were at Brainerd Levee, TN 9–14 Apr (KC), and one was a rare find in *Transylvania*, NC 23 Apr (*fide* NS), as was one at P.I.S.P. 5 May (RSt). A large flock of about 400 American Pipits was seen in *Henderson*, NC 14 Mar (WF, RSe), and a rather late flock of 50 was at Townville, SC 2 May (PL).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

As Blue-winged Warblers continue to expand their breeding range into that of the Golden-winged Warbler, the number of hybrids has apparently increased. In addition to numerous reports of Brewster's Warblers, which have become almost routine throughout the Region, a Lawrence's Warbler was banded at P.N.R. 5 May (RCL), and another was seen at Clarksville, PA 28 May (RB). Many contributors expressed concern about the low numbers of migrant Cape May Warblers, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll Warblers, and American Redstarts seen this spring; however, there was little consensus as to cause. An Audubon's Warbler at Amnicola Marsh 14 Apr was a first for *Hamilton*, TN (*fide* KC). The parulid of the season, however, was the singing *Kirtland's Warbler* found at Piney Tract,

Clarion, PA 12 May (JF, LF), just the 3rd spring record for the state. A very early Worm-eating Warbler appeared in *Clarion*, PA 12 Apr (JF). More than the usual number of Swainson's Warbler reports came from s. Appalachia, and one banded at P.N.R. 15 May (ph. RM, RCL) and a singing male at Bushy Run Historic P., *Westmoreland*, PA (MMc, m. ob.) were well n. of the known breeding range. Rare anywhere in the Region in spring, a Connecticut Warbler was a good find at Jackson Park 17 May (RSe), as were singles at P.I.S.P. 5 & 21 May (*fide* JMc). A Wilson's Warbler at Jackson Park 4–5 Apr was very early (WF, RSe, BO).

Following last season's *Green-tailed Towhee* in *Alleghany*, MD (the first state record), a bird (same bird?) was reported at Indian Springs W.M.A. in adjacent *Washington* 26 Apr (HP). An exceptionally late American Tree Sparrow was still at Amnicola Marsh, *Hamilton*, TN 7 Apr (MP). In Pennsylvania, where they have been reported with increasing frequency in recent years, at least 6 Clay-colored Sparrows were found 29 Apr–20 May at scattered sites from *Erie* to *York* (m. ob.)—one of these was singing from the same tree alongside the singing Kirtland's Warbler reported above! The season's only Lark Sparrow was reported from Baylor School, *Hamilton*, TN 28 Apr (JSL). A Le Conte's Sparrow at Riverport 17 Mar & 9 Apr was a first for *Hamilton*, TN (BJ, JC), while a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Austin Springs 24 Apr (RK) and 2 at Shady Valley, TN 20–24 May (HPL) were rare spring migrants. A rarity for P.I.S.P. was a *Harris's Sparrow* 14 May (BM, RSt). Dark-eyed Juncos were noticeably few and departed early from Upper Cedar Cr. Valley, *Shenandoah*, VA (DDa), and Clarksville, PA (RB); at P.N.R., it was the poorest spring by far for juncos in 40 years of banding (61 this spring compares to a 40-year average of 400). A Lapland Longspur was seen in *Potter*, PA as late as 1 Apr, and a flock of 100+ Snow Buntings was still there 11 Mar (JMi). An early female Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared at a feeder in *York*, PA 9 Apr (AMc). Fewer Dickcissels were reported than usual, with just one or 2 in *Washington*, TN 11 May (RK) and one at Ligonier, PA 26 May (JG). A Western Meadowlark was singing as if on territory at Trauger, *Westmoreland*, PA 28 Apr (DL, m. ob.), and another was at nearby Crabtree 12 May (MMc). Purple Finches, scarce over much of the Region, were in good numbers in the Upper Cedar Cr. Valley, VA (DDa). A pair of Red Crossbills came to a feeder near Blue Ridge, GA in early Apr (*fide*

Western Great Lakes

MB), and a few remained at Davis, *Tucker*, WV at least through the end of Mar (GF), the season's only reports. Pine Siskins nested at Hocking Hills S.P., OH, where one was feeding a fledgling Brown-headed Cowbird 31 May (FR).

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Abbreviations: M.B.R.C. (Michigan Bird Records Committee); N. C. (Nature Center); S. G. A. (State Game Area); W. A. (Wildlife Area); W.B.R.C. (Wisconsin Bird Records Committee); W.P.B.O. (Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Chippewa, MI).

The weather during the season was changeable and unpredictable. March was cool and dry throughout the Region. April alternated between cool and warm periods, with near normal precipitation. In particular, the end of April was warm, nearly nine degrees Fahrenheit above average in parts of Michigan. This early warm air seemed responsible for the early arrival of many migrants. The warmth also caused the trees to leaf out early, making detection of migrants later in the season more difficult. May's temperatures were erratic but averaged cooler overall. It was particularly cool in the latter half of the month. Precipitation ranged from average to above average.

Michigan had a fine season for unusual species, with two new state records, Lewis's Woodpecker, and Swainson's Warbler, and second state records for Common Eider, Wilson's Plover, and Painted Redstart. Highlights in Minnesota included White-faced Ibis, Black-headed Gull, Eurasian Collared-Dove, and Great-tailed Grackle. Records of note in Wisconsin were Brown Pelican, Glossy Ibis, Cinnamon Teal, King Eider, and Black-headed Gull.

LOONS THROUGH IBIS

Minnesota reported a record number of Red-throated Loons, with 39 on 9 May at Duluth, *St. Louis* (KB). In Michigan, numbers were down at W.P.B.O., with 285 individuals and a peak of 39 on 19 May, while elsewhere the species was more widespread: reports came from six other counties, including an unusual inland report from 29–30 Mar on L. Lansing, *Ingham* (BC). Wisconsin reported 2 on 17 Mar at Manitowoc (DT). An alternate-plumaged **Pacific Loon** was reported 27 May at W.P.B.O. (staff), pending acceptance by the M.B.R.C. Common Loon numbers were down at W.P.B.O. for the 3rd consecutive season, with only 5035 recorded during the season, with a peak of 821 on 5 May. Hundreds of Red-necked Grebes were staging at Wisconsin Pt., WI (RJo) and nearby Park Point in Duluth, MN (PS) during mid-Apr. The migration was average in Michigan, with W.P.B.O. staff reporting 407 during the season and a peak of 102 on 3 May. Minnesota contributed the only Clark's Grebes in the Region, including individuals 9–25 Apr at Coon Rapids

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This is one of three third-year California Gulls at Breckenridge, Wilkin County, Minnesota 22 May. Though still rare in Minnesota, the species has an annual presence across the border in southern Manitoba. Photograph by Karl Bardon.

Dam, *Hennepin* (OJ), 27 Apr at Agassiz N.W.R., *Marshall* (KB), and 5 May at Boon L., *Renville* (DF). Wisconsin had an excellent Eared Grebe migration, with 7 reported, including an individual 17 Mar–6 Apr in *Milwaukee* (JI, DG), only the 3rd March record for that state.

American White Pelican numbers continue to increase in the Region. On the Minnesota (*Hastings*)–Wisconsin (*Prescott*) border, a season total of 3147 was counted, with peaks of over 900 (KB). In e. Wisconsin, the breeding colony in Green Bay at Cat I. has grown to 217 nests (TE); Michigan had a peak of 12 migrants on 26 Apr near Chassell, *Houghton* (LB). Very unexpected were 2 **Brown Pelicans** 16 May at Wyalusing S.P., *Grant* (KBU, JHe); if accepted by the W.B.R.C., they will constitute the 6th state record. All three states had good numbers of Snowy Egrets and Little Blue Herons this season. Noteworthy in Wisconsin was a Tricolored Heron from 17–22 May in *Dane* (NR), while in Minnesota an individual was seen 21 May at Flood Bay, *Lake* (KE et al.). Minnesota had its best migration for Cattle Egret since 1993, with approximately 60 reported from 17 counties. Wisconsin had a more typical migration, while Michigan had only 3 reports. All three states had single Yellow-crowned Night-Herons: 1 May in Kalamazoo, MI (RS), 13 May at Pigeon L., *Meeker*, MN (DF), and Ft. Atkinson, WI 30 Apr (NW).

A **White Ibis** 22 Apr–5 May near Bootjack, *Houghton* (LB, RB, BM) was a first in spring for Michigan and only the 5th state record. Michigan

also hosted above-average numbers of **Glossy Ibis**, with individuals 13 May at Nyanquing W.A., *Bay* (BM, AB), 18 May at Andrews University, *Berrien* (GA), and 30 May at Sumac I., *Huron* (MW). Wisconsin reported only its 7th state record for **Glossy Ibis**, an individual 2 May in *Oconto* (DT, KS, JS); the record is pending acceptance by W.B.R.C. A 7th state record for Michigan was a **White-faced Ibis** on 26 & 30 May at Nyanquing W.A. (JZ, DD); the sighting is pending acceptance by the M.B.R.C. In Minnesota single **White-faced Ibis** were photographed 15 Apr in Rochester, *Olmsted* (JSe) and 26 Apr in *Scott* (KG, DMA).

WATERFOWL

An impressive 3415 Greater White-fronted Geese were reported in Minnesota 14 Apr in *Big Stone* (PJ), while Wisconsin's high total was 65 on 28 Mar in *Dodge* (DT), much lower than last spring. Michigan had White-fronted Goose reports from six counties. Ross's Geese were reported from four counties in Wisconsin and two counties in Michigan. Minnesota had reports of Ross's Geese from 14 counties, down from 24 a year ago. A **Cinnamon Teal** was seen briefly 12 Apr at the Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment (JI), providing Wisconsin's first record since 1992. A female **Common Eider** 25–26 May at W.P.B.O. (m. ob.) provided only the 2nd state record for Michigan and one of very few in the Region. The 3rd spring record in Wisconsin for **King Eider** came in the form of a

female 8–24 Mar in *Milwaukee* (SL, m. ob.) and perhaps the same bird on 14 Apr at Virmond Park, *Ozaukee* (CS). The Barrow's Goldeneye in Wisconsin at Virmond Park, *Ozaukee* remained through 15 Apr (TW), while another was found in Milwaukee on 18 Apr (JI, m. ob.). In Minnesota, a male Barrow's was present 4 Feb–19 Mar in Duluth (*fide* KE), and an imm. female appeared 1 Mar in *Otter Tail* (KB).

RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS

Overall numbers of raptors during the annual diurnal raptor count at W.P.B.O. were very low—only 9938 individuals were tallied, nearly 5500 lower than the average count since 1984 and less than half of last year's total of 24,199. A major reason for these low totals was the lack of Sharp-shinned Hawks, whose count of 3665 was 4500 below average.

In Minnesota, an impressive count of 113 Osprey was reported 24 Apr at the West Skyline Hawkwatch in Duluth (FN), while a subad. **Mississippi Kite** was seen there on 16 May (FN, DC). The subad. Gyrfalcon that overwintered in Minnesota at Duluth was seen until 5 Mar (*fide* KE), while an imm. was seen on the West Skyline Hawkwatch 14 Mar (FN). Yellow Rails were scarce in Michigan, with the only report being 2 from 24 May+ near Trout Lake, *Chippewa* (AB).

Unexpected in Wisconsin was a pair of **Whooping Cranes** present 13 Mar in *Ozaukee* (WN, RF), while another pair, thought to be the same birds, was videotaped later in the month in *Outagmie* (RZ). The Wisconsin birds were thought to be strays from the re-introduced Florida population.

A record spring total of 190 Black-bellied Plovers was counted 30 May at W.P.B.O. An American Golden-Plover 20 Mar in *Brown* (RSc) was the 2nd earliest ever in Minnesota. Piping Plover numbers were low in the Region this season. In Minnesota 2 were seen 24 Apr at L. Byllesby, *Dakota* (AS), while a pair was found at the state's only breeding site on Pine-Currys I., *Lake of the Woods*. Wisconsin also had two reports: 3 at Green Bay from 25–27 Apr (PSc, DT) and one 10 May in *Douglas* (RJo). Michigan reported 28 pairs of Piping Plovers with 26 nests (LG). Wisconsin reported unusually high numbers of American Avocet this season, including a record-high count of 78 on 25 Apr in Milwaukee (BB) and a record-early arrival of one 13 Apr in *Milwaukee* (BB).

Minnesota reported a new record total for Willet with 70–75 on 1 May in *Rice* (TB). Whimbrel numbers were characterized as being low in all three states. Michigan had a record 30 Marbled Godwits 18 May at the Pilgrim R. mouth in *Houghton* (LB), only the 2nd local record. An excellent count of 260 Ruddy

Turnstones 29 May in *Manitowoc* (CS) was reported in Wisconsin. A total of 17 Red Knots 16 May in *Lake of the Woods* (PS) was the 2nd highest ever in Minnesota, while the 15 on 19 May at W.P.B.O. was high for Michigan. A White-rumped Sandpiper 25 Apr in *Brown* (DT) was only the 4th April record in that state. Impressive in Michigan was a peak of 1500 Dunlin 20 May in *Bay* (DD); one 29 Mar was record early in Wisconsin (EH). A female **Ruff** 26 Apr at Empire, *Dakota* (AS) was unusual in Minnesota. The peak of 320 Wilson's Phalaropes 17 May in Crookston, *Polk* (PS) reversed a three-year trend in Minnesota of decreasing peak counts in spring.

Individual Parasitic Jaegers were seen 14 & 25 May, while 2 were seen 26 May at W.P.B.O., where 2 unidentified jaegers were seen 31 May. Minnesota had an unidentified jaeger 19 May at Duluth, *St. Louis* (PC). Wisconsin had 4 Laughing Gull reports during the season, above average for that state. Michigan had a very early Laughing Gull 3 Apr in *Berrien* (RB), an ad. on 7 May at Metrobeach, *Macomb* (AR), and singles 18 & 19 May at W.P.B.O. Both Michigan and Wisconsin reported small numbers of Franklin's Gulls this season, and all three states reported Little Gulls. A **Black-headed Gull** 28 May at *Milwaukee* (BB, JI, m. ob.) was only the 10th state record for Wisconsin. In Minnesota, another **Black-headed Gull** was seen 7 Apr in *Jackson* (KB) n. of the area in Iowa where birds have been almost annual since 1994. Unexpected in Minnesota were 3 third-winter **California Gulls** 22 May at Breckenridge, *Wilkin* (KB). An **Arctic Tern** 30–31 May at W.P.B.O. was only the 2nd May record for this species in Michigan; the record is pending M.B.R.C. review.

DOVES THROUGH VIREOS

In Wisconsin, a pair of **Eurasian Collared-Doves** overwintered in *Oconto* (ME, JS, KS), while in Minnesota one was present after 23 May in *Roseau* (KB). The Northern Hawk Owl at Sault Ste. Marie, *Chippewa* (JR, JG) remained until at least 4 Mar in Michigan, and one in Wisconsin lingered to 27 Mar in *Vilas* (BR). W.P.B.O. had a fair movement of Great Gray Owls, with 10 noted 25 Apr–27 May and a peak of 3 on 25 Apr. Wisconsin had a single report from *Bayfield* (AHO, JHo). Minnesota reported a record-high 51 Short-eared Owls 23 Apr in *Kittson* (GB). Associated with last winter's irruption but unusually far s. in Minnesota was a Boreal Owl 18 Mar in *Carver* (JBr). At W.P.B.O., 70 were tallied 10 Apr–31 May (peak of 12 on 25 Apr), along with 104 Northern Saw-whet Owls (peak of 59 on 10 Apr). A **Lewis's Woodpecker** made a brief appearance at W.P.B.O. 18 May (RB, DL, JB, DBr), a first state record for

Michigan accepted by the M.B.R.C. An Acadian Flycatcher 5 May in *Freeborn* (RJ) constituted a new early date for Minnesota. A **Say's Phoebe** 11 May at Big Stone N.W.R., *Lac Qui Parle* (MK, LV) was about the 20th record in that state. Michigan had a single report of a Western Kingbird on 31 May in Weesaw Twp., *Berrien* (JJ, DM). It was encouraging that Michigan had reports of Loggerhead Shrikes from five counties; the species has been quite scarce in recent years. Minnesota had reports of Loggerhead Shrikes from 14 counties, including one n. of normal 19–27 May in Duluth, *St. Louis* (RR), while Wisconsin had five reports. A Northern Shrike 25 Apr in *Stevens* was record late in s. Minnesota (SM). Wisconsin reported an excellent movement of White-eyed Vireos, with seven reports including an early arrival 29 Apr in Milwaukee (JSt). In Minnesota there were five reports including the 2nd breeding record for White-eyed Vireo at Rice Lake S.P., *Steele* (Aba, NSw) and an early report 29 Apr at Cedar L., *Hennepin* (SC). A Philadelphia Vireo 29 Apr in *Carver* (TWi) was a first Apr record for Minnesota and was followed by three more reports 30 Apr.

THRUSHES THROUGH WARBLERS

Wisconsin had a late report of Townsend's Solitaire 13 Apr in *Calumet* (DT), while in Minnesota there were six reports. Early in Wisconsin was a Swainson's Thrush 18 Apr in *Walworth* (PP). The latest of six reports of Varied Thrush in Minnesota was an individual 20 Apr in Duluth, *St. Louis* (*vide* DB); the individual in Michigan remained near Atlanta, *Montmorency* to 17 Mar (HW). All three states characterized the warbler migration as being poor this season, but despite lower counts, observers at most locations found a good variety. Many species arrived earlier than normal, and numerous early dates were set. A Golden-winged Warbler 24 Apr in *Dane* (TK) was record early in Wisconsin, and one on 30 Apr in Duluth, *St. Louis* (SM) was the 2nd earliest date for Minnesota. A Yellow Warbler 9 Apr in Niles Twp., *Berrien* (JW) was early in Michigan. Yellow-throated Warblers made a good showing in Michigan, with the earliest being 9 Apr in *Berrien* (KM) and another n. of normal 8 May in the Muskegon S.G.A., *Muskegon* (JP, RM, GW). In Wisconsin, Yellow-throateds returned to their traditional locations at Wyalusing S.P.; more unusual was a pair to the end of the period in *Saulk*. Wisconsin reported a good showing for Prairie Warblers, including one 28 Apr in *Ozaukee* (JSt), only the 3rd April record in that state. A Bay-breasted Warbler 1 May in *Hennepin* (TT) was the 2nd earliest record for Minnesota. A Prothonotary Warbler 15 May in

Lake of the Woods was far n. of normal in Minnesota (CM). Also very early in Wisconsin was a Worm-eating Warbler 23 Apr near Horicon (BV). Michigan had increased numbers of Worm-eatings, with 7 reports, while Minnesota had individuals 1 May in Minneapolis, *Hennepin* (LE, TT) and 12–20 May in Bloomington, *Hennepin* (PJ). A **Swainson's Warbler** that hit a window 3 May in Nashville, *Barry* (WS) provided Michigan a first state record; the specimen is now at the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. Pending M.B.R.C. review, Michigan had another report of this s. warbler from 2–3 May at Nichol's Arb, *Washtenaw* (MKe, MS). Kentucky Warblers were more common in the Region this spring; a high total of 21 came from Wyalusing S.P., *Grant* (KBu) in Wisconsin and a record early bird 29 Apr was at Litchfield N.C., *Meeker* (DF) in Minnesota. A Hooded Warbler 27 May at Wisconsin Pt., *Douglas*, WI was n. of normal (RJo), and a Canada Warbler 2 May at Warren Dunes S.P., *Berrien* (JW) was early in Michigan. A **Painted Redstart** made a brief appearance 4 May at Ludington, *Mason* (GBe), this being the 2nd Michigan record if accepted by the M.B.R.C.

TANAGERS THROUGH GRACKLES

Michigan had four reports of Summer Tanager this season, including a first record at W.P.B.O. 28 Apr (JBU, m. ob.). A Western Tanager in Wisconsin was seen in *Waukesha* 27 Apr (JM). The **Black-throated Sparrow** that overwintered in Wisconsin at *Dane* remained to 10 Mar (TW). A **Lark Bunting** was seen briefly 3 May at the Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment (DG), constituting the earliest sighting of this species in Wisconsin. Also in that state, a count of 60 Henslow's Sparrows 3 May in *Grant* was noteworthy (RD). A total of 8 Smith's Longspur 28 Apr at Plover Prairie, *Lac Qui Parle* (CG, JHc) was good in Minnesota, while a Chestnut-collared Longspur 7 Apr in *Kandiyohi* (RE) made for a first county record in that state. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak 10 Apr at Sussex (BBa) was a new early date for Wisconsin. A Blue Grosbeak 13 May in *Pine* was a first record in that Minnesota county and was also seen at Crex Meadows W.M.A. in Wisconsin (CH, DU). Casual in Minnesota, a male **Lazuli Bunting** was photographed 18 May in *Polk* (LT, DTh). Dickcissels returned early to Michigan, with the first 12 May in *Berrien* (DSc, JW). A Bobolink 26 Apr in *Ozaukee* was early in Wisconsin (JF). A pair of **Great-tailed Grackles** from 7 May was reported in *Olmsted*, MN (DSq), and there were three other undocumented reports from other counties in that state.

CORRIGENDA

Dates for last spring's White-tailed Kite in Washington, MN should be 10–19 May. Last spring's reports of Ivory Gull and Plumbeous Vireo were not accepted by the Minnesota Ornithological Review Committee. In Wisconsin, the Cape May Warbler 2 Nov 2000 was seen in *Buffalo* rather than *Portage*. The recent report of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was not accepted by the W.B.R.C., while the White-cheeked Pintail reported last spring in Michigan was rejected by the M.B.R.C. on account of questions about its origin. A few errors noted involving the records of Murray Berner (MB): in N.A.B. 54, p. 219, for Chestnut-collared Longspur, "28 Jan" should read "12 Feb"; in N.A.B. 55, p. 54, MB should be indicated as finder of the Pacific Loon; and p. 99, Willow Flycatcher data should read "21 at NRER, Napa, 8 Sep–8 Oct."

Observers (subregional editors in boldface):

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Midwestern Prairie



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As is typical, the Region's weather was more erratic than the Nasdaq. March was uniformly cold, retaining February's snow cover and frozen water throughout most of the month. In contrast, April averaged some 5 degrees Fahrenheit above normal, with some days reaching 90° F. This warmth was accompanied by strong southerly winds. Temperate conditions prevailed through the first half of May. At mid-month, however, the jet stream looped south of the Region and locked into place, generating cool temperatures and northerly airflow that remained for the balance of the period.

For the most part, gelid March temperatures delayed the migration; however, despite ice and snow, nearly all waterfowl moved through early and in good numbers. Balmy April breezes accelerated the migration, moving the passerine flight two weeks ahead of normal and generating a plethora of early arrival dates, especially among passerines. Indeed, the singular

distinguishing aspect of the spring 2001 season was the number of early records.

Cool conditions in late May proved unfavorable for generating migratory waves; consequently, many correspondents relegated the spring flight to the mediocre category (or worse). However, in addition to numerous early arrivals, the season produced a surprising number of record-high duck and shorebird counts. Although the rarity list was skimpy, it included some notable birds, e.g., a Snowy Plover, several White-winged Doves, a Glossy Ibis invasion, plus nesting Painted Buntings east of the Mississippi River. Clearly, the spring flight had its redeeming aspects.

Abbreviations: Carl. L. (Carlyle L., s. IL); H.B.S.P. (Headlands Beach S.P., OH); L. Cal. (L. Calumet, s. Chicago); Jax. P. (Jackson Park on the Chicago lakefront); R.E.D.A. (Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, MO); S.C.R. (Squaw Creek N.W.R., MO); Spfld. (Springfield, IL).

LOONS TO VULTURES

The Region's spring Red-throated Loon flight was normal except on the Indiana lakefront,

where an unprecedented 14 were seen 28 Mar (JMc, EP), providing an all-time high tally for the state. The Common Loon flight was also typical, with small to modest numbers distributed across all six states; the peak count consisted of 72 on L. Monroe 3 Apr (DWh). Although a half-dozen Red-necked Grebes were reported in Iowa, where they are regular, only one appeared e. of the Mississippi R., at L. Clinton, IL 18 Mar (RTC). Eared Grebes were widespread, with reports from all six states; the easternmost bird was in *Cuyahoga*, OH 27 Mar (DKr). A tardy Western Grebe at Spfld. 26 May (RS, RTC) provided one of the latest spring records for Illinois. Two Clark's Grebes appeared in Iowa, where this species has occurred five times over the past six years. The first was at an Ames quarry 28 Apr–7 May (†JJD, GWh, PHA, RIA), and the 2nd was in *Clay* 19 May (†LAS).

American White Pelican numbers remained at recent high levels, with reports from all six states and a peak tally of 3300 at Horseshoe L., IL 23 Mar (KAM). The Double-crested Cormorant population also burgeoned, with daily peak counts exceeding 300 birds in every state and quadruple-digit tallies in Illinois, Kentucky, and Ohio. It was a good spring for American Bitterns, as increased numbers across the Region yielded double-digit season totals from every state except Kentucky. This was perhaps the Region's best spring ever for Tricolored Herons, with six reports from four states. Reports of this casual species included singletons at L. Vermilion, IL 21 Apr (†RTC), Lincoln Park, Chicago 23 Apr (RHu, GAW), Swan Lake N.W.R., MO 2 May (SK), Pontoon Beach, IL 7–11 May (JZ, †DKa, †KAM, m. ob.), Pickerel Creek W.M.A., OH 16–31 May (†BW m. ob.), and Forney L., IA 25–28 May (†BKP, †LJP). The season's only White Ibis appeared at Swan Lake N.W.R., MO 2 May (SK, DF). Glossy Ibis, a species that ranges from casual to accidental in the Region, invaded this spring, with some 17 birds reported. Reports of distinctive alternate-plumaged ads. included one at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., OH 13 Apr (†RLR, et al.), one in s. *Lake*, IN 2 May (†BGr), one in *Tippecanoe*, IN 4 May (†EMH), one, or possibly 2, at Pontoon Beach, IL 7–20 May (JZ, †DKa, †KAM, m. ob.), one to 2 at Kingsbury W.M.A., IN 19–20 May (BGr, PBG, †JKC, †KJB, SPa, m. ob.), and 3 at Mark Twain N.W.R., IA 23 May (†JLF et al.) In addition, there were seven undocumented reports in Ohio and two in Missouri. The peak White-faced Ibis count w. of the Mississippi R. consisted of 20–22 birds *St. Louis*, MO 20–21 Apr (EW, BJ). The only White-faced e. of the Mississippi R. was at Magee W.M.A., OH 11–12 May (BM, KMi, †BW, †m. ob.). Most unusual

was the appearance of 2 Black Vultures 31 Mar at Huntington Metro Park, OH (LRI); this species is rarely seen on the L. Erie lakefront. Another noteworthy event on the Erie lakefront was the passage of a phenomenal 800+ Turkey Vultures at H.B.S.P. 7 Apr (RHn, EB).

WATERFOWL

The Greater White-fronted Goose population continues to flourish. This spring impressive White-fronted counts of 1700 at L. Shelbyville and 1555 in *Knox*, IL, were logged in early Mar (RTC, MJB). The diminutive Ross's Goose followed suit, with multiple reports from every state. The peak tally e. of the Mississippi R. consisted of 15 in *McLean*, IL 24 Feb (RTC), and 2 birds wandered eastward to Ohio. A sizeable Mute Swan population has become established on Chicago's s. side, where 64 swans were counted 4 Mar (WJM), providing a record high spring tally. That Tundra Swans were scarce in the Region is evidenced by a peak count of only 69 birds at Clear L., IA 17 Mar (CF, RG). The maximum Ohio count, which usually exceeds 100 birds, was only 27.

Noteworthy dabbling tallies included 1500 Gadwall in *Union*, IL 29 Mar (KAM), 6800 Northern Shovelers at Carl. L. 25 Mar (DKa), and 5000 Northern Pintails in *Bureau*, IL 11 Mar (JHa) and at Carl. L. 10 Mar (DKa). The shoveler and pintail tallies are record spring counts, excluding counts from aerial surveys. Puddle duck rarities included a male Eurasian Wigeon at Medusa Marsh, OH 14 Apr–1 May (JPg, m. ob.), a male Cinnamon Teal in *Champaign*, IL 14 Apr (RTC et al.), and another Cinnamon Teal in *Polk*, IA 15 & 20 Apr (BE, PHA, RIA). Record bay duck counts, again excluding aerial survey results, included 50,000 Canvasback in *Hancock*, IL 24 Feb (KAM, IOS), 5000 Ring-necked Ducks in *Fulton*, IL 22 Mar (RTC), 30,000 Lesser Scaup on Maumee Bay, OH 21 Mar (GL), and 10,000 Lesser Scaup in *Fulton*, IL 22 Mar (RTC). Bay duck anomalies included a male Canvasback in *Muhlenberg*, KY 1 May (BPB, DP) and 4 Greater Scaup at L. Barkley, KY 10 May (BPB, JDu). The spring sea duck flight was lackluster. The winter's female Harlequin Duck reported on the Maumee R. in *Wood*, OH, remained through 7 Apr (m. ob.). There were no scoter accumulations; indeed, the largest single count consisted of 10 Surf Scoters in *Wayne*, OH 24 Mar (TSc). Regional totals for the other two scoters were also quite feeble, with only 4 White-winged and 2 Blacks. One to 9 Long-tailed Ducks were reported in every state except Kentucky; these numbers were also lower than normal. An early Hooded Merganser brood was observed in *Menifee*, KY 28 Apr (BPB). Other interesting merganser

reports included a male Common that lingered at Pipe Creek, OH through 14 May (RHa, SW) and a record-tying 10,000 Red-breasteds at Carl. L. 25 Mar (DKa).

HAWKS TO CRANES

Mississippi Kites returned to established nesting sites in s. Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and *St. Louis*, MO, in late Apr and early May. Northern Goshawks were especially scarce in the w. states; indeed 9 of the 10 birds reported this season were in Ohio. The most impressive spring hawk flights occurred at Magee Marsh, OH, where peak counts included 160+ Sharp-shinned 23 Apr, 90 Red-shoulders 14 Mar, and 700 Broad-winged 23 Apr (VF). The only documented extralimital Swainson's Hawk was an imm. in *Allen*, IN 12 May, a first record for ne. Indiana (†Haw, P & JK). Rough-legged Hawks tarried in the Region, providing the following very late records: an imm. female in *Chesterton*, IN 20 May (JMc, SDo), an imm. at a reclaimed *Sullivan*, IN strip mine 12 May (†LSt), and a migrant at Illinois Beach S.P. 9 May (REP). Some 40 Merlins were scattered across the Region, which is about average for the spring flight. Iowa birders enjoyed what was termed a Gyrfalcon "invasion," with an imm. in *Cerro Gordo* 3 Mar (†BO) and an injured imm. that was found in *O'Brien* 9 Mar (LAS, reportedly ph.).

Single Yellow Rails were reported at Clinton L., IL 14 Apr (RTC) and at Snake Creek Marsh, IA 6 & 10 May (DT). One to 3 King Rails were found in four states, providing one of the better spring reports in recent years. Virginia Rail and Sora reports were also better than normal. The most noteworthy single observation consisted of 84 Soras at Cedar Point N.W.R., OH 22 Apr (GL et al.). The Region's Common Moorhen situation remains grim. This spring, moorhens were extremely scarce at the traditional L. Cal. breeding site (WJM), and this species was also hard to find in Missouri (RK). In contrast, the Sandhill Crane population continues to prosper. Sandhills were reported in all six states, with a peak of 5450 migrants (counted in less than two hours) in sw. *Cook*, IL 18 Mar (WS) and a single in w. Missouri at S.C.R. 20 Mar (LL) and 12 May (EMC).

SHOREBIRDS

It was a fine spring for shorebirds, especially in c. Illinois, where Carl. L. is becoming the Region's premier shorebird location. Among the many high counts were 45 Black-bellied Plovers there 19 May (DKa, IOS). The American Golden-Plover flight was fairly typical except for a count of 5000 at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., OH 10 Apr (JHd, DSA, DL), which is

among the largest counts ever for that state. The season's best plover, however, was the 4th Illinois **Snowy Plover**, which was at Grassy Slough W.M.A., Johnson 28 Apr–2 May (†DKa, †KAM, †FB, ph. m. ob.). Semipalmated Plovers were unusually abundant in Illinois, where three unprecedented counts, each exceeding 400 birds, were logged; the previous state maximum was 450 (*fide* PRC). The peak tally was 750 at Carlyle L. 10 May (DPA *fide* DKa). Migrant Piping Plovers appeared in Union, KY 21 Apr (BPB, MMo), at Swan Lake N.W.R., MO 27 Apr (DF), and at Carl. L., IL 18 May (RTC). An early Black-necked Stilt appeared in Johnson, IL 16 Apr (KAM, DKa), a single was at Cone Marsh, IA 27 Apr (†THK), and 6–8 were at Otter Slough W.M.A., MO 23 & 28 Apr (SDi, BR, EWd). The American Avocet flight was average, with peak counts of 20 at Horseshoe L., MO 10 May (DAE et al.) and 18 at H.B.S.P. 20 Apr (LRo).

Noteworthy peak shorebird high counts included a flock of 60 Greater Yellowlegs in Fulton, KY 26 Apr (BPB), 1000 Lessers at Carl. L. 13–14 Apr (DKa, KAM), 51 Solitary Sandpipers in Cook, IL 2 May (EWW), 92 Willets in Greene, MO 1 May (KJ), 2500 Dunlin at Ottawa N.W.R., OH 14 May (SRv), 750 Least Sandpipers at Carl. L. 6 May (DKa, MFD), 40 Stilt Sandpipers at Carl. L. 21 May (KAM), and 80 Ruddy Turnstones at Carl. L. 19 May (KAM, DKa). The latter total is unprecedented for the Region. Whimbrels were well represented in the spring flight, with reports of 60 in Ohio, 5 in Kentucky, plus 5 in both Missouri and Illinois. The largest Hudsonian Godwit count e. of the Mississippi R. involved 3 in La Salle, IL 17 & 18 May (JH, DJS). Marbled Godwit flocks of 15 at the Falls of the Ohio, KY 22 Apr (BPB, DOb et al.), 8 at the Ballard W.M.A., KY 15 Apr (SRc), and 6 at Sheldon Marsh W.M.A., OH 22 Apr (VF) were all noteworthy. Reports of rare shorebirds included an inland Red Knot at Carl. L. 19 May (DKa, IOS) and 2 there 28 May (DKa, KR), male and female Ruffs at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., OH 9 Apr (BW, m. ob.), another Reeve at Magee Marsh, OH 1–3 May (MBa, m. ob.), and a Reeve at Carl. L. 11–14 May (CWo, †DKa, †KAM). A Least Sandpiper on 11 Mar (FB) and 4 Stilt Sandpipers on 10 Apr (KAM), both in Pulaski, IL were extremely early. In contrast, 2 Long-billed Dowitchers in Rockford, IL 17 May (DTW) were quite late. Both phalaropes were plentiful this spring. Wilson's were reported in all six states, with a peak count of 26 at Swan Lake N.W.R., MO 26 Apr (SK). More than a dozen Red-necked Phalaropes were distributed across four states.

GULLS THROUGH TERNS

Two decades ago, Laughing Gulls were accidental throughout the Region. Over the ensuing years, this species has become established as a rare but regular contingent of the gull flocks in all six states. That trend continued this spring, with one to 6 birds reported in each of the Region's states. Perhaps the most interesting bird, believed to have been a first-year Laughing x Ring-billed hybrid, was closely studied 5 May on Chicago's s. side (ph. WJM et al.). In addition to 5 Little Gulls reported on the Ohio lakefront, inland singles were discovered at L. Shelbyville, IL 31 Mar (†RTC) and in La Salle, IL 1 May (JHp). The Region's only Black-headed Gull was a basic-plumaged ad. at L. Monroe, IN 2 Mar (†DWh). It was a good season for Mew Gulls, with an inland first-year bird at L. Monroe, IN 2 Mar (†CWo, JHv, SHv, DWh), an ad. at H.B.S.P. 12 Mar (†LRo, LG, ph.), and an ad. on the Indiana lakefront near Michigan City 29 Mar & 4 Apr (BGr, †KJB). Spring California Gull numbers were also higher than normal: 2 ads. near H.B.S.P. 4 Mar (†LRo) and a single ad. at L. Barkley, KY 15 Mar (†BPB). Numbers of the large Arctic Gulls were normal on the Great Lakes. Noteworthy inland reports of various species of gull included single Lesser Black-backed Gulls in Columbus, OH 12 Mar (DSa) and Madison, IL 23 Mar (KAM), plus the following Glaucous Gull reports: a first-year at R.E.D.A. 4 Mar (m. ob.), a second-year bird at L. Monroe, IN 3–9 Mar (CWo, JHv, SHv, DWh), and a first-year bird that lingered at Barkley L., KY until 18 Mar (DR, BPB et al.).

Except for Caspian Terns, the Region's tern flight was lackluster. Highlighting several spectacular counts were the 852 Caspian Terns at two sites on the Indiana lakefront 21 Apr (BB, CS). This total almost doubles that state's previous maximum. Common Terns were decidedly scarce across most of the Region; the only count that exceeded single digits consisted of 710 at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, IL 16 May (EWW, JIE). The only out-of-range Least Tern was found near Primghar, IA 7 May (DKo). Two encouraging Black Tern counts were made e. of the Mississippi R. The best consisted of 500 birds at Carl. L. 26–27 May (KR, DKa), but 260 in Putnam, IL 23 May (DFS) was also quite impressive.

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared-Doves strengthened their foothold in the Region this spring. In addition to numerous reports from established sites, at least three new locations were discovered. **White-winged Doves** also continued to appear, with one in Champaign, IL 16–17 Apr (ph. Joan Lackenbacher). This is the 4th Illinois record

(all since 1998, *fide* PRC). Undocumented White-winged Dove reports included a flyby in Monroe, IN 25 Apr (CWo, JHv) and 2 at a feeder near Fountain Grove W.M.A., MO 3 May (SK). Reports of lingering Snowy Owls included one that remained at Conneaut, OH until 3 Mar (JPg) and a road-killed bird in Sioux, IA 21 Mar (DBi). Although Short-eared Owls are local breeders in several of the Region's states, nests are rarely reported. Consequently, the Short-eared nest containing 6 eggs, which was found in Muskingum, OH 29 Apr (JLr), was noteworthy. Early Common Nighthawks arrived at Malden, MO 2 Apr (TSa) and in Adams, OH 11 Apr (*fide* BW). Surprisingly, Chuck-will's-widows were reported from all four n. states. Noteworthy among these records was an early arrival in Massac, IL 8 Apr (FB) and one on Kellys Island, OH 17–19 May (KMo, SZ et al.). The latter provided a rare record for the Ohio lakefront. Other early arrivals included Chimney Swifts in Calloway, KY 19 Mar (HC) and at Cypress Creek N.W.R., IL 25 Mar (FB), plus hasty Ruby-throated Hummingbirds that appeared in Pulaski, KY 4 Apr (RDn), and in Massac, IL 6 Apr (FB). A very tardy Yellow-bellied Sapsucker lingered in Walter Woods W.M.A., Newton, MO until 19 May (LH). One of the season's most startling developments was the U.S. Forest Service's early Apr removal of all remaining Red-cockaded Woodpeckers from Kentucky (*fide* BPB). Impressive lakefront Northern Flicker movements included 600 in Porter, IN 8 Apr (BGr) and 342 in Lake, OH, on the same day (JPg).

FLYCATCHERS TO WAXWINGS

A strong Yellow-bellied Flycatcher flight was initiated by an early arrival in Jax. P. 6 May (PRC) and peaked with an impressive 13 birds at Magee Marsh, OH 27 May (JB). A phenomenally early Alder Flycatcher arrived in Mason City, IA 27 Apr, where it was heard singing for 20 minutes (CF, RG); this date is two weeks earlier than the median first arrival date for Iowa (*fide* MCK). In addition, 2 Illinois Alders arrived on the record-early date of 6 May: in Pulaski (FB) and Champaign (RTC). A Say's Phoebe was documented 20 Apr in Cerro Gordo, IA (†CN, †PH, †JW), where this species is casual. The easternmost Western Kingbird report came H.B.S.P., where a flyby was noted 1 May (LRo). Very early Eastern Kingbirds were reported 5 Apr in Kentucky, 6 Apr in Missouri, and 7 Apr in both Illinois (where record early) and Ohio. Illinois birders enjoyed a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher invasion, with some 7 birds reported. The peak tally consisted of 2 in Union 12 May (†RSM).

Northern Shrikes lingered into Mar in all four n. states; the latest was seen 1 Apr in Worth,

IA (RG). Vireos were extremely early throughout the Region, with one or more exceptionally early arrival in every state. The earliest dates, most of which were state records, included: 3 White-eyed in *Jackson*, IL 7 Apr (KAM), a Bell's in *Union*, IL 27 Apr (FB), a Yellow-throated also in *Union*, IL 7 Apr (KAM), a Blue-headed in *Franklin*, OH 29 Mar (RCr), a Warbling in *St. Louis*, MO 7 Apr (MBr) and another on the same date in *Hamilton*, OH (JCa), 3 Philadelphia in *Fulton*, IL 23 Apr (LLH), and a Red-eyed Vireo at Mingo N.W.R. 3 Apr (DBo, JZi). A very impressive Blue Jay movement occurred on the Evanston, IL lakefront 2 May, when 886 migrants were counted in one hour (EWW). Swallows were also early, establishing numerous local record arrival dates. This spring, at least 6 Brown Creeper nests were found in Fort Harrison S.P., IN (ne. corner of Indianapolis) (DGo), suggesting that Midwestern birders may be overlooking this species as a breeder. Most unusual, for this northerly location, was a Bewick's Wren in Rockford, IL 8 Apr (DTW).

A male Mountain Bluebird brightened *O'Brien*, IA 9 Mar (†DKo); this species has now appeared in Iowa for three consecutive years. The only documented Townsend's Solitaire was in Hitchcock W.M.A., IA 22 Mar (†MO). An early Swainson's Thrush arrived in Columbus; OH 11 Apr (BW). Several correspondents lamented the very poor thrush flight; indeed the only sizeable counts occurred 15 May in Evanston, IL, where 25 Veeries, 6 Gray-cheekeds, and 47 Swainson's were tallied (EWW). Varied Thrushes have become annual visitors in the Region. The 3 birds recorded this spring included a male at the Land Between the Lakes, KY 16–21 Mar (BL, BPB, et al.), the wintering bird at Findlay, OH that lingered until 9 Apr (*fide* BW), and one in *Clay*, IA 7 May (LAS). Also participating in the throng of early arrivals were 5 American Pipits that appeared in *Clinton*, IL 22 Feb (KAM). The Region's only reported Bohemian Waxwing consisted of a bird in *O'Brien*, IA 4 Mar (LAS).

WARBLERS TO FINCHES

The singular characterizing feature of the warbler flight was its early arrival, which provided scores of early dates across the Region. Vanguard of this movement included a Blue-winged in *Massac*, IL 9 Apr (FB), a Tennessee in the Indiana Dunes 6 Apr (BGr), a Cerulean in Shawnee S.F., OH 9 Apr (RR), a Worm-eating in *Jackson*, IL 10 Apr (KAM), and a male Canada in Jax. P. 28 Apr (†PRC). Among the better daily warbler counts were 190 Tennessees in ne. Illinois 9 May (DFS), 13 Hoodeds in the Indiana dunes 28 May (SB), and 24 Wilson's in Chicago's Grant

Park 15 May (DFS). Spring Kirtland's Warblers are becoming regular in Ohio. For the 5th spring over the past decade, this species has been reported in that state. This year's bird, a male, was in *Paulding* 5–6 May (D & MD, m. ob.).

An early Clay-colored Sparrow appeared in *Boone*, MO 6 Apr (†PMc), and a territorial male was in ne. *Holmes*, OH 10 May through the period (†LEY). A Lark Sparrow at Chicago's Navy Pier 22 Apr (EWW) was both early and well n. of that species's normal range. The 300 Savannah Sparrows observed in Cleveland, OH 6 Apr (LRO) is among the highest spring counts for the state. This spring, 2–7 Le Conte's Sparrows were reported in every state, reflecting a dramatic increase in the number of reports of this species over the past decade. A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Peabody W.M.A. 27 May (MM) provided Kentucky's 2nd spring record. Peak counts of the regular longspurs included 3000 Laplands near Killdeer Plains W.M.A., OH 10 Apr (DSa, JHd) and 120 Smith's in *Champaign*, IL 11 Apr (RTC). The rarest longspurs were 2 male Chestnut-collareds, in mainly alternate plumage, seen in *Harrison*, MO 8 Apr (†PMc).

An out-of-range female Blue Grosbeak was discovered in Chicago's Grant Park 15 May (TSS, DFS). On 1–2 May, a male Lazuli Bunting made an appearance at a feeder in *Holt*, MO for the 6th consecutive year (*fide* RK). Remarkably, 2 territorial male **Painted Buntings** were seen 10 May at the E. St. Louis, IL site where this species nested last year (†DKa, †KAM, ph.). One female was observed 24 May, and a nest was discovered in late May (DKa). A remarkable 247 Bobolinks were counted in *Massac*, IL 5 May (FB). Ohio's incipient breeding Yellow-headed Blackbird population sported 5 territorial males at Cedar Point N.W.R. 28 Apr (GL et al.). A phenomenal 922 Brewer's Blackbirds was logged at four sites in *Clinton* and *Bond*, IL 18 Mar (DKa), providing an all-time high count for the state. The Region's feeble winter finch flight consisted of modest numbers of Red Crossbills and peak counts of one to 5 Pine Siskins.

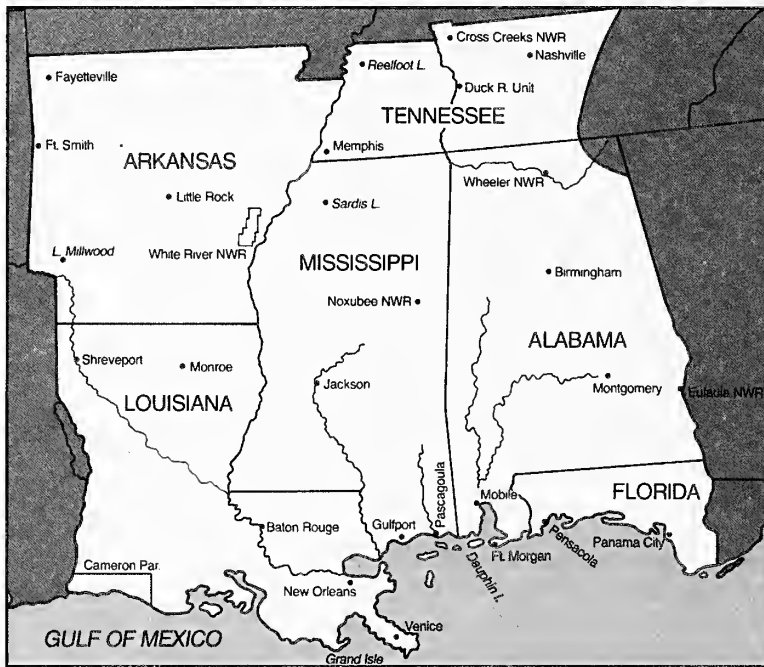
Addenda

The following important Illinois records were inadvertently omitted from the winter 2000–2001 report. A female King Eider discovered at L. Springfield 6 Dec remained until at least 26 Feb (HDB, KAM, DKa, MLR, m. ob.). An ad. male Varied Thrush appeared in Naperville 15 & 23 Dec (JR, MLR, AS), and another was seen in Congerville 20 Jan (RTC, MLR, m. ob.). To the list of cited observers, add: H. David Bohlen, Dan Kassebaum (DKa), Keith A. McMullen, Michael L. Retter, Justin Rink, Alan Stokie.

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In general, landbird migration was quite dull. The Parkers considered both weather and migration normal in Arkansas. Elsewhere, March was cool and wet. Especially in southern parts of the Region, both April and May were exceptionally dry. In April and early May, easterly winds persisted over the Gulf. This may have displaced migrants to sw. Louisiana and Texas. In any case, migrant landbirds were very scarce in coastal areas from se. Louisiana to nw. Florida. At Ft. Morgan, Alabama the Sargents had the poorest banding spring of their career. Robert Duncan in nw. Florida and Myers in se. Louisiana both considered the migration among the worst in memory. There were quite a few marginally early or late records that space constraints precluded citing.

Abbreviations: F.W.B.S.F. (Ft. Walton Beach Spray Fields, Okaloosa, FL).

LOONS THROUGH GALLINULES

Two Red-throated Loons, casual in the Region, were reported in *Henry*, TN 8 Mar (JB), and a single bird was in Ft. Pickens, FL 28 Mar (P&BT). The only reports of Pacific Loon came from *Henry*, TN, with 2 being seen 4 Mar (FB et al.) and one on 8 Mar (JB). This has been a reliable location for the species in recent years. Several Eared Grebes were reported far to the e. at F.W.B.S.F. 21-23 Mar (DW, RAD). A Band-rumped Storm-Petrel landed on a boat off Pensacola 4 May (JMi) and was successfully released after being taken to the Wildlife Sanctuary, marking the 5th time the species has landed on a boat in the area since 1993. An imm. Neotropic Cormorant was seen 30-31 May in *White*, AR, where the species is still rare (KN, LN). For the 2nd year, a Tricolored Heron was in *White*, AR 28 May (KN, MD). Glossy Ibis, rare inland in our Region, was reported from the Starkville, MS area, from *Lake*, TN, and from *White*, AR. There were seven reports of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks from Louisiana. In *Vermilion*, they have taken over Wood Duck

nesting boxes, with 12 being reported 13 Apr (BF, DP). Farther e., 5 were seen flying toward the Mississippi R. in *Plaquemines* 18 Apr (BMM, PAW). Five Long-tailed Ducks, uncommon to rare in the Region, at Guntersville, AL 31 Mar-9 Apr was an excellent total (LBR, m. ob.) Two more were found in *Marion*, AL 14 Mar and 2 Apr (ph. JJ). A female Common Merganser represented the 7th area record in *Oktibbeha*, MS 22 Feb-11 Mar (TS, MS, JB, KK).

Thirteen Swallow-tailed Kites heading n. in *Baldwin*, AL 23 Mar provided a good total (SS). One reported in *Beauregard*, LA 13 Apr was apparently from the Sabine R. breeding area (DFL). Continuing her research on the species, Coulson reported 22+ Swallow-taileds from a single roost near a nesting colony in *St. Tammany*, LA 5 May (JOC). Tennessee tallied its 2nd record of White-tailed Kite at Black Bayou 20-21 Apr (NM, ph. KL, DM); Arkansas had its 6th in *Benton* 23 May (EN) and 7th in *Jefferson* 13 Apr (G&JL). A migrating flock of 148 Mississippi Kites in *Beauregard*, LA 13 Apr (DFL) must have been an impressive sight. Swainson's Hawks were reported in normal numbers in the w. part of the Region. Of more interest was one seen in *Calcasieu*, LA 20 Apr carrying a stick, thus lending credibility to suspected breeding in the area (VR, MR). One in *St. John*, LA 3 Mar was from a part of the Region where it is rare (PY). A count of 64 Red-tailed Hawks reported from *Tunica*, MS 3 Mar (JRW) showed astonishing variety, including one Krider's, one Harlan's, 2 dark-morph individuals, and 4 others of the western race. A rare dark-morph Rough-legged Hawk was seen in *Lake*, TN 21 Apr (CAS), and a 2nd dark morph was reported from *Tunica*, MS 11 Mar (JRW). An extraordinary report of a **Crested Caracara** came from *Okaloosa*, FL 1 Mar (LD, †RAD). This comes on the heels of a 19 Feb report from *Baldwin*, AL. The *anatum* subspecies of Peregrine Falcon was reported from Arkansas in *Prairie* 7-22 Apr, in *White* 19-28 Apr and 21 May (KN, LN) and also from *Lake*, TN 9 Apr (JRW). Black Rail was once again reported from one of the Region's most reliable areas in spring, *Dauphin I.*, AL 9 Apr (RRS). One to 2 Purple Gallinules returned to *Noxubee*, MS, where they have nested the last two years, 4 May+ (TS).

SHOREBIRDS

An obliging Snowy Plover seen in *Benton* 5-8 May provided the 3rd Arkansas record, the first since 1974, and the first spring record ever (BH, ph. JS, KN, LN et al.) A count of 47

Wilson's Plovers along 10 mi of Fourchon Beach, LA 24 Mar was an excellent total (DPM, RDP). Joining the Wilson's were 4 Piping Plovers. A Piping was also reported from *Benton*, AR 23 Apr, a rare inland record (MM, DC). The fish farm near Hickory Plains, AR has become the yellowlegs capital of the Region, with a mind-boggling 7000 Greater and 11,000 Lessers reported 7 Apr (KN, LN). A count of 8000 Lessers was reported from the same area last spring. Willets were reported inland from Alabama and Arkansas. Thirty-eight at Wilson Dam, AL 28 Apr (PDK, m. ob.) and 400 at Pensacola 23 Apr (A&DF) were high counts for those areas. In *Jefferson Davis*, LA, 40 Upland Sandpipers 14 Apr was a good total (JPK, JoK). A flock of 17 Whimbrels at Port Fourchon, LA 6 May was a good number for se. Louisiana (PAW, BMM), and a Long-billed Curlew at the same location 4 Mar provided a rare se. Louisiana record (BMM, PAW, RDP). In Gulfport, 9 Marbled Godwits 23 Apr represented a large number for the Mississippi coast (TS, MS). The rice fields in *Vermilion*, LA 27 May yielded 95 Ruddy Turnstones, an excellent inland total (JPK, CF). A single bird of that species also showed up in *White*, AR 30 May (KN). On 21 Apr, 137 Buff-breasted Sandpipers in *Jefferson Davis*, LA made for one of the highest spring counts for the Region in recent years (JPK, JoK). It was a good season for **Ruffs** (all Reeves) in the Region. One seen 1 Mar at F.W.B.S.F. provided a first area record and was extremely early (LD, †RAD et al.). Two were photographed at Hickory Plains, AR 7 Apr (KN, LN), and one remained through 12 Apr. Finally, one was seen 17 Apr in *Acadia*, LA (†DFL). With the Ruffs at Hickory Plains 7 Apr were 1200 Long-billed Dowitchers, a very large number for an inland location. Seventy-nine Wilson's Phalaropes 7 May in *Cameron*, LA were upstaged by a single female **Red-necked Phalarope** in alternate plumage there (†JPK, †JW, SZ, vt. MS et al.).

GULLS THROUGH TERNS

Franklin's Gulls were particularly scarce in sw. Louisiana, with only one being reported for the season 27 Apr in *Cameron* (BMM, CCS, RDP). A count of 50 at *Benton*, AR was not unexpected (MM, DC), but 35 at Pine Bluff, AR 15 Apr (KN, LN) and 3 in *Obion*, TN 27 May (JRW) were farther e. than usual. An ad. **Little Gull** in basic plumage at Reelfoot L., TN 31 Mar provided one of very few records for the state (†CAS, PC, JD). A possible Nelson's Gull (Herring x Glaucous Gull hybrid) in first-winter plumage was reported

from Grand Isle, LA 24 Mar (ph. DPM, RDP). There were five reports of Lesser Black-backed Gulls, with three from Louisiana and one each from Alabama and Tennessee. All but the Tennessee report were from coastal areas. The only Glaucous Gulls reported were in *Henry*, TN 4 & 8 Mar (FB, SB, JB et al.) and *Cameron*, LA 6 May (PY). Great Black-backed Gulls were reported from Dauphin I., AL 9 Apr (LD, RAD, m. ob.) and from *Cameron*, LA 7 May (ph. JPK, ph. JW, SZ). Rare anywhere in the Region, a first-winter Black-legged Kittiwake was a good find in *Cameron*, LA 27 Apr (ph. BMM, CCS, vt. RDP). Noteworthy Least Tern sightings included early reports from Elmer's I., LA (DPM, RDP) and coastal Mississippi (JTh, *vide* SJP), both on 24 Mar. Unusual inland reports near the end of May came from the Starkville, MS area (TS) and *Lauderdale*, AL (TMH). In addition, a count of 2000 Least Terns from the Fourchon/Grand Isle, LA area 6 May was an unusually large number (PAW, BMM).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to spread in Arkansas, with 2 in *Clay* 17 Mar (GH) and 6 in *Sebastian* 28 May (SB). White-winged Doves were reported singing from several Louisiana locations, suggesting possible breeding. One in *Montgomery* 26 May (ph. MO) was Tennessee's 2nd documented; one in *Lee* 14–17 May was only the 8th inland for Alabama. At Grand Isle, 5 ad. and 2 fledgling Inca Doves were found 6 May (PAW, BMM); this is the easternmost breeding record for Louisiana and perhaps for the United States. Single Common Ground-Doves were at Grand Isle 7 Apr (DPM) and in *Vermilion*, LA 17 Apr (DFL, m. ob.). A Black-billed Cuckoo 18 Apr at Birmingham (LFG) was early, and one in *St. Tammany*, LA 20 May (DPM) was late.

Five pairs of Burrowing Owls reported nesting at Eglin Air Force Base bombing range (LF) were said to have been there several years. A Chuck-will's-widow in *Oktibbeha*, MS 8 Apr (DCr, JTa) was early, and so was one in *Harrison*, MS 4 Apr (JM, MK *vide* SJP). Chimney Swifts were early, with one in *Oktibbeha* 19 Mar and 2+ in *Lauderdale*, AL 5 Apr (PDK). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird in *Lauderdale* 6 Apr (DEK) was early, and one in *Clark*, AR 25 Mar (GN) presumably was. A male Calliope Hummingbird in *Iberville*, LA 1 Apr (JVR) had probably wandered from the Cardiff/Dittmann yard nearby. A Broad-tailed Hummingbird that wintered at Pensacola remained until 4 Apr (*vide* RAD).

Three Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in *St. Clair*, AL 12 May (RRR et al.) were late.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

An Olive-sided Flycatcher in *St. Clair* 12 May (RRR et al.) was considered rare; one was in *Lake*, TN 19 May (JRW, PDC et al.); and another was reported 25 May in *Crittendon*, AR (JAD). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers are rarely reported in the Region in spring, so singles in *Lauderdale* 3 May (PDK), *Mobile* 12 May (MW), *Washington*, AR 20 May (MM), and *St. Tammany* 20 May (DPM) were noteworthy. An Acadian Flycatcher in *Cameron* 30 Mar (SWC, DLD) and another at Grand Isle 31 Mar (BMM, CCS, PAW) were quite early; one in *Noxubee* 16 Apr (TS) was also early. An Alder Flycatcher in *Putnam*, TN 28 May (SJS) was a county first. A Least Flycatcher was a rare spring find in *Lauderdale* 7 May (DJS, SWM, JTG). One Least Flycatcher 23 May and 6 more 26 May in *Washington*, AR (MM) were late. A wintering Vermilion Flycatcher remained at F.W.B.S.F. until 1 Mar (LD, RAD, DWe), one was at Little Rock 22 Mar (MA), and another was at Baton Rouge 9 March (DFL, MSe). An Ash-throated Flycatcher wintered at F.W.B.S.F. until 30 Mar, and what may have been the same bird was reported 12 May (DW). A Great Crested Flycatcher in *Harrison*, MS 16 Mar (MDo, BrH) was early, as was one in *Lawrence*, AL 13 Apr (DJ S). The Great Kiskadee present at Venice, LA for almost two years was calling vigorously 18 Apr (PAW, BMM). A Tropical/Couch's Kingbird 8 May (RAD) in *Santa Rosa*, FL was the 6th for that area. Western Kingbirds returned to *Shelby*, TN 29 Apr–31 May+ (WRP, ph. JRW) and nested at the same site where last year's nesting was the first confirmed for the state. Other Westerns included 2 in *Plaquemines*, LA 31 Mar (GO, JF, m. ob.) and one at Ft. Pickens, FL 8 May (RAD). Gray Kingbirds have not bred at Dauphin I. since 1997, so an early one there 14 Apr (SH) was a good find; another was in *Baldwin*, AL 23–24 Apr (BS, DRC, RC). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were widely reported in the Region, especially in Alabama, where Greg Jackson considers them "rare, but increasing breeders." Two were in *Arkansas*, AR 20 May (KR).

A total of 90 White-eyed Vireos was found in the Grand Isle area 31 Mar (PAW, BMM, CCS). A singing Bell's Vireo in *Covington* 12 May (WDR) was only Alabama's 8th inland record and the first for the inland coastal plain. Another was singing in *Faulkner*, AR 20 May (HR, EH). A Blue-headed Vireo in *Washington* 31 Mar (MM) was the earliest for nw. Arkansas by 21 days. One in *Butler*, AL 8

May (WDR) was late. A Philadelphia Vireo in *Oktibbeha* 9 May (TS, MS) was unusual and late. A Black-whiskered Vireo was at Grand Isle 6 May (†PAW, †BMM) and was seen through 22 May (m. ob.). Tree Swallows seem to be rapidly increasing as breeders in the Region. Small numbers were found nesting in *Noxubee* and *Oktibbeha*, MS; in *Lauderdale*, *St. Clair*, *Lamar*, and *Morgan*, AL; and in *Cleburne*, AR. A Bank Swallow 24 Mar in *Lafourche* (PAW et al.) was early. Cliff Swallows arrived in nw. Louisiana 18 Mar (JT, CL) and by 21 Mar were repairing old nests in *Caddo* (RS). They continue expanding south in Alabama, with eight pairs nesting in *Covington* (WDR). A Cave Swallow 7 May in *Cameron* (†JPK et al.) was likely one of those nesting under the nearby bridge over Sabine L. A recently fledged Horned Lark found 15 May in *W. Feliciana*, LA (*vide* SWC) represented a significant southeastward breeding expansion. A White-breasted Nuthatch in *Montgomery* 6 Apr (LFG) was unusual. A Swainson's Thrush at Shreveport 28 May (JTr&JT) was quite late. Two Hermit Thrushes in *Iberville* 10 May (JOC, CR) were exceptionally late. Terence Schiefer submitted a detailed report of an American Pipit of the *alticola* race, seen in *Oktibbeha* 10 Apr. Two pairs of Cedar Waxwings were found nesting in *Johnson*, AR 16–19 May (DA), and one bird fed a fledgling Eastern Bluebird!

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS

Despite the generally lackluster migration, there were a number of locally early and late records of warblers and tanagers. The only Brewster's Warbler was one 13 Apr (SM) in *Davidson*, TN. Single Nashvilles were unusual in *Choctaw* 16 Apr (MS) and *Lowndes*, MS 28 Apr (TS, MS). A count of 73 Northern Parulas 12 May in *Montgomery* (LFG) was noteworthy. Single Cape Mays were in *Montgomery* 24 Apr (LFG), in *Jackson*, MS 5 May (DCi), and in *Cameron* 6 May (PY). Two Black-throated Blues were at Grand Isle 6 May (PAW, BMM), and another was in *St. Martin*, LA 5 May (WW). Keeping track of species of concern, the Schiefers reported 6 Cerulean Warblers 9 Apr–28 Apr, and 10 Swainson's Warblers 10 Apr–31 May+, all in areas near Starkville, MS. Another Swainson's was singing in *Faulkner*, AR 14 May (HR). A total of 3–4 Connecticut Warblers was reported in *Davidson* and *Sumner*, TN 11–25 May; another was in *Madison*, AL 14 May (DRC, RC). Single Mourning Warblers were in *Marshall*, MS 12 May (JG) and in *Madison* 14 May (DRC, RC, CDC). A single Canada Warbler at Grand Isle

19 May (CCS et al.) was an unusual spring record. A **Painted Redstart** found 16 Apr in *Cameron* (BB, †RB) stayed until 18 Apr and was photographed and videotaped by many. This was only Louisiana's 3rd record and its first in spring.

TOWHEES THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

A **Spotted Towhee** at Birmingham 19 (†LFG) and 23 Apr (†GDJ) was Alabama's first well-documented record. Single Spotted were reported 4 Mar in *Washington* (MM) and 15 Apr in *Pulaski*, AR (D&SP). Two Rufous-crowned Sparrows were at Mt. Magazine S. P., AR 25 Apr (ph. DS); they had not been found there for several years. An American Tree Sparrow in *Washington* 1 Apr (MM) was unusual. Lark Sparrows were seen more than usual in Alabama, and one in *Oktibbeha* 5 Apr (TS) was 17 days early. A count of 29 singing Grasshopper Sparrows 3 May in *Lauderdale* (PDK) was the highest ever for nw. Alabama. Single Harris's Sparrows stayed rather late in Arkansas and Tennessee. An Oregon Junco in *Washington* 9 Mar (RHD) was unusual, and a Dark-eyed Junco there 28 Apr (MM) was the latest ever for nw. Arkansas. Six Lapland Longspurs in *Lowndes*, AL 21 Mar (BKF) were unusual and late.

A young male Black-headed Grosbeak at New Orleans 10 Feb–2 Mar (GM) was a good find. Painted Buntings were widely reported from inland Mississippi and Alabama. A count of 50+ Dickcissels in *Baldwin* 15 Apr (RRS et al.) was high for so early. Bobolinks were widely reported in good numbers, and they were early in some areas. Rare in Mississippi, 4 Western Meadowlarks were in *Tunica* 4 Mar (JRW), and one was in *Marshall* 12 May (JG). Single Yellow-headed Blackbirds were in Alabama and Mississippi. A Brewer's Blackbird in *Iberville* 1 Apr (JVR) and 2 in *Walton*, FL 12 May (L&JM) were unusual and late. Only 2 Shiny Cowbirds were reported, one each in coastal Florida and Louisiana. Away from their se. Louisiana haunts, Bronzed Cowbirds were reported from Baton Rouge and Lafayette. A count of 200–300 Purple Finches in *Van Buren*, AR 28 Mar (MB, LS) was extraordinary. An American Goldfinch in *Forrest*, MS 28 May–31 May+ (DCi, SW) was exceptionally late.

OTHER REPORTS

The editors received reports of Great Cormorant in Alabama, Parasitic Jaeger in Florida, Hooded Oriole in Louisiana, and Common Redpoll in Arkansas. In all cases, written descriptions were suggestive of the species reported, but they were not entirely

persuasive to us. If accepted by state committees, details of these records will be added to later Regional reports.

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Prairie Provinces



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Drought conditions prevailed over much of Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan. Many water bodies were completely or partially dry, resulting in diminished or concentrated breeding of wetland birds, such as White-faced Ibis and Black-necked Stilt. Prairie songbirds like Lark Bunting, Le Conte's Sparrow, and longspurs were also notably scarce. Grass and forest fires raged through Alberta, whereas southern Manitoba received plenty of moisture in the form of runoff and rain. Winds were stronger than usual; a sustained southerly flow in late April and early May blew a wave of early migrants into southern Manitoba. Unfortunately, no Saskatchewan report was received.

Abbreviations: I.B.S. (Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Calgary, AB); O.H.M. (Oak Hammock Marsh W.M.A., MB); S.R.V. (Sheep R. Valley hawkwatch, AB).

GREBES THROUGH RAPTORS

Natalie L., MB hosted a concentration of 800+ Red-necked Grebes 27 Apr (PT). A Clark's Grebe was at Reed L., SK 29 May (RK). An American White Pelican at Medicine Hat, AB 26 Mar was early (BL), while 20 at S.R.V. 6 May provided a local first (WS, RW). Numerous reports of Great Egrets in s. Manitoba may reflect the growth of the colony at Dog L., though there is speculation about nesting elsewhere. Manitoba had 2 Snowy Egrets—the first since 1993—at Argyle 10 May (JM, m. ob.) and at St. Norbert in late May (LJ, m. ob.); a 3rd was at Medicine Hat 21 May (J&RD, E&MS). There were five Cattle Egret reports in s. Manitoba. A Green Heron at Frank L., AB 26 May was the only one noted Regionwide (DG, IH, DM). Forty Turkey Vultures at the Windygates, MB hawkwatch 14 Apr provided a record-high count for the site (A&DS et al.).

Snow Geese largely bypassed s. Manitoba this spring. For the 3rd consecutive year, an escapee Whooper Swan, with a Tundra Swan and 2 offspring, visited Irricana, AB 15 Apr (JB, GT). Tundra Swan concentrations included 1000 at Frank L. 31 Mar (MM, BWr) and 1100+ at Stephensfield, MB 30 Apr (FG et al.). Eurasian Wigeon numbers continue to climb in s. Alberta, with 30+ reports this period (m. ob.). A male Cinnamon Teal,

courting a female Blue-winged Teal, was at O.H.M. 30 Apr–12 May (MC, m. ob.). At least 10,000 Northern Pintails massed at Langdon Res., AB 25 Mar (TK). A possible hybrid Green-winged x Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal was at Lac du Bonnet, MB 12 May (PT, RZ). Medicine Hat had its first, long-overdue Harlequin Duck 6 May (PH, m. ob.).

Diurnal raptor migration in s. Manitoba was concentrated in a few favorable days. Highlights included a record 168 Bald Eagles at St. Adolphe 3 Apr (RK), 277 Sharp-shinned Hawks at Windygates 14 Apr (A&DS et al.), plus 120 at St. Adolphe the same day (BSh et al.), a fair Northern Goshawk flight in Mar and early Apr (m. ob.), and a Red-shouldered Hawk at Windygates 6 Apr (RK, BSh). Windygates also had 3011 Red-tailed Hawks, its 3rd highest total ever, 14 Apr (A&DS et al.). Drought was probably responsible for low numbers of Ferruginous Hawk across s. Alberta and s. Saskatchewan. Sixteen Golden Eagles at Windygates, plus another nearby, 17 Mar doubled the previous provincial high count (GG, SG, RK, A&DS).

RAILS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Yellow Rail near Spruce Siding, MB 2 May was early (RK et al.). Two of four Whooping Crane sightings in Manitoba 13–18 Apr were convincingly described (MZ, MSt; ED et al.). Shorebird numbers were generally low, particularly in se. Manitoba. Alberta highlights included 48 Black-necked Stilts near Langdon 23 Apr (IH), an early American Avocet at I.B.S. 4 Apr (KF, JG, HP), 126 Whimbrels at Taber 20 May (LB), 75 Red Knots at Scandia 19 May (LB), 1400 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Namaka L. 21 May (IH), and four Dunlin sightings 15–28 May (TK et al.). Single male Ruffs at Dauphin L., MB 3 May (BW) and at Crossfield, AB 15–18 May (BWr, m. ob., ph. TK) were very rare.

It was a good season for gull-watchers. A flock of 2100 Franklin's Gulls heading w. at S.R.V. 23 May may have been displaced by drought (WS). A California Gull at Winnipeg, MB 7 Apr was early (CA, JS, AW). Rarities included 2 first-year Iceland Gulls at I.B.S. 17 May (BSt), one of which was still present 19 May (TK); single ad. Lesser Black-backed Gulls at O.H.M. 25 Apr (PT, RK et al.) and Edmonton, AB 28 Apr (RT); and an imm. Glaucous-winged Gull, also at Edmonton 28 Apr (SGo, TT, m. ob.). A flock of 15 Sabine's Gulls passed through S.R.V. 27 May (WS, RW). An Arctic Tern, accidental in s. Saskatchewan, allowed close comparison with Common Terns at Reed L. 29 May (RK).



One of at least 13 Boreal Owls reported in southeastern Manitoba between mid-February and mid-March, this bird conveniently roosted in the Winnipeg yard of one of the regional editors on 27 February. *Photograph by Richard Staniforth.*

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was heard at Grosse Isle, MB 28 May (KG). Great Gray Owl numbers slowly dwindled in se. Manitoba; the peak count was 47 in the Pine Falls-Lac du Bonnet region 4 Mar (PT, GGr, RK). The Boreal Owl movement in se. Manitoba, first noted in Feb, continued into the first half of Mar, with at least 10 birds reported (m. ob.). A total of 18 Boreal Owls on a 20-stop survey near Bird L., MB 6 Apr was exceptional (RK, PT, RZ). Red-bellied Woodpeckers successfully wintered in Winnipeg and near Stonewall, MB (m. ob.).

PASSERINES

A Philadelphia Vireo at Taber 16 May was a local rarity (*vide* MH), while a Northern

Rough-winged Swallow at Wyndham-Carseland P.P., AB 19 Apr was early (JR, LV). A Rock Wren visited Delta, MB 14 May (HdH); possibly the same bird was at nearby St. Ambroise 19 May (B&HN). Observed *Catharus* thrush migration in Manitoba was generally sparse (KG, m. ob.). The Northern Mockingbird that wintered at Pincher Creek, AB was last seen 25 May (B&IB); singles in Manitoba were seen at Seven Sisters Falls 5 May (DF, FG) and near Dugald 19 May (B&CM, m. ob.). American Pipits went unreported, except for 3 late birds by the Brokenhead R., MB May 25 (PT). A locally rare Black-and-white Warbler was banded in Calgary 15 May (Calgary Bird Banding Society). A female **Prothonotary Warbler** in

Winnipeg 12 May represents the 2nd confirmed sighting in the province (R&TU, m. ob.; v.t.). An Ovenbird in Winnipeg 28 Apr was very early (LdM).

A Field Sparrow at a St. Adolphe feeder 28 Apr was rare (AC). *Zonotrichia* sparrows were generally scarce and local during migration in s. Manitoba. A flock of Snow Buntings near Brunkild, MB 8 Apr was conservatively estimated at 10,000+ birds (BC, WC, MW). A Northern Cardinal was noted in Calgary 19 Mar (D&GP); others were in Winnipeg and near Beausejour, MB (m. ob.). A pair of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was carrying nesting material at S.R.V. 27 May, in the same area where a Black-headed Grosbeak was seen 24 May (JR, LV). This may be the only location in Alberta where the two species' breeding ranges overlap. A Lazuli Bunting visited Portage la Prairie, MB 21-24 May (SB, BS et al.). A male Indigo Bunting at Gimli, MB 28 Apr was almost a month ahead of schedule (BCh).

A possible hybrid Eastern x Western Meadowlark sang songs of both species near Vivian, MB 16 May (PT). Seventy Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches wintering at Exshaw, AB 3 Mar included 3 of the Hepburn's race (EM, BSt). A Grosse Isle feeder hosted a late female Pine Grosbeak 13-16 Apr and 80+ Purple Finches—the most there in years—21 Apr (KG).

CORRIGENDUM

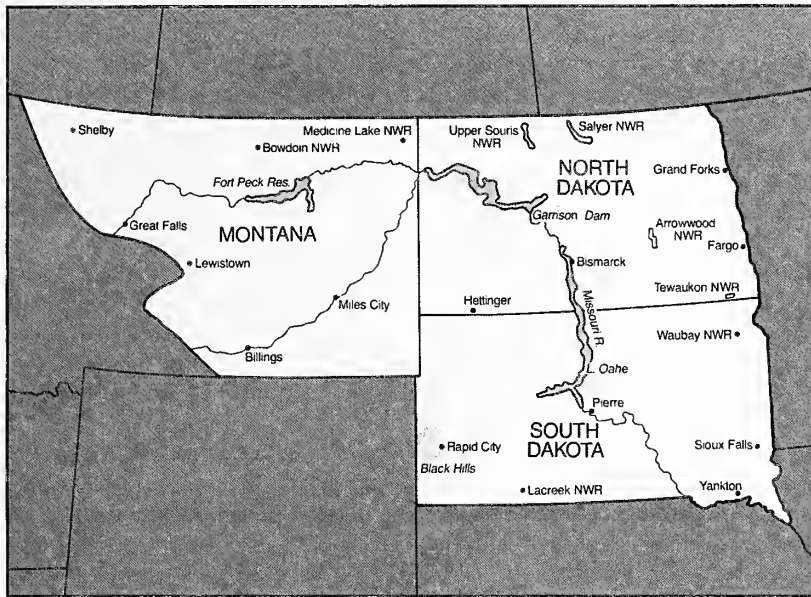
Dates for a Field Sparrow at Bryant Cr., AB should read 8 Jun to at least 16 Jul 2000 (N.A.B. 54: 395).

Observers (regional compiler in boldface):

C. Artuso, L. Bennett, J. Black, B.&I. Blackford, S. Brown, B. Carey, B. Chartier (BCh), W. Christianson, M. Cobus, A. Courcelles, E. Dobrzanski, J.&R. Dunn, D. Fast, K. Forsher, K. Gardner, D. Gibson, F. Giesbrecht, S. Gosche (SGo), G. Grief, S. Grief, J. Grutz, H. den Haan, I. Halliday, **M. Harrison**, P. Horch, L. Janzen, R. Koes, T. Korolyk, B. Luterbach, D. Magnusson, E. Mah-Lim, L. de March, B.&C. McKay, J. Morgan, M. Mulligan, B.&H. Nation, H. Pinel, D.&G. Poland, J. Riddell, B. Shettler (BSh), B. Schnurr, A.&D. Schritt, W. Smith, E.&M. Spitzer, M. Stokes (MSt), B. Storms (BSt), J. Swartz, P. Taylor, R. Thomas, T. Thormin, G. Tomasson, R.&T. Underwood, L. Vogt, M. Waldron, B. Walker (BWr), B. Walley, A. Walley, R. Wershler, M. Zach, R. Zach.



Northern Great Plains



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Much of the Region received below-average precipitation this spring, but in the eastern Dakotas, a fairly substantial snow pack and cool weather kept water levels very high. Waterfowl numbers were again near record levels. Shorebird migration was good in Montana and South Dakota, but most flew over North Dakota. Passerine migration was unspectacular, with warblers making a particularly weak showing.

LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

Common Loons made a strong showing at Ft. Peck, MT 23 Apr, with 92 noted on the river (CC). A peak of 8 was tallied in *Kingsbury*, SD 14 Apr (JSP). Record-early grebes included a Horned 15 Mar in *Gregory*, SD (RM) and a Clark's at Long Lake N.W.R., ND 6 Apr (HCT).

Tying the earliest recorded date, a Cattle Egret was at Hazelton, ND 10 Apr (PCV, NAB). Rare at Freezeout L., MT was a single Greater White-fronted Goose 25 Mar (MS). Montana

sightings of Eurasian Wigeon away from the usual Freezeout L. hotspot included singles at Dodson Dam 23 Apr (JG, BW) and Ft. Peck 26 Apr (CC). If accepted, North Dakota's 13th was recorded 6 Apr at Minot (REM). An exotic species, Mandarin Duck, was seen regularly in Fargo, ND 27 Apr-18 May (GEN). Very late in South Dakota, a Common Goldeneye was in *Miner* 26 May (JSP).

Awaiting committee review, a **Mississippi Kite** photographed in *Roberts*, SD 15 May would constitute the 3rd documented record for the state (DAT). Bald Eagles peaked at 58 at Bowdoin N.W.R., MT 30 Mar (DP, KE, PG). Late Northern Goshawks in the Dakotas included singles in *Hughes*, SD 16 Apr (KM) and *Grand Forks*, ND 26 May (DOL). Late at Medicine L. N.W.R., MT was a Rough-legged Hawk 10 May (LK, EM) and a white-morph Gyrfalcon 15 Apr (DR). Two **Peregrine Falcons** that arrived in Fargo, ND in late Mar were identified as hacked birds from Sioux Falls, SD and Omaha, NE. The pair eventually nested on a bank building and produced 3 young, the first recorded nesting in North Dakota since 1954 (WC, KRC).

GROUSE THROUGH TERNS

The spring survey of North Dakota's vulnerable Greater Sage-Grouse population produced 226 males on 15 leks (N.D.G.F.). The largest flock ever recorded in North Dakota, 31 Whooping Cranes were over *McKenzie* 10 Apr (JAH). Three **Snowy Plovers** were documented in the Dakotas, with South Dakota's 2nd furnished by an individual in *Hughes* 14 May (RDO). In North Dakota, singles were tallied in *Mountrail* 15 May (EL) and in *Ward* 25 May (REM). If accepted, these would furnish the 4th and 5th records for the state. Whimbrels peaked in notable numbers, with 10 in *Bennett*, SD 19 May (DAT, RFS, JSP) and 55 n. of Billings, MT 12 May (HC). The high in North Dakota was 4 at Minot 27 May (BD). Somewhat e. of their current range, a Long-billed Curlew was in *Kidder*, ND 7 May (BJ). The earliest ever for South Dakota, 3 Dunlin were noted 7 Apr in *Kingsbury* (JSP).

American Woodcocks are locally fairly common on the e. edge of the Dakotas, but relatively few nests have been found. This year nests were documented in *Marshall*, SD 20 Apr (WS) and in the Sheyenne National Grasslands, ND 19 May (HK). An apparent breeding population was also discovered rather far w. at Pierre, SD, when 4 were counted there 14 May (RDO, KM).

If accepted, a **Laughing Gull** documented at Medicine L. N.W.R. 31 May would furnish the 4th record for Montana (TB). Now casual at Ft. Peck, MT, a second-winter Glaucous-winged Gull was noted 22 Mar (CC). Arctic Terns returned to Bowdoin N.W.R., MT for the 4th consecutive year, with a single seen 29 May (KP). So far all nesting attempts have been unsuccessful.

DOVES THROUGH WHEATEARS

Eurasian Collared-Doves continued at many previously mentioned locations, and the first in the Rapid City, SD area was noted 29 May (TJ). A **White-winged Dove** documented from *Yankton*, SD 4-6 May would furnish the 2nd record for the state if accepted (SVS). A White-winged Dove was also documented from Montana, with a single at Billings 31 May (BM, GM). If accepted this would provide only the 2nd record for Montana. In the continuing saga of the shrinking range of the Burrowing Owl in the Dakotas, Palmer noted that the species has not been reported from e. South Dakota for the last seven springs. In North Dakota, only two reports were received for the species n. and e. of the Missouri R. **Chuck-will's-widows** returned 13 May to last year's nesting area in *Stanley*, SD (RDO). Though fairly widespread in the e. quarter of North Dakota, a Pileated Woodpecker found nesting

in Turtle R. S.P. 15 May provided only the 3rd nesting record for the state (DOL).

Rare nesters in the Region, Cassin's Kingbirds were reported from traditional areas in *Bennett*, SD 19–20 May (DAT, RFS, JSP) and s. of Birney, MT 25 May (CP). Casual in South Dakota, but seemingly on the increase, 3 White-eyed Vireos were reported in this spring. Singles were in *Union* 7 May (JC), *Bennett* 19 May (RFS, JSP), and *Clay* 21 May (JC). Local in the n. Black Hills, an American Dipper survey in Spearfish Canyon, SD turned up 28 ads. and 15 active nests (DB). Six Golden-crowned Kinglet reports from the Dakotas was an incredibly low number for an often common migrant. If accepted, a **Northern Wheatear** documented in *Stutsman*, ND 8 May would furnish only the 2nd record for the state (PRS).

WARBLERS THROUGH ORIOLES

A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** in *Union*, SD 5 May would provide the 3rd record for the state if accepted (DS). Accidental in the Region, 2 **Townsend's Warblers** were documented. South Dakota's 5th was banded in *Hughes* 11 May (FLB), and a single in Ft. Peck, MT 15 May provided only the 2nd local record (CC). Furnishing the earliest record for the

state, and the first in Apr, 2 American Redstarts were noted at Arrowwood N.W.R. 30 Apr (SRW). Summer Tanager reports documented in North Dakota included a male at Minot 29 Apr (TL) and a female at Minot 15 May (REM). These would provide the 18th and 19th records for the state.

A Green-tailed Towhee at Malta, MT 4–6 May furnished a new record for Latilong 9 (TP, KTP, PP). Unusually far w. was an Eastern Towhee in *Hughes*, SD 6 May (RDO). Seldom reported in migration at the e. edge of the Dakotas, a Baird's Sparrow was in *Yankton*, SD 24 Apr (SVS). Unusually far w. was a Red Fox Sparrow in Custer, SD 11 Apr (CMW). A **Golden-crowned Sparrow** 14–15 May in *Burleigh*, ND would furnish the 5th record for the state if accepted (DA, HCT, CDE). Following a sighting last winter, another **Gray-headed Junco** was found in North Dakota: a single in *McKenzie* 2 May provided perhaps the 4th or 5th record for this race in the state (JAH).

Lazuli Bunting was noted in extreme e. North Dakota for the 2nd consecutive year, with a single 16–19 May in *Cass* (EP). A little n. of the species's usual haunts, an Eastern Meadowlark was noted in *Mellette*, SD 27 May (KH). At the extreme w. edge of typical range

in the Region, an Orchard Oriole was very early 10 May in Malta, MT (TP). A Bullock's Oriole at Arrowwood N.W.R., ND 27 May was well e. of their usual range (MLV).

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Southern Great Plains

Fall Migration: 1 August to 30 November 2000

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As fall seasons go, this one was more or less remarkable—it was just Great! Birds can fly, and there are many more that can fly around in the fall just after the breeding season than at most other times. Many birders in the Region focus on proven birding hot spots, particularly at the western periphery of the Region, improving the chances of finding western strays, as well as eastern species west. As is true every autumn, there was more to report than these pages can hold; what follows can only be the highlights.

This was perhaps a year to have a western focus, as more than the usual number of west-



ern species materialized in the Region. Almost every trochilid, corvid, parid, or emberizid likely to creep even occasionally onto the Plains did so. There was a very significant influx of western hummingbirds in western Kansas, and a banding station at Oliver Reservoir in southwestern Nebraska in particular added much to our knowledge of a number of western species in the Region.

Abbreviations: Cheyenne Bottoms (Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Barton, KS); Hefner (L. Hefner, Oklahoma, OK); L. Ogallala (Keith, NE); McConaughy (L. McConaughy, Keith, NE); Oliver (Oliver Res., Kimball, NE); Quivira (Quivira N.W.R. Stafford, KS); Red Slough (Red Slough W.M.A., McCurtain, OK); Sooner (Sooner L., Pawnee/Noble, OK).

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

Red-throated Loons were reported from *Scotts Bluff*, NE 12 Nov (SJD), Tulsa 13–14 Nov (JWA et al.), and Sooner 27 Nov (JWA). Among a surprising collection of summer records was a Pacific Loon in first-alternate plumage at McConaughy 7 Aug–8 Sep (SJD). At least 6 additional birds were reported 12–26 Nov from *Scotts Bluff*, NE, L. Ogallala, and McConaughy (SJD).

At least 6 Red-necked Grebes were found at L. Ogallala and McConaughy, including a molting ad. 7 Sep–11 Oct, very early (SJD, BP, LP), with up to 5 ads. 26 Nov (SJD, LR, RH). Even rarer farther s. were 3 in *Riley*, KS 21 Nov (DB). An incredible count of 44,000 Western Grebes was made at McConaughy 27 Sep (SJD). Clark's Grebes included 14 at McConaughy 7 Aug (SJD), one at Cheyenne Bottoms 5 Sep (RK), 7 in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 2 Nov (SJD), one in *Russell*, KS 18–21 Nov (MR), and one to 2 additional birds on L. Ogallala 2 Nov (SJD).

The list of Gulf Coast vagrants was impressive this season. An imm. Brown Pelican was noted 18 Oct in *Pawnee*, OK (JHo, SM), while 2 Neotropic Cormorants were found n. to *Coffey*, KS 7 Aug–1 Sep (AS), with a single at Quivira 19 Aug (RK).

Nebraska's first **Reddish Egret** was at McConaughy 27 Sep–15 Oct, a white morph (SJD, WRS, MB, JF). An imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron wandered far n. and w. to *Dawes*, NE 20 Sep (SJD), with another imm. at L. Ogallala 21–22 Aug (SJD).

The Oklahoma vagrants at Red Slough included up to 3 Tricolored Herons 9 Aug–16 Sep (DA, m. ob.), up to 250 White Ibis 30 Aug (latest, a single 24 Oct; DA, m. ob.), up to 3 Roseate Spoonbills 2 Aug–5 Sep (DA, BH et



These Sabine's Gulls 3 October 2000 at Keystone Lake, Osage County, Oklahoma, were part of a widespread flight of the species noted in the Region during the autumn. Photograph by Steve Metz.

al.), and up to 250 Wood Storks 2 Aug–27 Sep (DA, BH et al.). An imm. White Ibis wandered n. to *Pawnee*, OK 13 Sep (JWA), with Wood Storks in *Washington*, OK 4 Sep (BG) and *Sequoyah*, OK 6–7 Sep (JH, JM, D&JV).

The crop of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks observed at Red Slough was impressive, with a high count of 8 ad. and 45 imm. birds noted 12 Sep (DA, BH). Up to 8 ads. were noted in *Major*, OK 3 & 6 Aug (JAG, JWA, TP).

As many as 28 Trumpeter Swans frequented the L. Ogallala area 14 Nov+ (SJD, JF, RS). Two Trumpeters were in *Johnson*, KS 18 Nov (ML), with 6 collared birds present in *Chase*, KS 24 Nov (DG, DL). One or 2 Tundra Swans visited Quivira 16 Nov (W&NB), with 2 seen 21–28 Nov at Red Slough (DA, BH, RB).

Not as frequently observed were American Black Ducks, with singles in *Douglas*, KS 5 Nov (AP), *Nemaha*, KS 21 Nov (MG), and *Jefferson*, KS 27 Nov (RR). The Gulf Coast counterpart, a Mottled Duck, was noted at Red Slough 20 Aug & 5 Sep (BH, DA).

A **Tufted Duck**, possibly the same bird present the previous spring, appeared at L. Ogallala 26 Nov (SJD). Greater Scaup made appearances at preferred sites L. Ogallala and Sooner, with 77 the maximum count at Ogallala 14–19 Nov (SJD, JF).

Perhaps surprising, Surf Scoter, the most commonly reported scoter in the recent decade, went unreported this season. However, up to 3 imm. or female White-

winged Scoters were reported from L. Ogallala 14–26 Nov (SJD, JF, RS). Three were found in *Riley*, KS 20 Nov (DB), with ad. males in *Sedgwick* 20–22 Nov (PJ, m. ob.), and *Cedar/Knox*, NE 25 Nov (BFH). Black Scoters, normally the rarest scoter, was the most commonly reported this season. An ad. male was present at L. Ogallala 12–14 Oct (SJD, JF) with up to 4 imms. there 25 Oct–21 Nov (SJD, RS). Others were noted in Tulsa 9 Nov (JWA, JS), (3 birds) in *Russell*, KS 18 Nov (MR), a female/imm. at McConaughy 26 Nov (SJD), and three imms. in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 2 Nov (SJD).

Reports of Long-tailed Duck were about normal, with the first appearing 16 Nov in Nebraska. Once thought exceptional—now just rare—up to 2 Barrow's Goldeneyes were found at L. Ogallala 14–26 Nov (SJD, JF). Ad. male Barrow's Goldeneyes were also located in *Sedgwick*, KS 19–30 Nov (W & NB, m. ob.) and *Johnson*, KS 30 Nov (ML). A female Red-breasted Merganser was located at L. Ogallala 7 & 22 Aug (SJD), the first ever for Aug.

HAWKS THROUGH TERNS

Mississippi Kites appear to be extending their range in Nebraska, with one in *Sarpy* 19 Sep (BP, LP) and a juv. in *Knox* 25 Sep (MB), the latter the northernmost sighting for the state. Northern Goshawks were noted in *Knox*, NE 14 Oct (an early date; MB), *Rush*, KS 17 Nov (SS), and *Johnson*, KS 18 Nov (ML).



A first for Kansas was this William's Sapsucker in Elkhart, Morton County, Kansas on 22 September 2000. Photograph by Eric Preston.

Perhaps peculiar this season was an early sprinkling of raptors on the Plains. These included a Ferruginous Hawk 24 Sep at Sooner L. (SM), Merlins in *Alfalfa*, OK 6 Aug (AVK, JGv) and *Sequoyah*, OK 16 Aug (SB), Peregrine Falcons in *Alfalfa*, OK 3 Aug (JWA, JAG, TP) and at McConaughy (2) 6 & 7 Aug (SJD), and Prairie Falcons at Quivira 8 Aug (CG), *Rush*, KS 9 Aug (SS), and *Alfalfa*, OK 28 Aug (JM, LH). No small surprise was a Harris's Hawk in *Cowley*, KS 14–30 Nov (ES, m. ob.). Two ad. Golden Eagles moved e. to *Washington*, NE by 10 Nov (JGr).

Merlin numbers have improved in the Plains: 49 were reported for Nebraska alone (*vide* WRS). Peregrines have also seen an upsurge in numbers, with 14 reported from Nebraska, 8 from Oklahoma, and a few from Kansas. The best of the best, an imm. gray-morph Gyrfalcon was reported from Wichita, KS 20 Nov (L&TH, m. ob.); 2 other possible Gyrs were reported from far w. Nebraska, although the identifications were not entirely certain (*vide* WRS).

A Black Rail in the hand in *Meade*, KS 2 Sep (TF): what was it worth relative to the 2 seen at Quivira 12 Aug (MG, ML)? Reports of Common Moorhen breeding came from Red Slough (DA), with 20 ads. and 7 imms. noted in *Kingfisher*, OK 12 Sep (JWA).

Only 2 Mountain Plovers were reported, those in *Morton*, KS 1 Sep (m. ob.). Black-necked Stilt reports from the e. edge of the

Region came from *Linn*, KS (one) 10 Sep (MM), and 3 at Red Slough 2–20 Aug (DA et al.).

Quite tardy was a Long-billed Curlew 3 Oct in *Osage*, OK (SM). Hudsonian Godwits, a hard find in fall, were noted at McConaughy 22 Aug (SJD), and in *Coffey*, KS 1 Sep (AS). Ruddy Turnstone reports 16 Aug–10 Sep were about normal, with one at Cheyenne Bottoms 1 Oct (TW). Also, the normal scattering of juv. Red Knots in the Region was noted 22 Aug–10 Sep.

When it comes to "peep," there are always the issues of identification that make it difficult to ascertain some patterns. However, several experienced observers in Nebraska and Oklahoma note what has been a real drop in numbers of Western Sandpipers. Normally a common fall migrant, only 8 were identified among thousands of shorebirds inspected in Nebraska (*vide* WRS), and very few were found in Oklahoma (JAG). Then we have Baird's Sandpipers, among the commonest peep during fall, with just over 4,000 noted 22 Aug at McConaughy (SJD).

Kansans enjoyed what may have been the "Great Buff-breasted Count" from Aug to mid-Sep, when groups of dozens to hundreds were noted in at least 10 Kansas counties. Three-digit (or near) counts also occurred in Nebraska and Oklahoma as well, most in the e. and cen. portions of the states. Adding interest to the entourage of charadriids are

the phalaropes. As usual, a smattering of Red-necked Phalaropes was observed in the Region, this season between 9 Sep–12 Oct. Much more exceptional was a Red Phalarope in *Russell*, KS 8 Oct (MR).

No jaeger is an annual find in the Southern Plains: as land-locked as the Region may appear, trips on Lake McConaughy are dubbed "pelagic," and appropriately 2 juv. Pomarine Jaegers were located there 8 & 10 Sep (SJD et al.). A juv. Parasitic Jaeger was seen closely in *Harlan*, NE 16 Sep (JGJ). Completing the sweep for Nebraska was an intermediate-morph Long-tailed Jaeger photographed in *Scotts Bluff* 11 Sep (SJD). Kansans came up with an imm. Long-tailed Jaeger in agricultural fields in *Washington* 7–10 Sep (DT, m. ob.).

Laughing Gulls wandered as far n. as *Reno*, KS 4 Sep (PJ). The only Little Gull reported was an imm. photographed 23 Sep in *Rogers*, OK (DH, SM et al.). California Gulls have become more commonplace in recent years, particularly in Nebraska. On 13 Oct, 103 were noted at McConaughy (SJD). California Gulls were also noted in *Sedgwick*, KS 24–25 Sep (CG, PJ) and *Riley*, KS 22 Oct (TC), with others found 1–2 Aug in *Wagoner*, OK (JWA) and 10 Oct in *Oklahoma* (JWA). Four Herring Gulls at McConaughy 7 Aug (SJD) were exceptional: the species is almost unheard of in mid-summer in the Region.

Thayer's Gulls were reported as early as 19 Oct in *Pawnee*, OK (JWA), with ads. 1 Nov in *Lincoln*, NE and L. Ogallala (SJD, JF). Lesser Black-backed Gulls this fall included: an ad. at McConaughy 10 Sep (SJD) and 15 Oct (WRS) to 2 Nov (SJD); a third-year bird in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 11 & 27 Sep and 11 Oct (SJD); an ad. 6–10 Oct at Hefner (MOI, JAG, JWA), a first-basic individual in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 14 Nov (SJD); and an ad. in *Lincoln*, NE 19 Nov (SJD, JF). Glaucous Gulls first appeared 14 Nov, when a first-year bird was observed in *Lincoln*, NE (SJD). It was yet another hot fall for Sabine's Gulls, with at least 37 imms. reported Regionwide 10 Sep–5 Nov, exceptionally 29 Nov in *Sedgwick*, KS (PJ). And our "Where's Waldo" Black-legged Kittiwake appeared in Omaha 14–21 Nov (NR, m. ob.).

Common Terns seemed "unusually abundant" this fall, with a record count of 23 at McConaughy 8 Sep (SJD). Far exceeding any previous Nov count for Forster's Terns was the flock of 341 tallied 7 Nov in *Wagoner*, OK (JWA). And then, the Region was graced with not one but 3 Arctic Terns: a molting ad. photographed 20 Sep in *Scotts Bluff*, NE (SJD); the first for Nebraska; an imm. distantly photographed 25 Sep in *Rogers*, OK (JWA);

and an imm. noted at close range at Hefner 10 Oct (JAG, JWA, SM). The latter are now the 2nd and 3rd acceptably documented for Oklahoma, the first having been this past spring.

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

It is safe to say that Eurasian Collared-Doves are now established in the Region. The count of records for Nebraska, where they may be least common, is nevertheless in the teens. There was also a continuation of reports of Inca Doves in Oklahoma and Kansas. Among dove species, the most exceptional was probably the White-winged Dove in *Shawnee*, KS 24–25 Aug (JB).

Kansas birders went into orbit this season with hummingbirds, and the Kansas Bird Records Committee will surely have its hands full sorting through all of the difficult-to-identify vagrants. First were the **Anna's Hummingbirds**: an ad. male 19 Aug in *Johnson*, KS (MC), one in *Pawnee*, KS 6 Sep (DK, SS), and up to 2 in *Rush*, KS 8–10 Sep (DS, SS). One ad. male and up to 18 female and imm. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were reported in *Finney*, w. Kansas 27 Aug–26 Sep, along with up to 9 Black-chinneds (MO, B&LR, T&SS).

A true slew of **Calliope Hummingbirds** was reported all through Kansas this season, presaging a winter in which the species continued to stray far, far out of typical range: single Calliopes, mostly female and imm., were noted from *Finney* 5–12 Aug (M&PR), *Seward* 12 Aug (LE), *Haskell* 22 Aug (MR), *Grant* 23 Aug (MR), *Douglas* 24 Aug (PW), *Russell* (possibly 2 there) 3–8 Sep (MR), and *Rush* 8 & 16 Sep (DS, SS). Multiple Calliopes were noted from *Mitchell* (2 males) 7–11 Sep (HA), *Pawnee* (up to 3!) 9 Aug–13 Sep (DS, SS, DK, m. ob.), with the motherlode of 13 (not a typo) studied 17–29 Aug in *Finney*, KS (MO, B&LR, T&SS). There were three reports of “probable” Costa's Hummingbirds as well, all imms. or females, from *Pawnee*, *Morton*, and *Douglas*, also all in Kansas (*vide* LM).

Collectively, “The Mecca”—Garden City yards in *Finney*, KS—harbored at least 24 Rufous Hummingbirds 7 Aug–26 Sep (MO, B&LR, ES, T&SS). At least 16 others were reported from Kansas alone (*vide* LM). Then, there were Broad-tailed Hummingbirds: one male, 19 females and/or imms. in Garden City yards 6 Aug–30 Sep (BC, MO, B&LR, T&SS, ES). Other Kansas reports were of single females or imms. 17 Aug–26 Sep from *Finney* (MO), *Morton* (CG, BPC), *Pawnee* (SS, KB, DK), *Haskell* (MR), *Rush* (SS, PW), and *Pratt* (KB).

Red-naped Sapsuckers came from as far e. as L. Ogallala 26 Oct–2 Nov (ad. male; SJD). A first confirmed state record of **Williamson's Sapsucker** for Kansas was in *Morton*, KS 23 Sep (SP, EP, m. ob.).

Fall brings out the best of the identification issues. The Region can host almost all of the U.S. *Empidonax* flycatchers in fall, and among them, Hammond's Flycatcher may be an easier call in fall. This season, one to 3 were found at Oliver 31 Aug–2 Sep (SJD, WRS, JG), with singles from *Morton*, KS 1 Sep (CG, BPC, m. ob.), *Scotts Bluff*, NE 3 Sep (SJD, JF), and *Garden*, NE 11 Sep (SJD). Mist-netting confirmed 3 Dusky Flycatchers at Oliver, including the first for Nebraska 31 Aug (SJD, WRS). Others were netted there 7 (SJD, BP, LP) & 20 Sep (SJD). A possible Cordilleran Flycatcher was found in *Morton*, KS 3 Sep (CG, BPC), with a possible Gray Flycatcher in *Morton*, KS 30 Sep (SS, m. ob.). Wandering n. was a Vermilion Flycatcher 1 Nov in *Pratt*, KS (KB, CG).

Perhaps as interesting as flycatchers in the Southern Plains are the vireos. A White-eyed Vireo wandered n. to *Keith*, NE 25 Oct (SJD). With observers giving the former Solitary Vireo forms a closer look, more are reported. Plumbeous Vireos were found in w. Nebraska 26 Aug–12 Sep e. to *Garden* (SJD, NR, JF) and 1 & 20–21 Sep in *Morton*, KS (m. ob.). Cassin's Vireo, a little tougher call, may be much more numerous than previously suspected, although identification difficulties involving imm. female Blue-headed Vireos may not yet be fully sorted out. Nonetheless, Cassin's (up to 8 in a day), several of those mist-netted, were identified 26 Aug–7 Sep at Oliver (SJD et al.), with one in *Garden*, NE 11 Sep (SJD). In *Morton*, KS perhaps 7 were found 1–4 Sep (DG, m. ob.), with one possible Cassin's there 30 Sep (MR, m. ob.). One Blue-headed Vireo in *Sioux*, NE 20 Sep (SJD, HKH) was fairly far west. Five of 7 Warbling Vireos netted at Oliver 31 Aug were of the w. subspecies group *swainsonii* (SJD, WRS). In *Garden*, NE 10 Sep, one of 3 Warbling Vireos seen was a *gilvus*, the others *swainsonii*, apparently *brewsteri*. (JF).

Western Scrub-Jays wandered out to four separate locations in *Morton*, KS 30 Sep (TC, MR, SS). Among few leaving the Rockies was a Steller's Jay 1 Oct in *Morton*, KS (TC, MR). More corvids included an exceptional 100+ Pinyon Jays 22–23 Sep in *Morton*, KS (m. ob.), with one in *Finney*, KS 27 Oct (PR). A Clark's Nutcracker was seen 7 Sep in *Ellis*, KS (GF, m. ob.), quite a drift from the Rockies.

Near doubling the number of previous Kansas records for Violet-green Swallows were three singles: 2–3 Sep in *Morton*, KS (m. ob.),

6 Sep at Cheyenne Bottoms (RK), and 9 Oct at Quivira (CG).

Pushing the season was a Mountain Chickadee 14 Sep in *Cimarron*, OK (BCa). Mountain Chickadees began appearing in *Morton*, KS 1 Oct (TC, MR). Much less expected was a Juniper Titmouse 30 Sep (TC et al.) and 7 Oct (SP) in *Morton*, KS (SP). And 30 Bushtits in *Morton*, KS 9–12 Oct (MT, m. ob.) added to the unusual collection of wandering parid associates. Unexpected was a small outbreak of Pygmy Nuthatches, with singles in *Garden*, NE 25 Oct (SJD), and e. in *Rush*, KS 10 Sep (SS), *Morton*, KS 23 Sep (m. ob.), *Lancaster*, NE 19–21 Sep (JD), and *Dodge*, NE 22 Sep (DP, JP).

A Carolina Wren pushing its species's range limits was singing at McConaughy 6 Aug (SJD). Other strays included a Sage Thrasher 30 Sep in *Morton*, KS (TC), one to 2 Curve-billed Thrashers in *Morton*, KS 11–12 Nov (CG, m. ob.), and a Bohemian Waxwing in *Finney*, KS 18 Nov (T&SS).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

There were increasing complaints of fewer warblers than normal, but they can be difficult to locate in the many hot dog-days of Aug and Sep on the Plains. The n. forest species (Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-hroated Green, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, and Mourning Warblers) certainly appeared to be more difficult to find this season. Among the rarities was a Blue-winged Warbler 1 Oct in *Douglas*, KS (DM). Virginia's Warblers, also tough finds, were documented in *Morton*, KS 1–2 Sep (m. ob.) and Oliver 3 Sep & 26–27 Oct (SJD, JF). A “zootie,” Black-throated Blue Warbler, made an outstanding showing, with 6 reported from Nebraska 10–20 Oct (*vide* WRS), 2 from *Morton*, far sw. KS 22 & 30 Sep (TC, m. ob.), and one from *McCurtain*, OK 13 Oct (BH).

Western warblers east included a Black-throated Gray Warbler 2 Sep in *Morton*, KS (m. ob.). The show of Townsend's Warblers included an incredible 53 reported for w. Nebraska 22 Aug–21 Sep (*vide* WRS) and 22 for w. Kansas 3–23 Sep (*vide* LM). Westerly were Bay-breasted Warblers 21 Sep in *Morton*, KS (CG, m. ob.) and 8 Oct in *Meade*, KS (RK). Also exceptionally far w. were a Pine Warbler noted 1 Sep (CG, BPC), a Prairie Warbler 2 Sep (m. ob.), and a Kentucky Warbler 4 Sep (LE, DW), all in *Morton*, KS. A Worm-eating Warbler in *Lancaster*, NE 5 Oct (LRB) was only the 5th fall record for Nebraska (*vide* WRS).

A Henslow's Sparrow in *Sedgwick*, KS 17 Sep (CG, PJ) was hopefully a continued indication of a recent westward drift of this species.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows made a fair showing in Kansas, with at least 14 reported 14 Oct–11 Nov (*vide* LM); 4 were located in e. Nebraska and 2 in Oklahoma. The westernmost was one at Quivira 11 Nov (SS). Westerly was a Swamp Sparrow at L. Ogallala 25 Oct (SJD). Quite early was a White-crowned Sparrow 1 Sep in Coffey, KS (AS). The 2 Snow Buntings in Tulsa 9 Nov (G&MK) were among fewer than 10 for Oklahoma. Far afield were a Pyrrhuloxia 25 Oct in Kearney, KS (BPe, PG) and a Dickcissel 4 Aug in Sioux, NE (JWH).

A Cassin's Finch was collected on the early date of 22 Sep in Mortou, KS (MT, m. ob.), with others found there 7 Oct (CG, m. ob.) and 10 Nov (PJ, MG, m. ob.). Rosy-finches attracted attention. Two flocks of Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (216 and 105) were located in Sioux, NE 12 (SJD) & 14 Nov (SJD, HKH). A male **Black Rosy-Finch** was present with the Gray-crowns on 12 Nov (SJD)—a first Regional record. Red Crossbills made a modest showing in w. Kansas, with up to 10 noted in Harvey, KS 13 Nov (CG). The only report for Common Redpoll was one in Halsey, NE 25 Nov (TEL).

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Southern Great Plains



Winter Season: 1 December 2000 to 28 February 2001

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Abbreviations: L. Ogallala (*Keith*, NE); McConaughy (L. McConaughy, *Keith*, NE); Red Slough (Red Slough W.M.A., *McCurtain*, OK).

Unlike some recent winters, this one was more like a winter, with some real cold fronts passing through by mid-December, even freezing over some Oklahoma reservoirs. This clearly cut back on the half-hardy species, particularly those species needing some shallow water. Thus, the more typical highlights included bigger birds, gulls in particular, and a few fringillids. The Region typically showcases a rich mix of both eastern-western and northern-southern avifaunas, owing to its mid-continental location, and for this winter season, the mix was especially memorable.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

Red-throated Loons were located 5 & 19 Dec in *Noble*, OK (JWA), and 16 Jan & 24 Feb in *Sequoyah*, OK (JWA). A juv. Pacific Loon was found at McConaughy 3 Dec (SJD), a rather late date for Nebraska, with another in *Trego*, KS 19 Dec (SS), and 2 in *Sequoyah*, OK 16 Jan & 24 Feb (JWA).

Three Red-necked Grebes, rare vagrants, lingered at McConaughy until 3 Dec (SJD). Quite tardy were Eared Grebes last noted at McConaughy and L. Ogallala 13 Dec (SJD, JF). A count of 483 Western Grebes at McConaughy quickly dwindled to one by 30

Dec (SJD). A Clark's Grebe was identified at McConaughy 14 Dec (SJD), and in *Trego*, KS 19 Dec. (SS).

A Great Egret lingered to 5 Dec in *Cowley*, KS (GY), while an imm. Black-crowned Night-Heron lingered at L. Ogallala until at least 8 Dec (RK *vide* SJD).

A large group of Trumpeter Swans wintered in the McConaughy area, with a peak count was 54 on 3 Feb (SJD). Collared Trumpeters from Iowa's and Minnesota's introduction sites can now be found in the Region (*vide* WRS). Groups of up to 8 birds were located in Kansas (*vide* LM), with singles as far s. as *Tulsa* (JL, PS, MK), *Kay* (DDa), *McClain* (LMa), *Custer* (JAG, DH), and *Comanche* (KM), all in Oklahoma. Kurt Meisenzahl was lucky enough to find not only a Trumpeter, but a Tundra and Mute Swan in company! Other Tundras were most commonly in twos at eight other locations in Kansas and Oklahoma.

Braving the cold were 7 Wood Ducks in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 27 Jan (SJD), the first winter record for the Nebraska panhandle. Perhaps for a slightly better showing this season, American Black Ducks were noted in *Lancaster*, NE 3 Dec (JGJ), *Tulsa* 16 Dec (JL, PS, MK), *Red Slough* 23 Jan (BH, DA), *Sedgwick*, KS 1 Feb (CG), *Osage*, KS 3 Feb (BF, CG), and *Riley*, KS 11 Feb (TC). The best count of Mallards was a record 150,000 in *Harlan*, NE (*vide* JGJ).

The ad. male Tufted Duck at L. Ogallala continued its presence 3–13 Dec (SJD). Greater Scaup numbered 68 at L. Ogallala 3 Dec (SJD) and an impressive 403 in *Noble*, OK 5 Dec (JWA). At least one ad. male Barrow's Goldeneye wintered in *Sedgwick*, KS (PJ, m. ob.), with up to 4 wintering at L. Ogallala (SJD) and one other 17 Dec in *Tulsa* (SM, JH). Among the high counts for Common Merganser were an estimated 32,000 at McConaughy 13 Dec (SJD), and 18,000 in *Russell*, KS 17 Dec (MR).

HAWKS THROUGH GULLS

Good counts of Bald Eagle were 184 in *Harlan*, NE 15 Dec (*vide* JGJ) and 152 in *Keith* and *Lincoln*, NE 14 Jan (SJD). Northern Goshawks made a modest appearance, with 5 reported from Nebraska (*vide* WRS) and 4 from Kansas (*vide* LM). A Harris's Hawk in *Cowley*, KS was noted until 5 Dec (m. ob.). Golden Eagles were found e. to *Red Slough* (DA, BH).

Merlins are becoming more commonplace, perhaps aided by the acclimation of some individuals to residential neighborhoods. Perhaps as a result of recent pro-



A most unusual threesome, these Trumpeter, Tundra, and Mute Swans crossed paths 18 February 2001 in *Lawton*, *Comanche* County, Oklahoma. Photograph by Kurt Meisenzahl.

grams to help the *anatum* subspecies, Peregrine Falcons were noted in *Tillman*, OK 3 Dec (KM) and *Tulsa* 30 Dec (JWA). Always a grand find are Gyrfalcons: gray morphs were reported from *Keith*, NE 1 Jan (SJD) and *Russell*, KS 5 Feb (MR).

Sharp-tailed Grouse are getting harder to find in *Knox*, NE (MB). The best count was of 32 in *Sioux*, NE 10 Feb (SJD). A nice group of 108 Greater Prairie-Chickens was seen in *Knox*, NE 10 Dec (MB).

While Virginia Rails are thinly distributed as a winter resident n. into Nebraska, Soras may also be maintaining a few local groups, with one 22 Dec in *Sequoyah*, OK (DGL, JM) and several in *Cleveland*, OK in mid-Jan (JAG). Sandhill Cranes were already on the move 25 Feb, when 50,000 were in *Barton*, KS (SS, DS, DB).

Shorebirds were generally much harder to find this season than in recent winters, particularly after a few heavy cold fronts moved through in mid-Dec. A few Killdeer wintered in *Keith*, NE, at least 2 still there 3 Feb (SJD). Tardy were 2 Black-bellied Plovers and 2 Dunlin 5 Dec in *Pawnee*, OK (JWA). A Spotted Sandpiper, surprising as it was, likely did not make it past 14–15 Dec in *Harlan*, NE (JGJ, SJD); another was found in *Cherokee*, OK 23 Dec (JM et al.). Probably 3 late and 2 early migrant Long-

billed Dowitchers were noted at *Red Slough* 5 Dec and 20 Feb, respectively (DA, BH).

An anytime "zootie" was a **Pomarine Jaeger** in *Russell*, KS 9 Dec (MR). An ad. **Mew Gull** was at L. Ogallala 14–30 Dec, with 2 there 14 Jan (SJD) and one in *Sedgwick*, KS 11 Jan (PJ). The small scattering of California Gulls reported was what has become the norm, with up to 4 each at L. Ogallala (SJD) and *Sedgwick*, KS 28 Dec (DV).

Reports of Thayer's Gulls are becoming regular as well. Up to 11 were observed at L. Ogallala 14 Jan (SJD), with at least 6 reported from both Kansas (*vide* WRS) and Oklahoma (*vide* JWA). Possibly still a Nebraska specialty for the Region was a second-winter **Iceland Gull** at L. Ogallala 14 Dec (SJD), only Nebraska's 4th.

Lesser Black-backed Gulls, still quite rare in the Region, appear as migrants in Nebraska. Adults were in *Lincoln*, NE 14 Dec (SJD) and McConaughy 28 Dec (SJD), the latter a late date. Others, mostly ads., were found in *Sedgwick*, KS 10 Jan (B&NB) & 11 Feb (PJ), *Tulsa* 24 Jan (JWA, JL, GK), *Coffey*, KS 11 Feb (GP, MM), *Butler*, KS 19 Feb (DW), with up to 3 in *Oklahoma* 31 Jan (JWA, JL). Also increasing in frequency are Glaucous Gulls: up to 9 were noted on McConaughy 30 Dec (*vide* SJD) and at least

7 in Kansas (*vide* LM) and 12 in Oklahoma (*vide* JWA). A Great Black-backed Gull in *Russell*, KS 17 Dec (MR) was an outstanding find. Not routine this year was a Forster's Tern in *McCurtain*, OK 14 Feb. (BH).

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

Eurasian Collared-Doves likely have much more than a foothold in the Region. In *Cass*, NE, up to 12 were counted during Dec, one of about 16 locations known for Nebraska (*vide* WRS). Twenty Collared-Doves visited a feeder in *Crawford*, KS 1 Dec (MP), and 8 were noted in an Oklahoma panhandle town in *Cimarron* 14 Dec (JAG, JWA). One must say almost "ditto" for Inca Doves in Oklahoma and s. Kansas.

Given the tough weather, a Rufous Hummingbird kept alive 11 Dec–6 Jan in *Delaware*, OK (EW) was an accomplishment. Probably more common than presumed from reports, but very tough finds, were Northern Saw-whet Owls. This winter one to 2 were located in *Keith*, NE during Dec (SJD), with one discovered quite far s. in *Sedgwick*, KS 3 Feb (PJ). Perhaps as remarkable to find was the first Dec record of Eastern Phoebe for Nebraska, that in *Douglas–Washington* 17 Dec (JB).

Northern Shrikes wandered down to s. Kansas (*vide* LM), but none were reported from Oklahoma. More surprising were 2 Loggerhead Shrikes, one in *Lancaster*, NE 12 Jan (DP, JP) and the other in *Saunders*, NE 3 Feb (THo). While a Purple Martin 16 Feb in *McCurtain*, OK (BH) might be a little early, go figure a Barn Swallow in *Wagoner*, OK 21 Feb (ES, JM et al.).

Part of the fall's fallout were a Western Scrub-Jay in *Finney*, KS 3 Jan (BC, TS) and a Pinyon Jay in *Hamilton*, KS 31 Dec (CG, TH, MG). Fewer than 5 Black-capped Chickadees have been documented in Oklahoma, including the one 13 Dec in *Cimarron*, OK (JAG, JWA). Possibly 2 birds were later seen there (m. ob.). Mountain Chickadees moved out to *Meade*, (TF), *Scott* (TS, SSh), *Hamilton* (CG, TH, MG), and *Finney*, KS (TS, SSh), with 25 noted in *Morton*, KS 29 Dec (SP) and 8 in *Grant*, KS (TS, SSh). A Juniper Titmouse was seen again 31 Dec in *Morton*, KS (JR). A crossroads for several parid species, Nebraska had a Tufted Titmouse in *Seward* 8–19 Dec (JG), rather far n. for the species.

Two White-breasted Nuthatches of the w. subspecies *nelsoni* were located in *Cimarron*, OK 13 Dec (JWA, JAG), with one at L. Ogallala 14 Dec (SJD). A Rock Wren wandered e. to *Jefferson*, KS 7 Dec (RR), while a

Sedge Wren staked out a winter home in *Barber*, KS 6 Jan (PJ).

A Varied Thrush was reported from *Lancaster*, NE in early Dec (SSa *vide* KP), only the 5th since 1991 (*vide* WRS). A surprise was a very thin Gray Catbird found dead 8 Jan in *Otoe*, NE (LF, CF). A bird particularly scarce in most of the Region almost since the 1960s invasion, a Bohemian Waxwing in *Stafford*, KS 25 Dec was a welcome sight (GP).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

The only warblers of note to report were Pine Warblers, one attending a feeder in *Sarpy*, NE 14–16 Dec, only the 2nd Dec record for Nebraska (*vide* WRS), the other in *Meade*, KS 29 Dec–5 Jan (TF).

Of note were 2 intermediate-form Fox Sparrows in *Cimarron*, OK 13 Dec (JAG, JWA). The specimen record for Oklahoma contains no birds of this type. Gray-headed Juncos are occasionally reported, their purity sometimes good, sometimes not. This season, Gray-headed were noted in *Johnson*, KS 24 Nov–12 Dec (DWe) and *Scotts Bluff*, NE 2 Feb (KL). Few White-winged Juncos are reported away from w. Nebraska; this season one was observed in *Cimarron*, OK 13 Dec (JAG, JWA). Not many American Tree Sparrows ever make it to se. Oklahoma, so up to 19 noted at Red Slough 20 Dec–23 Jan (BH, DA) were quite unusual.

Imagine if you can 250,000 Lapland Longspurs in *Marion*, KS 8 Dec (CG). During snow storms, they travel widely, or take any port in the storm, as did about 50 using Scott Seltman's porch in late Jan. Snow Buntings also appeared in good numbers in Nebraska, with a few edging s. into *Sedgwick*, KS 21–22 Dec (CG, PJ), *Cowley*, KS 21 Dec (MT), *Ellsworth*, KS 29 Dec (MR), *Scott*, KS 30 Dec (DR), and *Jefferson*, KS 16 Feb (P&LW).

Several Dickcissels persisted, one in *Douglas*, KS 10 Dec (MG, DG) and another in *Sarpy*, NE 11 Dec (LAL). Among a short list of half-hardies this season were 3 Yellow-headed Blackbirds in *Scotts Bluff*, NE (SJD, PD, DD).

In the very nw. corner of Nebraska are regular possibilities for Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches. All await official review, but among three flocks of several hundred birds each of the regular montane Gray-crowned Rosy Finches in *Sioux*, NE, Steve Dinsmore documented 6, 5, and 2 individuals of the **Hepburn's** subspecies—and in two of these flocks were 4 and 6 **Black Rosy-Finches**, a species that strayed widely, as far as eastern California, in winter 2000–2001. In addition, a Hepburn's was located in *Scotts Bluff* (RS *vide*

AK). This is the first time that Hepburn's and Black Rosy-Finches have been documented in the Region.

Not to be left out was a male Pine Grosbeak in *Lincoln*, NE 29 Dec (WRS). Red Crossbills made modest showings in Nebraska, with 15 in *Ellsworth*, KS 6 Jan (ER, HR). A White-winged Crossbill visited a farmstead in *Rush*, KS 4 Dec (SS). Scarce even in Nebraska, a Common Redpoll still managed to reach this season *Cheyenne*, KS 24 Feb (HA).

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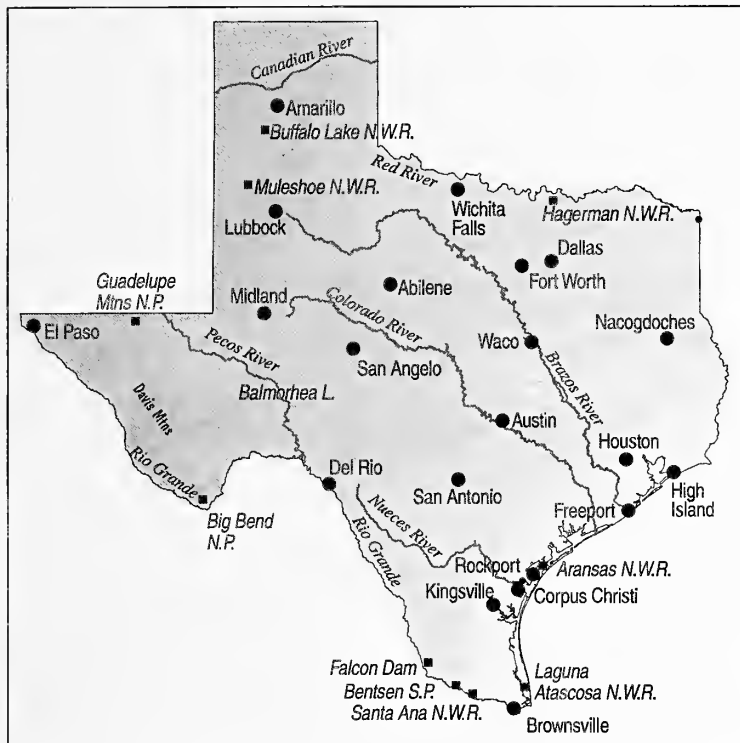
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After spectacular fall and winter seasons, it was perhaps predictable that the next avian passage would be a letdown. In most areas, both the weather and the migration were commonly termed "unexceptional." The Trans-Pecos was cool and wet, and the Panhandle received about twice its normal rainfall, but by season's end, most areas were at or below normal in annual totals. A wet front 28-31 March produced an unexpectedly diverse and abundant fallout in eastern, coastal, and southern Texas. Fronts moved through about every week or 10 days thereafter, with notable fallouts happening 23-24 April, 4-6 May, and a bit late on 22-25 May, although there was a striking diversity of opinion among observers (more so than usual) as to which days were best in any given area. A violent hail storm over Lubbock 30 May caused innumerable avian deaths including at least 19 Mississippi Kites; fortu-

nately the damage was localized to that area.

Elsewhere, Seyffert said they had to work hard to find migrants in the Panhandle. In Midland and much of the Trans-Pecos, the migration was "late and light," and groups such as shorebirds, warblers, and sparrows were especially few and far between. Mark Adams pointed out, as we've seen in the past, that green habitat conditions in the western half of the state result in a dispersed migration (and thus migrants are perceived to be at low densities). There was a good smattering of rarities, and many elements of the winter invasions lingered well into the spring.

Abbreviations: L.R.G.V. (Lower Rio Grande Valley); T.B.R.C. (Texas Bird Records Committee); U.T.C. (Upper Texas Coast). The following are shortened names for the respective local, county, state, or national parks and wildlife refuges, etc.: Alazan Bayou, Anahuac, Balcones Canyonlands, Big Bend, Big Bend Ranch, Brazoria, Buffalo Lake, Matagorda Island, Muleshoe, Packery Channel, Palo Duro Canyon, Quintana, Sabine Woods, Santa Ana, Sea Rim, Trinity River.

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

An exceptional Red-throated Loon this season was on L. Alan Henry, *Garza* 6 May (TM, AF). Perhaps the most cooperative rarity of the season continued to be the **Yellow-billed Loon** that remained from the winter season at S. Padre I. until mid-May (S & GC, m. ob.). Two or 3 Clark's Grebes were in the Panhandle: one on Jim's L., *Hutchinson* 14 Apr (EK, m. ob.) and one (or 2) at Buffalo L. 21 & 25 Apr (BPi, KS et al.). Wayward Brown Pelicans were in cen. Texas at Granger L. 20-22 Apr (TF), Buffalo L. 28 Apr-5 May (RGI, m. ob.), and L. Balmorhea for the entire period (BC et al.). Rare in the Midland area were Neotropical Cormorants on 13 & 21 Apr (AW, A & DK). A Magnificent Frigatebird 8 Apr at Anahuac was very early, but it portended an abundance of the species later in the warm season.

A Least Bittern was at Alazan Bayou, *Nacogdoches* 18-23 May where the species is still very rare. Both L. Balmorhea and Imperial Res. hosted one or a few Reddish Egrets. Single Roseate Spoonbills in *Gonzales* and *Freestone* in May were early for areas off the coast. The handful of Wood Storks that descended on Brazoria 30 May was another indicator of an early dispersal of tropical avifauna into Texas. A Black Vulture was a rarity in the skies over Lubbock 14 Apr (AF).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

Fifteen Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in the Hill Country provided a new record for *Mason* 29 Mar (BoF, DF). Accidental in the Trans-Pecos, 2 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks made an appearance at L. Balmorhea 5 Apr (TJ), and 3 more showed up in El Paso 28 May, staying through the period (JS, JZ, MSC; first report in 60 years!); yet another Fulvous was on the High Plains at Littlefield 6-7 May (CIB et al.). A drake **Garganey** was photographed on the King Ranch, *Kleberg* during its stay 4-7 Apr (TL, RL et al., ph. GP); there are fewer than half a dozen records of this species for Texas. Small numbers of all three scoter species were at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* 4 Mar (JO); 2 White-wingeds were at High Island 20 Mar (CCo); and 6 Blacks were at San Luis Pass 6 Mar (CCo, FR). A Long-tailed Duck also spent the period 4-17 Mar at Bolivar (JO, m. ob.). Stuart Marcus documented the 2nd successful nesting of Hooded Merganser at Trinity R., *Liberty*; 17 fledglings successfully hatched from a nest box on or just before 5 Apr. Successful breeding by Hoodeds was also noted in *Rusk* 20 May

(GLU), and a female Hooded was seen entering a nest box in the e. Panhandle at L. Marvin 26 May (BBeh).

Along with a handful of reports in their now-expected haunts in se. Texas, there were solid sightings of Swallow-tailed Kites in *Nacogdoches* 2 Apr and 18 May and *Tyler* 22 May, where there have been very few reports in the past 20 years. A pair of White-tailed Kites made an unsuccessful nesting attempt at Alazan Bayou in Feb and Mar (JFa et al.). Breeding Gray Hawks set up territories at Santa Elena Canyon and Cottonwood Campground in Big Bend (m. ob.); a pair of Grays was present in Limpia Canyon, *Jeff Davis* from 30 Mar onward (BS, MAd, KB et al.); and an active nest also graced Anzalduas in Mar and Apr.

A colossal number of Broad-winged Hawks moved over Corpus Christi and surrounding areas 29–30 Mar (*fide* MCo); estimates ranged up to 600,000 birds, astonishing numbers for the northbound migration. Equally impressive within that movement was a report of 1000+ Broad-wingeds over the n. end of Padre I. 29 Mar, perhaps a record concentration for a barrier island. In the pines of *Bastrop*, an out-of-place Zone-tailed Hawk was found about 12 May (KiK); there were also three reports in the e. Edwards Plateau in Apr and May where the species is still quite unexpected. Two observers submitted details on a possible **Collared Forest-Falcon** studied in plain view for 10 min. at Santa Ana 30 Apr (RH, SWa); the bird was not seen subsequently, but a biologist at the refuge may have heard the species here earlier in the season. Crested Caracaras were seen three times in Mar and May in Big Bend, where the species is accidental.

RAILS THROUGH GULLS

Yellow Rails were particularly hard to find in their expected haunts such as Anahuac (*fide* DSa). A Black Rail on the Kenedy Ranch 28 Apr may have been a first *Kenedy* record (BFr). While observers to the e. encountered a good shorebird migration, the story was different in Midland, where several normally common species were scarce. Some impressive shorebird numbers included 2000 American Golden-Plovers on the Bolivar Peninsula 15 Mar (T & PF) and up to 9000 American Avocets on Bolivar Flats 4 Mar (JO). By contrast, a single American Golden-Plover 22–29 May in *El Paso* was a great find (BZ et al.). Rare for the Pineywoods was a migrant Snowy Plover 30 Mar at Longview

(ERy, GLU). The last of the Mountain Plovers near Granger L., *Williamson* lingered to a new late date of 28 Mar (TFe). Of interest was a Red Knot at San Luis Pass 26 Apr (BK et al.); the bird had been banded on the Río Negro, Argentina in Mar 1998. *Brazoria* hosted a Reeve 28 Apr (JSt, RW, JL), a first for both the refuge and the county.

Quite a few observers “chased” a Little Gull that lingered in Beaumont 8–21 Apr (NBl et al.). The first record of Thayer’s Gull for the Central Brazos Valley was reported by Merkord, Vollert, and others at L. Somerville, *Washington* and *Burleson* 8–9 Apr. A Sabine’s Gull described at L. Balmorhea 21 Apr represents one of very few spring records for the state (RH, SWa).

DOVES THROUGH OWLS

We are now at the stage of filling in the blanks for county records of Eurasian Collared-Dove, the species having spread out across the entire state. (refer to <http://www.nctexas-birds.com/ecebogmap.htm> for the latest.) The most likely areas for new county reports will be in heavily wooded e. Texas and in sparsely birded regions of w. Texas; Big Bend got first records for the park in Apr and May. We also added records for *Bee* and *Grimes* this season. A lone Ruddy Ground-Dove was a one-day wonder in Paton’s El Paso yard 3 Apr; this bird was apparently of the paler w. subspecies. Increasingly rare in Big Bend, a pair of Burrowing Owls established a nesting territory at Tornillo Flats 29 Mar+ (MF). We received a late report of a winter Long-eared Owl in Big Bend, on the Glenn Springs Road 3 Feb (FD).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Green Violet-ear made a two-day stop at the home of Ernest Jasek in *Guadalupe* 9–10 May (m. ob., ph. MSi); another stayed 9–12 May at the Simons’ feeders near Corpus Christi; and yet another first detected 21 May near Wimberley, *Hays* remained through the period (*fide* JHan). Buff-bellied Hummingbirds continued to edge northward from the coastal plain, with additional sightings in *Bastrop* and *Washington*; *Brazos* had its 2nd and 3rd records in Apr. There were just a few unusual hummingbirds in the Davis Mts: a lone Ruby-throated was at a private feeder 6 May (M&ME), and an Anna’s was a rare spring find 25 Apr at the nearby S.P. (RR). Two Calliopes remained at an Austin area residence until 31 Mar and 9 Apr, respectively (PGe), while another, a male, lin-

gered from winter at Cayman House in Fulton to at least 1 Apr.

A wintering Ringed Kingfisher on Austin’s Town L. was resighted 9 Apr; across town the species was seen at Hornsby Bend 28 Apr & 17 May (*fide* JHan). A bit farther e. was a Ringed Kingfisher (or 2?) on a pond in *Bastrop* 21 May (LJ et al.). Conceivably these reports could represent anywhere from one to 5 different birds. Of more significance was a Ringed seen entering a nest hole on the upper Nueces R. near Camp Wood in nw. *Uvalde* 19 May (DJ); a subsequent check by Tom Taylor 24 May indicated an ad. carrying food to the cavity in the river bank, first confirmation of breeding activity in the Texas Hill Country after years of anticipation. Well out of range was a Green Kingfisher in n. *Harris* 7 Apr (TexBirds). A wintering Lewis’s Woodpecker at Midland was last seen on 9 Mar (FR, FBu, RMS); one in Lubbock remained until 10 Apr (RE); in the Davis Mts and nearby Alpine, there were scattered reports of single birds as late as 24 Mar and 20 Apr, respectively.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CROWS

A Greater Pewee was studied 5–7 May in the Davis Mts. (D & LH); we now have about 10 well-documented records of this flycatcher in Texas (and many other reports). An Eastern Wood-Pewee was very early at Bryan 6 Mar (KA). A pair of Buff-breasted Flycatchers returned 8 May to a nesting territory in the Davis Mts. for the 3rd year in a row (GL, KB et al.). Unexpected and s. of its normal breeding range was an Eastern Phoebe on territory at Gonzales on the coastal plain 19 May (BFr et al.). The wintering Say’s Phoebe in *Harrison* stayed to 5 Mar (ERy et al.). There was a proliferation of Vermilion Flycatchers in nw. Texas: new county records were garnered in *Armstrong* 3 Apr (KS) and in *Dallam* 1 May (LSa), and a male at Muleshoe 8–12 May was joined by a female 28 May+ (m. ob.). At least one **Dusky-capped Flycatcher**, likely one of the pair first found by Richard Webster in Apr 2000, returned to the Laguna Meadow Trail in Big Bend 26 Apr and thereafter, but no nesting activity was observed (m. ob.). Out-of-range Great Kiskadees were at San Luis Pass, Galveston 25 May (JSt) and in Baytown the same week; a pair at the latter locality hung around a few more weeks and was actually seen carrying nesting material into a Loblolly Pine (MAT, DD)! Yet another Kiskadee provided only the 2nd record for Midland 6–7 May (D & JMer et al.), and the species was well-documented for the first

time in Big Bend 29 Apr–9 May (m. ob.). Perhaps similarly inspired to wander, a **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** was on S. Padre I., *Cameron* 5–7 May (CCo, BMC et al.); there are nearly 10 records for Texas now. A territorial Tropical Kingbird at Edinburg, *Hidalgo* 2 May was a new locality record (TBr); at least two pairs of Tropicals settled once again in Cottonwood Campground at Big Bend. A Cassin's Kingbird in Austin 23 Apr was phenomenally far e., perhaps a first area record (ML et al.). There were two May reports of Western Kingbirds in *Angelina* in deep e. Texas, where the species is very rare (DW, JFa).

Not to be outdone by the winter reports in the Hill Country, Freeman found a Hutton's Vireo 10 Mar even farther e. in Buescher S.P., *Bastrop*. A migrant Yellow-throated Vireo was a bit far w. at Big Bend 4 Apr (CCur, GHo), as were a Philadelphia in *Dallam* 1 May (first county record; LSa) and a Red-eyed in El Paso 1 May (MSc, JZ et al.). Three surprising reports of Yellow-green Vireo came from the coast: one was at Port O'Connor 25 Apr (BFr); another was at Sabine Woods 7 May (HJ); and yet another was videotaped on Galveston I. 8–9 May (JSt). A Black-whiskered Vireo reported 14–21 Apr at High I. (DQ, GM et al.) was very elusive. A few lingering Tree Swallows may have been checking out potential nesting areas in *Harrison*, *Angelina*, *Williamson*, and *Bell* into May (m. ob.); there was no documented breeding activity, however. Steller's Jays and Western Scrub-Jays were reluctant to depart their El Paso haunts, a few being reported into Mar and Apr, with one Western Scrub-Jay lingering to 28 May. However, the scattered Pinyon Jays seemed to be the most attached to the landscape. A few stayed in the Midland area into the earliest days of Mar (*vide* RMS). The latest Pinyon Jay records in far w. Texas were 16 Mar in El Paso and 18 May at Limpia Crossing, *Jeff Davis*, and a few were still s. of Alpine at the end of the period. A nesting pair of Tamaulipas Crows at Brownsville's airport were checked by birders routinely from 27 Mar through May (JOD, NBl et al.).

TITMICE THROUGH WARBLERS

A wintering Juniper Titmouse in Amarillo stayed until 9 Apr (SF). Cave Swallows were active at nesting colonies in *Stephens* and *Throckmorton* by 1 Apr near the n. edge of their Texas range. A truly late Ruby-crowned Kinglet was at Balcones Canyonlands 28 May (DT). A pair of Eastern Bluebirds nested in Big Bend for the first time since 1972; the

birds hatched 4 young at Rio Grande Village 8 Apr. A single male Western Bluebird that had strayed to *Limestone* in the winter was last noted 5 Mar (TJC). The latest of the winter's easterly Townsend's Solitaires was in *Travis* 13–14 Apr (PF, WB), while another was still in El Paso 28 May (JPa). Evidence of Wood Thrushes (and Yellow-throated Warblers) singing on territory at Alum Cr., *Bastrop* in late May was the first in several years (BFr). The presence of 3 singing Swainson's Thrushes on 20 May in the same area raised eyebrows, but they were probably late migrants. A Clay-colored Robin was singing from the bluffs at Santa Margarita Ranch, *Starr* 8 Apr (CDB, ESB) & 28 Apr (BMc); the species was nesting at Santa Ana in late May, and another individual was upriver on the Mexico side at Nuevo Laredo, also in late May (TBr). Farther out of range was a Clay-colored singing at L. Corpus Christi in mid-May (CBr).

The list of rare warblers in w. Texas was extensive. In simplified form, the casual species (number of reports this season in parentheses) included: Golden-winged (1), Tennessee (1), Northern Parula (3+), Chestnut-sided (2), Yellow-throated (2), Blackpoll (3, including a first for the Davis Mts.), Prothonotary (2), Ovenbird (1), and records of accidental species, Canada Warbler in El Paso and Mourning Warbler at Ft. Bliss 22 May (BZ). A singing male Colima Warbler was located in Tobe Canyon in the Davis Mts.

19 May (KB, MAd, JG et al.); this is the 3rd year in a row for the species there.

There were record numbers of Cape May Warblers on the coast, with as many as 6 on w. Galveston I. and *Jefferson* 5 May (m. ob.) and 20 the same day on S. Padre I. (BMc); there was an analogous bumper crop of Black-throated Blues as well. A Black-throated Blue in *Donley* 10 May was a new county record (KS). The willows at Anahuac hosted an eye-popping Townsend's Warbler 13–15 Apr (DSa et al.). A Golden-cheeked Warbler in e. *Stephens* 1 Apr was the first report in that underbirded area in 25 years. Of more significance was the return of 2 singing male **Golden-cheeked Warblers** to sw. *Dallas* on 7 Apr (ph. DH et al.), the first county records in 37 years. A Palm Warbler at Ryan L., *Angelina* 4 May was a very rare migrant there (LD, JaW), as was a Palm at Buffalo L. 13 May (RS et al.) and a Prothonotary at the latter locality 17 May (BPi). A Worm-eating Warbler was accidental at Midland 23 Apr (D & JMer). Seventeen territorial Kentucky Warblers and nearly that many Hoodeds on Alum Cr., *Bastrop* in late May were unexpectedly high numbers (BFr, ML). A vagrant Mourning Warbler was in Lubbock 28 May (AF). An "astonishing" coastal record was provided by a **Red-faced Warbler** at Matagorda I., 6 May (BFr), yet another indicator of the significant southwestern and tropical influx up the coast this season. Incomplete but suggestive details of a Painted

SAA male Northern Parula and a mostly typical female Tropical Parula were observed copulating and in nest-building activities at Dolan Falls Ranch Preserve, *Val Verde* 24–29 Apr (JLR et al.). This area lies in the southwestern extreme of Northern Parula's range and the northernmost extreme of Tropical Parula's. Hybridization between these close relatives has yet to be conclusively documented, but this instance may give some indication as to why Texans see variation in apparent Tropical Parulas, particularly in facial patterns. The female of this pair in fact showed a bit of a white eye-crescent above the eye but none below and was in all other respects a typical female Tropical. Rowlett writes: "Her underparts were extensively rich yellow below, from chin to upper belly, immaculate and somewhat warmer (toward orange) on the upper breast; her malars were golden. While we were watching her, I noticed that she kept returning to the same area of a big Live Oak, so I investigated more closely and found her building a nest in the ball moss. We could set up the scope on the nest and watch the male bring plant fibers in and place them nearby in the tree that she would then pick up and weave into the nest. He would then fly off a few feet away and begin to sing." Rowlett and others found an apparently unmated male Tropical in Mexican White Oaks on another part of the Preserve as well. Another was at the new Magic Ridge Sanctuary, *Calhoun* 25 Apr (JJa). Tropical Parulas were also newsworthy on opposite side of the state: a nesting pair documented in the oak woodlands of Davis Mts. S.P. 24 Apr+ (MSM, JD, KB et al.) was clearly a first Trans-Pecos nesting attempt. Observers are asked to document all nesting Tropical Parulas carefully.

Redstart on the U.T.C. at Anahuac 14 Apr were submitted, and another was reported at Rockport 24 Apr (TexBirds). Yet another super-rarity on the coast (and the first away from the L.R.G.V.) was a **Golden-crowned Warbler** at Packery Channel 24–29 Apr (MH, m. ob.; ph. A&MC, † to T.B.R.C.). Two enticing rarities were reported in Big Bend on 9 May: a Slate-throated Redstart from Emory Peak (PT) and a Rufous-capped Warbler at Sam Nail Ranch (J&WR); neither could be refound later. Another Rufous-capped Warbler was at Dolan Falls Ranch Preserve in late Apr (JLR et al.)

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Scarlet Tanagers staged the best movement through the Pineywoods that David Wolf had seen in 30 years. The species was also conspicuous on the c. Texas coast in the latter half of Apr (m. ob.). There were Scarlets at Buffalo L. 15 May (KS) and Palo Duro Canyon 26 May (DB), and a single bird strayed to Big Bend 11–13 May (MF et al.). An Eastern Towhee at Big Bend Ranch provided a first *Presidio* record (KB, ML). A Sage Sparrow was a good find in *Val Verde* at Dolan Falls Ranch Preserve on 27 Apr (JLR). An ad. Chipping Sparrow feeding young at Ft. Clark Springs on 10 May represented a rare, even unprecedented nesting on the South Texas Plains (ML, *fide* JA). Grasshopper Sparrows and Dickcissels clearly had banner years in the grassland and open shrubland of c. Texas, many lingering to breed in record numbers. Both species were also more numerous in the Texas High Plains and the w. edge of the Panhandle. Small numbers of Grasshopper Sparrows were on territory as far e. as *Waller* and *Washington*. The moist conditions in w. Texas were blamed for the lack of Baird's Sparrows sightings, a species most often encountered (at desert oases, for instance) when conditions are drier. The wintering Gray-headed Junco in *Nacogdoches* was last seen on 15 Apr (MHW), much later than the regular Slate-colored's stay. A McCown's Longspur in *Burleson* 1 Mar was the first county record in 25 years (GF). Five Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were a bit more than normal in Big Bend and the Davis Mts; another was very early at Palo Duro Canyon 9 Mar (EH). A Blue Grosbeak at an *Angelina* feeder 5 Mar may have wintered locally, as it was a month early for a migrant (J & BP). The list of tropical strays on the Coastal Bend was supplemented by a male **Varied Bunting** 25–29 Apr at Packery Channel (AC, MH, m. ob.). Bobolinks were reported more frequently in their coastal

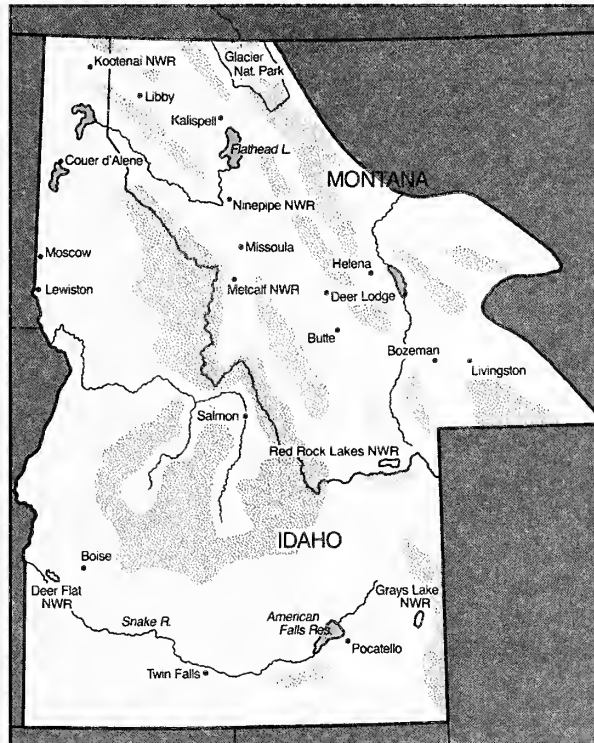
stopovers; one was a surprise in Lubbock 25 Apr (JB); an ad. male was a striking find on Boy Scout Road in *Jeff Davis* 8 May (B & JH, MAD); yet another was at Rio Grande Village 28 May (SA).

Two male **Shiny Cowbirds** were at Port O'Connor 15–22 Apr (Bfr et al.). There was a flush of Hooded Orioles on the U.T.C.: a well-described male was at Quintana 12 Mar for a first *Brazoria* record (RJ, JBo), a female was on w. Galveston I., 12 Apr (JSt), and another male was at Sea Rim 18 Apr (PGi). *Hudspeth* got its first Baltimore Oriole at Indian Hot Springs 4 May (JPa, BZ). There were several U.T.C. reports of Scott's Oriole, prompting a thorough discussion about yellow orioles on TexBirds. The only fully described bird was one at Bryan Beach, *Brazoria* 18 Apr (CB). Purple Finches were relatively common in e. Texas, lingering to at least 24 Apr in *Angelina* (J & BP). The irruptive Cassin's Finches in far w. Texas remained at various sites into Mar and Apr (m. ob.). Five Red Crossbills, including one ad. male, were found 8 May in e. Texas pines in s. *Angelina* where they are exceptionally rare (MWh); a single crossbill was in *Wichita* 29 Mar (*fide* DM), and small groups were detected in Amarillo, Clarendon, Lubbock, and Midland at various times. An Evening Grosbeak was in *Limpia Canyon*, *Jeff Davis* 23 Apr (BL), and 3 were in Amarillo 1 May (RS).

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Idaho—Western Montana



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Spring 2001 weather was variable across the Region but averaged warmer and much drier than usual. In fact, this May was Montana's fifth driest in 106 years. Bird migration was rather uneventful at most locations, but Idaho's Camas National Wildlife Refuge and nearby Market Lake Wildlife Management Area hosted spectacular numbers of migrants that included three first state records and many other exciting rarities in the last two weeks of May.

This column is dedicated to the memory of Boise birder Florence Knoll, who died on 11 March. Florence was an experienced field ornithologist, frequent contributor to this journal, and a good friend to many in the birding community in both Idaho and Montana. She is dearly missed.

Abbreviations: A.F.R. (American Falls Res., by American Falls, Idaho); Camas (Camas N.W.R., Jefferson, ID); Lee Metcalf (Lee Metcalf N.W.R., Ravalli, MT); Market L. (Market Lake W.M.A., Jefferson, ID).

LOONS THROUGH CRANES

Both rare and unseasonal was a breeding-plumaged Pacific Loon in *Bonner*, ID 29–31 May+ (LH). As in the last few years, American White Pelicans wandered far n., with one at Lee Metcalf 7 Apr (WT), up to 40 in *Nez Perce*, ID 15 Apr–28 May (m. ob.), and 40 in *Kootenai*, ID 30 May (SS). Great Egrets also strayed n., with singles reported at Mann L., *Nez Perce*, ID 28 Apr–16 May (KC, m. ob.), Bozeman, MT 12 May (JP, R&RW), and in *Gallatin*, MT 14 May (RI). Unlike recent years, a White-faced Ibis near Challis, ID 29 May (*vide* D&EF) was the only extralimital report. Mute Swans are showing up increas-





Idaho's third Hooded Warbler stopped at Argonne-West Lab, west of Idaho Falls, in remote Bingham County and was present from 8–11 May. It was discovered by Argonne-West employee and birder Dale Miller, who showed this beautiful male to many of his coworkers and visiting birders. The species made headlines in many parts of the West this spring. *Photograph by Ed Hahn.*

ingly frequently in Idaho, with reports of up to 2 at Fort Boise W.M.A., *Canyon* 1–18 Mar (m. ob.), and singles in *Blaine* 5 Apr (PWP) and near A.F.R. 14 Apr (DB). Undoubtedly one of the season's best finds was a **Whooper Swan** near Somers 5–11 Mar (ph. DC, m. ob.) which provided a first for Montana and the Region. Single Idaho Trumpeter Swans were out of range in *Nez Perce* 11 Apr (KC) and *Kootenai* 18 Mar and 16 May (SL). Like last year, Eurasian Wigeon numbers were high, with totals of at least 12 in Idaho and 18 in w. Montana. Ducks staged in extraordinary numbers at some locations, with 1263 American Wigeon at Lee Metcalf 15 Mar (WT) and an estimated 650 Common Goldeneyes and 975 Common Mergansers in *Canyon*, ID 10 Mar (JG). A Harlequin Duck strayed to Canyon Ferry Res., *Lewis and Clark*, MT 23 May (DE). An apparent Hooded Merganser x Common Goldeneye hybrid that visited *Flathead* in mid-Apr (DC) was odd but not unprecedented in w. Montana. Also far n. of typical range was a Swainson's Hawk in *Kootenai*, ID 28 Mar

(SL). The Rough-legged Hawk in *Owyhee*, ID 16 May (JD) was almost a month late. An estimated 1200 Sandhill Cranes staged in *Gem*, ID 31 Mar (CS), at least double the usual numbers there.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH MOCKINGBIRD

Pluvialis plovers are unusual in spring, but Idaho hosted single Black-bellied Plovers in *Fremont* 6–8 May, *Blaine* 11 May (LG, RM), and *Jefferson* 21 May (GR), and an American Golden-Plover in *Fremont* 6 May (CW). A total of 21 Black-necked Stilts was reported away from their s. Idaho range, including a record 15 at Lee Metcalf 26 Apr (WT). Notable Montana shorebirds included a Marbled Godwit at Lee Metcalf 21 Apr (WT), a Red Knot in *Lewis and Clark* 12 May (GH, DS, JS), and a Dunlin near Missoula 10–24 Mar (LW). Whimbrels had an unusually good showing, with one in *Boundary* 10 May (PC) and 4 at Mann L. 16 May (RW), representing Idaho's 13–14th records. The best shorebird of the season was a **White-rumped Sandpiper** in *Jefferson* 27–28 May (†CT,

†CW, m. ob.) that provided Idaho's 4th record.

Incredible numbers of small gulls staged at Minidoka N.W.R., *Minidoka*, ID, including over 5000 Franklin's Gulls 16 Apr–11 May and about 5000 Bonaparte's Gulls 23–30 Apr (SB). Rare Pacific Coast gull numbers were fairly typical, with one Mew Gull, 5 Thayer's Gulls, a Glaucous-winged Gull, and 5 Glaucous Gulls reported. Up to 20 Pinyon Jays visited w. Montana's Bitterroot Valley until 7 Apr (DL). Single Idaho Band-tailed Pigeons were reported in *Gem* 22 Apr (FZ) and *Kootenai* 21 May (SW). At least 3 **Eurasian Collared-Doves** continued near American Falls, ID throughout the period (CT), where breeding was suspected but not proven. Camas hosted Idaho's 12th Black-billed Cuckoo 26–28 May (BD, DM, m. ob.) and a Yellow-billed Cuckoo on 28 May (DM). Both rare and late was a Snowy Owl near Polson, MT 21 Mar (JR). Especially unusual in spring were 2 wayward Ash-throated Flycatchers in Boise, ID 7–8 May (KR, MC). Also out of range was a Loggerhead Shrike at Lee Metcalf 5 Apr (CE) and Idaho Bewick's Wrens in *Payette* 1–5 Mar (m. ob.) and *Ada* 3 May (DT). A Northern Mockingbird that overwintered in *Canyon*, ID was last seen 11 Mar (CD).

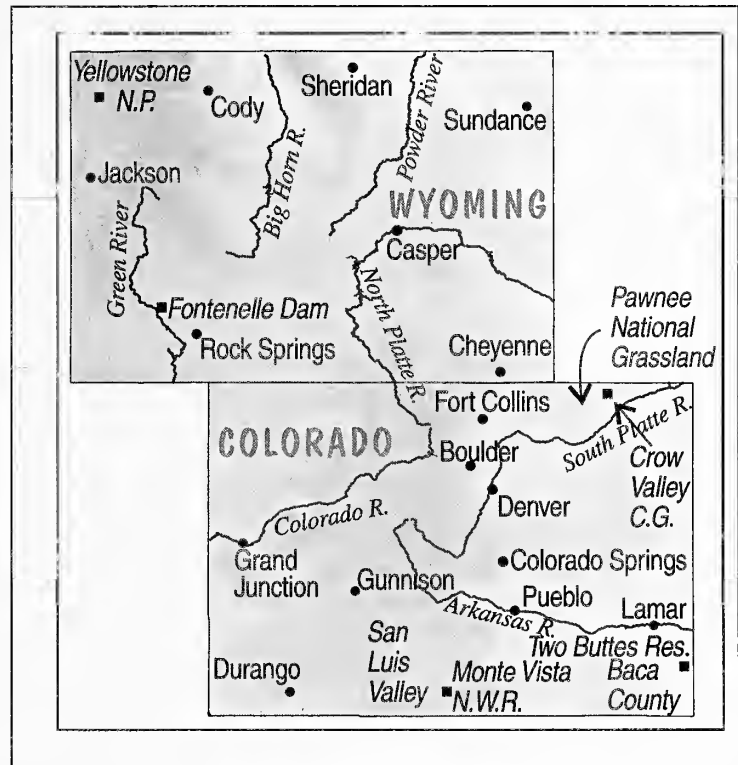
WARBLERS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

Among the many migrants reported at Camas were an incredible 21 species of warblers in mid- to late May, including rarities such as Idaho's 2nd **Golden-winged Warbler** 25 May (PWP, DS), 3rd **Northern Parula** 24–26 May (MCR, †CT, m. ob.), a Chestnut-sided Warbler 25–26 May (BD, m. ob.), 9th **Magnolia Warbler** 23 May (BD, m. ob.), first **Hermit Warbler** 22 May (†CT, †ph. CW, m. ob.), first **Black-throated Green Warbler** 12 May (MCR), 2 Blackpoll Warblers 19–25 May (MCR, BD, CT), 4 Black-and-white Warblers 12–31 May (m. ob.), and an Ovenbird 24 May (BD, m. ob.). Warbler highlights elsewhere in Idaho included the state's 10th **Black-throated Blue Warbler** in *Canyon* 28 May (†DT) and 3rd **Hooded Warbler** in *Bingham* 8–11 May (ph. EH, DM). Another spectacular find was a **Summer Tanager** at Market L. 27 May (D&EF, †CT, m. ob.) that provided Idaho's 4th record. It was a banner year for Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, with single males in Victor, MT 12 May (PC), *Blaine*, ID 18–19 May (JSe, BS), *Jefferson*, ID 18 May (DCI), near Helena, MT 26 May (JSc), and in *Oneida*, ID 26–31 May (JSa). The only Blue Grosbeak reported was in *Jefferson*, ID 14 May (CW). Indigo Buntings may have had

Mountain West

their best showing ever, with singles near Missoula, MT 13–22 Apr (RN), in Aberdeen, ID 12–13 May (DB), in Helena, MT 18–19 May (RW), in *Butte*, ID 25–26 May (CO), at Market Lake 27 May (D&EF), and at Camas on 28 May (DM). A singing male **Clay-colored Sparrow** in *Bonner* 27–31 May+ (DD) was Idaho's 9th. The only Golden-crowned Sparrow reported this season was in *Canyon*, ID 26–28 Apr (JA). Especially rare in spring were Lapland Longspurs in *Powell*, MT 3 Mar (BW) and *Elmore*, ID 25 May (JB). Reports of Idaho's Great-tailed Grackles were up from last year, with 5 in *Minidoka* 1–4 Mar (JC, ES) and singles in *Twin Falls* 31 Mar (B&SM), Boise 7 May (BC), *Minidoka* 8–13 May (SB), and *Power* 23 May (CT). Like last year, Common Grackles were seen in seven e. Idaho counties and at least two locations in w. Montana. A rare Purple Finch was an unprecedented find in *Owyhee*, ID 28 Apr (CS). Away from their local Idaho range in Boise and Pocatello, Lesser Goldfinches were reported below A.F.R. dam 1–31 Mar (m. ob.) and in *Salmon* 24 May (CH).

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Spring arrived up to two weeks earlier than normal east of the Rockies. Trees were fully leafed out by 1 May. The mountain areas of the Region experienced late heavy snows in April, providing above-normal snow packs in most ranges. With concentrated birding efforts in Colorado and Wyoming in proper habitat during migration, certain eastern species have apparently become regular. It appears that Glossy Ibis, Lesser Nighthawk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, eastern vireos, Gray-cheeked Thrush, 35+ species of warbler, and other species, once considered quite rare, are findable each year. Future studies of migration and weather in this Region should confirm that eastern species are normal in the context of certain patterns of weather and that in some years many

eastern species are not rare. All sightings are from Colorado, unless otherwise indicated.

Abbreviations: B.S.W.M.A. (Bump Sullivan W.M.A., *Goshen*, WY); C.B.R. (Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso/Pueblo*, CO); Chatfield (Chatfield Res., *Jefferson/Douglas*, CO); C.V.C.G. (Crow Valley Campground, Pawnee National Grasslands, *Weld*, CO); J.M.R. (John Martin Res., *Bent*, CO); E.K.W.S.P. (Edness Kimbal Wilkens State Park, *Natrona*, WY); F.L.W.E. (Fort Lyon Wildlife Easement, *Bent*, CO); L.H.R. (L. Hattie Res., *Albany*, WY); T.M.W.M.A. (Table Mountain W.M.A., *Goshen*, WY); W.H.R. (Wyoming Hereford Ranch, e. of Cheyenne, *Laramie*, WY).

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

A basic-plumaged **Red-throated Loon** was at L.H.R. 24 May (SJD, JBF) and 22 Common Loons there 6 May (SJD). An ad. Neotropic Cormorant was at J.M.R. 8–9 Apr (BKP, MJ, SO). Single Least Bitterns were at Alamosa 11 May (JJR) and at C.B.R. 20 May (CLW et al.). A Great Egret was at Glendo Res., *Platte*, WY 18 May (CEM, JG). An ad. Little Blue Heron was at L. Henry, *Crowley* 29 Apr (VZ) and an ad.

Tricolored Heron at J.M.R. 26 Apr–2 May (TL et al.). A subad. white-morph **Reddish Egret** was at J.M.R. 17 May (DN) and at nearby L. Hasty, *Bent* 27 May (DAL, JT); this constitutes the 6th Colorado record. Seven Glossy Ibis were reported from Colorado.

An ad. Trumpeter Swan was found in sw. Colorado at Pagosa Springs, *Archuleta* 27 Mar (DAL). Very rare in Wyoming, single male **Eurasian Wigeon** were at Laramie 10 Mar–14 Apr (ph. DBM, GJ, J&RD) and at Goldeneye Res., *Natrona* 8 Apr (CEM, JG); another male made an appearance at Ft. Collins 2 Mar (AP). The female **Harlequin Duck** that wintered in Durango remained through at least 17 Mar (*fide* M&DH).

RAPTORS TO HUMMINGBIRDS

Colorado's 3rd and 4th **Common Black-Hawks** were single ads. at Durango 13–14 Apr (PD, M&DH et al.) and Trinidad L., *Las Animas* 20 May (GW, TL et al.). Single Broad-winged Hawks in Wyoming were at E.K.W.S.P. 23 Apr (CEM) & 30 Apr (CEM) and at W.H.R. 25 May (SJD, JBF). A **King Rail** was heard at J.M.R. 22 May (TL et al.). Three American Golden-Plovers were w. of Huntley, *Goshen*, WY 25 May (SJD, JBF), and a Snowy Plover was at Soda L., near Casper, *Natrona* 14 May (JG). In Wyoming, 2 Whimbrels were w. of Huntley, 2 May (SJD), 2 at B.S.W.M.A. 9 May (SJD, JBF), and one at Soda L., WY 24 May (CEM, JG). A Ruddy Turnstone was also at Soda L. 24 May (CEM, JG), and several were noted in e. Colorado. Thirty-seven Sanderlings were at Wheatland Res. #3, *Albany*,



This White-winged Dove in Pueblo, Colorado appeared 28 May and remained through the early summer. The species is now found out of core range throughout the United States, as is true for several other columbid species. *Photograph by Larry Semo.*

WY 15 May (SJD, JBF). In Wyoming, White-rumped Sandpiper reports included: 5 at T.M.W.M.A. 21 May (SJD); one near Cheyenne 25 May (SJD, JBF); and 84 in *Goshen* 25 May (SJD, JBF); also higher numbers were recorded in Colorado this spring. Pectoral Sandpipers in Wyoming included 2 w. of Huntley 25 May (SJD, JBF) and one at T.M.W.M.A. 25 May (SJD, JBF). A *hendersoni* **Short-billed Dowitcher** was studied and heard at T.M.W.M.A. 15 May (SJD, JBF).

An ad. Mew Gull was at Jim Hamm Pond, *Boulder*, and Union Res., *Weld* 4–28 Mar (JV), and an ad. was at Pastorius Res., *La Plata* 30 Mar–2 Apr (SA, M&DH). Wyoming's first **Great Black-backed Gull** was at Blake's pond near Laramie 14–15 Apr (ph. DBM, GJ, R&JD). Single Glaucous-winged Gulls appeared, with a first-basic bird at Pueblo Res. 3 Mar (DFO), another first-basic individual at Chatfield 7–10 Mar (KS, m. ob.), and a second-basic bird at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe* 9 Mar (RO). A first-spring Black-legged Kittiwake was Chatfield Res. 11 Apr–31 May+ (JK, m. ob.). Eleven Common Terns were at Greyrocks Res., *Platte* 25 May (SJD, JBF), with one near Cheyenne 25 May (SJD, JBF).

In Wyoming, a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was at Wheatland City Park, *Platte* 14 Apr (DBM); 2 were at Green River, *Sweetwater* 5–6 May (RS) and another pair at Fort Larimie, *Goshen* 15 &

25 May (SJD, JBF). A pair of White-winged Doves was in Pueblo 28 Apr–31 May+ (VAT, m. ob.). A Long-eared Owl was at E.K.W.S.P. 21 Mar (CEM). A Lesser Nighthawk was noted in Vineland, *Pueblo* 16 Apr (NK, RV). A male **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at Wray, *Yuma* 12 May (CLW), only the 5th state record for Colorado. Quite unexpected was Colorado's first **Costa's Hummingbird**, an ad. male, at C.V.C.G. 18–19 May (SJD, JBF, ph. RD, ph. RO, m. ob.).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH VIREOS

Two Lewis's Woodpeckers were in w. *Platte*, WY 15 May (SJD, JBF), and 3 Red-headed Woodpeckers graced Rawhide Wildlife Area, *Goshen* 25 May (SJD, JBF). The Acorn Woodpecker at Ft. Carson, *El Paso*, stayed to 29 May (BM, RB). An Eastern Wood-Pewee sang at Flagler S.W.A., *Kit Carson* 26 May (DFa). Single vocalizing Alder Flycatchers were at Jumbo Res., *Sedgwick* 19 May (JM, DAL, DCE) and at Last Chance, *Washington* 27 May (BKP).

A singing **White-eyed Vireo** was at E.K.W.S.P. 23–24 May (CEM, JG, m. ob.), a 2nd record for Wyoming; Colorado had 4 White-eyed Vireos this spring. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at Fontenelle Dam, *Lincoln*, WY 27–28 May (RS, m. ob.), and 6 were in e. Colorado this season. A Blue-headed Vireo was at C.B.R. 19 May (CLW,

SA Vermilion Flycatchers invaded e. Colorado this season. We received reports of 12 individuals 5–17 Apr, an astonishing number for a species normally quite rare in Colorado. The reports included a male at Adobe Creek Res., *Bent/Kiowa* 5 Apr (DN); a male at Belmar Park in Lakewood, *Jefferson* 5 Apr (MCh, WF, KS); a female at Chatfield 12–13 Apr (RO); a pair at Cottonwood Canyon, *Baca/Las Animas* 13 Apr (DFi, et al.); one or a pair at Higbee Cemetery, *Otero* 14 Apr–31 May+ (DEL, DAL, m. ob.); a male e. of Ft. Lyon, *Bent* 15 Apr (DEI); and a pair nw. of Campo, *Baca* 17 Apr (TL, BKP). Strong s. winds in early to mid-Apr in e. Colorado, w. Kansas, and w. Oklahoma may have moved birds northwest of normal—or this may be the start of a trend, as the species appears to be expanding its range to the north.

VAT). In Wyoming, single Red-eyed Vireos were at W.H.R. 25 May (SJD, JBF) and Fontenelle Dam 27 May (RS).

THRUSHES THROUGH GRACKLES

At W.H.R., an eastern-race Veery 17 May (SJD, JBF) and a western-race Veery 25 May (SJD, JBF) gave a good indication of this area's potential for showcasing migrants from multiple populations. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was also there 17 May (JBF, SJD), and at least another 11 Gray-cheekeds were reported from e. Colorado 3–15 May.

Colorado birders found 38 species of warblers. Blue-winged Warblers, always a highlight of Colorado birding, were at F.L.W.E. 22 Apr (MJ, BKP); Chatfield 7 May (RV); Lamar 11 May (JK, AS, m. ob.); Loveland 16 May (KL, EC, JBF); Dixon Res. in w. Ft. Collins also 16 May (DAL, MCo); e. Ft. Collins 18 May (DAL); F.L.W.E. 20 May (LS); and at Rye, *Pueblo* 29 May (DSi). A male Golden-winged at C.B.R. 19 May (VAT, RO, MJ) was the only one reported. A female Cape May was at Burlington Cemetery, *Kit Carson* 13 May (CLW). A male Hermit was at Upper Queens Res., *Kiowa* 6 May (MJ, BKP). Single Blackburnians were enjoyed at Dixon Res. in w. Ft. Collins 18 May (JBF, SJD, ph. DAL, DCE); C.B.R. 19 May (CLW, RO, VAT, MJ); C.V.C.G. 24 May (SMe); Doudy Draw in Boulder 24 May (BE); and at Flagler S.W.A., a female 25 May (DF) and a male 27 May (IS). At L. Holbrook were a male Yellow-throated 11–12 May (JK, AS) and a female Prairie 6–7 May (AS, JK, RO). Other Prairies were a male at Prewitt Res., *Washington* 9 May (SMe) and a female at J.M.R. 22 May (DN). A male Bay-breasted was at C.V.C.G. 16–18 May (BB, ph. RO). Single Prothonotary Warblers were at Lamar 22 Apr (SO); Chatfield 3 May (AS); Colorado City, *Pueblo* 10 May (DSi); Wray 12 May (CLW); Estes Park, *Larimer* 13 May (SR); L. Henry 2–7 May (JBH), with 2 were there 14 May (DN). Single Worm-eating Warblers were at F.L.W.E. 22 Apr (MJ, BKP); Lamar 8 May (GR, BKP); Neenoshe Res. 10 May (VAT); Two Buttes Res. 11 May (AS, JK); C.V.C.G. 16–18 May (SR, JW); and e. of Ft. Lyon 18 May (BKP et al.). Single Kentucky Warblers were e. of Ft. Lyon 14 Apr (SO, DJ, GR, DN); at Neenoshe Res. 11 May (JK, AS); and most unusual, near Uravan, *Montrose* 30 May (CD, BW). A female **Connecticut Warbler** at Last Chance 27 May (CLW) provided the 8th record for Colorado. Mourning Warblers were detected at Barr L., *Adams* 14 May (PG, BA) and at C.B.R. 19–20 May (TL, CLW).

Wyoming warbler rarities included a male Tennessee at Glendo Res., *Platte* 18 May (CEM, JG) and a female at W.H.R. 19 May (CEM, JG).



A Gray-cheeked Thrush banded in Colorado Springs in May was one of a dozen found in the Region this spring. Photograph by David Elwonger.

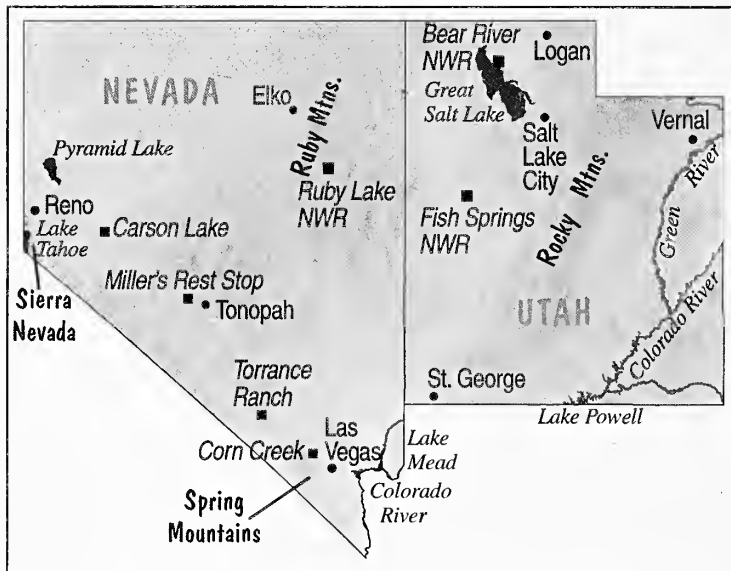
A male Nashville Warbler was at E.K.W.S.P. 6 May (CEM) and a male Virginia's Warbler w. of Wheatland, *Platte* 15 May (SJD, JBF). A male Northern Parula was at Lions Park, Cheyenne 25 May (JBF, SJD). Three male Chestnut-sided Warblers included one at Lion's Park, Cheyenne 18 May (J&GL), one at W.H.R. 19 May (CEM, JG), and one near Cheyenne, 25 May (JBF, SJD). A male Magnolia was noted at Fontenelle Dam 27 May (RS) and 4 male Black-throated Blues at W.H.R. 19 May (CEM, JG, J&GL). A male **Yellow-throated Warbler**, the 5th for the state, lingered at Laramie 17 May (DBM), while a **Western Palm Warbler** was a rarity at W.H.R. 19 May (JG, GL). At W.H.R., a female **Prairie Warbler**, the 4th for Wyoming, was seen 19 May (CEM, JG) and a female Blackpoll 17 May (JBF, SJD). A **Worm-eating Warbler**, the 6th for the state, was at Greyrocks Res., *Platte* 15 May (SJD, JBF), and an Ovenbird was at Lion's Park in Cheyenne 25 May (JBF, SJD). Single Northern Waterthrushes were at W.H.R. 17 May (JBF, SJD) and at Fontenelle Dam 27 May (RS). Wyoming's 2nd **Mourning Warbler** was at Fontenelle Dam 27 May (RS).

A male **Summer Tanager** visited a Casper, WY yard 30 Apr–7 May (F&LL); a male Scarlet Tanager was scarce visitor at F.L.W.E. 19 May (PH, DFa). Great-tailed Grackles continue to invade Wyoming: single males were at W.H.R. 17 May (SJD, JBF) and Rock L. near Wheatland 28 Apr (DBM), while 10 were seen at T.M.W.M.A. 15 May (SJD, JBF).

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The spring weather differed dramatically between the northern and southern parts of the Region. Dry weather in the north created concern about water shortages and forest fires, while precipitation was well above normal in the south. The rainfall in the south was probably responsible for a massive emergence and northward dispersal of Painted Ladies (*Vanessa cardui*) and definitely the cause of a magnificent spring wildflower show. It was difficult, however, to know what actual effect the spring weather had on the Region's birdlife. The shorebird flight was decent, and passerine vagrants made a nice showing at local oases; but both of these phenomena surely were due, in part, to events elsewhere on the migratory routes, on the wintering grounds, or even last year on the breeding grounds. All of the bold-faced species and several other uncommon species will be subject to review by the appropriate state records committee.

Abbreviations: A.I.C. (Antelope Island Causeway, *Davis*, UT); A.M.N.W.R. (Ash Meadows N.W.R., *Nye*, NV); B.R., Bodyfeldt Ranch (*Nye*, NV); C.C. (Corn Creek, *Clark*,

NV); L.V.S.C., (Lahontan Valley Shorebird Count, *Churchill*, NV, held 23–26 Apr); L.M., (Lake Mead, *Clark*, NV); L.V.M. (Lemmon Valley Marsh, *Washoe*, NV); L.R. (Lytle Ranch, *Washington*, UT); M.R.S. (Miller's Rest Stop, *Esmeralda*, NV); O.N.W.R. (Ouray N.W.R., *Uintah*, UT); P.N.W.R. (Pahranagat N.W.R., *Lincoln*, NV); P.L. (Pyramid L., *Washoe*, NV); Q.L. (Quichapa L., *Iron*, UT); R.V. (Ruby Valley, *Elko*, NV); T.R. (Torrance Ranch, *Nye*, NV); W.S.R. (Warm Springs Ranch, *Clark*, NV).

LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

A Pacific Loon at L.M. 3 Mar (RS) was the only report. The 152 Common Loons at Quail Creek Res., *Washington*, UT 21 Apr (RD & RF) made a high count for spring. Single Horned Grebes were at the Logan sewage treatment ponds, *Cache*, UT 29 Apr (BD & JD) and at A.I.C. 19 May (KB & JB). Least Bitterns were found at two s. Nevada locations: A.M.N.W.R. 31 Mar (MC & JC) and P.N.W.R. 29 May (JH & GH). Green Herons were reported from Moab, *Grand*, UT 25 Apr (DF), St. George 13 May (KB & JB), and three Nevada locales 23 Apr–27 May (v. o.).

Two Trumpeter Swans remained at South Fork Res., *Elko*, NV until 30 Mar (MP & LP), and a Mute Swan of undetermined provenance was at L.M. 3 Mar (RS). Five Greater White-fronted Geese lingered at Reno until 12 Mar

(LW), and a good count of about 450 Ross's Geese came from Gunnison Bend Res., *Millard*, UT 23 Mar (SS). Wood Ducks numbered one to 2 at four Nevada locales 11 Mar–5 May (v. o.). An exotic Ringed Teal in Reno 3 Mar (TF) was about one mi from where another was found a year earlier. Blue-winged Teal numbering one to 3 at five Nevada locales 14 Apr–20 May (v. o.) were about average. A **Eurasian Wigeon** was at Deseret Ranch, *Rich*, UT 19 May (MS et al.). Greater Scaup numbered one to 2 at: L.V.M. 18 Mar (TF et al.), Reno 21 Apr (TF & JW), and three Utah locales 18 Mar–29 Apr (v. o.). A Long-tailed Duck at Overton W.M.A., *Clark*, NV 14 Apr (JCo) was the only report. Three Barrow's Goldeneyes were at L.V.M. 18 Mar (TF et al.), and a pair remained at this site until 24 Mar (FP). Hooded Mergansers are uncommon in the Region away from w. Nevada, so it was nice to get reports of one to 3 birds at four Utah locales 14 Mar–14 Apr (v. o.). Red-breasted Mergansers were found at P.L. 14 Mar (TF et al.) and at Carson L., *Churchill*, NV 26 Apr (LN & TF).

It was a good spring for **Common Black-Hawks**: from Nevada, there were sightings of single birds at W.S.R. 29–30 Mar (SG et al.), C.C. 12–15 Apr (CT et al.), and Meadow Valley Wash (*Lincoln*) 5 May (JW); in Utah, breeding was documented at L.R. 25 Mar–14 May (RD et al.) and in the town of St. George 19 May (RF et al.). Red-shouldered Hawks were noted at three Nevada locations 9–18 Mar (v. o.) A **Broad-winged Hawk** was noted at the Jordanelle Res., *Wasatch*, UT hawkwatch 25 Apr (v. o., *vide* LWy). A **Zone-tailed Hawk** was at P.N.W.R. 4 Apr (JW); this was the site of one or 2 birds during much of summer 2000. A Merlin at Reno 3 Mar (TF) was the only report. Peregrine Falcons were reported from four Nevada locations and from South Shore Preserve, *Salt Lake*, UT 13 May (BR et al.) and O.N.W.R. 28 May (KB & JB).

CRANES THROUGH TERNS

Some 200+ Sandhill Cranes were at R.V. 13 Mar (KV), and westerly birds were noted at Washoe L., *Washoe*, NV 17 Mar (v. o.) and at Sheldon N.W.R., *Washoe*, NV 22–25 Mar (KM). The 52 Snowy Plovers at Q.L. 29 Mar (RD) were a high count for transients, especially in the s. part of the state. The L.V.S.C. yielded 13,641 American Avocets (LN et al.). Solitary Sandpipers were seen at four locations in Nevada 21 Apr–21 May (v. o.) and at three in Utah 29 Apr–11 May (v. o.).

Whimbrels at three Utah locales were led by 5 at A.I.C. 19 May (KB & JB); the only Nevada report came from Carson L. (*Churchill*) 13

May (RH et al.). Red Knots peaked at 20 at A.I.C. 17 May (KB & JB). Away from Davis, UT, Sanderling reports, of up to 4 birds, came from: Q.L. 23 Apr (RD); Moapa, Clark, NV 5 May (MC & JC); and Soda L., Churchill, NV 26

SA Even though the Great Basin is one of the driest regions on the continent, it is home to three Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserves: Utah's Great Salt Lake, Nevada's Lahontan Valley, and California's Mono Lake. This spring was especially exciting at Great Salt Lake, with sightings of Curlew Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, and Wandering Tattler among the highlights. Good numbers of shorebirds were present overall, and a high count of 793 Sanderlings staging at A.I.C. 21 May (EC) was especially noteworthy, as were at least 9 **White-rumped Sandpipers** at O.N.W.R. 28 May (KB & JB et al.); these birds remained into Jun. The **Wandering Tattler** appeared at A.I.C. 25 May and remained into Jun (ph. TS; MS et al.); this was the 3rd state record for the species. Utah's 3rd **Curlew Sandpiper** was at A.I.C. 6–8 May (ph. TS; KB & JB et al.). The **Hudsonian Godwit** at Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Box Elder, UT 6 May (KB & JB) was one of fewer than 10 confirmed state records. All of these shorebirds were well documented with good photographs and/or extensive written descriptions.

Apr–12 May (TF et al.). The L.V.S.C. produced 28,905 Western Sandpipers (LN et al.). Two Baird's Sandpipers on the L.V.S.C. and one at Q.L. 8 May (SS) were the only reports. The only Pectoral Sandpiper was a single bird at Q.L. 4 Apr (RD). Short-billed Dowitchers numbered one to 8 at three locales each in Nevada 4 Apr–5 May and Utah 21 Apr–10 May (v. o.). The Long-billed Dowitcher maximum was 14,465 on the L.V.S.C.

The top Bonaparte's Gull count in Nevada was 16 at L.V.M. 28 Apr (TF et al.), and the top count in Utah was 35 at Quail Creek Res. (Washington) 21 Apr (RD & RF). Single Thayer's Gulls at L.M. 3–9 Mar (RS) and Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Box Elder, UT 28 Apr (MS et al.) were the only reports. An "Olympic" Gull (Western x Glaucous-winged Gull hybrid) remained at P.L. until 14 Mar (ph. SSa; TF et al.). Common Terns were reported from A.M.N.W.R. 11 May (RS) and from Soda L., Churchill, NV 13 May (LN et al.); the

springtime status of this species in the Great Basin is essentially unknown.

DOVES THROUGH JAYS

Extralimital White-winged Doves were found at R.V. 20–26 Apr (JM) and at Monticello, San Juan, UT 7 Apr (KB & JB). Inca Doves are quite local in the s. part of the Region; one at Overton W.M.A., Clark, NV 5 May (SS) and 2 at the Hurricane Sewage Ponds, Washington, UT 14 Apr (RD & SS) were away from the expected locales. The season's first Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at W.S.R. 30 May (JW). A Vaux's Swift at Oxbow Park, Washoe, NV 3–4 May (DT et al.) was the only report. Anna's Hummingbird is uncommon in Utah, so single birds at Red Cliffs Campground, Washington 18 Mar (RD & RF) and at St. George 31 Mar (RD & RF) were notable; in Nevada, a northerly individual was at Spooner L., Douglas 21 May (LW). A Rufous Hummingbird at C.C. 21 Mar (RS) was the only report of this species, whose status as a spring transient through the Region is poorly understood. Notable woodpeckers included: 3 Lewis's migrating through C.C. 4 May (MC & JC); an Acorn at Devil's Canyon, San Juan, UT 17 Apr (MS et al.); and a Downy at Mesquite (where uncommon), Clark, NV 17 Mar (SS).

A singing Least Flycatcher at Dyer, Esmeralda, NV 26–27 May was well described (GS et al.); this difficult species is possibly annual in Nevada, but sightings are rarely documented. Black Phoebes wandered to two Washoe, Nevada locales: Rancho San Rafael Park, 29 Mar (FP) and Oxbow Park 14 Apr–3 May (TF et al.). Utah's only Vermilion Flycatcher was a single bird at St. George 12 May (KB & JB), but the species was noted at four s. Nevada locales (v. o.). A northerly Cassin's Kingbird was at Magna, Salt Lake, UT 21 May (KC), and one to 2 birds were found at three s. Nevada locales. An Eastern Kingbird was at Willard Bay S.P., Box Elder, UT 17 May (KB & JB), and 5 were at O.N.W.R. 28 May (KB & JB).

A Northern Shrike remained at P.L. until 14 Mar (TF et al.). Notable vireo records included: a singing White-eyed Vireo at P.N.W.R. 29 May (JH & GH); a good count of 8 Bell's at L.R. 21 Apr (RD & RF); single easterly Cassin's at L.R. and St. George, both 21 Apr (RD & RF); a possible Blue-headed at Tonopah 22 May (JBr); a well-studied Yellow-throated Vireo at C.C. 8–29 Apr (RS et al.); and Red-eyed at Lida, Esmeralda, NV 19 May (JBr et al.) and W.S.R. (JW). Western Scrub-Jays at three lowland Nevada locations 10 Mar–16 Apr (v. o.) were remnants of last autumn's corvid irruption.

NUTHATCHES THROUGH WARBLERS

A Red-breasted Nuthatch at C.C. 23 Mar–21 Apr (RS) was at an unusually low elevation. American Dippers bred in downtown Reno, and the young were fledged by the rather early date of 10 Apr (TF et al.). A Black-tailed Gnatcatcher was at Beaver Dam Wash, Washington, UT 14 May (KB & JB); the species is very local in s. Utah, but it is widespread in s. Nevada. Two Swainson's Thrushes at B.R. 27 May (MM et al.) were off the beaten path. A Varied Thrush was banded at T.R. 9 May and remained until 14 May (KV); another was seen at Tonopah 17 May (JBr). The Gray Catbird is rare in Utah, so reports from Willard Bay S.P., Box Elder 17 May (KB & JB) and Jordanelle W.M.A., Wasatch 28 May (KB & JB) were noteworthy. A Brown Thrasher was at M.R.S. 30–31 May (JBr), and a northerly Phainopepla was at this same locale 23–28 May (DS et al.).

The spring warbler flight seemed a little below average. Northern Parulas were found at: Capitol Reef N.P., Wayne, UT 15 Apr (LNs); Maple Grove Campground, Millard, UT 17 May (TS); C.C. 10–19 May (RS & JCo); and Tonopah 22 May (JBr). Single **Magnolia Warblers** at Tonopah 26–27 May (ph. MM; GS et al.) and T.R. 28 May (GS et al.) were well described and seen by many observers. A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was reported from Tonopah 18 May (JBr). Myrtle Warblers numbered up to 4 at six Nevada locations 23 Apr–19 May (v. o.). A male Hermit Warbler at Fernley, Lyon, NV 30 Apr (DT) was somewhat easterly, and a **Palm Warbler** at C.C. 4 May (SG) was a good find. Black-and-white Warblers were noted at four Nevada locales 12–27 May (v. o.), and American Redstarts were found at Yerington, Lyon, NV 4 May (CR) and B.R. 19–27 May (MM et al.). Prothonotary Warblers included a singing male at Las Vegas 6–8 May (RSc) and a mist-netted individual at T.R. 18 May (KV). An Ovenbird at B.R. 19–20 May (GS et al.) was the only report. Northern Waterthrushes were found at C.C. 10 May (RS), at M.R.S. 31 May (JBr), and at four Utah locations 27 Apr–27 May (v. o.). Hooded Warblers were found at four Nevada locations 14 Apr–31 May (v. o.). A **Painted Redstart** at Zion N.P., Washington, UT 22 Apr–12 May (RD et al.) was the 5th state record and first since 1973.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Northerly Summer Tanagers were at: M.R.S. 10 May (WW); Kanarrville, Iron, UT 16 May (SS); and Capitol Reef N.P., Wayne, UT 27 May (PS & SS). A singing **Cassin's Sparrow** at Gandy, Millard, UT 23 May (TS) was well described. An American Tree Sparrow

remained at R.V. until 8 Mar (KV). Lark Buntings were at four Utah locations, the high count being of 7 at Hurricane, *Washington* 5 May (RF). Grasshopper Sparrows are seldom reported in the Region, so the 3 at Antelope Island, *Davis*, UT 17 May (KB & JB) were noteworthy. Single White-throated Sparrows at the Carson R. Diversion Dam, *Churchill*, NV 24 Mar (BS) and at Elk Ridge, *Utah*, UT 3 May (DSh) were the only reports. Single Harris's Sparrows were found at Tonopah 23 Mar (JBr) and A.M.N.W.R. 31 Mar–19 Apr (v. o.), and 3 remained at the Jordan River Parkway, *Salt Lake*, UT until 8 May (TS). The season's last Golden-crowned Sparrow was at Washoe S.P., *Washoe*, NV 5 May (NB). Pink-sided Juncos numbered up to 3 at three Nevada locales 1–23 Mar (v. o.), and Slate-colored Juncos were at R.V. until 8 May (KV) and at Tonopah until 23 Mar (JBr).

It was a good spring for Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, with records from four locations each in Nevada and Utah (v. o.). Indigo Buntings, too, were widely noted, with reports from Moab, *Grand*, UT 7 May (DF); Yuba Res., *Millard*, UT 21 May (TS); and five Nevada locales 20 Apr–31 May (v. o.). A female Dickcissel was reported from M.R.S. 27 Apr (JBr). Single Bobolinks were seen at Scipio Res., *Millard*, UT 16 May (KB & JB); Heber, *Wasatch*, UT 27 May (KB & JB); Indian Springs, *Clark*, NV 28 May (MM); and M.R.S. 29 May (JBr). The Tricolored Blackbird Colony in Minden, *Douglas*, NV has apparently declined in recent years, so it was gratifying to find numerous individuals of both sexes at this site 6 May (BC & BeC). A Common Grackle was seen at Deseret Ranch, *Rich*, UT 19 May (MS et al.). A singing male **Orchard Oriole** was at Indian Creek Crossing, *Esmeralda*, NV 19 May (JBr & DT), and a possible female was at M.R.S. the same day (DT et al.). Northerly Hooded Orioles were found at Cedar City, *Iron*, UT 19 Apr (SS); M.R.S. 27 Apr (JBr); and Fallon, *Churchill*, NV 5 May (BH).

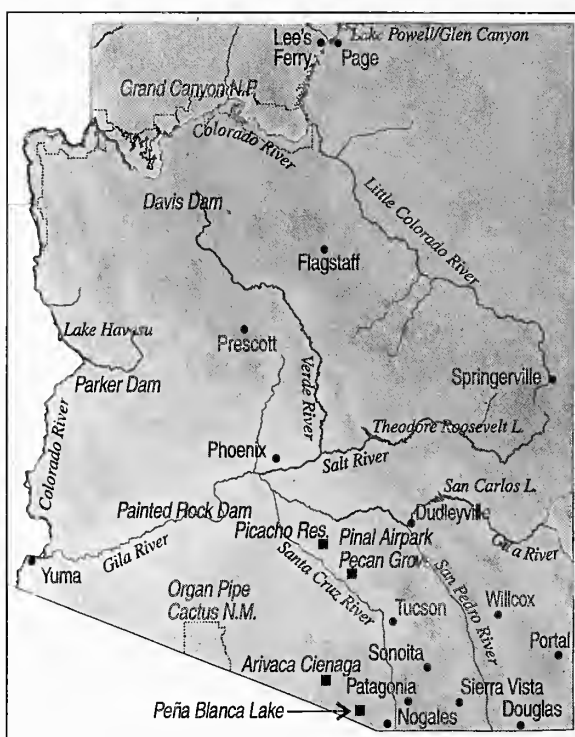
Fifteen Gray-crowned (including 3 Hepburn's race) and 11 Black Rosy-Finches remained at Tonopah until 23 Mar (JBr et al.). A Pine Grosbeak was back at the Ophir Creek Trail, *Washoe*, NV 22 May (TL); the non-summer status of this species in the local area is not known. An unidentified **redpoll** visited a Minden, *Douglas*, NV feeder 8 Mar (WS *vide* MM). There were two reports of **Lawrence's Goldfinch** this spring: a briefly described male seen in the presence of Lesser Goldfinches at Rancho San Rafael Park, *Washoe*, NV 17 Mar (ZS); and an undocumented sighting at Tonopah 22 May (JBr). Migrant Evening Grosbeaks numbered one to 3 at four Nevada locales 14 Apr–31 May (v. o.).

Observers: Kathy Beyer, Joel Beyer, Nancy Bish, John Brack (JBr), K.C. Childs, Bill Clark, Beth Clark (BeC), Jack Cochran (JCo), Ed Conrad, Marian Cressman, Jim Cressman, Brian Dixon, Jean Dixon, Rob Dobbs, Damian Fagan, Ted Floyd, Rick Fridell, Shawn Goodchild, George Hardie, Joan Hardie, Rich Heap, Bill Henry, Tim Lenz, Jeff Mackay, Kris McIntyre, Martin Meyers, Larry Neel, Laurie Ness (LNs), Fred Petersen, Mark Ports, Lois

Ports, Chris Randolph, Bruce Robinson, Terry Sadler, Scott Sady (SSa), Rick Saval, Greg Scyphers, Rita Schlageter (RSc), Becca Serdehely, Dennis Serdehely, Dennis Shirley (DSh), Wayne Sitton, Zach Smith, Mark Stackhouse, Priscilla Summers, Steve Summers, Carolyn Titus, Dennis Trousdale, Ken Voget, Jack Walters, Walter Wehtje, Larry Williams, Larene Wyss (LWy).



Arizona



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After an unusually wet winter and a relatively wet spring, Arizona was more lush and green than it had been in several years, particularly in the southeast. Birdlife in the mountains and canyons, as well as the grasslands and desert, certainly appeared more abundant than

after the droughts of the past three winters, and hopefully this will translate into better breeding success. After last winter's major montane invasion around the state, lingering corvids and woodpeckers were detected at odd localities throughout. Very exciting was Arizona's first Glossy Ibis, although it had been expected after recent records from California and New Mexico. Equally exciting, Arizona had its fifth record of Crescent-chested Warbler in Madera Canyon and a likely breeding pair of Rufous-capped Warblers in French Joe Canyon.

Abbreviations: S.P.R.N.C.A. (San Pedro River National Conservation Area); W.W.D. (White

Water Draw); C.S.L. (Cow Springs Lake); N.I.R. (Navajo Indian Reservation); S.W.R.S. (Southwest Research Station); H. R. P. (Hassayampa River Preserve); B.T.A. (Boyce Thompson Arboretum)

LOONS THROUGH MERGANSERS

Still considered casual anywhere in the state in spring, particularly away from the Colorado R., a single Pacific Loon was at L. Pleasant 7 May (J. Beason, K. Noonan). A Common Loon at C.S.L. 23 May (CL) was considered a very late occurrence in the state. Western Grebes were reported with greater frequency than usual this spring throughout the state; 12 seen at W.W.D. 23 May (C. Gresham et al.) was both a very high count and late for se. Arizona. Individual Clark's Grebes were also widely reported, with one at Thatcher 30 Mar (J. Williams), one at Becker L., Springerville 8 Apr (DR, GC), one at W.W.D. 8 Apr (SM), one at Willow L., Prescott 8 Apr (CST), one at Gilbert 16 Apr (SGa), another at W.W.D. 20 May (GB), and one in Maricopa 20 May (M. Baker). Small migrating flocks of American White Pelicans were reported from a variety of locations (e.g. Prescott, Scottsdale) between late Mar and mid-Apr. Neotropic Cormorants are definitely on the increase in s. Arizona, particularly in the Phoenix region, with at least 8 seen along the Salt R. in sw. Phoenix 23 Apr (TC). Elsewhere, numbers continue to fluctuate, with reports coming in from several new areas; while only 5 were reported from usual areas such as Patagonia L. 13 May (GHR), 8 were found at Arivaca L. 17 May (MMS), and one was at a pond in Nogales 20 Apr (MMS, P. Salomon). The status of Double-crested Cormorant in n. Arizona is still not completely known, so 24 at Luna L. 24 Apr (DR, GC), 15 at Pinetop 28 Apr (MMS), one at Show Low 28 Apr (MMS), one at Sunrise L. 28 Apr (MMS), and one at Concho L. 29 Apr (MMS) were all of interest. At least 45 pairs were also noted at Roosevelt L. 11 May (TC).

Single American Bitterns in sw. Phoenix 18 Mar (TC) and Patagonia L. 18 Mar–5 May (MMS et al.) likely wintered locally, while one at Kingfisher Pond, S.P.R.N.C.A. 26 Apr (DK, JWh) was probably a northbound migrant, and provided only a 5th local record. Egrets are rare anywhere in se. Arizona away from breeding areas such as Picacho Res.; therefore 4 Great Egrets at W.W.D. 13 May (AM), 5 there 16 May (GHR), and a single Snowy Egret at Portal 29 Apr (DJ) were all of note. A single Great Egret was out of its normal range at Lee's Ferry 5 May (G. Nealon). Three different Little Blue Herons, a casual spring visitor in s. Arizona, were

reported, one at Kingfisher Pond, S.P.R.N.C.A. 15 May (†J. Havlena), one at W.W.D. 22–26 May (C. Gresham et al.), and the 3rd seen in flight only in sw. Phoenix 27 May (P. Moulton, T. Brodner). Cattle Egrets have a tendency to show up just about anywhere in the state where there is water, but 300 counted along the Salt R. in sw. Phoenix 1 Apr (M. Baker) was an exceptional total. Two in Pasture Canyon near Tuba City 19 May (CL, F. Brandt) added to the growing number of records for the n. portion of the state. Certainly the bird of the season, and at long last, Arizona got its first **Glossy Ibis** record, an ad. found in with White-faced Ibis in Arlington 19–21 May (†, ph. RJ; †MMS; v.t. GHR); in recent years, there have been a number of sightings of this species from California, New Mexico, and w. Texas, and it was thought to be just a matter of time (and in this case effort) before we found one here.

A Black Vulture in with Turkey Vultures along the Salt R. e. of Phoenix 29 May (TC) was at a new location for the species. A **Fulvous Whistling-Duck** reported at Kino Springs 19 Apr (Mark and Sandy Turner et al.) would represent only a 4th record in the last 40 years in se. Arizona. High counts of geese in the southeast included 160 Snow Geese at Willcox 4 Mar (S. Heidl) and 60–100 Ross's Geese there 4–7 Mar (S. Heidl, TC); the Ross's Goose total is easily the highest ever for s. Arizona. Out of place Wood Ducks included a female at Kino Springs 13 May (B. Zimmer, GHR) and a male along the Santa Cruz R., Tucson (M. Hickey). The male Eurasian Wigeon that wintered along Indian Bend Wash in Scottsdale was last seen 11 Mar (*vide* SGa). Two Greater Scaup were at Avra Valley S.T.P. 2 Apr (RH, MMS); this species is casual at best anywhere in s. Arizona, particularly in spring. A possible hybrid scaup x Tufted Duck was at Avra Valley S.T.P. 19 Mar–7 Apr (ph. MMS); there has been only one record of Tufted Duck in the state, a bird that returned several winters to a pond in Mesa. Amazing is a report of a male **Harlequin Duck** from the bottom of the Grand Canyon, first reported in Mar by river rafters (K. Burke, J. Running) and seen again 22 Apr (D. Hall, *vide* J. Coons). Subsequently, the bird has been spotted from the rim in Jun at a distance of nearly a mile (CL). This would represent only a 2nd Arizona record if accepted by the A.B.C. Seemingly large numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers (50 males and 37 females) were present on Roosevelt L. 1–6 Mar (D. Clark, RJ), providing perhaps the largest concentration of this species in the state away from the Colorado R., while 2 were on Becker L., Springerville 5 Mar (TC et al.), 4 were on C.S.L. 30 Mar (CL),

one was on Patagonia L. 23 Mar (A. Core), and one was at Avra Valley S.T.P. 4 May (B. Percival); this species is casual to accidental in spring in se. Arizona.

KITES THROUGH SAPSUCKERS

Individual White-tailed Kites were at Palominas 12 Apr (HB), below Portal 26 Apr (DJ), and near Pearce 24 May (DJ). Scattered Common Black-Hawks (7) were reported during migration around se. Arizona from mid-Mar to mid-May. The Red-shouldered Hawk that was reported from Tuba City during the winter was still present 10 Mar (A. Hahn, CL), while another was reported from Granite Cr., Prescott 10 Mar (CST) and was thought to have wintered locally; this species is still on the A.B.C. review list. A Broad-winged Hawk, also casual in the state during spring, was found in Miller Canyon 23 Apr (†CDB et al.). Zone-tailed Hawks were widely reported during migration from numerous areas away from breeding sites beginning mid-Mar to early May. One near Cameron 20 Apr (CL) provided one of the few reports for the N.I.R., although this species has been found breeding in recent years at the s. rim of the Grand Canyon. Individual Crested Caracaras reported away from known breeding areas included one at Kino Springs 11 Mar (J. McCabe), one near Tucson Mt. Park 1 Apr (N. Miller), and one near Amado 14 Apr (G. West).

A Clapper Rail was picked up injured in Phoenix 26 Apr (*vide* TC), while one was at Picacho Res. 6 May (W. Turner, W. Leitner). Very early was an American Golden-Plover near Phoenix 5 Apr (JoB, SGa); there have been just a handful of previous spring records in the state. Nearly as rare in the state during spring was a Black-bellied Plover coming into breeding plumage at Willcox 20 May (ph. GHR et al.). Both Black-necked Stilts and American Avocets were found nesting at new locations in s. Arizona, and it was generally thought that breeding commenced earlier than usual (by mid-Apr). Relatively large concentrations of Willets were seen at a few locations this spring, with 50 seen n. of Sonoita 26 Apr (B. Percival), 54 seen at Portal 28 Apr (DJ), and 40 seen at Willcox 20 May (GHR, AM et al.). A single Sanderling at Avra Valley S.T.P. 13 May (K. Kertell et al.) was of note, but 12 Sanderlings, many of which were in breeding plumage, were at Willcox 20 May (ph. GHR, AM et al.) was perhaps the largest concentration ever for the spring (or any season). A Stilt Sandpiper at Wahweap 28 Apr (B. & K. Bobowski, *vide* CL) provided one of the few spring reports from the north.

It was an above-average spring for Franklin's Gull passage throughout the state, with nearly 20 reports totaling about 90 individuals 21 Mar–24 May; highest single counts included 23 at Avra Valley S.T.P. 10 May (MMS, GHR) and 14 at Page 24 May (CL, C. Goetze). A count of 23 California Gulls at C.S.L. 23 Mar (CL) was high for spring in n. Arizona. More unusual was the report of 2 Sabine's Gulls at Willcox 21 Apr (†L. Liese et al.); although nearly annual during the early fall, this species is accidental in se. Arizona during the spring. A Caspian Tern at Avra Valley S.T.P. 11 May (MMS) provided the first May record for se. Arizona. Another Caspian was along the Salt R. e. of Phoenix 29 May (R. Dummer). Casual in the southeast in spring, 2 Common Terns were at W.W.D. 5 May (RH, P. Wang). Several Forster's Terns were seen this spring at both Willcox and W.W.D. during late Apr and May; this is another species that has been considered only casual during spring. Nine Forster's Terns at Crescent L., White Mts. 13 May (DR) was a strong count for n. Arizona in spring. Least Tern has become virtually annual during the spring; this year one was at Willcox 17–24 May (ph. GHR et al.), and 2 were at W.W.D. 19–26 May (GB, MMS, J. Hirth et al.). Still considered rare or casual in se. Arizona during spring, 6 Black Terns at Willcox 20 May (K. Kertell, GHR, AM) and an incredible 34 at W.W.D. also 20 May (GB, AM) were above-normal counts.

Eurasian Collared-Dove is apparently going through an explosion in Arizona after being reported for the first time just two years ago. This spring we had at least six different reports: one at Roper Lake S.P. 6 Mar (L. Hughes) and 2 there 14 Mar (B. Matheny); one at the Sacaton Rest Area along I-10 21 Mar (A. Averill-Murray); as many as 3 at the Twin Lakes Golf Course in Willcox (all period); one bird at the San Pedro R. Inn in Hereford 1 Apr (SM), with 4 there 24 Apr (W. Kolbe, *vide* DK); one at Pima near Safford 30 Apr (D. Drobka, C. Wilcox); and up to 4 at Palo Verde 21–29 May (TC, JiB). Both White-winged and Inca Doves were seen this spring in the Prescott area, where sightings for both species have increased in recent years. A Common Ground-Dove at B.T.A. 25 Apr (CST) was away from known breeding areas. The only Ruddy Ground-Dove report of the spring was one at B.T.A. 24–30 Mar (CST), a first local record.

Broad-billed Hummingbird was found nesting at B.T.A., as well as along the Gila R. ne. of Winkleman, both n. of usual nesting areas in the state (TC). White-eared

Hummingbirds were present at the usual areas in the Huachuca Mts., with at least one at Ramsey Canyon and 2 at Miller Canyon beginning in late Apr (M. Pretti, T. Beatty et al.). A pair of Berylline Hummingbirds was located at Ramsey Canyon beginning 23 Apr (M. Pretti, S. Turner et al.), with the female nesting there during mid-May; this species has been found nesting in Ramsey Canyon at least a few times before. A Magnificent Hummingbird was in W. Fork of Oak Cr. Canyon 20 May (CL); this species is casual in the state away from the southeast. Extralimital Lucifer Hummingbird reports included one in Miller Canyon 2 Apr (T. Beatty) and one in Bisbee 27 May (S. Williamson).

On 6 May, an Elegant Trogon was in French Joe Canyon, where it has not been known to nest (B. Miller), and another male was at Happy Valley Saddle in the Rincon Mts. 18 May (GB, C. Kirkpatrick), providing the first record for that mountain range. An estimated 2–4 pairs of Green Kingfishers were thought to be present along the S.P.R.N.C.A. between Fairbank and the Mexican border (*vide* DK). Lewis's Woodpeckers lingered at a number of s. locations into the spring, with the last report coming from the San Pedro House 7 May (W. Walraven). An Acorn Woodpecker lingered in the lowlands at Tucson until 6 Mar (MMS). The Red-breasted Sapsucker that was found in E. Tucson during the winter was last reported 5 Mar (*vide* MMS).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PIPITS

Buff-breasted Flycatchers were seen at several areas outside the regular breeding sites high up in the Huachuca Mts.; at least one to 2 were on territory at S.W.R.S. in Cave Cr. Canyon beginning 6 Apr (C. Gresham et al.), one was in lower Carr Canyon 13 Apr (R. Hunt, T. Woods), one was near Helen's Dome, Rincon Mts. 11 May (GB, CK), providing the first report from this mountain range, one was in lower Ramsey Canyon 15 May (M. Pretti), and one was below Bog Springs, Madera Canyon 20 May (MMS, K. Kroesen et al.). Eastern Phoebe usually winter in small numbers in s. Arizona but are seldom seen in spring; therefore, one along Sonoita Cr. near Patagonia 15 Mar (B. Hilsenhoff, *vide* MMS), one in sw. Phoenix 16 Mar (TC et al.), and another along the San Pedro R. near Hwy 90 25 Apr (S. Haskin, B. Prosser) were of note. A Brown-crested Flycatcher at Kino Springs 4 Apr (RP) was about a week earlier than usual for arriving birds. Providing a new nesting record for the Rincon Mts., a pair of Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers was found at Happy Valley

Saddle in this range beginning 18 May (GB), whereas another extralimital Sulphur-bellied was located along Christopher Cr. 22 May (TC), establishing the northernmost record for the state. A nesting Tropical Kingbird at the H.R.P. 20 May (J. Woodley, N. London) was only the 2nd nesting report for *Maricopa*. At least one Tropical Kingbird returned to Kingfisher Pond, S.P.R.N.C.A. by mid-May (DK). Thick-billed Kingbirds were seen at a number of marginal sites including Arivaca, Kino Springs, lower Ramsey Canyon, and lower Carr Canyon; this species is casual to rare anywhere away from Sonoita Cr. and Guadalupe Canyon during spring and summer. The only Eastern Kingbird report of the spring was from n. Arizona, one at Cameron 19 May (F. Brandt, CL). Similarly, the only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher of the spring was one reported from Cottonwood 29 Apr (D. Van Gausig). Reports of both these species have decreased greatly in recent years.

A Yellow-throated Vireo was located at Boquillas Ranch near Fairbank along the S.P.R. 12 May and was joined by a 2nd individual 26 May (A. Brand, J. McCabe, C. Putnam). North of their normal range in Arizona, 2 different Hutton's Vireos were found in the Flagstaff area, with one in Flagstaff 3 May (CL), another in Walnut Canyon 16 May (CL, L. Dickson); this species was not known to breed above the Mogollon Rim. Still casual in se. Arizona, a Red-eyed Vireo was at St. David 6 May (K. Kertell), and another was located in Huachuca Canyon 16 May (DS).

The jay species (Steller's, Western Scrub-, Mexican, and Pinyon), as well as Clark's Nutcracker and American Crow—all of which took part in last fall's major invasion around the state—were found at numerous odd localities this spring. A Brown Creeper at H.R.P. on the late date of 27 May (R. Pearson) was likely a result of greater-than-usual numbers of this species around s. Arizona last winter. Amazingly, the Carolina Wren was still present at Cook's L. 17 Mar (TC et al.); this bird was first found in June 1999. Both Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were found along Reynold's Cr. in the Sierra Ancha Mts. 12 May (TC), where neither species has been found breeding in the past. A female Black-capped Gnatcatcher was found in Chino Canyon, apparently paired with a Black-tailed, 21 Mar (RH, M. Coker, MMS).

A singing Wood Thrush was present in Cave Cr. Canyon 26–29 May (DJ et al.); there have been about 10 previous reports from se. Arizona. The Rufous-backed Robin that wintered in downtown Phoenix was last reported

13 Mar (*vide* SGA), while another was located at Colossal Cave 18 Mar (CST). The Varied Thrush that was found during the winter above Patagonia L. was still present 20 Mar (B. Pease). Individual Brown Thrashers were at B.T.A. 20 Mar (CST) and at Portal 23 May (DJ). An American Pipit at Avra Valley S.T.P. 14 May (DS) and another at Willcox 20 May (K. Zimmer et al.) were both very late lingerers.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Very exciting was the discovery of a **Crescent-chested Warbler** near Bog Spring, Madera Canyon 25 May (†MMS, K. Kroesen); the bird was seen again 2 June (B. Massey). If accepted by the A.B.C., this sighting would represent only a 5th Arizona record. Up to 2 Northern Parulas were at the Roadside Rest near Patagonia 26 Apr+ (B. Percival, B. and K. Zimmer). A Grace's Warbler at Rimmy Jim Tank n. of Flagstaff 20 Apr (CL) provided one of the few migrant records of this species away from pines on the N.I.R. Three Black-and-white Warblers, 2 American Redstarts, and at least 3 Northern Waterthrushes were seen this spring in se. Arizona, about normal for a season. A Prothonotary Warbler, casual in the state during spring, was in Portal 10 May (DJ). A Kentucky Warbler, also casual in the state mostly in spring, was in Oak Cr. Canyon 20 May (CL, G. Romig). Another casual but almost regular spring visitor, a Hooded Warbler was in French Joe Canyon 27 May (L. Miller). The long staying **Rufous-capped Warbler** present in French Joe Canyon since last year was joined by an apparent female by 4 May (B. Pickering, B. Miller, m. ob.), and the 2 were seen exhibiting nesting behavior throughout May; there is only one other confirmed nesting record for the state.

This spring, there were a number of confusing reports of Flame-colored Tanagers from several localities. The report from Cave Cr. Canyon 4-6 May (J. Markham, DJ, †C. Gresham) likely involved a pure male, whereas other reports of 2-3 birds in Miller Canyon 28 Apr+ (W. Gross, D. Touret, †MMS et al.) and of up to 2 birds in Carr Canyon 26 May (S. Tripp et al.; ph. T. Vezo) likely involved hybrid birds with Western Tanager, a combination seen more prevalently in Arizona than pure Flame-colored. The A.B.C. encourages all observers of these odd tanagers to study all the features carefully and submit written documentation (and hopefully photographs) so that we can sort out this mess.

At least 3 Black-chinned Sparrows were seen in the Kofa Mts., Yuma 29 Apr (L. Piest,

R. Kerns), with a pair remaining there 29 May (L. Piest); this species has been known to winter in these mountains, but breeding there has not been confirmed. A Harris's Sparrow at Bitter Springs near Lee's Ferry 13 May (B. Russell) was the only sighting of this species this spring and was quite late for the state. On the heels of last winter's invasion of **White-winged Juncos**, another was found in Molino Basin, Catalina Mts. 9-11 Mar (†MMS; ph. GHR), while the individual found in Evergreen Cemetery, Tucson, lingered until at least 6 Mar (MMS). Four of the Lapland Longspurs found on the Salt River Indian Res. during the winter were still present 17 Mar (TC).

It was an above-average spring for Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, with no fewer than 20 individuals seen 12-19 May around the state. The only Bobolink report of the spring was from Page 24 May (CL, C. Goetze). The Common Grackle that was found during the winter at Apache L. was last reported 18 Mar (B. Higgins). Relatively large numbers of Cassin's Finches lingered in s. Arizona at a number of localities during Mar and Apr (m. ob). Similarly, Red Crossbills were present at odd localities, such as at least 20 lingering at Portal into late May (DJ et al.) and 7 frequenting a neighborhood in N. Phoenix 8 Apr (TC). A freshly killed juv. was picked up in Phoenix 9 May (*vide* TC), providing the first potential breeding record for the Greater Phoenix area since 1976. Evening Grosbeak is another species that, on the heels of last fall's montane bird invasion, was found at several lowland areas, with the latest report coming from C.S.L. 23 May (CL).

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WORKSHOPS FOR BIRDERS

Tropical Bird Ecology

with John Kricher
January 7-14, 2002
Chan Chich, Belize

Arctic Breeding Bird Ecology

with Paul Baicich
and Wayne Petersen
June 28-July 5, 2002
Seward Peninsula, Alaska

West Coast Seabirds

with Debi Shearwater
and Peter Pyle
August 3-8, 2002
Central California Coast

Shorebirds

with Wayne Petersen
August 4-11, 2002
Sackville, New Brunswick

Fall Warblers

with Jon Dunn
and Kimball Garrett
August 26-Sept. 1, 2002
Leamington, Ontario

Current Trends in Bird Conservation

with Paul Baicich
and Dave Davis
October 5-11, 2002
Washington, DC

Raptors

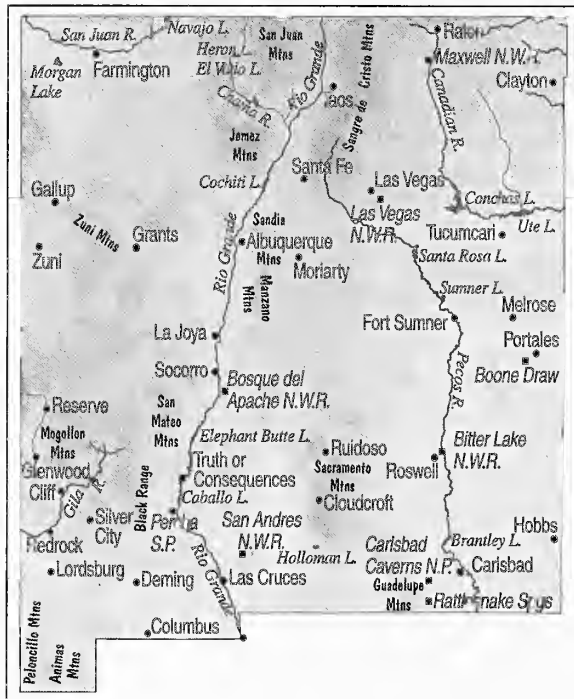
with Clay Sutton
October 13-18, 2002
Cape May, New Jersey

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New Mexico



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Widespread winter precipitation continued into early spring 2001, only to be followed by a return to dry and windy conditions. Many montane species that had invaded the lowlands lingered late in nonbreeding areas. Although migration was deemed slow, birding was exciting, with many well-documented rarities, including another species new to the state.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (Bitter Lake N.W.R.); Bosque (Bosque del Apache N.W.R.); E.B.L. (Elephant Butte L.); Maxwell (Maxwell N.W.R.); N.R.T. (n. Roosevelt migrant trap near Melrose); R.S. (Rattlesnake Springs area, *Eddy*); R.G.V. (Rio Grande Valley); Zuni (Zuni Indian Reservation).

LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

A quiet loon season found a late Pacific at Conchas L. 12 May (CR). Two Horned

Grebes at Sumner L. 24 Mar (JEP) provided the only report. Two Brown Pelicans were on Brantley L. 12–13 May (SW); one had been noted at nearby L. Avalon 25 Apr (*vide* SW). Single Great Egrets drifted n. to Nutria L. 29 Apr (DC) and Peña Blanca 16 May (WW). A lone Snowy Egret at L. Grande 14 May (SW) was a sad reminder of the once large breeding colony there, now abandoned due to industrial pollution. Single Little Blue Herons were at Bosque 17–26 Apr and B.L.N.W.R. 12–22 May (m. ob.); n. were 2 near Los Lunas 26 Apr (M. Means). Making brief appearances were a Tricolored Heron at Bosque 20 May (ph. JO) and an ad. **Reddish Egret**—New Mexico's 11th—at B.L.N.W.R. 6 Apr (JM). **Glossy Ibis** were detected for the 3rd consecutive spring, with singles at Bosque 20 Apr (JEP), Anthony 28–29 Apr (MS, ph. JZ), Bosque Redondo 5 May (JEP), and B.L.N.W.R. 26 May (JO, JM). A **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** at B.L.N.W.R. 20–25 Apr (ph. GW) was the first there in over a decade. Nine Wood Ducks at Tularosa 3–4 Mar (JO) was a high count for *Otero*; noteworthy were pairs at two s. *Doña Ana* sites 13 & 17 Apr (MS, JZ). Late was a male Greater Scaup at

Bosque 12 May (DE, BN). Continued good news for Ospreys were seven active nests in *Rio Arriba* and *Sandoval* (DS); a record 81 passed the Sandia Mts. lookout 25 Mar–5 May (H.W.I.), while a single day high of 14 was at Quemado L. 11 Apr (DS). Six pairs of White-tailed Kites—four with active nests—were under observation in s. New Mexico 6 May (RM); by 16 May, one nest had fledged young, firmly establishing the species as a New Mexico breeder (RM). Mississippi Kites, common breeders in e. New Mexico, continued to infiltrate the R.G.V., including one at Corrales 28 May (C. Wood), 2 in Albuquerque's South Valley 28 May (DE, BN), and one at Luis Lopez 11 May (DE, BN). A Northern Harrier was carrying nest material at Nutria L. 7 May (JAT). Common Black-Hawks enjoyed a good season in the Cliff-Gila Valley, with 19 territories there in May (GS); in the R.G.V., one was at Isleta 3 & 23 May (J. Drummond, J. Whittle), while in the Pecos drainage, an active nest was at Ft. Stanton 28 May (JO). Harris's Hawks continued in evidence in the Tularosa Basin, with single active nests at Tularosa and Alamogordo Apr–May (GE et al.). Unusual in riparian forest was a Swainson's Hawk nest below Cochiti Dam 2 May (DS). A Zone-tailed Hawk was in Water Canyon 13 Apr (JEP, ph. JO); the species is scarce in the Magdalena Mts. A high 14 Merlins passed the Sandia lookout 13 Mar–20 Apr (H.W.I.). The saga of the first wild pair of **Aplomado Falcons** to nest in the United States in 50 years continued: a yucca stick nest was selected in Mar, and incubation was in progress in Apr, but by 9 May apparent avian predation had caused failure; by 25 May, however, the pair was incubating on a replacement nest nearby (RM).

QUAIL THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

Two Montezuma Quail were in the Guadalupe Mts. 9 May (D. Roemer), where the species is scarce. A Common Moorhen was n. to Isleta 10 May (JO); w. was one at Clanton Cienega 21 Mar–6 Apr (AC, NM-C). Black-bellied Plovers peaked with 22 at B.L.N.W.R. 16 May (J. Montgomery). An American Golden-Plover was near La Union 14 Apr (JEP, ph. JO), and one was at B.L.N.W.R. 15 Apr (JM), 11 May (ph. JO), 24 May (JM), and 26 May (ph. JO). A **Piping Plover** at B.L.N.W.R. 21–27 Apr (JM, GW, JEP, DE, BN, ph. WH) provided New Mexico's 7th overall and 3rd to be photo-documented. A Mountain Plover in grasslands near Black Butte, n. Socorro 10 Apr (LS) furnished a new record for that locale. Willets

were at nine sites statewide 14 Apr–22 May, including highs of 109 at Bosque 3 May (CR) and 30 at Brantley L. 22 Apr (JO); unusual were 5 at Moriarty 27 Apr (DE, BN). A good Whimbrel season produced singles at Bosque 22 Apr (DE, BN, CR) and B.L.N.W.R. 22 & 27 Apr (JEP, JM), plus 3 at Maxwell 30 Apr (PRS). Very rare, 2 **Hudsonian Godwits** were at Bosque 24 Apr (WW, ph. JO). A **Ruddy Turnstone** attaining breeding plumage was at L. Avalon 25 Apr (*fide* SW). A remarkable 311 Stilt Sandpipers were tallied at B.L.N.W.R. 12 May (GW, JO). An **American Woodcock** that strayed to the Monticello Box 28 Mar (B. Lang) provided New Mexico's 3rd w. of the R.G.V. and 9th overall. A Red-necked Phalarope was e. to Portales 27–28 May (JEP, ph. JO). A **Laughing Gull** put in a brief appearance at L. Carlsbad 22 Apr (SW, ph. JO); another reached B.L.N.W.R. 29 May (JM). A Thayer's Gull was at E.B.L. 12 Mar (ph. JO). The ad. **Glaucous Gull** at Cochiti L. in Feb was seen again 2 (PRS) & 4 Mar (BV). An ad. **Elegant Tern** at Burn L., Las Cruces 7–8 May (TS, GE, MS, JNP, JEP, phs. TS, JZ, JO) provided an abundantly well-documented state first. A Caspian Tern was at Brantley L. 12 May (JEP, ph. JO). Single Least Terns away from their B.L.N.W.R. breeding grounds were singles at Red L., *McKinley* 12 May (ph. DC), Bosque 12 May (DE, BN), Burn L. 20–21 Apr (GE, MS, ph. JZ), and Jal L. 26 May (ph. JO), and 2 were at Sumner L. 30 May (WW). Eurasian Collared-Doves were found at 20 sites from the R.G.V. eastward (JO et al.) and are "becoming ubiquitous in small towns on the eastern plains" (JEP); w. were singles at Silver City 8–22 May (EL) and Hillsboro 6 May (DE). White-winged Doves continued to solidify their northward expansion; notable were singles at Zuni 12 May (ph. DC), Los Alamos 3 Apr (C. Jervis), Quarai 10 May (HRS), and Vaughn 29 Apr (JO), with 2 at Madrid 27 Apr (LS). Single Common Ground-Doves at Redrock 29 May (SOW) and Guadalupe Canyon 12 May (AC) provided the only reports. Yellow-billed Cuckoos returned early, with singles at N.R.T. 29 Apr (CR), R.S. 12–13 May (SW, JEP), Zuni 12–13 May (ph. DC), and Cliff 14 May (SS); several pairs were nesting in the Cliff-Gila Valley by 31 May (SS). A vocal Western Screech-Owl was in the Organ Mts. 17 May (MS, JZ), where seldom encountered. Expanding their presence in the se. were one to 4 vocal Elf Owls in Rocky Arroyo near Brantley L. 2 & 12 May (WW, JEP, JO). Early was a Common Poorwill found dead near Hillsboro 17 Mar (JEP, JO). Chimney Swifts

in possible breeding locales were 2 at Fort Sumner 15 May (WW), 2 at Melrose 19 May (JO), 5 at Tucumcari 6 May (WH), and 2–3 at Roswell 26 Apr–May (JEP, JO, SB). A Broad-billed Hummingbird was n. to the central Peloncillo Mts. 22 May (SOW), where only recently established. Earliest Lucifer was a male in P.O. Canyon 25 Mar (RS); a male Anna's there 5 Apr (RS) was likely a post-breeder from farther west. Unexpected in New Mexico in spring, a male Calliope was near Madrid 4 May (LS), while single male Rufous Hummingbirds were at Silver City 8 Apr (EL) and P.O. Canyon 9 Apr (RS).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH BUSHTIT

Lingering in s. lowlands were single Lewis's Woodpeckers at Deming 15 Apr (LM), Burn L. 18 Apr (GE), and Tularosa 18 Mar (JO) plus 2 near Lake Valley, *Sierra* 5 May (ph. SGD). Encouraging was news of 12–15 Gila Woodpecker territories in the Cliff-Gila Valley by 31 May (SS), up from the usual 2–5 of recent years. Single Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were described from se. *Curry* 24–25 Mar (JL) and Waldrop Park, e. *Chaves* 8 Mar (W. Shelmerdine). Ladder-backed Woodpeckers were present below Bluewater Dam in May (JAT), but nesting remained unconfirmed. Four Northern Beardless-Tyrannulets had returned to Guadalupe Canyon by 31 Mar (AC, NM-C). Very early was an Olive-sided Flycatcher at Percha 14 Apr (JEP, JO). Rarely found in New Mexico, an **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was "singing profusely" at R.S. 12 May (SW). Far w. was a Least Flycatcher near Lake Valley 4 May (SGD). South of expected was a probable Hammond's Flycatcher singing in Springtime Canyon, San Mateo Mts. 28 May (CR). A Gray Flycatcher wandered e. to Waldrop Park 28 Apr (WH). Among the few May Eastern Phoebe reports was one in likely breeding habitat at Santa Rosa 28 May (JEP). One to 2 Vermilion Flycatchers were n. and e. to Las Vegas N.W.R. 27 May (WW), Conchas L. 12 May (CR), N.R.T. 24 Mar (JEP, ph. JO), and se. *Curry* 31 Mar (JL); noteworthy were two pairs, plus a nest, at Percha 14 Apr (JEP, JO). Ash-throated Flycatchers apparently benefited from the Cerro Grande fire, as they seemed more widespread than usual at Los Alamos (JT). Far out of range, a Thick-billed Kingbird at R.S. 19–20 May (SW et al.) furnished an *Eddy* first. South of expected was an Eastern Kingbird at Bosque 22 May (GE); w. was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at La Joya 12 May (DH). A Northern Shrike was at Abiquiu 11 Mar (JT). Beautifully detailed

was a **White-eyed Vireo** at the Albuquerque oxbow 23 May (sketch NV). Bell's Vireos in new locales included singing singles at Separ 11 May (LM) and near Columbus 27 May (SOW). Noteworthy Gray Vireos included one near Madrid 29 May (LS), 2 near Pleasanton in May (SS), and 3 in the Organ Mts. 18 May (MS, JZ). Single **Yellow-throated Vireos** were at Española 29 Apr (M. MacRoberts, JT) and N.R.T. 12 May (JEP, ph. JO). North was a vocal Hutton's Vireo in the San Mateo Mts. 27 Mar (SOW); far w. was a Red-eyed at Cliff 21 & 28 May (SS, GS). Among the last of the lowland Steller's Jays were 5 at Deming 20 Apr (LM). West were single Blue Jays at Albuquerque 15 Apr (J. Arnold) and Manzano L., *Torrance* 29 Apr (NV); noteworthy were 3 at Sugarite S.P., n. *Colfax* 5 May (DC). Escaped cagebirds along the Mexican border remain a problem; this season produced 2 ad. Black-throated Magpie-Jays near Sunland Park 27 Apr (MS, JZ). A Pinyon Jay in the Tres Hermanas Mts. near Columbus 17 May (SOW) was far from known range and habitat. Clark's Nutcrackers where rarely reported included singles at Zuni's Pescado Canyon 12 May (JAT), Sandia Crest 21 Apr (SJD), and Capilla Peak 12 Apr (*fide* WH). A Black-billed Magpie wandered s. to Sevilleta N.W.R. 9 Apr (DH). Noteworthy for the e. plains was a Common Raven nest at Hudson, *Quay* 6 May (WH). The Bank Swallow is an often overlooked riparian species of concern; encouraging were several dozen in a n. Corrales arroyo 19 May (WH), where a new colony was suspected, and up to 15 at Bosque 10 May (NV), including one entering a ditch-bank cavity. A Cave Swallow at Burn L. 7 Mar (MS, JZ) provided a local first; the species now breeds under bridges at several s. *Doña Ana* locales. Lingering Mountain Chickadees included 2 at Socorro 8 Apr (JO), 6 at Deming 28 Apr (LM), and one in Guadalupe Canyon 31 Mar (AC, NM-C). One to 2 Verdins were n. in the R.G.V. to La Joya 25 Mar (BV) and 11 Apr (WH), and nesting was suspected. Lingering in the e. were 4 Bushtits at Roswell 12 May (SB).

WRENS THROUGH TANAGERS

A **Carolina Wren** was singing at Socorro's Riverine Park 8 (JO), 24 (WW), & 29 Apr (JEP), where the species has been present since 1999. Late was a Winter Wren at N.R.T. 9 May (WW). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Caballo Dam 17 Mar (JEP, JO) likely wintered locally; a Black-tailed at Separ 11 May (LM) provided a local first. Late was an

Eastern Bluebird at N.R.T. 30 May (WW); 5 Easterns were at Sugarite S.P. 28 Mar (DC). A **Wood Thrush** put in an appearance at N.R.T. 27–28 May (JO, JEP). Noteworthy for the w. were single Gray Catbirds at Clanton Cienega 25 Mar (AC, NM-C) and Bluewater Gorge 10 May (JAT); far s. in the R.G.V. was one singing near Sunland Park 24 Apr (MS, JZ). A Long-billed Thrasher singing at Bosque Redondo Mar–May (m. ob.) presumably was the same one present since 1997! A Curve-billed Thrasher at Quarai 29 Apr (NV) provided a local first. A Sprague's Pipit was at Sevilleta N.W.R. 16 Apr (DH); the species is rare in the R.G.V. Small numbers of Cedar Waxwings lingered into late May at Zuni (DC), Quemado (CR), Luis Lopez (JO), and R.S. (SW, RW). Olive Warblers returned to their n. outpost in the Magdalena Mts., with 2 above Water Canyon 12 May (DE, BN); in the adjacent San Mateo Mts., 4 Olives were in Springtime Canyon 27–28 May (CR), and a nest was under construction at San Mateo Spring 23 May (*vide* HRS). It was a memorable season for wood-warblers, with 35 of New Mexico's 46 verified species reliably reported. Rare e. strays were headlined by a male **Cerulean Warbler** at Springtime C.G. 26 May (ph. CR), only the 2nd verified in the state. Others making news were single male **Blue-winged Warblers** at Zuni 8 May (JAT), Santa Rosa 17 Apr (ph. D. Bleakly), and Mesilla 8 May (W. Seager), a **Blackburnian Warbler** at N.R.T. 12 & 19 May (JEP, JO, DE, BN), single **Yellow-throated Warblers** at Caprock 28 Apr (JO, CR), Las Cruces 17 Mar (R. Hoyer), Brantley L. 28 Apr (DE, BN), and R.S. 19 May (SW), single **Kentucky Warblers** at Cochiti 16 May (DH) and Water Canyon 3–4 May (E. Decker, CR), and single male **Mourning Warblers** at N.R.T. 12 May (JEP, ph. JO) and Boone's Draw 27 May (JO). Adding to the excitement were a heard-only Prairie at N.R.T. 19 May (JO), a Palm at N.R.T. 5 May (JEP), a Blackpoll at Albuquerque 23 May (*vide* NV), and single Prothonotaries at Algodones 22 May (WW), Mesa, *Chaves* 2 May (WW), and R.S. on various dates 27 Apr–26 May (JEP, DE, BN, SW, ph. JO). In the rare but regular group were single Northern Parulas at Chaco Canyon (BHS), Otero Canyon, Manzano Mts. (NV), Anthony (MS, JZ, JEP, JO), N.R.T. (JEP), and se. *Curry* (JL) 12 Apr–5 May; singing male Chestnut-sideds at Bluewater Gorge 10 May (JAT) and R.S. 20 May (SW); single Black-throated Blues at Albuquerque (R. Yaksich), Moriarty (JEP), N.R.T. (JEP), and Carlsbad (RW) 1–19 May; a male Black-throated Green at R.S. 28 Apr (DE, BN); single

Hermits (very rare in spring) at Cliff 6 May (CR) and Anthony 12 Apr (MS, JZ); a Hermit x Townsend's hybrid at Lake Valley 4 May (SGD); and single Hoodeds at Bluewater Gorge 10 May (JAT), Cochiti 11 May (DH), Escondida 30 May (DH), Hillsboro 6 May (DE, BN), and N.R.T. 9 May (WW). Rounding things out were single Black-and-whites at seven sites and one to 2 American Redstarts at five sites (m. ob.). Establishing New Mexico's northernmost breeding record was a Red-faced Warbler pair nest-building in Little Water Canyon, Zuni Mts. 9 May (JAT), where first detected only in 1999. Hepatic Tanagers in unusual locales included singles at Petroglyph N.M. 20 May (HRS), Moriarty 28 May (JEP), Sunland Park 12 May (MS, JZ), and R.S. 12 May (SW). Peripheral Summer Tanagers were singles at Zuni 11 May (JAT), Santa Fe 23 May (BF), and N.R.T. 12 May (JEP, JO).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

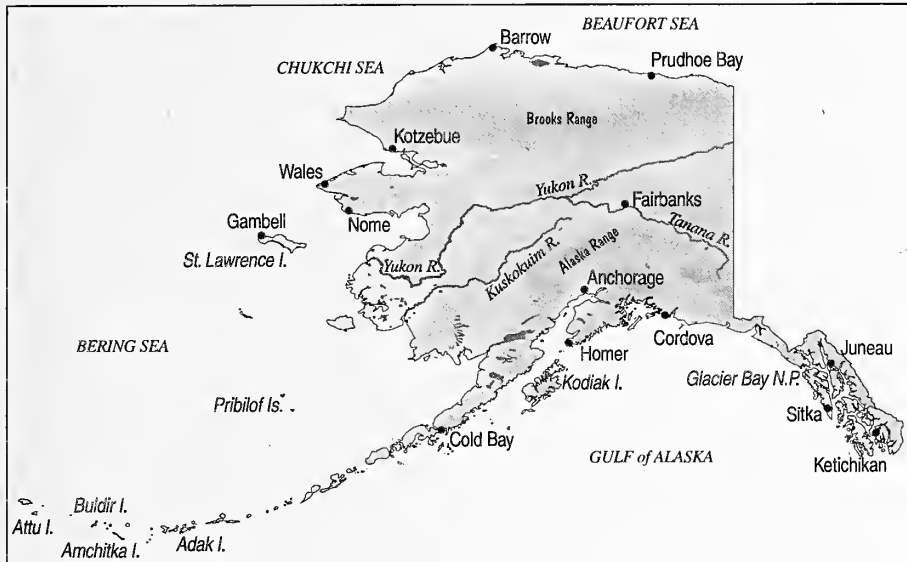
Plentiful winter rains resulted in good conditions for Cassin's Sparrows in sw. New Mexico, with several singing near Hachita, Antelope Wells, Gage, and Columbus 27–30 May (SOW). Surprising was a Rufous-crowned Sparrow e. to N.R.T. 5 May (JEP). Single Black-chinned Sparrows pushed n. to Zuni 12–13 May (JAT, ph. DC) and Madrid 29 May (LS). Unusual was a Black-throated Sparrow near Melrose, *Curry* 12 Apr (SOW). Early greenup of the ne. prairies induced Lark Buntings to stop there; w. were 3 displaying near Stanley, *Santa Fe* 28 May (LS). A Grasshopper Sparrow was singing near Cliff 24 May (SS), where not known to breed. Late, and a local first, was a White-throated Sparrow at Chaco 27 April (BHS). A Harris's Sparrow was at Carrizozo 11 & 18 Mar (ph. JO); another at Las Cruces since Dec was last seen 27 Apr (TS). A Golden-crowned Sparrow at Albuquerque 15 Apr (BV) furnished the only report. A Northern Cardinal in Rocky Arroyo near Brantley L. 13 Apr (SW) provided additional evidence of this species's Pecos Valley presence. A Pyrrhuloxia at N.R.T. 29 Apr (CR) was exceptionally far n. for so late in the season. Another strong showing by Rose-breasted Grosbeaks found one to 2 at 12 sites from the R.G.V. eastward 29 Apr–30 May; w. were singles at Cliff 14 May (SS) and Clanton Cienega 12 May (NM-C). Unexpected was a Painted Bunting at Rio Rancho 1 May (ph. SGD); evidence of expansion in the e. was provided by 2 along the Canadian R., se. *San Miguel* 12 May (CR) and one at N.R.T. 28 May (JEP). Early was a Dickcissel at Luis Lopez 2 May (JO); far w.

and a local first was one at Chaco 13 May (BHS). A Bobolink was singing in a Peña Blanca pasture 16 May (WW). Common Grackles continued their westward movement, including singles at Zuni 17 Apr (ph. DC), Quemado 20 May (CR), and Sapillo Cr., *Grant* 16 Apr (ph. JO). Single Orchard Orioles wandered w. to Lamy 4–7 May (S. Steffy) and Luis Lopez 3 May (ph. JO); singles were at six e. sites in *Curry*, *Roosevelt*, *Chaves*, and *Lea* 28 Apr–27 May (m. ob.), while 24 were at R.S. during May (SW), a high count. A Hooded Oriole was n. to Zuni 25–29 Apr (ph. DC). An ad. male **Baltimore Oriole** was at Tinnie, *Lincoln* 6 May (SW). The Sandia Crest rosy-finch flock was down to 70 birds—mostly Blacks but including Brown-capped and Gray-crowned—26 Mar (KS); only one remained 31 Mar (KS). Elsewhere, mixed rosy-finch flocks numbered 60 at Taos Ski Basin 1 Apr (G. Tingos, J. Nelson-Moore) and 26 at Madrid 18 Mar (LS). Two Pine Grosbeaks persisted at Sandia Crest until 21 Apr (SfD). Cassin's Finches lingered in lowland areas in the w. two-thirds of the state into early May; among the last were 2 each at Deming (LM) and Roswell (SB) and one in s. *Doña Ana* (MS, JZ) 12 May. Similarly late were 2 Red Crossbills at Albuquerque 26 May (PRS) and 10 at Socorro 29 May (JO). Pine Siskins likewise were reluctant to leave the lowlands and were especially prevalent in the e. into early May and in the R.G.V. and s. deserts into late May. Most Evening Grosbeaks retreated early; among the last in nonbreeding areas were one to 2 at Quemado 19–20 May (CR) and 2–3 in Guadalupe Canyon 12 May (AC, NM-C).

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Alaska



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No doubt because of Alaska's grand size and broad exposure to several sources of weather influences, each successive spring season continues to impress and surprise students of Alaska's birds. Without an obvious El Niño influence, spring 2001 provided an intrigue of contrary conditions in a brief six-week period. What started as an easy, early break-up with mild conditions and few storms proceeded, after early April, into an endless Regionwide funk of cold, wet, and windy weather. After a scattering of local new early arrivals and a "normal" northbound procession, migrants were held up and mostly a few days to weeks late through 1 June. The Aleutian Low apparently stabilized in a position such that continental high pressure developed over the Mainland. In this process, North Pacific storms tracked mostly south of the Aleutians and a few lows crept into the Region in the northern Bering Sea. Only two influential storms crossed the Aleutians. The second half of the season was virtually storm-free, cold, and mired in mid-pressure cloudy situations. In our first post-ATTOUR summary, the Aleutian report remained tantalizing, with notes mostly from a six-week field survey at Shemya. Reports from the Pribilofs continue to highlight that isolated group's role in the east-

ward dispersion of Asiatics, while heavy fog limited early coverage at St. Lawrence Island. Because of this limited Bering Sea access, reports from those areas will be included in the Summer report. The Ketchikan contingent's trip to offshore Annette Island produced unusual reports and waterbird concentrations (especially grebes and shorebirds) that likely represent the true breadth of diversity of migrants across the Southeast. With its wealth of habitats and good access, Annette is one of the Region's "hotspots" and an ideal site to sample migration. In the midst of the spring season, Tim Schantz was taken from us while on his way to Gambell. Tim had quickly become one of Alaska's budding and most enthusiastic birders. We will all miss his presence across the state.

Abbreviations: A.B.O. (Alaska Bird Observatory); North Gulf (North Gulf of Alaska); P.W.S. (Prince William Sound); S.E. (Southeast Alaska); S.C. (Southcoastal Alaska); U.C.I. (Upper Cook Inlet). Referenced details (†), specimens (*), photographs (ph.), and videotape (v.t.) are on file at the University of Alaska Museum.

LOONS THROUGH RAILS

Arctic Loons again were located in the W. Aleutians, both at Attu and Shemya Is., with up to 3 the peak at Shemya (DDG, MTS). Northbound loons have always been sporadic in S.E., with numbers only seen offshore or

when movements correspond opportunistically with spawning herring. This season's reports from offshore Annette I. probably were representative of an actual corridor leading to offshore routes, e.g. 30 Common Loons there 1 May (SCS, AWP, TG). Migrant, as opposed to late wintering Pied-billed Grebes, made an unusual showing, with 3 around Ketchikan 1 Mar–13 Apr (SCH, AWP) and a single farther n. in Juneau 19–29 Apr (LS, RJG). Western Grebes delayed departures from southern S.E. winter sites well into the spring, with unusually high Apr tallies of 370 and 200 on the 9 & 14 Apr in the greater Ketchikan area (SCH). Latest for the season was a pair near Ketchikan 21 May (SCH, AWP). With only one previous inshore report in southern S.E. in spring, up to 22 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels in the Ketchikan waterfront 3–22 May (SCH, AWP) was significant and indicative of offshore storm conditions. Four Brandt's Cormorants, mixed with various other (non-breeding?) cormorants in the Boca De Quadra channels outside of Ketchikan 15 Apr (AWP), may have been in breeding habitat. Ketchikan birders have found a few Brandt's wintering over the past three years, but there remain only a few rock islets in S.E. where Brandt's have been found in spring and summer.

Asiatic waterfowl were essentially absent from the Region save for 3 Smews from Shemya—a single 24 Apr and a pair 15–17 May (DDG, MTS)—another Smew e. to St. Paul I. 7–9 May (ST. PAUL), and a wandering pair of American Wigeon at Shemya 28 May (DDG, MTS), where casual. The few other duck highlights included Ketchikan's wintering Wood Duck pair through 17 Mar (SCH), an exceptional S.E. concentration of 13 Redheads in Juneau 19 May (BA), at least 6 Lesser Scaup in the Bering Sea, where still rare, at St. Paul I. 11–31 May (REG, PT, MD) and another 2 at Unalaska May 28 (RAM), and another strong peak of 8970 Surf Scoters at a herring spawn site near Ketchikan 28 Apr (AWP, SCH).

Up to 8 Ospreys 28 Apr–6 May over the Ketchikan area provided a clearer picture of timing and numbers for a species we know little about during migration, especially in S.E. Far from its elements was an ad. Northern Goshawk on the sea bluffs at Shemya 25–27 May (DDG, MTS)—old sight reports from Dutch Harbor, the Shumagin, and the Commander Is. are the nearest records. Although Golden Eagle is sporadic in winter from various alpine sections of the Region, one sighted in lowlands along the Tagagawik R. near Selawik 25 Mar (JD, *vide RM*) was



This Little Gull was found 28 April (here photographed 30 April) at Ketchikan made for a well-documented first state record; it remained in the area for two weeks. Another bird in alternate plumage was found in Juneau this season. Photograph by Steve C. Heintz.

noteworthy and out of typical habitats. An imm. Gyrfalcon described from Hyder 21 May (TH, †JH), likely a nonbreeder wandering the Coast Range, was one of few S.E. spring records.

PLOVERS TO DOVES

It was a down year for Asiatic shorebirds, likely because of clement weather in the Bering Sea and w. North Pacific. Highlights were few and concentrated at Shemya and the Pribilofs only, including: a rare w. Aleutians Semipalmated Plover at Shemya 19 May (MTS, DDG), a Common Greenshank casual to the e. at St. Paul I. 22 May+ (ST. PAUL), a rare Aleutian Lesser Yellowlegs also at Shemya 29–30 Apr (MTS; certainly a bird returning from some Palearctic winter site), an unprecedented flight of 11 Bristle-thighed Curlews, the most ever from the Pribilofs, at St. Paul in May (REG, PT, MD), and a single Far Eastern Curlew also at St. Paul 27 May–1 Jun (ST. PAUL, SDS ph.). Gambell's only unusual Asiatic shorebird was a single Long-toed Stint in the middens 29 May (VENT), one of few recent records there. Elsewhere, the rather stormy and cloudy May produced an excellent assortment of high concentrations and rarer forms in unusual locations. A group of 9 Killdeer in Ketchikan 6 May (AWP, SCH) was rather sizeable for the Region, while Nearctic

Godwits made big news. Hudsonian Godwits were grounded by poor weather in parts of S.E. where they are rare or unknown, notably 140+ way up the Taku R. on the S.E. Mainland 2–4 May (AD) and 20 in Juneau 4–12 May (RJG, PS). Marbleds were reported across the entire breadth of this unique Alaska subspecies's spring range, probably in record array. Among these were multiples in S.E., including 6 in Sitka, where not annual, 29 Apr–8 May (MLW, MET), a single inland on the Taku R. 23 May (AD), where previously unknown, at least 4 around Ketchikan 21 Apr–6 May (ph. AWP, DM), and another offshore at Annette I. 1 May (SCH, AWP, TG). Two made it n. to Anchorage 18 May (*fide* RLS), and Kodiak produced up to 19 on 30 Apr (RAM). Most years find scattered small groups and singles at one or two of the above-mentioned sites. The ad. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper that came onshore with Pectorals at Seward 10 May (†WS) represents one of few spring Mainland reports for S.C. In a similar vein, but rarer yet for S.C., was a Reeve at the Homer beaches 12 May (RLS, TS).

A well-documented ad. Little Gull in the Ketchikan harbor 28 Apr–13 May (AWP, †, ph. SCH et al.) provided Alaska's first substantiated record, while another in similar definitive alternate plumage appeared in the Juneau area 23–24 May (PS et al.). Alaskan

archives include five previous sight records between S.C. and S.E. What was likely the same ad. Black-tailed Gull was first noted on Shemya beaches 25–27 Apr and then reappeared in the same area 1 Jun (MTS ph., DDG). There are now six Aleutian records of this casual spring/summer visitor, which has shown up on the Mainland and s. to Ketchikan. Of the handful of Ring-billed Gull sightings, a single from Fairbanks 20–23 Apr (JW, A.B.O.) was most noteworthy and approximately the Interior's 3rd in spring. Two "clean" Western Gull observations were submitted from Annette I. 1 May and Ketchikan 11 May (AWP, SCH, TG), from areas where they are now expected. Five Ivory Gulls 27 May (VENT) were above average for spring on the Nome waterfront where these birds, associated with retreating pack ice, are not annual. One of the Region's earliest records away from P.W.S. breeding sites and S.E. migrant stopovers was a single Caspian Tern at the Homer Spit 13 May (TS, RLS). An overshoot Mourning Dove surfaced near Ketchikan 26 May (ph. TPZ), one of few for the Region from spring and a local spring first.

OWLS THROUGH FINCHES

Probably to be expected after the past few fall irruptions, a Northern Hawk Owl was nonetheless newsworthy offshore in S.E. from Sitka 3–13 Apr (MLW, MET). There are few historic records from the Alexander Archipelago. A Short-eared Owl near Anchorage 28 Mar (*fide* RLS) was distinctly early but likely a bird that wintered in S.C. somewhere. Another Short-eared from the lower Noatak R. 26 Apr (JD) seemed an early extreme from the nw. coast, especially in such a heavy snowpack year. A pair of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers was discovered at an active nest just s. of Fairbanks 31 May (A.B.O.), the farthest w. and 3rd breeding find in the Region for this casual spring/summer visitant to the eastern Interior. Early field work uncovered single Great Spotted Woodpeckers, the Region's 7th and 8th individuals, at St. George I. 6 May (†SDS) and on the beach at Shemya 11 May (ph. MTS). Given the severe winter of 2000–2001 in the w. Aleutians, which no woodpecker from the previous autumn flight could have survived in the Near Islands, these spring birds were certainly spring migrants from ne. Asia. Exceedingly rare in S.E. was a Black-backed Woodpecker near Juneau 19 May (GVV). Brief details were submitted for a female-type, large swallow, identified by the observer as a Purple Martin in Juneau 14 May (†MS),

the Region's first in several years and a first ever for S.E. There are few substantiated records of this accidental late spring visitor.

The season's only Siberian Rubythroats were also early: 3 males at Shemya 21–23 May (MTS, DDG). More significant was a female **Red-flanked Bluetail**, also at Shemya in the same storm fallout 19 May (DDG, MTS). Of the Region's now eight spring records, most are from late May from the w. Aleutians. Northern Wheatears seemed early on the Mainland, with the first noted near Kotzebue 23 May (RM), while exceptional numbers, up to 11, made landfall at St. Paul I. 19–27 May (ST. PAUL), where they are not annual. A decent "wave" of Eyebrowed Thrushes reached the w. Aleutians with the mid-May storm, such that small groups were flushed from most thickets for several days 14–16 May+, with a peak of 17 at Shemya 15 May (MTS, DDG). In the mid-May storm, a single **Dusky Thrush** skulked around Shemya 14–15 May (MTS, DDG). This form remains casual in spring. The mid-May storm focused exceptional numbers of motacillids at Attu and Shemya 14–16 May+. *Simillima* Yellow Wagtails, the regular w. Aleutian migrant form, were ubiquitous in scattered noisy groups, with a peak of 68 on the first day after a large storm 14 May (MTS). Another Yellow Wagtail fitting the description of *simillima* turned up at Unalaska 28 May (†RAM), where there are few records of the form. St. Paul I. birders recorded at least 9 Yellow Wagtails in one group 24 May (ST. PAUL). Included with the Yellows were at least 3 Gray Wagtails on 14 & 15 May, "dozens" of Olive-backed Pipits, and at least 3 Pechora Pipits from Attu and a single at Shemya in the same period at Shemya (*vide* DDG). New World Warblers were unremarkable except for a Tennessee Warbler in Juneau 12 May (RJG) and a single MacGillivray's also at Juneau 30 Apr (RJG), both of which were well ahead of average arrivals.

Three Rustic Buntings were the maximum of the few recorded in the mid-May storm at Shemya 14 May (MTS, DDG), while another 3 drifted e. to St. Paul I. by 24 May and stayed to 1 Jun (ST. PAUL). Possibly indicative of the tough winter and weak beach rye seed crop, McKay's Bunting were noted moving n. along the coast around Kotzebue in late Feb–early Mar, with 4 in town on the 10 Mar (RM) and a single farther n. at Shesholik Spit through 9 May (BU). These are rather far n. and beyond typical winter/early spring locales for McKay's. Following the exceptional record spring numbers of Bramblings from 1998, this year's mid-May fallout of 176 birds at



This Eyebrowed Thrush was photographed 14 May on Shemya Island, where a mid-May cyclone was responsible for counts as high as 17 of this species on the following day. *Photograph by M.T. Schwitters.*

Shemya 16 May (DDG, MTS) was easily the Region's 2nd highest total. Bramblings remained common there over the next week, while up to 14 were tallied around St. Paul I. 25–29 May (ST. PAUL). An ad. female Eurasian Bullfinch hung around the Shemya bluffs 15–23 May (MTS, DDG), the 5th for the Aleutians (all from early spring), while a classy ad. male was already in the Gambell middens when birders first arrived 28–31 May+ (*vide* VENT; ph.). The Fairbanks wintering female Bullfinch was last noted at its favorite feeder 10 Apr (VB, ph. EC). Single male and female Hawfinches bounded around Shemya at irregular intervals 14 May–6 Jun (DDG, MTS), the season's only reports. Resident finches continued in patterns outlined in the past few seasonal columns with the exception of Red Crossbills, which some observers noted in moderate numbers in por-

tions of the S.E. Mainland and the North Gulf Coast.

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British Columbia–Yukon



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Most of the Region experienced a cool and wet spring interspersed with warmer periods. Probably the warmest weather, relative to time of year, occurred in early March in the south. April on the other hand provided most areas with more consistent snowfall than what was experienced in winter and thus a delayed leaf-out in the north. Birds responded to local weather conditions in a variety of ways, and large-scale patterns were not easily discernable. Individuals that were migrating north during warm stretches arrived record early, such as Cliff Swallows in the interior. Cooler wetter weather seemed to be the source of numerous fallouts and served to concentrate birds such as Western Tanagers, White-crowned Sparrows, and warblers in the valleys. Drought conditions to the east of the Region also may have influenced the invasion of

Black-necked Stilts in the south and Swainson's Hawks in the northeast.

Abbreviations: Chichester (Chichester Bird Sanctuary, Kelowna); C.I.P. (Cottonwood I. Park, Prince George); F.F.T.W. (Forests for the World, Prince George), Maude-Roxby (Maude-Roxby Bird Sanctuary); P.G. (Prince George), Reifel (Reifel I. Bird Sanctuary); R.P.B.S. (Rocky Point Banding Station); U.B.C. (University of British Columbia); U.N.B.C. (University of Northern British Columbia, P.G.); Whse. (Whitehorse, Yukon).

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Red-throated Loons are seen only in small numbers during migration through the c. interior; e.g., 4 on Stuart L. near Ft. St. James 16 May (RRa). A single Pacific Loon was seen with a small flock of Common Loons at Kalamo Park on the westside of Kelowna 30 Apr (*fide* DB). A notable spring congregation of Common Loons on Williams L. peaked at 180 on 18 Apr (PR). An alternate-plumaged

Yellow-billed Loon, a rare spring migrant, was at Judas Creek, Marsh L. 26 May (CE, PSi). An Eared Grebe, accidental in the Yukon, was reported from Schwatka L. 4 May (JJ). A concentration of 500 Western Grebes on Arrow L., Nakusp 5 May (GSD) was a good count for recent years. A Clark's Grebe was observed from the Iona South Jetty, Richmond 25 Apr (RT0). A juv. Magnificent Frigatebird, accidental in the Region, was sighted from a whalewatching boat off Flores I. near Tofino 12 May (MW). Rarely seen in the lower mainland, 15 American White Pelicans were seen on Iona Bay 27–28 May (m. ob.). They were observed roosting on the low tide, then feeding on the high tide. Another pair was seen flying over Maillardville in a southerly direction (*fide* LC). Where these birds are expected, Williams L. hosted a growing flock of 13 on 13 Apr (PR) that had reached 60 by 21 Apr (PR), with a few lingering until 26 May (PR). A Double-crested Cormorant shared a sandbar with the pelicans on Williams L. and was later joined by 3 others 28 Apr (PR). The cormorant that wintered in the Nelson area was last seen at Tagham 9 Apr (RW). The most northerly records of the species were from the Yukon: one at its traditional location on L. Laberge 29 Apr (*fide* BL), one at nearby Jackfish Bay 15 May (HG, YBC), and one was seen passing by Whse. 30 Apr (JJ). Great Egrets continue their range expansion, and this spring was no exception. Not only is the number of records on the increase, the egrets are also ranging farther afield. Yukon's first Great Egret was a sensational find at Partridge Cr. Farm on the Stewart R. in c. Yukon 18 May (DB, VB); it remained in the area at least through 19 May (CE, HG, PSi). Other individuals included singles at Deadman L. s. of Oliver 12 Apr (HK, JK), Guichon Ranch Ponds near Kamloops 1–6 May (GG), and Twin Creeks Ranch, Upper Hat Cr. 13 May (PM). A Snowy Egret was seen three km upstream from Robson on the Columbia R. 26 May (EB) for the only report of this casual visitor. Very rare in the Region, 7 White-faced Ibis were found at Somenos Marsh, Duncan 14–17 May (SW, EW), and 3 were still present there 19 & 28 May (DB, DM). Potentially 2 of these same birds were seen briefly along Sullivan Rd. near Sayward, n. Vancouver I. just before they took flight and headed s. 18 May; they returned again on 19 May (*fide* GM). A migration watch 26 Feb–27 May in Whse. recorded a total of 7058 swans (33% Trumpeter, 22% Tundra, 45% unidentified) (JJ, AR). Turkey Vultures continue to increase in the province and are expanding their range northward, as evidenced by 2 ads. seen near McBride 17 May (JS). Nineteen

Greater White-fronted Geese were in Giscome, e. of P.G. 5 Mar (MA), and the next day 107 were present (NK). This is by far the largest single location tally on record for the British Columbian interior. A Snow Goose, very rare in the Okanagan, joined a flock of Canada Geese at the Summerland Research Centre 7 Mar (TL). Rarely seen in flocks along the Columbia R./Arrow Lakes Valley, 12 Snow Geese near Robson 24 Apr (PG) were unusual. Ross's Geese were well represented this spring, with singles in Surrey 30 Apr (RTo) and in a field with Canada Geese 22 km n. of Merritt 24–27 Mar (RH, SR), the latter a 4th local record and in the same area where 11 were found in Apr 1997. A flock of 40 Ross's Geese in the Kispiox Valley n. of Hazelton 2 May (RS) furnished the highest tally ever recorded in the Region; they were with 8 Snow Geese. Two Ross's were seen in flight over Queen Elizabeth Park, Vancouver 28 Apr (RTo). Five Brant, rare migrants in s. Yukon, were at Judas Cr. 26 May (CE, PSi). Wood Ducks arrived early in the cen. interior, where 8 were noted on Williams L. 1 Apr (PR). The Shelley Oxbows of the Fraser R. 15 km e. of P.G. hosted 21 on 11 Apr (CA) and an impressive 40 there 13 Apr (HA, DD). At the n. edge of their range, a pair was near downtown Ft. St. James 14 May (RRa), providing the 2nd local record. Eurasian Wigeon have become such a regular sight along the coast that they are no longer mentioned. In the interior, where they are much less common, they are nevertheless increasing, although almost all sightings are of single males such as one on Vaseux L. in the s. Okanagan 6 Mar (WW), one on Munson's Pond in Kelowna 21 Mar (*vide* CC), one in Vernon 21 Apr (DGC), and 4 between 23 Mar (JA) and 8 Apr (GSD) in the Kootenay region. At least 9 (some 15 sightings) were at Williams L., a significant count for the interior (PR). A male Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal and a hybrid Common x Green-winged Teal were at Boundary Bay Regional Park in Tsawwassen 30 Mar (*vide* CG). Another Common Teal, the Yukon's 2nd, was noted at M'Clintock Bay 22 Apr–5 May (CE, JJ, PSi). Kelowna's returning individual was at Maude-Roxby 16–18 Apr (*vide* CC). A male Northern Pintail x Mallard hybrid was a curious sight on the Stewart R., Yukon 18 May (PSi). Rare in the Okanagan, a pair of Harlequin Ducks was seen on Swan L., Vernon 28 Apr (DGC)

HAWKS THROUGH OWLS

Laird Law discovered a promising raptor migration viewpoint last year near Stoner, 35 km s. of Prince George. This year he and his keen-eyed helpers devoted eight days in Mar

Table 1. Raptor migration totals for Stoner Mountain during March and April.

Species	Age	Total
Osprey		11
Bald Eagle	imm.	83
	ad.	79
Northern Harrier		33
Sharp-shinned Hawk		90
Cooper's Hawk		6
<i>Accipiter</i> sp.		3
Red-tailed Hawk		93
Rough-legged Hawk		17
Golden Eagle	imm.	16
	ad.	17
	unaged	2
American Kestrel		3
Merlin		11
raptor sp.		14

and 25 days in Apr to monitoring from this point. Of particular note was the number of Cooper's Hawks, a species that has been seen with increasing frequency the past decade in the c. interior (see Table 1).

Northern Harriers exhibited a strong migration, with a total of 488 counted on the Whse. migration watch 6 Apr–24 May (JJ, AR). A pair of Swainson's Hawks exhibited breeding behavior near Rolla in the Peace R. area 19 May (JF); the nest was found in open farmland 20 May (JF, MP). This constitutes the first breeding record for this part of the province and likely occurred as a result of the prairie drought. R.P.B.S. at the s. tip of Vancouver I. hosted 2 Swainson's Hawks (their 6th local record) 27 May (DA). East of Winfield, on Beaver L. Road, an ad. light-morph **Ferruginous Hawk** was observed along with good numbers of raptors before it caught a strong tailwind and headed n. 25 Mar (CC, GC). The northward migration of Rough-legged Hawks through the Dawson Cr. area is an annual event. This year, their migration was both more pronounced and more prolonged. The first sign of this northward movement came on 3 Apr (MP) and by 12 Apr, there were hundreds of birds present, as evidenced by the scarcity of vacant power poles and fence posts. The end of this peak came 19 Apr, and by 22 Apr the birds were scarce (MP). Unfortunately, it was not possible to determine how many were involved in this migration. Casual in the lower mainland, a Broad-winged Hawk was seen rising on thermals from Mt. Seymour 6

May (*vide* CG). Closer to known areas of occurrence was a single bird in the Del Rio area ne. of Chetwynd 24 May (JF, MP). Evidence continues to suggest that not only is this small *Buteo* taking a shine to cen. and n. British Columbia, but spring arrival dates are becoming earlier. The first sighting in the P.G. area was of an ad. at U.N.B.C. 4 May (KO), where they were seen periodically, and in adjacent F.F.T.W. through the month. Mating was observed mid-month, and nesting somewhere on the U.N.B.C. site is strongly suspected. When this species was first detected in the area over a decade ago, arrival dates were near the end of May. An individual of the rare dark morph was seen flying n. over Kalamo Park on Kelowna's Westside 6 May (CC). An Osprey was record early in Tofino 14 Apr (AD). The Whse. migration watch turned up an impressive 237 Golden Eagles through Mar (JJ, AR). Not to be outdone by mere raptors, a single Sharp-tailed Grouse overflew the Stoner Raptor Watch Station 27 Mar (LL). There are precious few records of this species e. of the Fraser R. and w. of the Rockies. A lingering Snowy Owl was on the Vancouver International Airport foreshore 5 Apr (*vide* CG). Following their unprecedented winter invasion, some Northern Hawk Owls remained late, with some of them as suspected breeders. One such individual was seen at Upper Hat Cr. 2 May (PM). At least one pair remained to breed in an Aspen copse on Becher's Prairie near Riske Cr., where 6 young were reported (not more than 25 m from an

active Northern Saw-whet Owl nest). Frequent sightings this spring suggest a second pair is breeding in the Springhouse area in similar habitat (*vide* PR). A single bird at Meadow Cr. in the w. Kootenays remained until 4 Mar (GSD). Near mid-Mar, the arrival of a warm front heralded a change to milder weather. This seemed to be the signal for most remaining Northern Hawk Owls to depart. The famous P.G. "jailbird" was last seen 15 Mar (JB), the 2 that had been on territory on the Salmon Valley Road 25 km n. of P.G. were last seen 13 Mar (VB), and the last reported individual was near Quesnel airport 23 Mar (RRa). Great Gray Owls were also rather plentiful in the n. and cen. areas of the province this past winter. In the Peace R. area, some were thought to have stayed to breed, as they were seen sporadically through the spring season in a variety of locations (m. ob.). Many remained along British Columbian sections of the Alaska Highway, with 21 tallied between 95 km s. of Fort Nelson and the Yukon border 3–5 Mar; one was also seen in the Yukon w. of Little Rancheria Cr. 5 Mar (HG). A Northern Saw-whet Owl took up residence in a nest box n. of Dawson Cr.; when it was examined 27 May, it held 7 well-feathered owlets (MP et al.).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH PIGEONS

An American Golden Plover was very early 29–30 Apr (MP, JF) at McQueen's Slough, Dawson Cr., where ice still covered much of the pond. Also there were 3 Hudsonian Godwits (MP). A total of 12 Pacific Golden-Plovers was tallied near Tofino, on the w. coast Vancouver I. 29 Apr–2 June, with the first bird being record early by eight days. This local northward migration was discovered only five years ago. Whse. birders enjoyed a fallout of Pacific Golden-Plovers in May, which was particularly noteworthy, as this species was only first documented in the Yukon in spring 2000. A total of 24 individuals was observed, with one at Tagish 5–6 May (AR, CE, HG, YBC) and 16 at Shallow Bay 10 May (JJ, AR), one at M'Clintock Bay 8 May (CE), 2 at Tagish 11 May (JJ, AR), and 4 at Tagish 13 May (CE, Psi).

Hudsonian Godwits were well reported in the Yukon: 2 were in Whse. 4 May (JJ, AR), 22 at the Whse. sewage lagoons (CE) and 2 on M'Clintock Bay 5 May (CE, Psi), 24 at Tagish 6 May (CE, HG, YBC) and 20 there 8 May (JJ, AR), 5 near Haines Jct. 6–7 May (CD, LD, DH, SH), one at Judas Cr. 17 May (CE), and one at Swan L. near Whse. 26 May (BD, HG). The first report of returning American Avocets to the Okanagan was a single bird in Penticton 18 Apr (AB). By 25 Apr (LG), 29 American Avocets, most of which were already paired,

were frequenting both Alki L. and Robert L., Kelowna. This was an early start for this species especially considering the numbers involved. The habitat at Alki L. was more extensive than usual, which later proved to be beneficial to migrating **Black-necked Stilts**. The number of avocets increased to 51 by 30 Apr (*vide* DB), making it the largest avocet colony in the Region, with a few smaller colonies in the Cariboo and a potential colony at Beaver Ranch Flats near Kamloops. This latter location hosted 11 avocets 10 May, 9 on 11 May and only 6 by 13 May, when courtship behavior and copulation were observed (BS, PS). The Kootenays were also host to numerous avocets; a flock of 28 at Nakusp 5 May (GSD), 3 at Duck L. 6 May, increasing to 6 on 10 May, with 3 remaining 16 May (MAB), and 2 at Castelgar 24 May (RW).

Solitary Sandpipers, rare on the outer coast, were present at the Long Beach Golf Course as singles 29 Apr and 4 May (AD). A pair of Long-billed Curlews 1–2 May (GSD) was at Nakusp, where this grassland species rarely visits. A single curlew was found at the Tofino mudflats on 26 Apr (AD), where rare. Good numbers of Least Sandpipers were reported in the Okanagan, with a high count of 13 at

Rose's Pond, Vernon 28 Apr (DGC). A Western Sandpiper, a rare spring transient in the interior, was at Alki L. 29 Apr (*vide* DB). If not a wintering bird, then very early at Maplewood Conservation Area was a Spotted Sandpiper 4 Apr (*vide* CG).

This spring provided an unprecedented high of 173 Marbled Godwits on the w. coast of Vancouver I. 18 Apr–1 Jun (AD). During Tofino's Shorebird Festival on 5 May, two visiting biologists found two radio-tagged birds, one a dowitcher that had been recorded 3 days previous in San Francisco, California, and a Dunlin, noted 2 days earlier at Gray's Harbor, Washington. (*vide* AD). A **Bar-tailed Godwit**, very rare on the sw. coast, was in alternate plumage among 100 Whimbrel in Tofino, furnishing a 2nd local record 16–19 May (ph. AD). A high count of 19 Red Knots was made on the Tofino mudflats 9 May (AD). On the early side was a Wilson's Phalarope at Alki L. 28 Apr (DGC). Guichon Flats near Kamloops hosted a remarkable 105 Wilson's Phalaropes along with 15 Red-necked Phalaropes 18 May (WW). An ad. Franklin's Gull was catching insects on the wing at Alki L., then at Robert L. 15 May (CC). Two of British Columbia's Ring-billed Gull colonies were censused this spring: 512 nests were recorded from Grant I., an increase of six nests over last year, with egg-laying commencing its earliest ever by 26 Apr (DGC); and a new colony located at the Osoyoos sewage ponds contained approximately 300 nests (DoB, DGC). A third-year California Gull in Whse. 3–4 May (CE) provided a rare spring record for the Yukon. California Gulls nesting on Grant I. had increased by 64 nests to a total of 271 (DGC). Herring Gull migration was in full swing with counts of 2000 on 23 Apr and about 4000 on 7 May at the Whse. landfill (CE). A small but growing population nests on Grant I., with 11 nests occupied this year (DGC). In the Chilliwack area, a first-summer Iceland Gull was at the Bailey Landfill 10–11 Apr (*vide* CG); a third-year bird was also there 17 Apr (DK, RT). Glaucous-winged Gulls continue to increase in the interior. In the s., they are found year-round with a few pairs nesting on Grant I. at Carr's Landing (†DGC). An individual at Williams L. 19 May (KW, PR) was locally significant. Glaucous-winged Gulls put on a reasonable showing in the Yukon, with about six different individuals seen in Whse. 22 Apr through May (CE, JJ). Black-legged Kittiwakes were noted more frequently than usual along the e. coast of Vancouver I. Three birds seen flying by R.P.B.S. established their 4th record 27 May (DA) and indicated the source for birds seen farther n. On the early side, a

SA Probably as a result of the drought conditions in the prairies, **Black-necked Stilts** invaded southern British Columbia. They were recorded in unprecedented numbers and found from as far e. as Creston and as far w. as Vancouver I. The first arriving stilts were at Beaver Cr. Park, e. of Trail with 4 on 18 Apr (GN). Alki L., near Kelowna, hosted 5 on 21 Apr (RyT, JF), which later grew to 12 on 25 Apr (LG) and at least one was still present 20 May (m. ob.). The largest flock ever recorded in the Region came from Elizabeth L. at Cranbrook, where 19 were observed 26 Apr (TW et al.) A pair was at the mouth of the Englishman R., Parksville, furnishing the 5th record for Vancouver I. 26–29 Apr (GM). Another pair was in a flooded field in Surrey 30 Apr (GT), where a single bird returned 8 May (*vide* LC). A flock of 4 was found in Albert McGowan Park, Kamloops 26 Apr (*vide* RH), where 2 were present 1 May (MW et al.) and back to 3 by 5 May (WW et al.). A flooded field in n. Langley held 6 stilts for a brief stay 9 May (DB). And finally a pair was at the Beaver Ranch Flats 10 May (BS, PS).

Caspian Tern was on the South Jetty at Iona, Richmond 11 Apr (*fide* CG), while another was record early for the outer coast, seen in Tofino 17 Apr (AD). A flock of 4 on 23 May (m. ob.) was at Williams L., where considered casual. Singles were on Duck L. near Creston 6 & 9 May and 3 there on 16 May (MAB). In the n.-cen. interior, this species has moved from the unexpected to the expected list, they have been annual for quite a few years now. This spring, one bird frequented Stuart L. near Fort St. James for the last three weeks of May (RRa, JV), one or 2 were at the Bird Sanctuary in Vanderhoof the last two weeks of May (m. ob.), and a couple were on the big sandbar at the confluence of the Fraser and Nechako Rivers 20 May (CA, SH, JB). A pair of Band-tailed Pigeons visited a feeder in Castlegar, where rare, 28–29 Mar (EB).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH WARBLERS

At the n. edge of their range, a pair of Lewis's Woodpeckers was at Alkali L. 24 May (PR). A Red-breasted Sapsucker was an exceptional rarity at Haines Junction 12 Apr (RJ). An out-of-province birder found one of British Columbia's prize rarities: a White-headed Woodpecker was briefly seen on Anarchist Mtn., Osoyoos 11 Apr (TH). As he returned to his vehicle to retrieve an item he had forgotten, the woodpecker flew over! A Pileated Woodpecker, rare in the Yukon, was noted on numerous occasions at its traditional location along the Albert Cr. Rd. at Upper Liard 5 May+ (TM-K). An early returning Hammond's Flycatcher was found at Queen Elizabeth Park, Vancouver 17 Apr (*fide* CG). Two Least Flycatchers, rare in the lower mainland, were reported at Cheam Lake Wetlands Regional Park e. of Chilliwack 24 May (*fide* LC) near where nesting had occurred last summer. Dusky Flycatchers are casual along the lower mainland; one was seen and heard at Queen Elizabeth Park 27 Apr (JK), 4 were present at Cecil Green, U.B.C., Vancouver 28 Apr (RT, KR), with 2 more on this date at Queen Elizabeth Park (RT). A Say's Phoebe turned up in Fort St. James, where casual, 14 May (RRa). A Steller's Jay, very rare in the Yukon, was seen briefly at Silver City near Kluane L. 20 May (DR). A hybrid Blue Jay x Steller's Jay visited a Courtenay feeder in early Mar (ph. BW) providing the first documented record for the Region of this hybrid. Considering the slow but steady westward expansion of the Blue Jay, one might expect to find additional such hybrids from the contact zone along the foothills of the Rockies and the Peace R. area. The two Blue Jays that wintered in the Glenrosa, West Bank area s. of Kelowna

remained until at least 23 Mar (*fide* CC). Other spring sightings included 2 at Robson 28 Mar (EB) and a single at a feeder in Johnson's Landing 10 May (GS).

The White-breasted Nuthatch that wintered in Nakusp remained until early Apr (GSD). The two overwintering birds in the Prince George area disappeared early in the period; the male at C.I.P. was last seen 2 Mar (JF), and the male last visited a Quesnel feeder 20 Mar (AL, DL). A very early Cliff Swallow had reached Oliver in the S. Okanagan 23 Mar (*fide* CC), and eight days later, as the first reached the lower mainland at Iona S.T.P. 31 Mar (*fide* CG), one had already arrived in P.G. 31 Mar (JF). This was extremely early for a Cliff; in fact, the P.G. checklist does not have any records until mid-Apr. The Whse. Shipyard's American Crow returned to its favorite place 19 Apr for at least the 5th year in a row (CE). The first overwintering Gray Catbird for the Region disappeared 19 Mar and was later picked up dead 21 Mar (DM), bearing signs of a battle with a cat. Single Northern Mockingbirds were in Port Moody 25–30 Apr (HM), Surrey 3 May (IK), s. Langley 30 May (IK), and R.P.B.S. 13 May (DA). On the Sunshine Coast, a Sage Thrasher was at Port Stalashen, between Gibsons and Sechelt, furnishing the 5th record for the British Columbia coast 21 Apr (*fide* CG). On the early side was an ad. female Lapland Longspur, at the Iona South Jetty 11 Apr (*fide* CG). A Tennessee Warbler was in Nakusp 5 May (GSD), where very rare. A singing Tennessee Warbler was heard and seen near Cecil Green Park 27 May (*fide* LC). On 29 Apr, 98 Orange-crowned and 6 Townsend's Warblers were counted moving along the treed shores of the Tofino mudflats, indicating a fallout; numbers like this have never been recorded here previously (AD). A Nashville Warbler, rare but regular along the sw. coast, was seen in Stanley Park, Vancouver 23 Apr (JD) and another at Iona Island 24 Apr (RT). Rare anywhere in the Region, a Chestnut-sided Warbler was at Grant Narrows Regional Park, Pitt Meadows 29 May (DB). The Black-throated Blue Warbler that wintered at Balfour was still visiting the feeder until at least 21 Apr (GDM). Townsend's Warblers were early, with 4 at Harrison Hot Springs 5 Apr (*fide* CG). Rare in spring migration in the Peace R. area, a flock of 8 was found in a mixed-species flock 14 May at Dawson Cr. (JF, MP). A male Hermit Warbler, the Region's 4th, was seen with Townsend's Warblers along the Houston Trail at Derby Beach Regional Park (RT). A Palm Warbler continued to be seen in the Southlands area of Vancouver 1–16

Apr (m. ob.). A Black-and-white Warbler at Powers Cr. Park in Westbank, near Kelowna, provided one of a small handful of Okanagan records 11 Apr (MF). This park was the site of a warbler fallout that contained eight species; of note were one Tennessee, 30 Yellow-rumped, one MacGillivray's (remarkably early), and 50 Wilson's Warblers (CC, RyT). Another Black-and-white Warbler was found at Cecil Green Park 28 Apr (*fide* CG). MacGillivray's Warbler was early at Sargent Bay Provincial Park 6 km n. of Sechelt, on the Sunshine Coast 13 Apr (RR); the first arrival in Vancouver was 10 days later. Yellow-breasted Chat researchers located at least 21 individuals this spring in the s. Okanagan (*fide* DC). In Victoria, where very rare, a Yellow-breasted Chat was found and videotaped 21 May (*fide* DM).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Very rare was a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak that visited a feeder in Kaslo 29 May (EZ), and a pair was at a McBride feeder 20–22 May (CL). A male Lazuli Bunting was seen and

SAThis was another "Tanager Spring," much like that of 1996. Their spectacular gathering in the downtown core of P.G. during the period 5–25 May was so concentrated as to be mind-boggling. For example 50–60 Western Tanagers on four suet balls in one yard in the South Fort George subdivision 20 May (CA, SH, JB) were scrambling for food as a result of the late, cold spring conditions. The main driving force for their presence appeared to be a storm track at P.G. latitudes that stopped northbound birds in their tracks. Mackenzie did not have any tanagers above normal numbers, whereas Quesnel also reported significant concentrations. Williams L. did not notice a buildup until the 3rd week of May that coincided with the slumping southward of the storm track into the Cariboo. This fallout proved to be a great opportunity to teach the public about the most northerly member of this tropical family; the local media featured several stories on the visitors, and other curious members of the public kept birders' phones ringing off the hook. The Peace R. area had a very noticeable Western Tanager migration in mid-May (MP) to the extent that many were lining up at suet feeders. A female at Judas Cr. 26 May (CE, PSi) provided the 2nd record for the Whse. area.

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heard singing along Headquarters Rd. in Courtenay 13 May (NH), this being the 2nd local record (the other being of 2 ad. males on territory in Comox, May 1997). Males of a few finch species seem to be indicating expansion of range into the cen. interior, possibly as a result of global warming; Lazuli Buntings made appearances at a feeder in Vanderhoof 27 May (*fide* BMC) and at a Ft. St. James feeder 29 May (*fide* JV). Following a similar trend were American Goldfinches in the latter half of May: a male at Marguerite Ferry 15 May (AP), a female in Quesnel 16 May (MR), a male at a College Heights feeder, P.G. in late May (TMy), and another male in downtown P.G. 28 May (LW, CK). A male Indigo Bunting, new for the P.G. checklist area, was at a feeder in the College Heights area of sw. P.G. most of the day 19 May (ph. BH). A Lazuli Bunting, rare on Vancouver I., was on Mt. Tolmie, Victoria 21 May (*fide* DM). A Chipping Sparrow furnished a rare outer coast record at the Long Beach Golf Course near Tofino 3 May (AD). A Brewer's Sparrow, possibly of the *taverneri* race, was singing from the top of a tree near Robson 17 Apr (EB). White-throated Sparrows were in Maple Ridge 23 Apr (JT), Iona I. 24 Apr (RT_o), Maple Ridge 25 Apr (CM), and Abbotsford 25 Apr (MC). The overwintering bird in Nakusp remained until late Mar (GSD). A couple of Harris's Sparrows provided rare spring records for the W. Kootenays at Nakusp 2 May (GSD) and Johnson's Landing 5 May (GS). Likely the heaviest passage ever of White-crowned Sparrows occurred in the cen. interior. Just about everyone in the area had their yards swamped during the 22 Apr–25 May period, with the heaviest buildups during the last week of Apr and the first week of May. Many complained of the flocks denuding their yards of precious vegetation. A banding operation at Mugaha Marsh near Mackenzie was banding 60–100 per day with no daily recaptures, suggesting that they were all passage migrants. A few Golden-crowned Sparrows made their way to the flatlands of the ne., with one at Peace I. Park 12 May (JF) and another at McQueen's Slough 20 May (JF, MP). Record early was a Golden-crowned Sparrow in Tofino 16 Apr (AD). The Lapland Longspur migration was atypically lackluster and reportedly the worst migration on record for the Peace R. region. A rather late Snow Bunting was at Beaver Valley, Kootenays 17 Apr (GN). Two male Bobolink arrived early at 150 Mile House 12 May (PR) but soon became difficult to find.

Kelowna's **Great-tailed Grackle**, British Columbia's 3rd and first confirmed 2 Jun 2000, was present through the end of the period (m. ob.). A Common Grackle was a rare sight at Johnson's Landing 7 May (GS). The **Hooded Oriole** found in Richmond in early Jan was seen regularly until 29 Mar (KL, m. ob.). The **Brambling** that wintered in N. Vancouver continued to be seen to 12 Apr (QB). A feeder in Johnson's Landing was treated to a rare sight; 140 Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches 31 Mar (GS), 200 on 1 Apr, with some remaining until early May. A fresh juv. Common Redpoll in Whse.-Porter Cr. 18 May (CE) provided further evidence of lowland breeding in the Whse. area. Very unusual was an Evening Grosbeak seen in Whse. 30 Apr (JJ), one of very few spring records for the area.

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Oregon—Washington



in numbers more typical of the westside. Finally, reports of Manx Shearwaters and Tricolored Blackbirds continued to increase.

Abbreviations: F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Reservoir, Lane); L.K.N.W.R., (Lower Klamath N.W.R., Klamath); Malheur (Malheur N.W.R., Harney); N.S.C.B. (N. Spit Coos Bay, Coos); O.S. (Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor); Ridgefield (Ridgefield N.W.R., Clark); W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla); Y.R.D. (Yakima R. delta, Benton, WA). "Eastside" and "Westside" denote the areas to the east and west of the Cascade crest, respectively.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

The peak count of Red-throated Loons at Boiler Bay, Lincoln, was 1500 on 6 Apr, while the peak for Pacific Loons there was 8000 on 10 May (PP). A Pacific Loon at Priest Rapids 22 May was quite late for the eastside (M. Bentley). A well-described Arctic Loon was seen by an experienced observer near Sequim, Clallam 31 Mar (N. Ball); this follows about 3 this winter in nw. Washington. A tally of 204 Common Loons at Wickiup Res., Deschutes 15 Apr was extraordinary for an inland site (CM, MM). Yellow-billed Loons included one at Yaquina Bay, Lincoln 5–12 Mar (DP) and a late bird at Boiler Bay 10 May (DMa). Only 2 Clark's Grebes were reported on the westside away from F.R.R., a bit below average: Yaquina Bay, Lincoln 1 Apr (HH) and Tulalip Bay, Snohomish 9 May (DB).

Laysan Albatross continues to be a regular part of the Regional pelagic avifauna: singles were off Newport 24 Mar and 5 May (GG) and off Westport 6 May (BL). Northern Fulmar numbers were low, averaging <100 per trip. Flesh-footed Shearwaters are now rare during spring, so one off Newport 5 May was noteworthy (GG). Continuing their apparent expansion into the ne. Pacific, Manx Shearwaters were again in evidence this spring. One off Westport 24 Mar was the Region's earliest ever by about two weeks (RTS, †BTw, †SM), and 2 were off Westport 6 May (BL). From shore, singles were seen at Boiler Bay 9–10 May (†PP) and Ecola State Park, Clatsop 26 May (DMa). Additionally, one to 2 Manx/Black-vented Shearwaters were at Boiler Bay 10–11 Apr (†PP). The

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This spring was a daunting season to report. First of all, the parade of rarities that started about two years ago continued. For the seventh season of the last nine, there were first state records, this time including two potential firsts for the Region: Little Curlew and Eastern Towhee. Additionally, there was a total of 26 sightings deserving boldface, involving 20 species—a flood of vagrants far beyond that encountered during any recent spring. Compare these totals to spring 1997, when only five species were

boldfaced, and spring 1995, when there were only four. The reasons for the upsurge in rarities during the last two to three years are unclear. The increasing number (and avidity level) of birders is certainly part of the story, but there must be more. Maybe we've just been exceptionally lucky of late.

This spring, however, provided far more for the discriminating student of birdlife than mega-rarities. Consider this list: American White Pelican, White-faced Ibis, Swainson's Hawk, Black-necked Stilt, Wilson's Phalarope, Forster's Tern, and Black Tern. These interior species exploded onto the westside, mostly in unprecedented numbers, and several from this list saw a dramatic increase on the eastside as well. Though increases in White-faced Ibis and Black-necked Stilt could be attributed to an upswing in local breeding populations, this cohort of species strongly suggests a movement from the northern Great Basin into our Region, most likely due to drought.

There were other "invasions" as well. Indigo Buntings and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were widely reported, and Eurasian Wigeon were found on the eastside

Region's first Manx was not identified until 1990. Now, 6 or more per year is not an unusual count. A Leach's Storm-Petrel off Newport 24 Mar was a month early (T. Shelmerdine).

American White Pelicans numbers on the westside have been slowly increasing over the last decade, but this spring saw an enormous influx during mid-to-late May, with a top count in w. Oregon of 16 at Tillamook 19–20 May (CR) and a maximum in w. Washington of 81 at Lummi Bay, *Whatcom* 28 May (V. Shahan). Two Snowy Egrets were at the W.W.R.D. 9 May (†BTw); they have increased over the past 10 years and are now annual in Washington. Cattle Egret numbers were a bit above average with one near Burns, *Harney* 28 May (DH, AE), 4 near Lakeview, *Lake* 27 May (DT), and one at Iowa Beef, *Walla Walla* 14 May (MD, MLD). Green Herons are rare on the eastside away from *Klamath*, so one at Page Springs, *Harney* 19–20 May was noteworthy (AC, HH).

"Stumpy," the one-footed Emperor Goose, remained throughout the spring at Pt. Angeles, *Clallam* (S. Pink). A Blue Goose, very rare in the Region, was near Stanwood,

SA White-faced Ibis again irrupted into the Region. This spring, w. Oregon reporters didn't even try to estimate the total number of birds involved. Washington tallied at least 261 ibis, 132 of which were on the westside. To understand the significance of this, consider that only 231 White-faced Ibis had been recorded in Washington prior to 2000, 59 of which were from the westside. At least as surprising were 15 ibis found prospecting for nest sites at Kahlotus L., *Franklin* 25 May (BE, SM, BTw, RTS), with actual nest building noted 31 May (MD, MLD). The nearest breeding location is about 250 mi to the south!

Washington records this spring included: 30 near Asotin 7 May (BW); 25 at Y.R.D. 9–11 May (BTw, BW); 26 near Long Beach, *Pacific* 11 May (RR); 15+ at Brady, *Grays Harbor* 11 May (K. Sable); 1 at Othello, *Adams* 13 May (RH); 10 at Columbia N.W.R., *Grant* 15 May (RH); 37 at Kahlotus L. 17 May (DR); 48 at Hooper, *Adams* 17 May (BF); 21 at Ilwaco, *Pacific* 19 May (MP); 31 at Ridgefield 20 May (WC); one at Nisqually N.W.R., *Thurston* 21 May (W. Paulson, S. Nord); one at Kent, *King* 26 May (DB); and 15 at Iowa Beef, *Walla Walla* 26 May (TA).

Snohomish 5–7 Apr (TA). Two Snow Geese at Sprague L., *Adams* 30–31 May were more than a month late (WH, JA). Five Ross's Geese were found on the westside this spring, perhaps a bit below average for the last decade, but well above pre-1990 numbers; in e. Washington, where also rare, 17 were at McNary N.W.R. 31 Mar (MD, MLD), with 5 remaining to 7 Apr (BN). Black Brant, typically rare away from saltwater, were seen at Woodland, *Cowlitz* 16 Mar (SM, RTS, BL), F.R.R. 19 Mar (DDW), Sauvie I./Ridgefield until 11 Apr (HN), and near Banks, *Washington* 14 Apr (HN). The winter's **Whooper Swan** was last seen on the Oregon side of L.K.N.W.R. 7 Mar (MM). Likely unprecedented were 26 Eurasian Wigeon on the eastside this spring, with a maximum of 5 at Columbia N.W.R., *Grant* 28 Mar (RH), including a very late bird at Stinking Water Marsh, *Harney* 27 May (PS). Extremely rare for the eastside were single Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal at Y.R.D. to 12 Mar (RF) and at Othello, *Adams* 25 May (BF); the latter bird was also probably the latest ever for the Region. On the westside, reports of this subspecies remain high, totalling 9 pure birds (latest on 2 May) and 5 hybrids. Tufted Ducks were at Hatfield L., *Deschutes* 23 Mar–8 Apr (TR, DDW), Astoria, *Clatsop* until 20 Mar (TT), and Hoquiam, *Grays Harbor* 7–8 Apr (PtS, DB); the Region averages about 2 per spring, and eastside records away from the Columbia R. are most unusual. A concentration of 20,000 Surf Scoters at Pt. Whitehorn, *Whatcom* 5 May furnished the best Regional tally in years (*vide* TRW). A Surf Scoter at Vantage, *Kittitas* 12 Mar was the only eastside report (CW). A Long-tailed Duck near Bridgeport, *Douglas* 20 May–9 Jun was likely the latest ever on the eastside (ph. R. Hendrick). The only other eastside Long-tailed Ducks were 2 near Asotin 7 Mar, with one remaining until 13 Apr (C. Vande Voorde, J. McCormick).

HAWKS THROUGH TERNS

A White-tailed Kite at Summer L., *Lake* 28 May was in e. Oregon, where very rare (D. Haller, S. Haller). The Spencer I., *Snohomish* Red-shouldered Hawk was last seen 21 Mar (DB), while another was over Naselle, *Pacific* 21 May, providing Washington with one of its latest spring records (†A. Richards, †A. Musche). For the 2nd consecutive spring, Swainson's Hawks invaded the westside, where normally extremely rare. Singles were at O.S. 14 Apr (PWS), near *Snohomish* 3 May (SM), Eugene 9 May (DDW, B. Bumstead), Crocker L., *Jefferson* 11 May (B. Sundstrom),

and Scatter Creek, *Thurston* 12 May (BTw). A bird appearing to be a typical Prairie Merlin was on Fir I., *Skagit* 22 Apr (v.t. SM, DD); this race is probably very rare to extremely rare in the Region. There were 8 Gyrfalcons this spring, including a late bird near Quincy, *Grant* 8 Apr (DS); the Region averages about three records per spring.

A **Common Moorhen** was at Elk R., *Curry* 16–17 May (†TJW) to be followed by a pair courting at Malheur 27 May–2 Jun (RK); there are only about 10 previous Oregon records, mostly from May–Jun and mostly from Malheur. Five Pacific and 2 American Golden-Plovers this spring was about average. Single Pacifics were at Bandon, *Coos* 9 May (TR), N.S.C.B. 12 & 18 May (TR), Clatsop Spit 21 May (TT), and near Sequim, *Clallam* 9 May (TA, S. Gerstle). Americans were at N.S.C.B. 4 & 9 May (TR). Black-necked Stilts continued their apparent range expansion, with unprecedented numbers in e. Washington and on the westside. The previous spring high count for Washington of 51, set just last year, was exceeded by tallies of 100+ at Iowa Beef, *Walla Walla* 25 May (TA) and 76 at Othello, *Adams* 25 May (SM, CB). In w. Oregon, where normally rare, 12 were reported from 6 locations 23 Apr+. In w. Washington, where normally very rare, reports included 7 near Westport 9 Apr (G. Wiles), 2 at Crockett L., *Island* 26 Apr (TA, SM), up to 15 at Ridgefield 8–29 May (BTw), one near Sequim, *Clallam* 9 May (S. MacRobbie), and one in Redmond, *King* 13 May (D. DeSilvis). The *Island* and *Clallam* birds provided first county records. Three American Avocets returned to Crockett L., *Island*, where they bred last year, by 13 May (SM, KA), and 2 were at L. Sammamish, *King* 26 May (P. Burr). In w. Oregon, where rare, avocet reports included 2 at N.S.C.B. 25 May (DL, KC) and one at F.R.R. 29 May (DDW).

A tally of 20 Lesser Yellowlegs near *Snohomish* 3 May was probably the highest ever for Washington during spring (SM), while 21 at Clatsop Spit 30 Apr was very high for spring in Oregon (TT). Eighteen Solitary Sandpipers this spring (mostly 19 Apr–13 May) was below the recent average of about 26 per spring; 5 were in Washington and 13 in Oregon, including a late individual near suitable breeding habitat at Olollie Meadows, *Marion* 27 May (SD). Two Willets at the W.W.R.D. 9 May (BTw) and one at Sprague, *Lincoln* 11 May (JA) provided the first spring e. Washington records since 1997. A **Little Curlew** at Leadbetter Pt., *Pacific* 6 May was the Region's first and about the 6th for North America (†SM, †RTS). A Whimbrel at

Othello, *Adams* 25 May provided e. Washington's first spring record in > 8 years (SM, CB, BF). A Long-billed Curlew was at F.R.R. 6 May (S. Gordon); they are rare on the westside away from the coast. Eastern Washington's 2nd **Black Turnstone** was at Y.R.D. 15–16 May (BL, NL); the first was at Quincy, *Grant* 24 Aug 1997. A Red Knot was at Summer L., *Lake* 27 May (RG), and 5 Sanderlings were at W.W.R.D. 9–10 May (BTw); both species are very rare during spring on the eastside. Five Semipalmated Sandpipers 25 Apr–14 May was a smidgen above the average of 4 per spring. The only Baird's Sandpiper was at Swanson Lakes, *Lincoln* 14 Apr (JA); the Region averages 3–4 per spring. Five Pectoral Sandpipers this spring 16–22 May was better than average. The nominate Rock Sandpiper at O.S. was last seen 10 Mar (DB). Last year, Oregon's 4th spring Ruff was at L.K.N.W.R.; this year, single Ruffs were there 3–10 Apr (DH, †KS) and 1 May (KS). Wilson's Phalaropes were unusually widespread on the westside, with a maximum of 22 at Baskett Slough, *Polk* 16 May (D. Faxon). An impressive 20,000 Red-necked Phalaropes moved past Boiler Bay, *Lincoln* 9 May (PP).

Jaeger numbers were very low; only 6 Pomarines and one Parasitic were found on pelagic trips. The smelt run on the lower Columbia R. was the best in years, and attending this bounty were large numbers of gulls, including 5000 Mews and 3300 Herrings at Woodland, *Cowlitz* 16 Mar (SM, BL, RTS); these tallies represented record or near-record numbers. This spring's incursion of Franklin's Gulls along the coast was likely unprecedented. Singles were at Boiler Bay, *Lincoln* 28 Mar, 6 Apr, and 23 May (PP) and at Tillamook Bay 13 May (CR); in addition, 2 were at Astoria, *Clatsop* 12 May (MP) and 3 at Boiler Bay 19 May (PP). In e. Washington, where barely annual during spring, 5 were at Jamison L., *Douglas*, 19 May (DS). An imm. Little Gull was at P.N.P. 1–11 Mar (VN), and an ad. was there 11–20 Mar (VN), a fairly typical spring for this species. An ad. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at F.R.R. 17–21 Mar should provide Oregon's first record (†T. Snetsinger, AC, DDW). Three thousand Black-legged Kittiwakes at Boiler Bay 2 Mar provided an extraordinary count from shore (PP); pelagic numbers were also quite high in Mar and Apr (BTw). Casual in e. Oregon, and perhaps unprecedented anywhere on the eastside during May, were single Black-legged Kittiwakes at Adel, *Lake* 5 May (G. Clark) and Frenchglen, *Harney* 27 May (C. Lawes, H. Horvath).

Two Arctic Terns had returned to the tiny Everett colony by 9 May (DB). Another Arctic at O.S. 14 Apr was two or more weeks early (PWS). Forster's Terns irrupted onto the westside. In Oregon, 14 were at F.R.R. 23 May (D. Farrar), 2 were at Fernhill Wetlands, *Washington* 21–26 May (EM), 2 at Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion* 27 May (K. Sparkman), and 2 at Baskett Slough, *Polk* 28 May (NW). In Washington, 2 were near Snohomish 28 May (SM, DD) and 3 at Camas, *Clark* 24–27 May (N. Wendt); this species has been recorded on the westside during only two of the previous six springs! Another eastside species, Black Tern, is typically a rare-but-regular stray to the west. This year, 20 Blacks had arrived at F.R.R., their only westside breeding location, as of 9 May (HH), and 33 others were seen in w. Oregon 13–31 May, including 14 at Baskett Slough 29 May (RG). In w. Washington, one was at Nisqually N.W.R., *Thurston* 15 May (B. Shelmerdine), 3 were at Stanwood, *Snohomish* 22 May (DB), and 3 were at Ridgefield 20–31 May (WC); excluding F.R.R., about 6 Black Terns per spring is normal for the westside. The Marbled Murrelet concentration off P.N.P. peaked at 301 on 14 Mar (VN). Cassin's Auklet numbers remain low, with a peak pelagic count of only 48 off Newport 22 Apr (GG); 200 off Neah Bay 12 May, however, provided a good near-colony count (S. Horton).

OWLS THROUGH THRASHERS

There were 8 Snowy Owls this spring, including a late bird near Boardman, *Morrow* 4 Apr (CC, JC) and an extraordinarily tardy individual near Vernita Bridge 25 Apr (ph. DG). A Northern Hawk Owl near Leavenworth, *Chelan* 7 Mar provided the 6th record since Oct of this very rare visitor (†J. Lehmkuhl). The only westside Burrowing Owl was the wintering bird at Baskett Slough, *Polk*, which remained until 4 Mar (RG). A White-throated Swift was in nw. Oregon, where casual, at Cape Meares, *Tillamook* 5 May (W. Gross). Rare in w. Oregon was a Black-chinned Hummingbird at Eugene 13 May (LM). An early Costa's Hummingbirds was near Medford, *Jackson* 21 Mar (DV), followed by 4 elsewhere in w. Oregon during May; Oregon averages about one per spring. There were only 3 Calliope Hummingbirds on the westside this spring; Eugene 15 Apr (LM), Silverton, *Marion* 19 Apr (P. Reid), and Washougal, *Skamania* 2 May (WC); last spring there were 16. The status of **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** in Oregon is not clear, but the species is probably regular in the far e. parts of the state. A male at Sisters,

Deschutes 23 May clearly did not fit that pattern (J. Gerke), while another male at Salem 1 May provided the first westside record (JL). A Lewis's Woodpecker was at Nisqually N.W.R., *Thurston* 6–15 May (CW); w. Washington averages one per spring.

A Western Wood-Pewee at Skagit W.M.A. 26 Apr was more than two weeks early and provided Washington with its 5th Apr record (SM, TA). Willow Flycatchers were again found in early May this year, with singles at Klamath Falls 2 May (DH), Portland 7 May (JG), Gresham, *Multnomah* 7 May (T. Jones), and a singing bird at Othello, *Adams* 6 May (BF); the bulk of the Region's Willow Flycatchers arrive in the last week of May and first week of Jun. Single Least Flycatchers were at Fields, *Harney* 26 May (AC, HH) and Everett 30 May (DB), plus 4 were at Hardy Canyon, *Yakima* 27 May (DG, PtS); the Region averages about two per spring, mostly during late May. Hopefully, Hardy Canyon will be checked for signs of breeding activity this summer. Rare for w. Oregon was a Gray Flycatcher at Eugene 29 Apr (S. Gordon); almost all westside records are from late Apr and May. A cooperative and calling Dusky Flycatcher at Rockport, *Skagit* 29 Apr was w. Washington's earliest ever by more than 10 days (SM, DD, GT); 4 Dusks near Portland during early May were also unusual. Washington's 5th **Eastern Phoebe** was at Leavenworth, *Chelan* 24 May–Jun (K. Haire, B. Lambert, †MR); Washington's 3rd and 4th were recorded just last year 27 May–3 Jun. Six Say's Phoebes, 3 per state, were on the westside 23 Mar–21 Apr; the Oregon tally was fairly typical, but Washington averages only about one per spring. An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Eugene 13 May was n. of that species's usual range in w. Oregon (LM). Western Kingbirds at Mt. Vernon, *Grant* 8 Mar (S. Enright) and Monument, *Grant* 10 Mar (T. Hunt) were about five weeks early for Oregon. Eight Western Kingbirds at Cape Blanco, *Curry* 4 May provided an excellent count for the westside (DM), and a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** there 12 May was about the 14th for Oregon, most of which have been during May or Nov (ph. TJW).

Loggerhead Shrikes were near Port Angeles, *Clallam* 21 Mar (BN), Detroit Flats, *Marion* 24 Mar and 20–21 Apr (SD), and Cape Blanco 3 May (TJW); the westside averages about 3 per spring. Plumbeous Vireos are reported annually during late May and early June from se. Oregon but are rarely documented. One at Fields, *Harney* 23 May was from a typical location (T. Shelmerdine), but one near Sisters, *Deschutes* 28 May was

well nw. of most reports (†SS). A Gray Jay near Creswell, *Lane* 18 Apr provided a very rare Willamette Valley record (N. Strycker). The Redmond, *Deschutes* Blue Jay remained through Mar (S. Pierce), and one was at Richland, *Benton* 2 May (C. Simonen); the Region averages about 3 per spring. A Western Scrub-Jay in cen. *Wheeler* 12 May was well away from this species's usual range in Oregon and is likely a sign of continuing range expansion (J. Geier). The Monmouth, *Polk* Black-billed Magpie seems to be settling in, as it remained through May (S. Burgett); this species is very rare on the westside away from the Rogue Valley, and most records are from fall and winter. Three Rock Wrens, rare on the westside, were in suitable breeding habitat at Pyramid Rock, *Clark* 30 May (B. Shelmerdine). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Redmond 7 May (K. Owen) and Gresham, *Multnomah* 6–13 May (W. Stone, B. Altman) were well n. of this species's usual range in s. Oregon. A Mountain Bluebird at O.S. 2 May was on the outer coast, where extremely rare, and about a month late for a westside stray (TA). Five Northern Mockingbirds in w. Oregon (4 Mar–6 Apr) was about normal, but only one was reported from e. Oregon: near Burns, *Harney* 13–15 May (W&P Bowers). The lone Washington mockingbird was at Richland, *Benton* 5–20 Mar (RF). A Sage Thrasher, very rare in w. Washington, was at Bothell, *King* 13 May (HO, J. Opperman).

SILKY-FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Oregon's 4th and 5th *Phainopeplas* were recorded from Camp Sherman, *Deschutes* 20 May (J. Wolf) and Bend, *Deschutes* 23–24 May (†J. Meredith); Oregon's last record had been in 1987. A Tennessee Warbler was at Malheur 26 May (JG); they are annual in se. Oregon 20 May–15 Jun. Oregon's 12th **Cape May Warbler** remained at Gold Beach, *Curry* to 4 Mar (DL, KC). Palm Warblers are uncommon on the outer coast from Sep into Mar, but May records are very rare throughout the Region; this year singles were at Othello, *Adams* 6 May (BF), Ridgefield 8 May (H. Gilmore), and Tillamook 13 May (M. Lofton, P. Bernardi). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was at Jackson Bottoms, *Washington* 9 Mar (D. Manzer), and a Hermit Warbler was at Eugene 25 Mar (LM); both were about a month early. Spring Blackpoll Warblers are not quite annual in Oregon, and most occur in the se. between mid-May and early Jun. This year one was at Upper Klamath L. 17 May

(†DH), and another was on the outer coast at Lincoln City 29 May (PP). Black-and-white Warblers were at Fields, *Harney* 10 May (A. McGie), nw. *Polk* 12 May (B. Millikan), Hooper, *Adams* 14 May (†BF), and Klamath Falls 27 May (D. Robberson); the Region averages about 5 per spring, not including Jun. Washington's first **Mourning Warbler** was at Lyons Ferry St. Pk., *Franklin* 26 May (BF, †SM, †BTw, †RTS), while Oregon's 5th was at Malheur that same day (HH, MD). Oregon's 10th **Summer Tanager** remained at Cedar Mills, *Washington* until 4 Apr (C. Dubosch), to be followed by that state's 11th and 12th at Portland 7 May (JG) and Malheur 27 May (L. Goodhew). Washington's 2nd was at Ridgefield 26 May (†PWS); prior to Jun 1999, Oregon had only 6 records and Washington but one. Is this a sign of range expansion and/or a population increase?

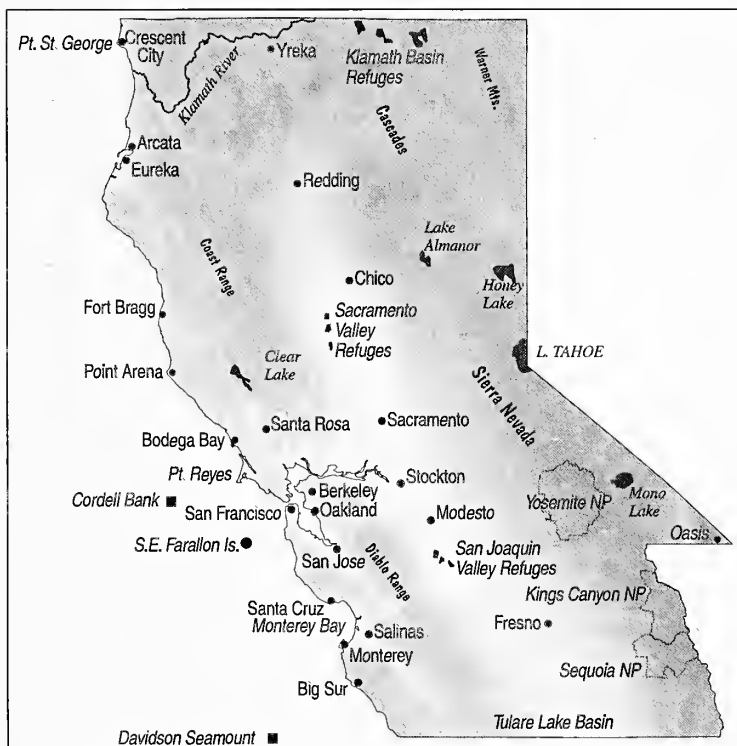
Eastern Washington's first Green-tailed Towhee away from the Blue Mountains was near Hatton, *Adams* 16 May (†CC, JC, BF). If accepted by the O.B.R.C., an **Eastern Towhee** in W. Linn, *Clackamas* 3 Apr would provide a first Regional record (†J. McMahon). American Tree Sparrows, very rare in w. Oregon, were at Fernhill Wetlands, *Washington* 24 Mar (Mark Miller) and Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion* 14 Mar (T. Blount). Another at Sand Hills, *Adams* 14 Apr furnished Washington with its 3rd latest record (BF). A very rare spring migrant Clay-colored Sparrow was near Tampico, *Yakima* 12 May (DG). Eight Brewer's Sparrows were at Detroit Flats, *Marion* 20 Apr (SD); this is one of a few regular locations for Brewer's in w. Oregon, and summer records here have indicated possible breeding. A Vesper Sparrow in *Benton* 10 Mar tied the record early date for e. Washington (BL, NL). Lark Sparrows were at F.R.R. 15 Apr (AC), Detroit Flats 27 Apr (SD), and Cape Blanco, *Curry* 8 May (TJW); this species is rare in w. Oregon away from the Umpqua and Rogue Valleys, with most records being from Mar–Jun. Grasshopper Sparrows are almost never found during migration on the westside, so one at Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln* 7 Apr (W. Hoffman) and another at Sauvie I. 13 May (I. Thomlinson) were exceptional, and the former bird may have been the earliest ever; others in *Linn*, *Polk*, and *Lane* were at known or potential breeding locations. The only spring Swamp Sparrow was at Monroe, *Snohomish* 11 Apr (TA). Rare for far e. Washington was a Golden-crowned Sparrow at Silver L., *Spokane* 31 Mar–1 Apr (WH, JA). One of the 6 **McCown's**

Longspurs found at L.K.N.W.R. during Feb lingered to 4 Mar (PS, DT); Oregon had only four previous records.

The Region averages about 3 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks each May. This May there were 4 in Oregon and 4 in Washington, all males. In Oregon, singles were at Twickenham, *Wheeler*, mid-May (B. Sharp), Bald Peak, *Washington* 10 May (K. Kirk), Port Orford, *Curry* 27 May (L. Miller), and near Sauvie I. 28 May (P. Davis). In Washington, singles were at Marrowstone I., *Jefferson* 24 May (ph. P. Fiedler), Creston, *Lincoln* 26 May (M. Frobe), Machias, *Snohomish* 28–29 May (S. Jacobs, Y. Bombadier), Port Townsend, *Jefferson* 29 May (†R. Sikes). Lazuli Buntings are not annual in Washington w. of the Puget Trough, so singles at Bottle Beach, *Grays Harbor* 28 Apr (D. Froehlich) and Orcas I., *San Juan* 31 May (G. Benton) were noteworthy. **Indigo Buntings** arrived in unprecedented numbers and early, with 6 in Oregon and one in Washington: near Burns, *Harney* 20 Apr (W.&P. Bowers, B. Cummings), Cape Blanco, *Curry* 29 Apr (TJW), near Fields, *Harney* 10–22 May (A. McGie, D. MacDonald), Brookings, *Curry* 10 May (J. Bischoff, B. Stewart), Washougal, *Skamania* 17 May (†WC), Cape Blanco 22 May (TJW), and Millacoma Marsh, *Coos* 23 May (TR); there are only 10 previous Washington records and about 43 from Oregon.

A female Bobolink at Seattle 1 Jun was about the 2nd for spring in w. Washington (†S. Terry). Tricolored Blackbirds returned to their only known Washington breeding location at Wilson Cr., *Grant* by 8 Apr (M. Breece), with maximum counts of 20 males and 8 females before May's end (SM, CB). Small numbers were reported elsewhere in e. Washington, but only 3 males at Othello, *Adams*, 4 Apr (†B. Senturia) and one male near Alderdale, *Klickitat* 12 May (†S. Johnston) were adequately documented. In Oregon, out-of-range Tricolored Blackbirds were at N.S.C.B. 24 May (TR) and Fernhill Wetlands, *Washington* 11 Mar into Jun (W. Gross, HN, GG, m. ob.). Notably, the latter bird looked like a perfectly typical Tricolored but sang more like a Red-winged Blackbird and actually paired with a female Red-winged before disappearing in Jun. A Rusty Blackbird, rare but regular in Washington Nov–Mar, was at W.W.R.D. 10 Mar (AS, DG). A **Common Grackle** near College Place, *Walla Walla* 14 May was about the 6th for Washington (†MD, MLD), while one along the Deschutes R. in *Wasco* 24 Mar (E. Stone) was Oregon's 25th or so;

Middle Pacific Coast



about half of the Region's records are from May. Washington's 2nd **Great-tailed Grackle** remained at Stanwood, *Snohomish* until 10 Mar (SM). Oregon's only Great-tailed was at Wood R. Wetlands, *Klamath* 13 May (KS); one or 2 per spring in se. Oregon is the norm. Washington's 4th **Hooded Oriole** was at Bothell, *Snohomish* 13–16 May (D. Yalowicki, †B. Bell, †MR, v.t. SM). Pine Grosbeaks are rare even during winter in the Columbia Basin, but 2 at Burbank, *Walla Walla* 29 Apr were unprecedented (D&J Johnston). Less unusual, but still noteworthy, was a pair near sea level at Sequim, *Clallam* 17 Apr (K. Wiersma). Three White-winged Crossbills at Mt. Spokane, *Spokane* 7 Mar provided the spring's only record of this mountain nomad (JA, WH).

Corrigendum

The Rose-breasted Grosbeak reported at Astoria 5 Apr 2000 was actually seen 4 May.

Addendum

Washington's 4th **Black-backed Wagtail** was at L. Sammamish, *King* 26 Nov (†M. Bailey).

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface):

Kevin Aanerud, Jim Acton, Tom Aversa, Casey Beachell, David Beaudette, Wilson Cady, Kathy Castelein, Alan Contreras, Craig Corder, Judy Corder, Merry Lynn Denny, Mike Denny, Don DeWitt (DDW), Steve Dowlan, Dennis Duffy, Anne Esche, Ruth Fischer, Bob Flores, Roy Gerig, Jeff Gilligan, Greg Gillson, Denny Granstand, Warren Hall, David Haupt, Hendrik Herlyn, Dan Heyerly, Randy Hill, Ray Korpi, Bruce LaBar, **Bill LaFramboise** (Columbia Basin), Nancy LaFramboise, David Lauten, John Lundsten, David Mandell (DMA), Larry McQueen, Ed McVicker, Craig Miller, Marilyn Miller, Don Munson, **Harry Nehls** (OR), Vic Nelson, **Bob Norton** (Olympic Peninsula), Hal Opperman, Michael Patterson, Diane Pettet, Phil Pickering, Craig Roberts, Dennis Rockwell, Tim Rodenkirk, Marcus Roening, **Russell Rogers** (WA), Owen Schmidt, Tom Sellers, Ryan T. Shaw, Stephen Shunk, P. William Smith, Kevin Spencer, **Dan Stephens** (*Chelan*), Andy Stepniewski, Patrick Sullivan (PtS), **Paul Sullivan** (PS, E. OR), Todd Thornton, Greg Toffic, David Tracy, Dennis Vroman, Terry J. Wahl, Terry R. Wahl, Nathaniel Wander, Charlie Wright, Bob Woodley.



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Spring 2001 was rather mild and dry; it was especially dry in the northeast, where drought seriously affected waterbirds in the Klamath Basin and Sierra Valley. The sunny skies may have affected the number of migrants recorded, with many birds overflying our Region. Big Sur Ornithology Lab, *Monterey* reported captures down 47% from their May average, and Coyote Creek Field Station, *Santa Clara* banded only one MacGillivray's Warbler all spring. A very impressive appearance of "southeastern" vagrants began in mid-May and extended well into June (see the Summer report for additional details). As with the last major influx of such species in the southwest in 1992, this pattern correlated with atypical weather conditions over the Gulf of Mexico during the major trans-Gulf passerine migration period. These species have been increasing in the southwest for years, but such large influxes appear to be a recent phenomenon (see Terrill et al. 1992, *A.B.* 46: 1109–1111 and Patten & Marantz 1996, *Auk* 113: 911–923 for further discussion). We welcome Tom Ryan to our group of Regional editors. Reports of

exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are normally not published. Observers wishing C.B.R.C. review should also send their documentation to Guy McCaskie, Secretary, P.O. Box 275, San Diego CA 91933.

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (California Bird Records Committee); C.V. (Central Valley); F.I. (Southeast Farallon I.), N.S. (National Seashore); O.S.P. (Open Space Preserve); S.F. (San Francisco); R.P. (Regional Park); R.S. (Regional Shoreline); S.R. (State Reserve); W.A. (Wildlife Area).

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS

Scarce inland, up to 3 Red-throated Loons were present 16–22 Mar at Calero Res., *Santa Clara* (MJM, MMR, John Cole et al.), and a rare inland Pacific Loon was with over 40 Common Loons (a high inland number) at L. Almanor, *Plumas* 10 Apr (JSL). A Common Loon at East Park Res. 4 May was perhaps the 3rd *Tehama* record and a first for spring (BDW). Up to 4 Laysan Albatrosses and 322 Black-footed Albatrosses off Noyo Harbor, *Mendocino* 13 May (DLSh et al.) represented a good showing for these little-known waters. Now annual, a **Dark-rumped Petrel** was west of F.I. 9 May (DGA, †TPR). A Manx Shearwater was on Monterey Bay, *Monterey* 17 Mar (JBo). Up to 20 American White Pelicans over Sebastopol, *Sonoma* 6 June (E. Lichtwardt) represented a good number for the w. part of our Region at that time of year.

HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS

A Cattle Egret on a nest and another carrying nesting material 13–14 Apr at Hayward R.S. provided a first nesting record for *Alameda* (RJR). A Black-crowned Night-Heron in sw. *Mariposa* 31 Mar (JSL) may have been only the 2nd county record; the observer noted that good habitat nearby on private property may hold others. The Region's first **Glossy Ibis** was in Alviso, *Santa Clara* 14–15 May (†MMR, ph. LCh, m. ob.), and likely the same individual was in *Alameda* at Hayward R.S. 20 May (†RJR, Peter Dramer, Sheila Junge) and Coyote Hills R.P. 21 Apr (RJR). This new Regional species comes fast on the heels of the state's first just two years ago (see *N.A.B.* 54: 241 for information on this species's expansion in the West in recent years). An enormous coastal invasion of White-faced Ibis occurred during the latter half of May. In excess of 1350 birds were reported, and undoubtedly far more were present. Numerous flocks of 20–90 individuals were reported from *Monterey* to *Humboldt* with

increasing numbers to the north. Reports included a flock of 172 at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 19 May (RS, m. ob.), at least 239 in Mendocino 11–29 May (m. ob.), and well over 600 in *Humboldt* 13–27 May (m. ob.). What caused such a massive flight? This is an interesting mystery; perhaps a weather anomaly or adverse breeding conditions somewhere may have been involved.

A Brant near Clovis 19–21 May (SAG, JLx, MiF, Kevin Enns-Rempel) was exceptional for *Fresno*, where according to our notebooks the last record was in 1978. Two Eurasian Wigeon at *Colusa* refuges 4 May were late (BDW, EDP, BWb). A Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal at Trinity L. 23 Apr (JSL) was *Trinity's* first. County listing efforts produced several additional noteworthy records including Greater Scaup at McSwain L., *Mariposa* 31 Mar and Red-breasted Merganser at Camp Far West Res., *Yuba* 4 May (both JSL). Two Hooded Merganser nests discovered in late Apr in Wood Duck boxes near Big Lagoon (Brian Yost) were rare breeding records for *Humboldt* (see Corrigenda about a nesting record from last spring).

Sonoma's first Bald Eagle nesting in 100 years was at L. Sonoma 28 Mar (DN, m. ob.). A one-year-old Swainson's Hawk flew over Fickle Hill 9 May (†TMcK) for *Humboldt's* 3rd record and first since 1979. Much anticipated were the Region's first **Zone-tailed Hawks**: 7 May at Bolinas, *Marin* (†SGNH, PP, DS, SW) and 10 May at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 10 May (†CHo, Scott Ranier).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A Sora at Pinecrest L. 18 May was a rare find in *Tuolumne* (*vide* KJB). Two Black-necked Stilts seen at both Boca Res. and Martis Creek L. 29 May (†JSL) may have been *Nevada's* first. A remarkable congregation of **600** Greater Yellowlegs was 4 mi sw. of Chowchilla, *Madera* 8 Apr (LLu, CLu). *Shasta's* 2nd Whimbrel and first Marbled Godwit were at Redding 17 & 20 Apr, respectively (John Coon, BED, Randy Van Orden, Ray Bruun) The only report of Semipalmated Sandpiper was from Novato, *Marin* 5 May (RS). The wintering Stilt Sandpiper at Merced N.W.R., *Merced* was last reported 19 Mar (JSL, JCS, JEH). A Ruff near Loleta, *Humboldt* 4–14 Mar (TMcK) was thought to have wintered locally; migrants included a female in Alviso, *Santa Clara* 10–14 Apr (MMR et al.) and well-described males in *Siskiyou* at Lower Klamath N.W.R. 1 May and Tule Lake N.W.R. 5 May (†RE). San Francisco's newly created Crissy Field wetlands attracted a Wilson's Phalarope 4 May (ASH, MWE), (†the first in the

city since 1991; 7 in Alviso, *Santa Clara* 4 May (MJM) were unusual in spring.

SKUAS THROUGH ALCIDS

A first-summer Laughing Gull at *Humboldt* Bay 6 May was considered *Humboldt's* 4th (†TMcK et al.). A Franklin's Gull in Sierra Valley 24 Apr was just the 3rd for *Plumas* (MMC); a Bonaparte's Gull at Camp Far West Res. was the 3rd for *Yuba* (EP, JSL, BDW, Lynn Frink). Three pairs of Heermann's Gulls attempted to nest at Roberts L., Seaside, *Monterey*, for the 3rd year in a row (DR, RC). Glaucous Gulls were observed 2 Mar at Pilarcitos Cr. mouth, *San Mateo* (RSTh) and 7–14 Mar from Eel R. mouth and Fernbridge, *Humboldt* (DFx, TMcK). Notable inland Forster's Terns include one at Boca Res. 20 May (3rd for *Nevada* and the first there since 1962; BDW). Sixteen or more at Fall River L. 16 May was a large number for *Shasta* (SB). Three pairs of Least Terns returned to the only inland nesting colony in the Region near Kettleman City, *Kings* (JSe) in late May, and 14 Least Terns returned in early May for the 2nd year to nest at artificial shell-mounds at Richmond, *Contra Costa* (ES). These small populations are significant, as the California Least Tern is an endangered taxon and otherwise primarily confined to one S.F. Bay colony. A pair of Black Terns at Clear L. 20 May represented a long overdue first for *Lake* (JRW, DvW), and 3+ were at Fall River L., *Shasta* (Susan Brown). Nesting by this species was reported at Mathews Lane, *Yuba* (BDW); however, no nesting activity was observed at Sierra Valley, *Plumas*, although 10 ads. were present 5 May at this historic nesting location (MMC). Black Skimmers continue to increase in the S.F. Bay system. The wintering flock at Charleston Slough, *Santa Clara*, increased to 15 by 26 Apr, then began dispersing, with only one present 27 May (WGB, m. ob.); up to 3 in nearby Alviso, *Santa Clara* 24 Apr, were thought to be different birds (Cheryl Millett, m. ob.). Black Skimmers returned to a recent breeding location at Hayward R.S., *Alameda* 23 Apr and increased to 5 on 6 May, with a pair probably nesting (RJR).

Two Parakeet Auklets were observed w. of F.I. on a research cruise 6 May (DGA). Numbers of breeding Tufted Puffins continue to decline in *Humboldt*, with just one reported at Green Rock 27 Apr–12 May (*vide* DFX), but a pair nested on Goat I. off Mendocino Headlands, *Mendocino* 26 May+ (MMtt, DT, JEH et al.).

OWLS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

Two widely-spaced Flammulated Owls on Snow Mt., *Lake* 25 May were at the s. edge of this species's range in the Coast Ranges of the

nw., where rarely recorded (JRW, DvW). A successful nest of Long-eared Owls at Ed Levin Park provided the first confirmed breeding in *Santa Clara's* portion of the Diablo Range (Dusty Bleher, MMR, MJM). Short-eared Owls went unconfirmed during *Humboldt's* Breeding Bird Atlas of 1995–1999, so a pair in aerial courtship displays at Humboldt Bay N.W.R. 14 Apr was encouraging (RLeV). A Lesser Nighthawk at MacKerricker S.P. 19 Apr was an eagerly awaited first for *Mendocino*, but a Common Nighthawk at the same location 27 May was a coastal rarity (†DT). An unidentified nighthawk 5 May near Myers Flat, *Humboldt* was likely a Lesser at that early date (Jay Sooter). A calling Common Nighthawk at Mill Cr. 24 May was the earliest yet for *Mono* (Chris McReady). A White-throated Swift at Tule Lake N.W.R. 31 Mar was the earliest ever for *Siskiyou* (RE). White-throated Swifts are quite local in *Humboldt*, so up to 17 during the period 11–27 Mar at Scotia Bluffs, a site first found last year, and 3 at Holmes Bluff 31 Mar, a new discovery, were noteworthy (Laura Nelson). Notable sightings of Costa's Hummingbirds included the first for heavily-watched Hayward R.S. 6 May (a female; RJR), and a male in suburban Berkeley 29 Apr–21 May (†ES, m. ob.), both *Alameda*. Significant Calliope Hummingbirds were a male at Rush Creek, *Mono* 29 May (rare in Mono Basin; SchH) and at Hopland and Potter Valley, *Mendocino* 14–15 Apr, where there are but a handful of records (GEC, CEV, MMt, DT, RJK).

One or 2 pairs of nesting Lewis's Woodpeckers at Joseph Grant Park 29 Apr–31 May were the first *Santa Clara* nesting w. of Mt. Hamilton since the 1930s (James Yurchenko, Amy Lauterbach et al.). Seven migrant Gray Flycatchers were noted 10 Apr–27 May, including singles at Snow Mt. 26–27 May (*Lake's* 2nd; JRW, DvW) and in S.F. city 4 May, possibly the first there in spring (Brian Fitch, Gary Deghi). An Eastern Phoebe at Pescadero, *San Mateo* 25 Mar was considered to be a migrant (RSTh). The male half of *King's* wintering pair of Vermilion Flycatchers was last noted at Lemoore Gun Club 11 Mar (Mark Stacy). The variety of *Tyrannus* kingbirds was once again impressive this spring, with six species recorded. The lone Tropical Kingbird holdover from winter was last seen in Golden Gate Park, S.F. 11 May (MWE). Notable Cassin's Kingbirds included a rare coastal stray 27 Apr along Cloverdale Rd., *San Mateo* (RSTh) and a nesting pair in Del Puerto Canyon after 1 May, the first in *Stanislaus* in over a decade (BDP, MWE, ph.

JHG). As with last year, *San Mateo's* wintering **Thick-billed Kingbird** was last recorded 27 Mar (Gary Deghi). A vagrant Eastern Kingbird was at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 15 May (RS). An ad. male Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was videotaped at Sea Ranch, *Sonoma* 14 May (†Richard Keuhn et al.).

VIREOS THROUGH KINGLETS

This spring was the best on record for "southern" vireos. Single **White-eyed Vireos** were at Pescadero 6 May (*San Mateo's* first; †RSTh) and Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 16 May (singing male; †JS). Last spring was the first in which more than one White-eyed Vireo appeared. No more than 2 Yellow-throated Vireos have been found in the Region in any given spring, so a robust 4 this year was exciting: 13–15 May along Coyote Cr. (*Santa Clara's* first; †MJM, ph. MMR, m. ob.); 15 May at Bear Valley, Pt. Reyes N.S., *Marin* (†RS); 19 May at Big Sur R. mouth (SRv, †JM, DSg, †DR, RC); and 25 May at lower Lee Vining Canyon, *Mono* (†KNN). Four coastal Red-eyed Vireos, about average, were found 21–30 May.

A wayward Clark's Nutcracker 21 Apr flying s. past Big Lagoon, *Humboldt* must have been a startling sight (TMcK). The spread of Common Raven continued, with the first nesting in n. *Monterey* at Castroville Slough 25 May (RF). A very early Purple Martin at L. Merced 11 Mar was the first for S.F. since 1992 (DPM). Up to 3 martins at an apparent nest snag near Dobbins 21–28 May may represent the first *Yuba* sighting since 1971 (BDW, JSL). Juniper Titmice at Mill Cr. and Lower Rush Cr. 7–8 May were at new locations for *Mono* (SchH). An apparent pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches on Mt. Diablo, *Contra Costa* 20 May was in the arid e. half of the county from which nesting has never even been suspected (JTz). Ten singing Golden-crowned Kinglets near Mt. Madonna, *Santa Clara* 23 May appeared to be part of a range expansion that the observer feels is related to a recent southerly range expansion in adjacent Santa Cruz (DLSu).

THRASHERS THROUGH TANAGERS

A Gray Catbird on lower Mill Cr., *Mono* 30 May (SchH) was a scarce vagrant. The Black-backed Wagtail that wintered on salt ponds at Alviso, *Santa Clara* lingered until 7 Apr when it was in definitive alternate plumage (ph. MMR, SBT, MiF).

A male **Golden-winged Warbler** banded on F.I. 25 May (M. Grosselet, *fide* PP) was the 8th here. These and the seven prior occurrences at Oasis, *Mono* account for 15 of the 24 records in

this Region. Other e. warblers on F.I. during the last week of May were one each of Tennessee, Blackburnian, and Bay-breasted Warblers, plus an American Redstart and an Ovenbird. A Prothonotary Warbler was singing at Pescadero marsh, *San Mateo* 26 May (RSTh). Such late May or early Jun vagrants can be anticipated, but a number of e. or se. warblers was surprisingly early, including a Blackpoll on F.I. 12 May, Ovenbirds banded on F.I. 13 May and Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 18 May, and Hooded Warblers banded on F.I. 13 May and Big Sur R. mouth 18 May (all P.R.B.O., B.S.O.L.). Other early vagrants were a Black-and-white Warbler at Hastings Reserve, *Monterey* 24 Apr (William Tyler) and singles on Mt. Davidson, S.F. 7 & 17 May (Eric Preston, PSa), a Northern Waterthrush at Pescadero, *San Mateo* 7–12 May (RSTh, AWi), and a rare Kentucky along Mill Creek, *Mono* 11 May (Sch, Q. Latif).

The male Cape May Warbler that wintered at Stinson Beach, *Marin* was present to at least 31 Mar (LkC). A singing Black-throated Green Warbler at Pine L. Park, S.F. 10–14 Apr (†Jay Withgott, †HuC et al.) either wintered locally unbound or was moving n. from a winter in, perhaps, s. California or Mexico. Four wintering Palm Warblers were reported into spring (one to late Apr), but birds at Big Sur R. mouth 15 Apr (RF); Pacific, *San Mateo* 22–23 Apr (2 there; DSg, JM); Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* 14 May (RSTh); and Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* 30 May (DR) were all spring vagrants.

Northern Parulas returned to Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* by 28 Apr; by the end of May, there were 2–3 singing males on territory (JsS, DR, m. ob.). Nesting was confirmed or suspected here the last three summers. Another 10 Northern Parulas were found along the coast in May (including 4 in S.F.) and 2 more in *Mono* (m. ob.). In contrast to this recurring phenomenon, there were no American Redstarts found in *Humboldt* this spring; that local breeding population may have disappeared. A Yellow-breasted Chat at Sierra City 2 May (Willis Ray) and another near Pike 28 May may be the first published for *Sierra* (JSL).

A wintering Summer Tanager at Forestville, *Sonoma* was last noted 17 Mar (DN), but 6 spring vagrants made May appearances (4 coastal, 2 e. of Sierra), including a male at Grover Hot Springs 26 May (†Matt Williams, Jr.), a first for *Alpine*.

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

Rufous-crowned and Grasshopper Sparrow populations in *Mendocino* seem to be gradually expanding in appropriate habitat (RJK). Grasshopper Sparrows were also noted in new

locales or as early arrivals in *San Mateo/Santa Clara* (e.g., 10 Mar at Ano Nuevo S.R., *San Mateo*; AME), in *Humboldt*, and at various foothill locales around the Sacramento Valley (m. ob.). Rare *Spizella* sparrows were an American Tree at Dechambeau Ponds, *Mono* 14 Mar (ADeM); a Clay-colored in Potter Valley, *Mendocino* 18 Mar (GEC), and 2 banded on F.I. in May; and S.F.'s first spring Brewer's Sparrow on Mt. Davidson 18 May (†PSa). A Vesper Sparrow at Trinity Center 23 Mar (JCS, JEH) was the first for spring in *Trinity*. A wintering Harris's Sparrow in Rohnert Park, *Sonoma* stayed to 15 Mar (Richard Merriss), but those at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* 11 Apr (RSTh) and *Eureka, Humboldt* 28 Apr (Dick Bermuda) were rare migrants. Dark-eyed Juncos continue to invade and expand their population in urban *Santa Clara* and *San Mateo*, with many noted in new locales within the last two years (WGB).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks put in another strong appearance, with at least a dozen along the coast or on F.I. (all but one in May) and scattered birds inland, often at feeders. Among the latter was a female that first appeared in a Napa yard 11 Mar (J.

Finke; 4th *Napa* record) and a male at Tahoe City 27 May (ph. Richard Carlson; 2nd *Placer* record). A dozen coastal or F.I. Indigo Buntings were also reported, plus 2 males on territory at Windy Hill O.S.P., *San Mateo* after 15 May (m. ob.) and a singing male near Auburn 19 Apr (RLCL, EP, J. Mancini; 2nd *Placer* record). Most unexpected was a male Dickcissel at Happy Camp, *Siskiyou* 2 May (Tracy Klein).

Scarce blackbirds in little-worked counties included Yellow-headed at Hayfork 19 Apr (JCS; 4th for *Trinity*) and on Kistler Ranch, *Tuolumne* (5 birds; BSfs), and a male Tricolored in Sierra Valley, *Plumas* 27 Apr (†MMcC). We may soon reach the era when Great-tailed Grackles no longer merit comment in this Region, but there are still counties with few or no records. Males provided first records for *Napa* in a Pope Valley vineyard 3 May (ph. Phil Burton, †Bill Grummer) and for *Sonoma* at Schollenberger Park 31 May (AWgh), and a singing male in Lakeport 24 May was the 3rd for *Lake* (JRW et al.). New localities were reported in *Merced* (PJM), *Madera* (CLu, LLu), *Tuolumne* (BS), and *Mono* (SCH). Male Baltimore Orioles were at Big Sur R. mouth 30 May (*fide* JND), Pine L. Park, S.F. 10–16 Apr (KNN, m. ob.), and Arcata, *Humboldt* 6–23 Apr (EE, †JTz, JCP, †DFx et al.).

Except for a smattering of Evening Grosbeaks in the nw. and some downslope movement in *Tuolumne*, montane finches went virtually unreported. Two claims of coastal-slope Cassin's Finch were inadequately documented. Lawrence's Goldfinch, however, again staged widespread expansions. Nesting was again proven or suspected in coastal *Monterey* and several southern S.F. Bay locales; the species was much more widespread in *Mendocino* than normal; and 2 males were well n. in *Humboldt* yards: 21 Apr in Arcata (K. G. Ross) and 20 May at Kneeland (B. Burek, D. Van Zile, JCP, DFx).

Exotics

Escaped cage birds reported this spring were a singing male European Goldfinch at Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* 20 May (RC, DR); a nest-building Scaly-breasted Munia 10 Mar near Almaden L., *Santa Clara* (John Meyer); and another male Northern Red Bishop in Palo Alto 31 May (WGB).

Corrigenda

Information concerning escapees from a local captive flock of Hooded Mergansers now casts doubt on the significance of C.V.

nesting reported in *N.A.B.* 54: 323. A **Curlew Sandpiper** reported in *N.A.B.* 55: 99 was in *Modoc* not *Siskiyou*, and was actually the Region's 2nd interior record (first occurred in *Yolo* in May 1996; *Western Birds* 30: 63). The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker from Lake in *N.A.B.* 55: 99 was the 2nd county record, not the first.

Addendum

A Blue-headed Vireo at Pt Reyes N.S., *Marin* 23 Sep 2000 brings last fall's total to 3 (†PSa).

Cited observers (county coordinators in boldface):

David G. Ainley, Big Sur Ornithology Lab (B.S.O.L.), Jim Booker, **William G. Bousman** (*Santa Clara*), **Penelope K. Bowen** (*Alpine & Calaveras*), **Kenneth J. Brunges** (*Tuolumne*), Rita Carratello, George E. Chaniot, Les Chibana, **Luke Cole** (*Kings*), **Hugh Cotter** (S.F. city), Jeff N. Davis, Al DeMartini, **Bruce E. Deuel** (n. C.V. counties), Mark W. Eaton, Alan M. Eisner, **Ray Ekstrom** (*Siskiyou*), Elias Elias, Mike Feigner, **David Fix** (*Humboldt*), Rick Fournier, **James H. Gain** (*Stanislaus*), **Steven A. Glover** (*Contra Costa*), Sacha Heath, Craig Hohenberger, Alan S. Hopkins, Steven N.G. Howell, **John E. Hunter** (*Trinity*), Alvaro Jaramillo, **Robert J. Keiffer** (*Mendocino*), **Robin L.C. Leong** (*Napa & Solano*), Ron LeValley, Cindy Lieurance, Les Lieurance, Jim Lomax, John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammoser, **Timothy D. Manolis** (*Sacramento & Yolo*), Matthew Matthiessen, J. "Mac" McCormick (*Plumas*), Tristan McKee, **Peter J. Metropulos** (*San Mateo & Mono*), Joseph Morlan, Dan P. Murphy, Dan Nelson, Kristie N. Nelson, **Ed Pandolfino** (*Placer*), Benjamin D. Parmeter, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, **Jude C. Power** (*Humboldt*), **Peter Pyle** (F.I.), **Robert J. Richmond** (*Alameda*), Michael F. Robbins, **Don Roberson** (*Monterey*), Michael M. Rogers, Steve Rovell, Thomas P. Ryan, **Ruth A. Rudesill** (*Sonoma*), Paul Saraceni, Bob Schieferstein, Jason Scott, Jeff Seay, Debra L. Shearwater, David Shuford, Dan Singer, Rich Stallcup, John C. Sterling, **David L. Suddjian** (DLSu; *Santa Cruz*), Emilie Strauss, Scott B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorl., Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, John Trochet, Chuck E. Vaughn, **Kent Van Vuren** (*Merced & San Benito*), Bruce Webb, Sofie Webb, **Jerry R. White** (*Lake*), **Brian D. Williams** (*Nevada*), Alan Wight (AWgh), Adam Winer (AWi), Dave Woodward, **Bob & Carol Yutzy** (*Shasta*). Many more observers were not specifically cited; all are appreciated.

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Weather patterns within the Region were uneventful, but on a continental scale the occurrence of a persistent high pressure system over the Gulf of Mexico created a situation similar to that of spring 1992, when unprecedented numbers of "southeastern" warblers and vireos (most notably Hooded and Kentucky Warblers, Northern Parulas, and Yellow-throated and White-eyed Vireos) reached California; see the 1992 review by Terrill et al. (*A.B.* 46: 1109–1111) and the 1996 analysis by Patten and Marantz (*Auk* 113: 911–923) for discussion of the 1992 event. This year's encore was considerably less spectacular, but several of these same species were present in greater numbers than expected.

Lacking reports from constant-effort migra-

tion monitoring, we can only hazard guesses about the magnitude of this year's passage and the spatial and temporal pattern of "waves." Observers on San Clemente I., where very few passerines breed, were in a unique position to detect strong coastal migration waves, and this year's biggest occurred on 23 and 24 April, with a smaller push (including multiple Indigo Buntings and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks) on 19 and 20 May.

Because the Spring season's 31 May cutoff date neatly bisects the peak period of vagrant passage in the Region, we defer to the Summer season report records of species not recorded prior to 1 June; we include here, however, June records for species first recorded prior to June. Certainly the vagrant highlight this spring was the Eyebrowed Thrush on the Kern County desert in late May—the first North American record away from w. Alaska.

Abbreviations: C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station in extreme ne. *Kern*); E.A.F.B. (Edwards Air Force Base in se. *Kern*); F.C.R. (Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley National Park, *Inyo*); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park, extreme e. *Kern*); N.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea,

Riverside); S.C.R.E. (Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura, *Ventura*); S.E.S.S. (s. end of the Salton Sea, *Imperial*); S.F.K.R.P. (South Fork Kern R. Preserve near Weldon, *Kern*); S.M.R.E. (Santa Maria River Estuary near Santa Maria, *Santa Barbara*); V.A.F.B. (Vandenberg Air Force Base near Lompoc, *Santa Barbara*); V.C.G.P. (Ventura County Game Preserve near Port Hueneme, *Ventura*); [ph.] photograph on file. Because virtually all rarities in s. California are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are included. Documentation for species on the California Bird Records Committee (C.B.R.C.) review list is forwarded to the C.B.R.C. Secretary and archived at the Western Foundation for Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

A Pacific Loon at Havasu Landing, *San Bernardino* 6 Mar (RMCK) probably wintered locally. A Laysan Albatross in the Santa Barbara Channel 4 mi off Santa Rosa I. 16 May (RHa) was in an area where unexpected. Most Northern Fulmars had disappeared from s. California waters by the end of Apr, with 6 off *Santa Barbara* during a long-distance pelagic trip 12 May (DMC) being the latest. A **Dark-rumped Petrel** 29 miles sw. of Pt. Arguello, *Santa Barbara* 28 Apr (MLF, DMH) was the 10th reported in California waters. A **Sooty Shearwater** flying up the Colorado R. at Blythe, *Riverside* 19 May (RHl) was the 10th to be reported in the area of the Salton Sea and w. Arizona. Single Manx Shearwaters were seen from Pt. Piedras Blancas, *San Luis Obispo* 12 & 27 May (RAR) and 5 mi nw. of Pt. Vicente, *Los Angeles* 17 Mar (MJSanM); there are now over 75 reports of this species in California waters, most in fall on Monterey Bay.

An imm. **Nazca Booby** that landed on a sport fishing boat at 117° 45' W, 31° 45' N (60 mi sw. of San Diego) 27 May (JO'B, GMCC; ph.) remained until the boat docked in San Diego later that day. An ad. Brown Booby was watched flying n. off Pt. Loma, *San Diego* 8 Apr (REW). A Brown Pelican on L. Hemet in the San Jacinto Mtns., *Riverside* 19 May (TB) was inland and away from the Salton Sea.

The Reddish Egret wintering at the San Diego R. mouth remained through 18 Apr (ph.; BP), and an ad. flying n. past Newport Beach pier, *Orange* 6 Apr (BED) was at nearby Bolsa Chica later that same day (BED, JEP). The Yellow-crowned Night-Heron associating with nesting Black-crowneds in La Jolla, *San Diego* since 1982 was again present 25 Mar–17 Apr (BMu), and another was near the San Diego R. mouth 17–19 May (ph.; GJ). A long-staying Wood Stork was still present near Escondido, *San Diego* 1 Apr (BMu).



This oystercatcher, apparently a hybrid between American and Black Oystercatchers (rather than a partly melanistic American Oystercatcher), was photographed 9 June on Santa Cruz Island and was one of several such hybrids present in southern California this spring. Photograph by Mitch Heindel.

Tundra Swans near Irwindale, *Los Angeles* 22 Apr (JLF) and at C.L. 23 Apr (SSt) were late for anywhere in s. California. A Brant near Lancaster, *Los Angeles* 14 Apr (ph.; KLG) was inland and away from the spring migration flight-line from the Gulf of California through e. *San Diego* and the Salton Sea to the coast; a light-bellied Brant off Goleta Pt., *Santa Barbara* 18 Mar (GBW) was presumed to be *B. b. hrota*, very rare in California. The latest wintering Eurasian Wigeon was one on Morro Bay, *San Luis Obispo* through 23 Apr (JSR). A male Tufted Duck x Greater Scaup was identified at Hansen Dam, *Los Angeles* 11–17 Mar (KLG); this hybrid is almost annual somewhere in California. Two Surf Scoters at Blythe 22 Apr (RH*i*) were along the Colorado R. where rare, and one on a highway near Borrego Springs, *San Diego* 26 Mar (ph.; LJE) was in serious trouble. A White-winged Scoter, rare inland, was at S.E.S.S. 25 May (GCH), and a Black Scoter, even rarer, was near Calipatria, *Imperial* 25 Apr (RM*c*K). A Long-tailed Duck in San Pedro, *Los Angeles* 15 May (KK) was late. Three Barrow's Goldeneyes on Pleasant Valley Res. near Bishop, *Inyo* 10 Mar (JZ) were present from the winter, and a male on the Colorado R. at Blythe 15 Mar (RH*i*) was farther s. than expected.

HAWKS THROUGH MURRELETS

A Mississippi Kite at F.C.R. 25 May (AME) fits well into the pattern of previous late spring occurrences in California. A pair of Harris's Hawks at Boulevard in se. *San Diego* throughout the period (RW) was at a location where this

species nested last year, but one at L. Isabella, *Kern* 8–9 Mar (JS), and another in Santee, *San Diego* 24 Apr (MAP) were either vagrants outside the species's expected range or escapees. An imm. Zone-tailed Hawk near El Centro, *Imperial* through 3 May (KZK) was the latest of the 3 wintering there, and single birds were near Ojai, *Ventura* 17 Mar (DL) and Campo, *San Diego* 27 May (DH). A wintering Rough-legged Hawk was near Bishop 30 Mar (JLD).

A wintering Pacific Golden-Plover at Imperial Beach remained through 3 Apr (RP), and another was still in Seal Beach, *Orange* 28 Apr (DRW). A Mountain Plover at Owens L., *Inyo* 18 May (SG, RG) was at an unusual locality and exceptionally late. An American Oystercatcher was on San Clemente I. 24 Apr (FB), and single hybrid American x Black Oystercatchers were in Long Beach, *Los Angeles* from the winter period until at least 10 Mar (BSc, KLG) and on San Nicolas I. 22 May (WW). Single Solitary Sandpipers, rare in spring along the coast, were near Santa Barbara 4 May (MAH), at the V.C.G.P. 3 May (OA) and Hansen Dam 21 Apr (KLG), and at least 7 more were inland 16 Apr–1 May (T&JH, CH, BM*u*, DSP). Although thousands of Whimbrel pass through *Imperial* each spring, and 1275 were counted near Lancaster 14 Apr (MSanM), up to 7 on Owens L. 16–18 Apr (REM) was a large number for that area. A Black Turnstone, rare inland, was near Salton City, *Imperial* 9 May (GM*c*C), and 2 Surfbirds, even rarer, were at S.E.S.S. 22 Apr (KLG). Two Sanderlings at

E.A.F.B. 5 May (TEW) and another in Lancaster 13 May (KLG) were inland and away from the Salton Sea. The only Semipalmated Sandpiper was one near Salton City 27 May (BM*i*, KCM). A Stilt Sandpiper in Blythe 15 Apr (RH*i*) was the only one reported away from S.E.S.S.

Fifteen Franklin's Gulls along the coast 18 Apr–13 May, along with 13 more inland 13 Apr–19 May, was about average. Up to 2 Heermann's Gulls, rare but regular on the Salton Sea, were seen intermittently at S.E.S.S. 21 Mar–30 May (GM*c*C, KCM, GCH). An imm. Glaucous Gull at Pt. Piedras Blancas 23 Mar (RAR) was the only one reported. An impressive 300 Sabine's Gulls flew n. past Pt. Piedras Blancas 2 May (RAR). An estimated 4000 Black-legged Kittiwakes migrating past Pt. Piedra Blancas 20 Apr (RAR) and 800 in the San Pedro Channel off *Los Angeles* 17 Mar (MJSanM) indicate that large numbers were present in s. California waters during the winter.

Up to 2 Gull-billed Terns at Bolsa Chica 18–20 May (CG, BED) established the 2nd record for *Orange*. Six Common Terns at Bolsa Chica 6 Apr (BED) were unusually early spring migrants. A Least Tern at F.C.R. 27 Apr–18 May (ph.; MJSanM), another at G.H.P. 26 May (SBT), one in Blythe 28 May (RH*i*), and single birds on the Salton Sea 13 & 25 May (BM, GCH) were inland. Three Black Skimmers on San Clemente I. 22 May (BLS) established the 2nd record for the Channel Is.

Two Marbled Murrelets off Pt. Mugu, *Ventura* 6 Mar (OA) were unusually far south. An Ancient Murrelet at San Clemente I. 25 Mar (BLS) was the southernmost of the few reported.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Single Band-tailed Pigeons at G.H.P. 30 May (TB) and on San Clemente I. 1–6 May (BLS) were well away from areas of normal occurrence. Eurasian Collared-Doves are now established along the entire *Ventura* to *San Luis Obispo* coastline and in the upper Salinas R. Valley of San Luis Obispo. A Spotted Dove on San Clemente I. 1 Apr (SJK) shows that individuals of this resident introduced species can move long distances; there is a small resident population on Santa Catalina I. 25 mi to the northeast. A wintering White-winged Dove in Carpinteria, *Santa Barbara* remained through 7 Mar (DMC), and one in Nipomo, *San Luis Obispo* 8 Mar (CA) probably wintered locally; one was in Pasadena, *Los Angeles* 18–24 Apr (TMk), and at least 12 more on the region's s. coast and San Clemente I. 4–31 May were more than expected at this time of year; single birds near Pearsonville, *Inyo* 17 May (DVB) and at Butterbredt Spring, *Kern* 11 May (SSo) were a

little to the nw. of the species's expected range. An Inca Dove in Ridgecrest, *Kern* throughout the period (Sst) was at the nw. limit of the species's expanding range. A Common Ground-Dove at Pt. Piedras Blancas 21 May (RAR) was n. of the northernmost extension of that species's range.

An Elf Owl, nearly extirpated from California, was seen along the Colorado R. near Walters Camp, *Imperial* 23 May (RMcK). A Long-eared Owl on San Clemente I. 30 Mar (BLS) appears to be the first for that island. A Common Nighthawk in Bishop 21 May (CH) was early for a spring migrant. A Chimney Swift at Hansen Dam 26 May (KLG) was the only one reported. Four Vaux's Swifts over Santa Barbara 23 Mar (JEL) had probably wintered locally, since spring migrants are not normally encountered until about 10 Apr.

An Acorn Woodpecker on San Clemente I. 4 Apr (JTB) was certainly lost. Reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers included a male at Atascadero, *San Luis Obispo* 3 Mar (RHZ) and a wintering bird near Ventura to 2 Mar (DL).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS

Early arrival dates for flycatchers included a Western Wood-Pewee in Long Beach, *Los Angeles* 15 Apr (KSG), 2 singing Willow Flycatchers at Thurman Flats, *San Bernardino* 9 May (SK), Hammond's Flycatchers at Long Beach 24 Mar (KLa) and in the interior at Butterbredt Spring, *Kern* 31 Mar (TEW), and an Ash-throated near Lone Pine, *Inyo* 20 Mar (JW). A Least Flycatcher, casual in spring, was at Brock Ranch, *Imperial* 17 May (RMcK). A pair of Brown-crested Flycatchers was in Borrego Springs, *San Diego*, where breeding was first documented last year, 16+ May (PJ). Eastern Kingbirds, rare but regular in late spring, were at Finney L. near S.E.S.S. 26 May (KS) and near Tecopa, *Inyo* 31 May (WW). A Cassin's Kingbird near Bishop, *Inyo* 9–10 May (CH) was at an unusual locality. The Tropical Kingbird is almost exclusively a fall and winter visitor to California, so one near Imperial Beach, *San Diego* 26–28 Apr (ph.; BMu) was entirely unexpected. One of Irvine's 3+ wintering Scissor-tailed Flycatchers lingered to 1 Apr (AL), and a spring vagrant was in Saline Valley, *Inyo* 27 Apr (REM).

A casual vagrant to California, a White-eyed Vireo in the Cajon Pass, *San Bernardino* 15–16 May (SJM; audiotaped) was perhaps not unexpected given the incursion of other southeastern North American passerines this spring. An exceptional 5 Yellow-throated Vireos were also part of this incursion, being found at Laguna Niguel, *Orange* 14–16 May (MD), Thousand Oaks, *Ventura* 28 May (SSo), Pine Valley, *San Diego* 11–16 Jun (BMu), and in *Kern* at Jawbone

Canyon 19–20 May (JCW) and Butterbredt Spring 3 Jun (LC). Bell's Vireos appeared widely and in encouraging numbers on territories in Apr and May, with one near Tecopa 17 Mar (T&JH) being especially early; spring migrants are rarely detected away from breeding areas, so one on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, *Los Angeles* 19 Apr (BED) was a surprise. A Blue-headed Vireo at G.H.P. 2 Jun (ph.; SSo) was the first spring record for *Kern*; the wintering bird near Pt. Hueneme, *Ventura* was last seen 8 Apr (DP). A singing Warbling Vireo in Huntington Beach, *Orange* 26–27 May (DRW, BED) appeared to fit the nominate group in vocal and morphological characters; the "Eastern Warbling-Vireo" has not been recorded for certain in California. Six Red-eyed Vireos were found 18 May–5 Jun, with 2 along the coast and 4 on the deserts.

JAYS THROUGH WOOD-WARBLEDERS

Perhaps the last vestiges of the fall and early winter's corvid movements involved 2 "Woodhouse's" Western Scrub-Jays near F.C.R. 28 May (DSC, MSanM), 7 Pinyon Jays remaining at Lake Cuyamaca, *San Diego* to 2 May (JB), and a Clark's Nutcracker at G.H.P. 30 May (TB). American Crows, increasingly frequent on the Mojave Desert, were at California City, *Kern* 16 Mar (3; TEW) and e. of Lancaster, *Los Angeles* 13 May (KLG). A Winter Wren at Pine Cr. 12 May (J&DP) was the latest ever for *Inyo*.

A pair of Mountain Bluebirds on Figueroa Mtn. 5 May (MAH) and a male on Ranger Peak 6 May (MB) were the first breeding season records for the *Santa Barbara* mountains. Quantitative data on passerine migration through the deserts are virtually lacking, but an estimated 300+ Swainson's Thrushes moving

through e. *Kern* 19 May was certainly impressive (JCW). A singing Hermit Thrush in Lake View Terrace, *Los Angeles* 28 May (KLG) was quite late for the coast, as was a singing Varied Thrush on San Clemente I. 16 May (JHP). An **Eyebrowed Thrush** photographed at G.H.P. 28 May (SBT et al.) was California's first; a spring interior record of this Asiatic stray was completely unanticipated. A Gray Catbird was at Pt. Loma, *San Diego* 28–31 May (REW) and a Brown Thrasher was in Eaton Canyon, *Los Angeles* 31 Mar–29 Apr (JF); both species are casual in spring.

Thirty-one wood-warbler species were recorded in the Region this spring, with impressive showings of such e. species as Northern Parula and Hooded Warbler. A Golden-winged Warbler, casual in California, was at Pt. Loma 15–19 May (REW). Tennessee Warblers were at Morongo Valley, *San Bernardino* 19 May (DM, EAC), Pt. Loma 28 May (REW) and Torrance, *Los Angeles* 28 May (DLM). A Virginia's Warbler at Butterbredt Spring 5–6 May (TEW) was the first well-documented spring record for *Kern*. At least 29 Northern Parulas were found 18 Apr–11 June, with 20 along the coast and 9 in the interior; an exceptionally early migrant was at G.H.P. 29 Mar (KP). Chestnut-sided Warblers were at Pt. Loma 22–23 May (MF), Huntington Beach 9 Jun (BED), and inland at Anza-Borrego Desert S. P. 19 May (MG) and Ridgecrest 3 Jun (SSt); the wintering bird in Lake Forest, *Orange* was last seen 8 Apr (JEP), and birds in Encinitas, *San Diego* 20 Mar (GCH) and near Glendale, *Los Angeles* 22 Apr (RBa) were possibly wintering locally. Magnolia Warblers were at San Nicolas I. 22 May (RAH), California City, *Kern* 20 May (JCW) and Butterbredt Spring 2 Jun (TEW). Townsend's x Hermit Warbler hybrids are noted



This male Indigo Bunting was captured on film 12 May at Corn Springs, near Desert Center, Riverside County, California; like many trans-Gulf migrants, the species was found in above-average numbers in the Region this spring. Photograph by Larry Sansone.

annually in migration; reports this spring came from Los Angeles 2 May (KLG) and Butterbredt Spring 29 May (TEW). A Blackburnian Warbler at Butterbredt Spring 29 Apr (RBe) was the 2nd spring record for *Kern*. A Yellow-throated Warbler (subspecies not specified) was at Refugio State Beach, *Santa Barbara* 12–26 May (JRS). A Prairie Warbler near Irwindale, *Los Angeles* 22 Apr (JLF) furnished a rare record of a spring migrant. Palm Warblers not known to have wintered locally were in Pacific Palisades, *Los Angeles* 20 Apr (RBa) and Huntington Beach 15–24 Apr (MS). Casual in spring, a male Blackpoll Warbler in Birchim Canyon near Bishop 14 May (J&DP) established the earliest spring record for *Inyo*.

Unlike most “eastern” wood-warblers, Black-and-white Warblers often appear during the peak migration period for w. species; 6 birds (not wintering locally) were recorded 14 Apr–12 May, with another 7 during 16–30 May. Eight American Redstarts were on the n. deserts 13 May–3 Jun, with others on San Clemente I. 27 May (BLS) and Pt. Loma 31 May (JE). Prothonotary Warblers, rare but regular in spring, were at Goleta 11–13 May (NS) and G.H.P. 29 May (JCW). Remarkably early was a Worm-eating Warbler at Butterbredt Spring 22–25 Apr (ph.; KLe, TEW), as was an Ovenbird in Pasadena 5 Apr (EGS); additional Ovenbirds were in Lemon Grove, *San Diego* 17 May (KJB), Butterbredt Spring 11 May (JCW), and G.H.P. 31 May–2 Jun (KSG). Five Northern Waterthrushes 13 May–6 Jun, all on the deserts, was a below-normal count. Kentucky Warblers were at Pt. Loma 22 May (BMu) and Inyokern, *Kern* 29 May (TM). An above-average 15 Hooded Warblers included an early bird in the Tijuana River Valley 26 Apr (BMu), 4 others along the coast 19–28 May, and 10 on the deserts 13 May–2 Jun; remarkable were 4 together at Butterbredt Spring on 17 May (REW).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Hepatic Tanagers had returned to two different sites e. of the Big Bear Valley, *San Bernardino*, by mid-May (REW). A Summer Tanager in Independence 25 Apr (AK) was the earliest for *Inyo* by two weeks. A Scarlet Tanager at California City 11 May (JCW) was exceptionally early for California; on a more expected date was another at Montaña del Oro S.P., *San Luis Obispo* 30 May (MDS). Brewer’s Sparrows were unusually numerous along the coast this spring, with at least 17 reported from *Orange* and coastal *Los Angeles* 25 Mar–9 May (RAH et al.). Migrant Clay-colored Sparrows were at Nipomo, *San Luis Obispo* 14 Apr (CA) and Pt. Loma 29 Apr–1 May (JA, PAG). Well away from expected localities were a Black-chinned

Sparrow at Long Beach 28 Apr (KSG) and Black-throated Sparrows near Santa Barbara 12–14 May (MB) and Bakersfield, *Kern* 27 Mar (BMa). A Vesper Sparrow in Irvine 15 May (BED) was easily the latest for *Orange*. A male Lark Bunting was in Anza-Borrego Desert S.P. 7 May (DS, SP). Several Grasshopper Sparrows on San Clemente I. 27 Mar+ exhibited breeding behavior (BLS); 2 singing birds in San Pedro 29 Mar–17 Apr (MHo) were well away from areas of recent occurrence in *Los Angeles*. Migrant Harris’s Sparrows were in Bishop 19–23 Apr (CH), Goleta 26–28 Apr (GW) and Cayucos, *San Luis Obispo* 28 Apr–1 May (TME). A Chestnut-collared Longspur in the Saline Valley 23 Mar (REM) is the only Mar record for *Inyo*.

Thirty-four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks along the coast 28 Apr–6 Jun included up to 12 on San Clemente I. 19 May+; another 5 were on the deserts 24 Apr–2 Jun. Twenty-five Indigo Buntings were along the coast 26 Apr–5 June (including up to 14 on San Clemente I., with an astonishing 10 on 19 May); another 11 were in the interior, including *Inyo*’s earliest in the Saline Valley on 26 Apr (REM). A male **Varied Bunting** was briefly seen but well described at S.E.S.S. 12 May (BW); there is only one accepted California record since 1914, but the natural origin of this year’s bird is uncertain. A female Painted Bunting was at Pt. Loma 16 May (TP). Dickcissels were in Nipomo 13 Apr (CA) and at S.F.K.R.P. 1–2 Jun (GK).

The Common Grackle is a casual but increasing vagrant to California; a male was with a colony of Great-tailed Grackles in Encino, *Los Angeles* 24 May+ (ph.; KLG). Orchard Orioles in Huntington Beach 17–31 Mar (COJ) and Laguna Niguel 17–18 Mar (BF) may have been wintering locally. A Baltimore Oriole was at Pt. Loma 28 May (JW), and 3 more were on San Clemente I. 16–20 May, with earlier birds, not known to have wintered, in Wilmington, *Los Angeles* 24 Mar (KLa) and Ventura 1 Apr (WW); on the deserts birds were in Blythe, *Riverside* 16 Apr (RHl), California City 19 May (DP), and G.H.P. 29 May (KN). The **Black-backed Oriole** (*Icterus abeillei*) present in spring 2000 returned near Imperial Beach by 28 Apr (AME) and was present throughout the period (m. ob.); its return with migrant Bullock’s and Hooded Orioles is perhaps suggestive of natural origin. Small numbers of Red Crossbills were noted on the n. deserts in May, and pairs at California City 11 May+ (JCW) and Ridgecrest through the period (SSt) suggested possible breeding. Quite late was an Evening Grosbeak at G.H.P. 12–13 May (KSG).

Corrigendum

The Black Skimmer (*N.A.B.* 55: 103) should

have been credited to Susan Nash.

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Baja California Peninsula



Baja California at Ensenada); W.I.S.B (West Isla San Benito).

SHEARWATERS THROUGH TERNS

Flesh-footed Shearwaters were reported off the s. Pacific coast of Baja California in May without details. Although expected in small numbers at this season, Howell et al. (in press. *An annotated checklist of the birds of Baja California and Baja California Sur*. ABA Monograph Series) relegated this species to the Hypothetical List because the two previous reports also lacked documentation. An imm. **Nazca Booby** that came aboard a fishing boat at 117° 45' W, 31° 45' N (approximately 50 nmi w. of Punta Banda) 27 May represented the first record for Baja California. The bird rode the boat into San Diego, where it was picked up on 29 May, "rehabilitated," and released on San Diego Bay 22 Jun (*vide* GMCC). A male Brown Booby at Is. Todos Santos 31 May (EM) was at the same location where one was displaying 27 Mar 2000.

Southern herons recorded in nw. Baja California included an ad. Little Blue Heron at El Descanso 25 May (SNGH), a Tricolored Heron and 3 Reddish Egrets on Estero Punta Banda 24 May (RAE et al.), and a pair of Reddish Egrets at a nest with 3 young on South Is. Todos Santos 31 May (EM). Presa Rodriguez, Tijuana held 3 Greater White-fronted Geese and a *parvipes/taverneri* Canada Goose 18 Mar (MAP). Unusual coastal waterfowl at the Cerro Prieto geothermal ponds 19 May included a Brant and a Red-breasted Merganser (KLG, KCM).

A Harris's Hawk at Leyes de Reforma 25 May (SNGH, RAE) was in an area where the species has been seen repeatedly in recent years, but, to our knowledge, an ad. Zone-tailed Hawk at Laguna Hanson the same day (SNGH, RAE, vt. RAH) is the first recent record in the S.J. Both species were reported in exceptional numbers in s. California over the previous 10 years.

A South Polar Skua was off Bahía San Quintín 20 May (†SW); all previous Regional records are from Jun and Oct. Two ad. Franklin's Gulls at the Cerro Prieto geothermal ponds 19 May (KLG, KCM) were in an area where the species is probably regular. Black-legged Kittiwake reports included 40 at Is. Todos Santos 30 Mar (PP) and an ad. at Is. San Benitos 8–10 Feb (†EDZH). In 1985, Gull-billed Terns expanded their breeding range to include San Diego Bay, and in 1996 they were found nesting at Laguna Ojo de Liebre, but an ad. at Lagunita El Ciprés 24 May (RAE, vt. RAH, SNGH) is only the 4th

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Although the Region continues to be sparsely birded, we are encouraged by an increasing number of submissions. Readers will note that many species that are fairly regular spring vagrants in the western U.S. are all but unknown at this season south of the border. This undoubtedly reflects a relative lack of birder coverage in the Region in spring compared with fall and winter. Fortunately, attentive seabird researchers helped change this pattern by documenting a nice variety of birds on West Isla San Benito and elsewhere in the offshore waters. Among numerous vagrants found this season were a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and a Kentucky Warbler. Firsts included Nazca Booby for Baja California and Eurasian Collared-Dove for the peninsula.

Abbreviations: S.J. (Sierra Juarez [above 1600 m]); U.A.B.C. (Universidad Autónoma de



This Gull-billed Tern was found at Lagunita El Ciprés on 24 May; it furnished a fourth record for northwestern Baja California. Photograph by Robb Hamilton.

record for nw. Baja California. An ad. Elegant Tern at the Cerro Prieto geothermal ponds 19 May (KLG, KCM) was the first to be found in the interior portion of the Region.

DOVES THROUGH BLACKBIRDS

After last fall's spate of records in Arizona (N.A.B. 55: 84), it is probable that the **Eurasian Collared-Dove** at Campo Mosqueda in the Río Colorado delta 5 May (†JOZ et al.) arrived there "naturally." There are no previous Regional records of this exotic species, and we are not aware of any previous records elsewhere in Mexico. A White-winged Dove along the lower Río Santo Tomás 24 May (RAH) was nw. of the known breeding range; another was on W.I.S.B. 13–16 May (SW). Also at W.I.S.B., one or 2 Burrowing Owls 27–29 Mar (SW) and a female Lesser Nighthawk on 3 May (†SW) were likely spring migrants.

Although we suspect that the Hammond's Flycatcher is a fairly common spring migrant in the mountains of Baja California (matching previous lowland records from the nw. and ne.), a male at Rancho Valladares, Sierra San Pedro Mártir 11 Apr (*U.A.B.C., GRC) is the first record there to our knowledge. A migrating Cassin's Kingbird was on W.I.S.B. 5–6 Apr

(†EDZH, †SW), while a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher on I. de Cedros 15 May (†EDZH) provided the peninsula's 8th documented record and the 2nd in spring. Reports of the endangered Least Bell's Vireo (*V. b. pusillus*) included 15 singing males along the lower Río Santo Tomás 24 May (RAH et al.) and 2 singing males at the Río Guadalupe estuary 25 May (RAE et al.), both known localities. Cassin's Vireos are known to nest in the Sierra San Pedro Mártir, so 3 singing males in the S.J. 25 May (RAH et al.) suggest they may do so there as well. A Red-eyed Vireo that alighted on a boat off El Rosario 20 May (†SW) represented the Region's 3rd spring record. The Mountain Bluebird had not been recorded previously on the mainland south of Cataviña, but 3 about midway on the road to Bahía de Los Angeles 3 Mar (MF, GF) were in the same area whence there had been two unconfirmed reports earlier in the year. An American Pipit at Leyes de Reforma 25 May was quite late (SNGH et al.).

At the s. extreme of their Regional breeding range, an estimated 8 nesting pairs of Orange-crowned Warblers were along the lower Río Santo Tomás 24 May (RAE et al.); the subspecific identity of these birds is unclear (Unitt et al., *Western Birds* 26: 151). The Region's first spring Northern Parula

records consisted of a male on W.I.S.B. 14–15 May (ph. SW) and a singing male at the mouth of Río Santo Tomás 24 May (RAE, SNGH, RAH). Although Northern Parulas vagrate west mainly in spring, previous peninsular records consisted of 4 in Oct and one in early Jul. After eight or nine fall records, the Region's first spring Magnolia Warbler was a male on W.I.S.B. 18 May (†EDZH). Also on W.I.S.B. were a female Hermit Warbler 14–15 May and a Western Palm Warbler 28 Mar (both †SW). The latter provided just the 2nd spring record for the peninsula. A singing male **Kentucky Warbler** at the mouth of Río Santo Tomás 24 May (†RAH, RAE) was the Region's first in spring and just the 3rd overall. One or two male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at the mouth of Río Santo Tomás 24 May (SNGH) were preceded by just two spring records in the Region. The Region's 4th spring Indigo Bunting record was provided by a female at El Descanso 25 May (SNGH).

Tricolored Blackbird sightings included 11 on the lower Río Santo Tomás 24 May, 110–130 nesting pairs on a Maneadero Plain golf course 24 May, and approximately 50 nesting pairs at Leyes de Reforma 25 May (all SNGH et al.). Somewhat surprisingly, Great-tailed Grackles have not overtaken the Maneadero Plain—just 2–4 nesting pairs were found nesting on a golf course there 24 May (SNGH et al.). A pair of Scott's Orioles along the lower Río Santo Tomás 24 May (SNGH et al.) suggested likely breeding there.

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On the national scene, an irruption of Cedar Waxwings was noted across most of the north and central states. Migration of many Nearctic and Neotropical species was well documented, with greatest diversity on the Caribbean/Atlantic Slope coasts, as is typical, and there were several noteworthy local and state records. Among many resident species, increased singing and nesting activity were also noted throughout the period.

Because the amateur study of Mexico's avifauna is relatively young, and the tradition of birding as a hobby very new in most of Mexico, we are still amassing records on many species' basic distribution in our borders. Careful, thorough documentation of species seen on birding tours or holidays would be very welcome, and photographic documentation is invaluable for species that are little-known, whether resident or migrant, or on the edges of their ranges or periods of typical occurrence. Our subregional reports below make reference to several key texts that can serve as common documents for visiting birders and ornithologists; the full citations are provided at the close of the reports.

For the near term, Mexico, apart from Baja California, will be divided into five Subregions that are defined by political borders rather than biotic provinces. These will be:

- 1) **Northwestern Mexico:** Zacatacas, Chihuahua, Sonora, Durango, Nayarit, Sinaloa, and Aguas Calientes;
- 2) **Northeastern Mexico:** San Luis Potosí, Nuevo Leon, Coahuila, and Tamaulipas;
- 3) **Central Mexico:** Jalisco, Distrito Federal (the capital area), Veracruz, state of México, Puebla, Michoacan, Guanajuato, Queretaro, Hidalgo, Morelos, and Tlaxcala;
- 4) **Southern Mexico:** Guerrero, Oaxaca, and Chiapas; and
- 5) **Yucatan Peninsula:** Tabasco, Campeche, Quintana Roo, and Yucatán.

For the time being, I have merged the first two subregions into one, Northern Mexico. As

contributions from the less-often visited states come in, we anticipate that the Subregions of Mexico can in the future be treated as full Regions, befitting their ornithological complexity and riches.

Abbreviations for states largely follow the conventions used in Mexico. In the reports that follow, states from which reports were received are abbreviated: Camp. (Campeche), Chis. (Chiapas), Coah. (Coahuila), D.F. (Distrito Federal), Dgo. (Durango), Gro. (Guerrero), Méx. (México), Mor. (Morales), Oax. (Oaxaca), Q. Roo (Quintana Roo), Sin. (Sinaloa), Son. (Sonora), Tab. (Tabasco), Tamps. (Tamaulipas), Ver. (Veracruz), Yuc. (Yucatán).

NORTHERN MEXICO

This spring was cooler than normal, at least in parts of the Subregion. For example, in Torreón, Coah., warm spells appeared one month late, at the end of May.

Abbreviations: A.S.B. (Arroyo Santa Bárbara, Son.); A.V. (Arroyo Verde, Son.); I.S.P.M. (Isla San Pedro Mártir, Son.); L.F.P. (Laguna Flamingos Project, Tamps.); P.P. (Puerto Peñasco, Son.); P.V.C. (Parque Venustiano Carranza, Torreón, Coah.).

GREBES THROUGH CUCKOOS

There were still 200 Eared Grebes at the P.P. sewage ponds 21 May (NB, SG). Twenty **Pink-footed Shearwaters** were seen s. of I.S.P.M. 16 May (RT); this species is not listed in Russell and Monson (1998). Fifteen Sooty Shearwaters were s. of I.S.P.M. 16 May (RT). One Black-vented Shearwater was seen from shore at P.P. 21 May (NB, SG), but interestingly none was seen on a pelagic trip in the Sea of Cortez 13–22 May (RT). At least 3 **Brown Pelicans**, first sighted in late Jan, continued to occupy Presa Francisco Zarco, Dgo. through Mar. A Bare-throated Tiger-Heron was seen in pine woodland at A.S.B. 20 Mar (DM). Roughly 500 Turkey and Black Vultures that roosted in Vivero de Lerdo, Dgo. during the fall and winter departed in Mar and Apr. On 25 Mar 8–10 Turkey Vultures were seen in P.V.C., where they are not known to roost, along with a Zone-tailed Hawk. **Wood Ducks** continue to breed in significant numbers along the lower Nazas R., Dgo. Four Redhead, 2 Lesser Scaup, and 2 Ruddy Ducks were among

the waterfowl seen in Laguna La Sal, Tamps. 25–27 Apr (L.F.P.). A Northern Goshawk was seen at A.V. eating a Rufous-bellied Chachalaca 19 Mar (DM). Two Golden Eagles were seen 23 Mar at Tanque de Emergencia, Coah. (WB). Two Laughing Falcons were seen in A.V. 18 Mar (DM). This species was reported as extirpated in Son. in Russell and Monson (1998). One Peregrine Falcon was sighted at P.V.C. 17 Mar. One Peregrine and one Merlin were seen at L.F.P. late Apr (L.F.P.). Seven **Wild Turkeys** were recorded at L.F.P. in late Apr. A single American Golden-Plover was seen near the Torreón, Coah. Airport wastewater area 25 Mar. Ten American Golden-Plovers, 3 Upland and 3 Stilt Sandpipers, as well as 80 Dunlin, were seen L.F.P. in late Apr. One Buff-breasted Sandpiper was seen at a flat inland of the La Pesca, Tamps. delta in late Apr (L.F.P.). One light-morph ad. Parasitic Jaeger was seen between Isla Tortuga and I.S.P.M. 15 May (RT). Six and 3 Sabine's Gull were seen s. of I.S.P.M. 15 & 16 May, respectively; several were in alternate plumage (RT). Eight Herring Gulls were at Laguna Almagre, Tamps., and one pair of nesting **Least Terns** with 2 eggs was seen near La Pesca in late Apr (L.F.P.). More than 200 Black Terns were at the P.P. sewage pond 21 May (NB, SG). Fourteen Military Macaws were seen on a fig tree at A.S.B. 18 Mar (DM). Around 60 Maroon-fronted Parrots were seen 27 May at their El Taray, Coah., breeding site, compared to last year's 40; nesting begins early Jul (CMC). Two Red-crowned and at least 55 Yellow-headed Parrots were seen at L.F.P. late Apr. At least 2 breeding pairs of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** returned to La Isla on the lower Nazas by 10 May, roughly the same date as last year. Three Yellow-billed Cuckoos were seen L.F.P., and one early Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen at Bocatoma II, near Gómez Farías, Tamps. 28 Apr (RD, WB et al.). One **Squirrel Cuckoo** was at the tropical semi-deciduous Zuazua's Forest, Tamps. 26 Apr (L.F.P.).

OWLS THROUGH FINCHES

A Vermiculated Screech-Owl was heard A.S.B. 18 Mar (DM). Several Tawny-collared Nightjars were vocalizing dusk and dawn at L.F.P. in late Apr. Five Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were at L.F.P. and La Pesca in late Apr. Six Eared Trogons were seen in A.V. 19 Mar within 100 m of both Mountain and Elegant Trogons (DM). One Blue-crowned Motmot was seen at Zuazua's forest 26 Apr (L.F.P.), and one Belted Kingfisher was at Laguna La Sal in late Apr (L.F.P.). A **Lewis's Woodpecker** in A.S.B. 20 Mar was s. of its usual range (DM). Three Lineated Woodpeckers were at Zuazua's Forest (L.F.P.) and Laguna Chovenosa, Tamps. late Apr. There

were one to 2 **Ivory-billed Woodcreepers** at Zuazua's Forest 26 Apr (L.F.P.). Northern Beardless-Tyrannulets and Tropical and Western Kingbirds were seen on the lower Nazas throughout May. **Brown-crested Flycatchers**, which nested on La Isla last year, were recorded 20 May, but appear to have moved to a different spot subsequently. One or 2 **Social Flycatchers** near Laguna Almagre were n. of their mapped range.

Three Masked Tityras were at A.V. 19 Mar (DM); there have been no Son. records in many years. A pair of Violet-green Swallows was nesting on a cardon cactus on Isla San Esteban, Son. 16 May (RT). Two Black-throated Magpie-Jays at P.P. 21 May (one or 2 have been around for a couple of months) are no doubt escapees (NB, SG). One or 2 **Loggerhead Shrikes** at L.F.P. in late Apr were apparently out of season. Flocks of 5–40 Cedar Waxwings were present everywhere in the city and rural areas around Torreón, the last being seen 17 May. During some winters, waxwings are not seen at all. European Starlings, seen on three occasions last winter, were not seen this year. Among the unexpected migrant passerines sighted this spring in Torreón's central park, Bosque Venustiano Carranza, were single **Red-eyed Vireo** (6 May), **Black-throated Blue Warbler** (30 Apr), **Yellow-throated Warbler** (25 Mar), and **Ovenbird** (30 Apr). One **Tennessee Warbler** was seen 23 Mar at Tanque de Emergencia, a first state record (WB). One singing Gray-crowned Yellowthroat was at L.F.P. in late Apr. Four Scrub Euphonias, rare in Son., were seen in A.V. 18 Mar (DM), and 3 were in the Sierra de Alamos, Son. 12 Mar (JT). Single **Yellow-winged Tanagers** were documented for the first time in S.L.P. at Huichihuayan, El Meco and near Sótano de las Golondrinas in late Apr and May (RD, WB et al.). Five Summer and 15 Scarlet Tanagers were observed at L.F.P. late Apr. There was a Rusty-crowned Ground Sparrow in A.S.B. 20 Mar (DM). Two male Yellow-faced Grassquits were near La Pesca late Apr (L.F.P.). At least 70 Dickcissels were noted L.F.P. late Apr. As in all winters, the mixed icterid flocks roosting along the 1.2 km tree-lined part of Calzada Colón in Torreón were estimated at 1.5–2 million. These flocks are composed mostly of Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Great-tailed Grackles, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Brown-headed Cowbirds, with smaller numbers of Bronzed Cowbirds and Brewer's Blackbirds. Their numbers began to decrease in Mar, and they were gone by late Apr. One night in early Mar, around 500 dead birds (mostly Yellow-headed Blackbirds) were found in Plaza John F. Kennedy, where 250,000 are estimated to roost. The government agency Profepa implicated poisoning by people living near the roost. At

least 3 Melodious Blackbirds were in Sabinas, Tamps. 26 Apr (RD, WB et al.). Thirty Brown-headed Cowbirds were noted at L.F.P. in late Apr. Two **American Goldfinches** were seen in P.V.C. 31 Mar and 8 Apr.

Undocumented rarities: a Broad-winged Hawk was reported 18 Mar in A.V. (D.M.)

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CENTRAL MEXICO

Six Least Grebes were at Puerto del Aire, Ver. 3 Mar, above their usual elevational range. There were 23 American White Pelicans in the recently (summer 1991) created lake at Parque Ecológico de Xochimilco, D.F. 1 Mar. This species was known to winter in what remains of L. Texcoco but did not occur in Xochimilco until this winter. A kettle of 120 Anhingas was observed soaring above Cardel, Ver. 3 Mar. One **Hook-billed Kite** was soaring above Bosque de Tlalpan, D.F. 21 Apr. This species was historically recorded from Mexico City but went unrecorded for decades until the last few years (it is probably a passage migrant). A single female Redhead was at the La Mancha, Ver. lagoon 3 Mar, whereas on 4 Mar the year before there had been 40 individuals. One Snowy Plover was at Lago de Chalco, D.F./Méx. 11 Apr. One Long-billed Curlew was at Laguna Mitla, Gro. 18–21 Mar (RGW). Three Baird's Sandpipers on a plowed field one km e. of Parres, D.F. 26 May were rather late (HGdS, AOI). A **Lesser Roadrunner** was heard at La Cima, D.F. 1 Mar. One **Green Violet-ear** was at feeder in Contreras 3 Mar—a very odd date, especially given the very cold temperature, with snow on slightly higher ground the previous two days (RGW). One Ladder-backed Woodpecker was heard on Insurgentes near the Hotel de México 16 Apr. Woodpeckers rarely stray into the urbanized parts of Mexico City. Two Tufted Flycatchers were heard 22 Apr at La Cima, where they are not always recorded, and one was heard there 27 May. Buff-breasted Flycatchers were singing in Bosque de Tlalpan and near the U.N.A.M. Botanical Garden by 21 Apr. **White-throated Flycatchers** were seen 2

km e. of Parres and at 2800 m above San Juan Tlacotenco, Mor. 20 May (HGdS, AOI). Four Pine Flycatchers were at 2700–2800 m above San Juan Tlacotenco on the same date (HGdS, AOI). A Pileated Flycatcher was heard at Cañón de Lobos, Mor. 27 May. One **Eastern Phoebe** was seen in Cuernavaca, D.F., 5 Apr (RGW, AMH). Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers and Western Wood-Pewees were present and singing at Cañón de Lobos by 22 Apr, whereas they were not seen 28 Feb. Two Olive-sided Flycatchers at La Cima 27 May (one of them singing) were rather late migrants (HGdS, AOI). Several Sumichrast's Wrens were singing at Amatlán, Ver. 2 Mar. Three Sedge Wrens were singing in the edge of a plowed field two km e. of Parres 20 May (HGdS, AOI). A pair of **Eastern Bluebirds** was seen at Avándaro, Méx. 11–13 Apr; in the past five years, only Western Bluebird had been seen there (RGW). One Rufous-backed Robin was seen at U.A.M. Iztapalapa, in the e. of Mexico City 1 Mar (RGW); this species is regularly found only in the w. of the city. At least 3 White-throated Robins were at La Cima 27 May. A singing Eastern Bluebird close to Micro-ondas Las Trincheras, Ver. 2 Mar was slightly e. of its mapped range. European Starlings were recorded in different parts of Mexico City, usually singly or in pairs, as well as in Parres and Teotihuacan, Méx. (HGdS, AOI). Cedar Waxwings, usually in flocks, were seen close to Micro-ondas Las Trincheras, Teotihuacán, U.N.A.M.'s Instituto de Ecología, Bosque de Tlalpan, and Cuernavaca, Mor. in Mar and Apr, as well as close to Zitácuaro, Mich. 27 Feb. A single Yellow-throated Vireo was seen at Santiago de la Unión (lower Atoyac Road), Gro. 30 Mar (MDC), apparently a first state record. At least 4 Yellow Warblers were singing at Cuernavaca 5 Apr (RGW, AMH). Audubon's Warblers were singing near U.N.A.M.'s Instituto de Ecología in the last week of Apr. A male Prairie Warbler was noted off Highway 18, 22 km n. of Puente Nautla, Ver. 30 Apr (MDC). Crescent-chested Warblers were especially numerous and vocal at La Cima 27 May. One singing Hooded Yellowthroat was seen at 2800 m above San Juan Tlacotenco 20 May (HGdS, AOI). One Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer was singing at the U.N.A.M.'s Instituto de Ecología by 16 May. A pair of **Slate-blue Seedeaters** was at Cañón de Lobos 22 Apr. Sierra Madre Sparrows were staking out their territories at La Cima by 1 Mar. Three Audubon's Orioles were at Amatlán 2 Mar. Two Evening Grosbeaks were at La Cima 1 Mar, and one there 22 Apr. One Hooded Grosbeak was at Avándaro 13 Apr (RGW). Red Crossbills were singing abundantly at La Cima 1 Mar.

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SOUTHERN MEXICO

All records this season pertain to the valley of Oaxaca and its surroundings. Flowers were more numerous than in winters 1998–2000, indicating better winter rainfall. There was a subtle pattern in early March of highland-wintering warblers, vireos, and silky-flycatchers moving through the lowlands, and this coincided with the presence of hundreds of Townsend's and Hermit Warblers flocking on the montane slopes of Benito Juárez N.P., joined by throngs of local Red and Crescent-chested Warblers and other species in early March; these numbers certainly indicate active migration.

Abbreviations: H.M.A. (Hotel Misión de los Ángeles, Oaxaca City); P.A.D. (Piedra Azul dam, near T.d.V.); S.A.D. (San Andrés dams); S.F.P. (San Felipe Ecological Park, close to San Felipe del Agua to the n. of Oaxaca City); S.T.P. (San Pedro Totolapan); T.d.V. (Teotitlán del Valle); T.P. (Téquio Park, close to the Oaxaca airport).

GREBES THROUGH OWLS

Sixteen Least Grebes were at P.A.D. 27 Feb–1 Mar (EB, AJ et al.). One **Pied-billed Grebe**, formerly recorded to 24 Apr, was at the S.A.D. to 16 May. One Eared Grebe in breeding plumage was seen at the P.A.D. 12 Apr. There were 4–7 Little Blue Herons at P.A.D. 27 Feb and 1 Mar (AJ, EB et al.) and one imm. early Mar–12 Apr. Ducks at P.A.D. were a single Green-winged Teal 31 Mar, a single **Mexican Duck** 30 Mar–25 Apr, a first state record (JMF, MG), up to 17 Blue-winged Teal 1 Mar–25 Apr (pair formation and courtship displays were seen toward the end of the stay), a single Lesser Scaup 30 Mar–12 Apr, and several Ruddy Ducks to 25 Apr. One **Cooper's Hawk** was seen making its butterfly display flight on the road to Yuvila 2 Mar (AJ, EB et al.), and a pair of *Accipiter* strongly believed to be this species was nesting at 2250 m above sea level on the road to La Guacamaya, noted 18, 22 & 29 May; this species was not known to nest in Oax. Short-tailed Hawks were at 2700–3000 m in the La Nevería-Cuajimoloyas area 10 & 11 May, around 1800 m at T.d.V. 29 May, and at La Cumbre 2 Mar (EB, AJ et al.). One Peregrine Falcon was seen at Monte Albán 25 Feb feeding on a small passerine on the wing, and another was seen at Yagul 28 Feb (AJ, EB et al.); the species has been seen through the winter in Oaxaca City and is suspected of nesting (JMF).

West Mexican Chachalacas were recorded above El Estudiante 26 Feb (EB, AJ et al.), in arid subtropical scrub above T.d.V., and at 2150–2200 m in an ecotone of oak scrub and dry pine-oak forest on the road to La Guacamaya (JMF). Six Montezuma Quail were seen just outside the gate of Monte Albán, actively pursued by seven-year-old boys with slingshots 25 Feb (AJ, EB), and 3 were seen 9 May at La Nevería (2700 m).

Common Moorhens were recorded until 17 May at a small pond near the Río Salado on the road to San Juan Guelavía. One American Golden-Plover was at the sewage discharge area w. of Tlacolula 25 Apr. Killdeer were recorded along the Río Salado until 17 May. Spotted Sandpipers were seen throughout the period with what seemed to be a migration wave 28 Apr, when 15 very fat birds were seen at the S.A.D. A single **Western Sandpiper** was at the P.A.D. 30 Mar. Baird's Sandpipers were seen 25 Apr–29 May, when 4 were at the Tlacolula sewage outlet area. Pectoral Sandpipers were recorded 25 Apr–8 May at various sites. A single Laughing Gull was at the S.A.D. 25 Apr, along with a flock of 25 Franklin's Gulls (all in definitive alternate plumage, at least one with a bright rosy wash on the breast). A Black-billed Cuckoo was at Monte Albán 4 May, and Yellow-billed Cuckoos were seen 13 Apr near T.d.V. and 12 May at T.P.

One **Flammulated Owl** (only the 4th Oax. record) was seen only a few m from a Northern (Mountain) Pygmy-Owl 26 Feb at 17° 11.5' N, 96° 38.3' W, around the forestry cabins in Benito Juárez N.P. (AJ, EB v.t. LC). At least 3 more Northern Pygmy-Owls were heard in the mountains above T.d.V. 1 Mar (EB, AJ). One gray-morph Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl was seen at S.P.T., the closest the species approaches Oaxaca City, 28 Feb (EB, AJ). A Great Horned Owl was being harassed by a Cooper's Hawk at Monte Albán 11 Apr.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH MIMIDS

One Dusky Hummingbird was at a nest at the ruins of Yagul 28 Feb (EB, AJ). White-eared Hummingbirds were in much greater numbers than usual in the La Cumbre area and above T.d.V. in late Feb and early Mar (EB, AJ). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, previously recorded until 3 Mar, were at the T.P. and S.F.P. until 20 & 21 Apr. One male Garnet-throated Hummingbird was seen 26 Feb in Benito Juárez N.P. (AJ, EB et al.). Green Kingfishers entered the S.F.P. 15 Mar–27 Apr, during the worst of the dry season. One **Russet-crowned Motmot** (MC et al.) and 2 Golden-fronted Woodpeckers were seen at S.P.T., the closest these species approach Oaxaca City, 28 Feb (EB, AJ, v.t.). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was seen to 5 Apr at T.P., previously

to 18 Mar. A single Strong-billed Woodcreeper was at Las Tarajeas, near Cuajimoloyas, 11 May.

One Pileated Flycatcher was at Monte Albán 24–25 Feb (AJ). Several Greater Pewees 30 May in arid tropical scrub along the Río Grande at San Juan Atepec were probably breeding. Western Wood-Pewee was first recorded 27 Mar, and the first nest was found 21 Apr. A pair of White-throated Flycatchers was at a small damp meadow near La Nevería (2700 m) 11 May. **Gray Flycatcher** (formerly no spring records) was recorded 12 Apr near T.d.V. A Pine Flycatcher was seen constructing a nest near Cuajimoloyas 11 May. Cordilleran Flycatcher first seen on its breeding ground in the S.F.P. riparian area 15 Mar. The earliest nest of Great Kiskadee was found at S.F.P. 4 Apr, and the earliest nest of Social Flycatcher was found at San Andrés 28 Apr. Three Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers were along Río Grande of San Juan Atepec 30 May. One male Rose-throated Becard was seen 26 Feb in Benito Juárez N.P., and a **Slaty Vireo** was seen there at rather high altitude 2 Mar (LC). A Bell's Vireo was seen 28 Feb at S.P.T. (EB, AJ). Warbling Vireos returned to breeding areas of S.F.P. 15 Mar; one recorded at Río Verde, above T. d. V., was confirmed as belonging to the w. group *swainsonii* (audio-tape AJ). **Philadelphia Vireos** were recorded 25 Apr near T.d.V. and 28 Apr at the S.A.D. One Hutton's Vireo was found at Monte Albán 25 Feb (EB, AJ), an odd low-elevation record. The last Violet-green Swallows were seen 29 Apr. An early Cliff Swallow was at T.d.V. 22 Feb. A Bushtit nest at 2700 m at La Nevería 10 May was high. A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, rare in summer, was seen 18 May at the ford on the road to La Guacamaya, and two pairs and 2 singles were in the arid tropical scrub along the Río Grande of San Juan Atepec 30 May. A pair of Eastern Bluebirds nesting at 3000 m at Cuajimoloyas 11 May was high. Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush returned to riparian area of S.F.P. 15 Mar, and the first nesting was recorded 20 Apr. Clay-colored Robins were seen commonly in Oaxaca City at H.M.A. 25 Feb–2 Mar (EB) and in riparian area of S.F.P. 4 Apr (found nesting there 20 Apr). One White-throated Robin was at H.M.A. 25 Feb (RS), and the species was found nesting at S.F.P. 27 Apr. Rufous-backed Robins returned to breeding areas in T.P., S.F.P., and near T.d.V. 10 Mar, and the first nest was found 30 Apr. One Gray Catbird was seen above P.A.D. 27 Feb and one Ocellated Thrasher there 1 Mar (EB, AJ).

WAXWINGS THROUGH ORIOLES

Waxwings were numerous throughout, regularly in flocks of up to 25, though less numerous than in the 1998–1999 season (v. o.). One

Gray Silky-Flycatcher was at H.M.A. 25 Feb (LC, MC). Townsend's, Hermit, Crescent-chested, and Red Warblers were seen in greater numbers than usual in the La Cumbre area in late Feb and early Mar (EB, AJ), probably indicative of northward migration; one large foraging flock numbered well over 500 warblers 2 Mar (LC, MC). One **Blue-winged Warbler** was seen 21 Apr at S.F.P. Single **Tennessee Warblers** were recorded 15 Mar at S.F.P., 5 Apr at T.P., and 25 Apr near T.d.V. Virginia's Warblers were recorded at various sites to 28 Apr. One Crescent-chested Warbler was low at H.M.A. 25 Feb (RS). Yellow Warbler was seen at several locations 25 Apr–12 May. A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was recorded 27 Apr at S.F.P. Audubon's Warbler was recorded to 11 May and Black-and-white Warbler to 4 May. Single Ovenbirds were seen 27 Apr at S.F.P. and 30 Apr above T.d.V. True to their spring dates, Northern Waterthrushes were recorded to 5 May and Louisiana Waterthrushes to 12 Apr. A pair of Hooded Yellowthroats was near La Nevería 10 May. A pair of Hepatic Tanagers was feeding young in nest at Las Tarajeas (3000 m) 18 May. A male Red-headed Tanager was at the ford on the road to La Guacamaya 18 May. Two Scrub Euphonias of undetermined subspecies were seen at S.P.T., the closest the species approaches Oaxaca City, 28 Feb (EB, AJ). One Common Bush-Tanager was seen 26 Feb in Benito Juárez N.P. (LC). A **Rusty-crowned Ground-Sparrow** was seen along the Río Grande of San Juan Atepec for the 2nd time (previously 13 Feb); this population had not been seen since 1894 according to Binford (1989). The earliest sighting of Blue-black Grassquit on its breeding grounds along Río Salado was 9 May. The last sighting of Lincoln's Sparrow was 11 May. One Varied and a few Orange-breasted Buntings were seen at S.P.T. 28 Feb (AJ, EB). Orchard Orioles were recorded to 12 May, far beyond their normal Mar departure (Howell & Webb 1995). Likewise, Scott's Oriole was last recorded 9 May at Cuajimoloyas (3000 m). One Audubon's Oriole was seen in arid subtropical scrub above P.A.D. 1 Mar (MC, EB, AJ et al.). A Yellow-winged Cacique was seen at S.P.T., the closest the species approaches Oaxaca City, 28 Feb (MC et al.).

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YUCATAN PENINSULA

The rains arrived early this year in most of the Y.P., late Apr and early May experiencing more than usual.

Abbreviations: Chumpón gate (Chumpón

entrance to Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, Q. Roo); Coz. (Cozumel Island, Q. Roo); F.C.P. (Felipe Carrillo Puerto, Q. Roo); P.A. (Punta Allen, Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, Q. Roo); Y.P. (Yucatan Peninsula).

HERONS THROUGH TERNS

Five Cattle Egrets were on Cayo Lobos, Q. Roo 5 Apr. A Great White Heron was at the Pez Maya estuary 2 May (HGdS). One **Agami Heron** was noted at Chan Kah Hotel in Palenque, Chis. 14 Feb (PAB). Three Reddish Egrets were seen at Playón, inland of P.A., 10 May. A Least Bittern was at L. Cobá, Q. Roo 17 Mar (JH et al.). Seventeen Glossy Ibis were at Usumacinta marshes, Chis./Tab./Camp. 15 Mar (JH et al.). On 9 May, Mogote San Juan, near P.A., had fewer birds than usual and not a single White Ibis (formerly nested in large numbers). There were at least 1500 Wood Storks at nests in a lagoon near Ría Candelaria, Camp. 24 Apr (the colony is estimated at 3000 individuals, plus 1000 young from the previous year, in the vicinity mid-May). Seven ad. **Jabirus** were at a waterhole behind the Sabancuy estuary, Camp. 14 May (the Mexican population is likely under 40). Three King Vultures were seen at Calakmul, Camp. 12 Mar (JH et al.). In the Y.P., wintering Ospreys are most abundant in Laguna de Términos, Camp. Along two-and-a-half km of the upper Sabancuy estuary, 23 were counted 19 Mar but none 14 May. A pair of resident Ridgway's Ospreys was at Pez Maya 2 May (HGdS) and at P.A. lighthouse 8 May, and a pair of Common Black-Hawks was at a nest at each of these localities as well. One **Gray-headed Kite** was recorded 2 km from F.C.P. 5 May (HGdS); this rarely encountered raptor was one of the more common birds-of-prey in the ne. Y.P. 20 years ago. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen flying over the Ría Candelaria 24 Mar; this species was photographed in the area in 2000 by C. Alcérreca, though it was first seen by P. Rivas here approximately 15 years ago. On 24 Mar, a juv. Red-tailed Hawk was near Cristalina, Camp. The only record of the Coz. Roadside Hawk during four days of intensive birding late Apr was one heard near El Cedral (HGdS). A male American Kestrel at Banco Chinchorro, Q. Roo 4 Apr was new to the list of migrants from these cays. A pair of Peregrine Falcons was at Cayo Lobos 5 Apr, and one flew past Mogote San Juan 9 May. Two Ocellated Turkeys were on the road between F.C.P. and Santa Teresa 4 May, one was seen only 2 km from F.C.P. 5 May, and 5 were counted between F.C.P. and Playón 7 & 10 May. One Spotted Rail was heard at Lake Cobá 16 Mar (JH et al.). One Rufous-necked Wood-Rail was just e. of the bridge at Celestún, Yuc. 16 Mar (JH et al.). Two Rufous-necked Wood-Rails were at a small grove of mangroves in a back-

yard in P.A. in early May (BM, HGdS), and it was reported that 4 individuals sometimes feed among the chickens. This species was also claimed to be abundant close to Xcalak, Q. Roo, by local fishermen/naturalist guides (per BM). On 14 May, 12 American Avocets and a White-rumped Sandpiper were at a waterhole behind the Sabancuy estuary. A Lesser Yellowlegs in early Apr added to the list of migrants from Banco Chinchorro. One basic-plumaged Dunlin was at the Playa del Carmen, Q. Roo ferry dock 30 Apr, slightly away from its mapped range. On 19 Mar, a flock of 40–50 Black Terns flew by the upper Sabancuy estuary heading n., while 2 flew past Playón 10 May, and one and 3 flew n. past the boat launch at Chunyaxché 11 & 12 May. At Pez Maya there were at least 24 ad. and 2 juv. Least Terns 2 May (HGdS).

PARROTS THROUGH MIMIDS

At the upper Sabancuy estuary there was at least one pair of **Brown-hooded Parrots**—a first this far north. A **Red-lored Parrot** between Calax, Camp. and the Sabancuy estuary 20 Mar and a pair at Cristalina 15 May were slightly out of the species's mapped range. Five *Amazonas* in one flock near the e. end of the cross-island highway in Coz. were the only parrots observed during intensive birding on the island 27–30 Apr (HGdS). A **Pheasant Cuckoo** flew over Hwy 261 near Tixmucuy, Camp. 14 May. Common Nighthawks were seen at San Miguel 28 Apr, near F.C.P. 3 May, and at Laguna Ocom 5 May (HGdS). Also, one was seen in mid-morning in Chunyaxché 11 May. Vermiculated Screech-Owl, Yucatan Poorwill, and Yucatan Nightjar were heard in the forest at F.C.P., and Northern Potoo, Yucatan Poorwill, and Yucatan Nightjar were heard at Laguna Ocom on the moonlit nights of 3 & 5 May, whereas only a Mottled Owl was heard on the moonless night of 11 May (HGdS). Yucatan Nightjar was heard 11–13 Mar at F.C.P. and Calakmul, and Yucatan Poorwill was heard at F.C.P. 11 Mar (JH et al.) A Chimney Swift was in a flock with 5 Vaux's Swift along the cross-island highway in Coz. 27 Apr (HGdS). The resident Vaux's Swifts were very vocal in late Apr, with some vocalizations reminiscent of Yellow Warbler chip notes (HGdS). One female Ruby-throated Hummingbird was two km from F.C.P. 7 May (HGdS). A juv. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 3 Apr was new to the species list for Banco Chinchorro. One Smoky-brown Woodpecker was along the stream in Chekubul, Camp., 2 others were two km from F.C.P. 6 & 7 May (HGdS), and 2 were at Chunyaxché 11 May. Only one Keel-billed Toucan was heard at F.C.P. between 3 & 7 May (HGdS), and 2 were glimpsed at Chunyaxché 11–13 May (HGdS).

BM); the species was formerly much more common in the area. One late migrant Belted Kingfisher was at P.A. 8 May (HGdS). One Rufous-breasted Spinetail was putting the finishing touches on a nest 30 km from Santa Teresa on the road to Playón; there was another unused nest a few m away. Caribbean Elaenia was recorded at P.A. 9 May. One Common Tody-Flycatcher was starting a nest at P.A. 8 May. Three Eye-ringed Flatbills were seen at Chunyaxché 11 May. One to 2 late Eastern Wood-Pewees were noted 4, 5 & 7 May at F.C.P., and 8 May at P.A. (HGdS). Tropical Pewees were abundant and vocal at F.C.P. and Chunyaxché in early May; there were several active nests at both sites. Piratic Flycatcher was heard at Laguna Ocom 5 May and at Chunyaxché (abundantly) 11–13 May, but Piratics were not present at F.C.P. (HGdS). Yucatan Flycatchers were seen at F.C.P. in early May (including one active nest), but were not detected in Coz. in late Apr (HGdS). In one block at San Miguel 28 Apr, there were at least 2 Tropical, one Eastern, 5 **Couch's**, and 2 **Gray Kingbirds** (HGdS, MPV); at El Cedral the next day, Tropical, **Couch's**, and 2 Eastern Kingbirds, along with 12 Brown-crested Flycatchers, were tallied (HGdS, MPV). A **Gray Kingbird** was also recorded at P.A. 7 & 8 May. Couch's Kingbird was unrecorded on Coz. by Howell & Webb (1995), although Howell has recorded it recently (per BM), and Gray Kingbird is rarely recorded in the Y.P. There was much activity suggestive of breeding by Rose-throated Becards at Santa Teresa and Chunyaxché in early May. One male Black-crowned Tityra was seen between Playón and Santa Teresa 10 May (HGdS, BM). Cozumel Vireo and particularly Yucatan Vireos were singing abundantly on Coz. in late Apr (HGdS), as were Yellow-green Vireos at Chunyaxché in early May. Barn Swallows were coming through heavily just e. of the Sabancuy turnoff on Hwy 180 on 23 Apr and w. of the Sabancuy exit on the Escárcega-Villahermosa hwy 25 Apr. At least 50 Barn and 2 Bank Swallows flew n. past the Chunyaxché boat launch just before dusk 12 May. There were very few records of migrant thrushes, including 2 Swainson's at Calakmul 12 Mar (JH et al.), one to 2 Wood at Calakmul and Palenque, Chis. 10–15 Mar (JH et al.), and a Gray-checked at F.C.P. 6 May. Clay-colored Robins were heard imitating Singing Quail near Santa Teresa and at Chunyaxché (HGdS). Only 2 Gray Catbirds were sighted on Coz. 27–30 Apr (HGdS, MPV). Black Catbirds were very common at Pez Maya (mangroves), P.A. and Coz., but they are more rarely recorded on the mainland. One each was near F.C.P. 11 & 12 Mar (JH et al.) and 7 May (HGdS), 4 were at

Calakmul 13 Mar (JH et al.), and 3 were recorded around Chumpón gate 11 May (HGdS).

WAXWINGS THROUGH FINCHES

An unspecified number of Cedar Waxwings was recorded at Calakmul 12 & 13 Mar (JH et al.). One Cedar Waxwing was seen two km from F.C.P. 3 May (HGdS), 20 were feeding on the fruit of the *chit* palm at P.A. 9 May (HGdS, BM), 7 were seen Isla Contoy, Q. Roo, where recorded for the first time, 24 May (RA), and 80 were at Celestún 22 May (DB). One Swainson's Warbler was recorded on Coz. 18 Mar (JH et al.). Landbird migration was not strong on Banco Chinchorro in early Apr, not surprising given the strong wind blowing from the ne. all week; 22 species including American Redstart (the most common species on Banco Chinchorro in spring), Ovenbirds, and Black-throated Blue, Tennessee, Palm, and Nashville Warblers were recorded nonetheless. A male Blackburnian Warbler was true to its schedule of passing through the Y.P. during the last two weeks of Apr as it fed in a flowering *jabin* tree at Isla Aguada 23 Apr. Tennessee Warblers were migrating through Isla Aguada 22–23 Mar. The number of migrant wood-warblers on Coz. in late Apr and around F.C.P. early May also appeared low (HGdS). There were 2 Palm Warblers at Pez Maya 2 May and one at P.A. 8 May. The few migrant warblers at F.C.P. on 3 May were 2 Yellow, and Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green, and American Redstart; the next day, 6 Yellow, 7 Magnolia, and 3 Bay-breasted Warblers were counted, with just one American Redstart each 5 & 6 May (HGdS). One singing Gray-crowned Yellowthroat in a wooded field in San Miguel and another singing one in the Coz. sewage treatment plant late Apr provided records of a species not recorded with certainty on the island until recently (HGdS). There was much Yellow Warbler song in Cozumel in late Apr (most or all presumably the resident race; HGdS). Three Northern and 4 Louisiana (including one singing) Waterthrushes were at the Coz. sewage treatment plant 30 Apr. One Red-legged Honeycreeper was seen a P.A. 8 May, while 3 were seen at Chunyaxché 12 May. One Blue-gray Tanager at F.C.P. 5 May (HGdS) was n. of the mapped range in the Y.P. (Howell & Webb 1995). However, this species has extended its range northward in the peninsula (BM). Two Scarlet Tanagers were seen at Santa Teresa 4 May, and single males were seen 8–10 May at P.A. Rose-throated Tanagers and Blue Buntings were singing early May in F.C.P. and Chunyaxché (HGdS). At least 5 Blue-black Grassquits were seen, some of them displaying, at El Cedral 29 Apr. This species has only recently been recorded from Coz. One Grasshopper Sparrow, a species rarely recorded in the Y.P., was at the Coz. S. T. P. 30 Apr. Ten Dickcissels were counted in a wood-

ed field at San Miguel and 4 at a plowed field near El Cedral 28 & 29 Apr (HGdS), respectively, plus one at Xcalak 28 Apr. Dickcissels pass through the peninsula during the end of Apr and in early May. Three male Bobolinks flew over a wooded field at San Miguel 28 Apr, 3 males were feeding in a grassy area next to the sewage treatment plant 30 Apr, and 2 males flew past P.A. 10 May (HGdS). One probable Shiny Cowbird was glimpsed at P.A. 10 May. This species was first reported on the Y.P. in Celestún in May 1996, and in 2000 a few pairs were found at Chunyaxché and Nuevo Hochtún, Q. Roo, with 13 at P.A. (per BM). Only Bronzed Cowbirds were present at these localities and Pez Maya in May. Orange Orioles were building nests or already had nests at two spots between Santa Teresa and Playón, at Santa Teresa, and near the Chumpón entrance in early May (BM, HGdS). In Coz., one Lesser Goldfinch was seen on the cross-island highway and 2 near El Cedral (HGdS).

Undocumented rarities: A Strong-billed Woodcreeper was recorded at Calakmul 12 Mar (JH et al.). One **Great Potoo** was reported in "Chicanná, Camp. near the road into Calakmul" 11 Feb (PAB et al.).

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Central America



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It was not that long ago that the resident avifaunas in many parts of Central America were still poorly known. Although the days of discovering new species north of South America may be over, one need not travel far from the beaten path anywhere in Central America to discover common resident species in "new" places. This is especially true of mountain tops. Granted, some of these species are recent colonists from other regions or countries, but not all of them are. Oliver Komar must have sensed this thrill of discovery during expeditions in May to two readily accessible mountain peaks in El Salvador. A visit to San Miguel Volcano in late May produced no fewer than five resident species previously unrecorded in the Department of San Miguel and another that had not been recorded in the past 110 years! And on a visit the previous week to Cerro El Pital, he found one resident previously unrecorded in the Department of Chalatenango to be abundant, two others that had not been recorded in 60 years, and yet another that had not been previously recorded breeding in the department. In contrast to previously overlooked species on isolated mountaintops, second-growth and

open country species continue to spread into new areas following deforestation. The latest such colonist is the Lesser Goldfinch, recently recorded for the first time in Belize.

Abbreviations: Aguacaliente (Aguacaliente LuHa N.P., Toledo District, Belize); La Selva (La Selva Biological Station, Costa Rica); Monteverde (Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, Costa Rica; S.F. (shrimp farm).

PELICANS THROUGH RAILS

An American White Pelican at Ycacos Lagoon, Belize 18 Apr (MMu) was one of the few records for Toledo Dist., and 13 on 5 May at Puerto Parada, Bahía de Jiquilisco (OK) represented the first May record for El Salvador. The absence of Brown Pelicans 5–6 May at the mouth of Río Lempa and at Bahía de Jiquilisco confirms that the species does not nest in se. El Salvador. A first-year Reddish Egret at Irish Cr., New R., Belize 8 & 14 May (MH) was at an unexpected inland location. A roost with 225 ad. White Ibis at Puerto Barillas, Dept. Usulután 5 May (OK) was an unusually large concentration for May in El Salvador. Quite surprising were 2 **Greater Flamingos** seen circling over the large lagoon at Aguacaliente during an aerial waterfowl survey of the area 28 Mar (OF). There are very few believable records of this species in Belize, and these birds were a good 150 km sw. of the previous southernmost record. Fulvous Whistling-Ducks continue to be seen in Panama at Las Macanas Marsh, with 4 there 7 Apr (DM). Nearly as rare

was a male Cinnamon Teal seen on several occasions in Feb and Mar at Costa de Pajaros, La Ensenada Lodge, Costa Rica (v. ob.).

An impressive hawk migration at El Imposible N.P., El Salvador 27 Apr (RP) comprised 1000 Turkey Vultures, 70 Swainson's Hawks, 50 *Buteo* sp., and 25 *Falco* sp. A Swallow-tailed Kite in El Salvador 6 Apr (RP) was an unexpected spring migrant. Throughout most of its range, the Rufous-necked Wood-Rail is typically found in mangrove forests, but in some areas it has also been found in heavily forested upland areas away from the coast. Such is the case in El Salvador, where it has been recorded in six heavily forested inland localities between 500–1100 m elevation; thus, one heard in a mangrove swamp before dawn at Puerto Barillas, Bahía Jiquilisco 6 May (OK) was unexpected.

PLOVERS THROUGH SKIMMERS

The American Golden-Plover is a little known spring transient in Belize, with only one or two localities where it is seen regularly. Up to two dozen birds at Payne's Creek N.P. 22 Apr–23 May (MMu, LJ, RE) were in an area where the species was not previously known and represented the first records for Toledo Dist. A Wattled Jacana at Esquinas Rainforest Lodge in mid-Apr (DG, RG) represented one of the few records for Costa Rica. Eighteen Spotted Sandpipers at the mouth of Río Lempa 6 May (OK) was a large concentration for this relatively late date. Twenty-five Silt Sandpipers at El Agallito Beach, Herrera Prov., 7 Apr (DM) was thought to be an atypically large number for Panama; however, a similar number at Sorensen S.F., Toledo Dist. 21–22 Apr (LJ, MMu, RE) was probably typical for Belize, especially with the substantial increase in shorebird habitat resulting from the proliferation of shrimp farms in the country in recent years. An alternate-plumaged Long-billed Dowitcher, also at Sorensen S.F. 21–22 Apr (LJ, MMu, RE), was the latest verified spring date for Belize but probably not atypical for this largely overlooked species. A female Wilson's Phalarope in alternate plumage at Las Macanas Marsh 7 Apr (DM) was noteworthy, as this species is a very uncommon migrant in most of the Region, especially in spring.

A *skua* sp. flying just offshore near Mawamba Lodge, Tortuguero, Costa Rica was independently identified by DW and RR on 14 & 15 Apr, respectively. Both felt that the bird was a South Polar Skua, although the reasons for their assertion are not yet clear. Unidentified skuas are reported periodically in the West Indies and w. Caribbean, but the only species positively identified in the Region thus

far is Great Skua (a specimen record from Belize; a banding return from Îles des Saintes, Guadeloupe, could refer to Brown or to South Polar Skua). South Polar Skua may be equally, or even more, likely, but in the absence of specimens, photographs, or conclusive field notes and sketches, the relative status of these two species remains speculative.

A flock of 200 Franklin's Gulls near the mouth of Río Lempa 6 May (OK) was a late date for such a large concentration. An ad. Ring-billed Gull at Puerto Caldera 4 Apr (WF) was noteworthy, as were an ad. and a juv. Ring-billed Gull and 4+ Elegant Terns at Panama Viejo 1 May (RK, DM, RQ). The first May record of the rarely reported Caspian Tern in El Salvador was obtained when OK observed 5 in Bahía de Jiquilisco on 5 May. A basic-plumaged Forster's Tern at Panama Viejo 1 May (RK, DM, RQ) was quite unexpected. A small breeding colony of Least Terns, first discovered in 1994, persists at Isla San Sebastian, El Salvador, with 12 ads., 20 first-year birds, and at least three nests found there 5 May (OK). At Dangriga, a Black Skimmer seen 1 Mar (PB) was the only one reported from Belize thus far this year.

PARAKEETS THROUGH TAPACULOS

The Brown-throated Parakeet is a relatively new arrival in Costa Rica from Panama, so a flock discovered in mid-Mar at Esquinas Rainforest Lodge by a BirdQuest tour group was noteworthy. A Rufous Sabrewing at San Miguel Volcano, El Salvador 24 May (OK) was the first record from that locality since 1891. Belize's 3rd record of **Long-billed Starthroat** was of 2 seen together 24 May 11 km s. of La Democracia (OF, MT, RC, EM); all records have been taken within the last two years.

SAThe Green-breasted Mango and Cinnamon Hummingbird are the only two resident hummingbird species on the Belize cayes. However, few cayes have both species. Until recently, the only one on Caye Caulker was Cinnamon, but that may be changing. Mangos were first noted on the cayes when a pair was found nesting last Apr (J&DB). One year later, they were already being seen at least as often as Cinnamon (J&DB). This rapid shift may, in part, be due to the devastation of Hurricane *Keith* last fall. The mango is a larger hummingbird and may have been better equipped to survive the nearly three-day onslaught of hurricane-force winds.

The Black-headed Trogon is proving to be a somewhat regular winter visitor on Caye Caulker, 10 km s. of Ambergris Caye where they are resident. The latest was of one observed 29 Mar (PB). Two Acorn Woodpeckers in Belize City 1 Apr (PB, MC, AB, LA) were at an unexpected locality well away from their pine-oak habitat; however, 7 on the San Miguel Volcano 23–24 May (OK) were the first ever recorded in Dept. San Miguel. The first **Silvery-fronted Tapaculo** nest ever recorded was located just 200 m from the parking lot in Monteverde in early Apr (WZ, BY, ph.). A complete account of this discovery will be published elsewhere.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in cloud forest at 2380 m elevation 18 May (OK) was the latest spring record and highest elevation yet recorded for El Salvador. The Vermilion Flycatcher is essentially nonmigratory in the tropics, but a few are occasionally recorded well away from breeding areas. A female that wintered at Gallon Jug, Belize (B&CM) was such a bird. Gallon Jug is an isolated patch of farmland surrounded on all sides by extensive rainforest, and there are few previous records from this heavily birded locale. Until this year, Dusky-capped Flycatcher was thought to be a non-breeding visitor to Caye Caulker; but a pair observed building a nest in a dead coconut palm on 30 Apr (J&DB) confirms that it at least occasionally nests. Another first in the nest department was the discovery this spring of the nest of **Snowy Cotinga** in Costa Rica. The pair was nesting in a tree in a clearing along the entrance road into La Selva. The nest, which contained one egg but later failed, was photographed by a local photographer; the pictures have yet to be critically examined.

On the heels of two White-eyed Vireo reports from Costa Rica last fall comes yet another: one heard singing and seen at Cahuita 11 Apr (PO, RD). The Mangrove Vireo is now rare on the Pacific coast of C.A., so one each at Bahía de Jiquilisco and at the mouth of Río Lempa 5 & 6 May, respectively (OK), were encouraging. Fifteen singing male Brown-capped Vireos between 2150 and 2370 m on the e. slopes of Cerro El Pital, El Salvador 17 May (OK) were the first ever recorded in Dept. Chalatenango, suggesting more that this area is seldom visited by birders than an actual recent colonization.

A Tree Swallow at Las Macanas Marsh 7 Apr (DM) was noteworthy, as this species is not often seen in Panama. A nesting pair of Black-capped Swallows along the e. flank of Cerro El Pital 19 May, and 20+ Rufous-collared Robins

nesting at and above 1650 m in nw. Chalatenango 13 May (both OK), established the first nesting records for those two species in the Dept. since 1941. It is likely that these are continuously resident populations in a seldom-explored part of the country rather than isolated instances of breeding. A late Swainson's Thrush was seen 23 May on San Miguel Volcano (OK). Quite surprising was a Black Catbird 100 km s. of the species's known range at Monkey River Town, Toledo Dist., in early Apr (MMu). Ten singing Blue-and-white Mockingbirds on San Miguel Volcano 23–24 May (OK) established the first record of this species for Dept. San Miguel. More than the usual number of reports of Cedar Waxwing was received, all but one from the month of May. The largest number reported was 60 on Cerro El Pital 13 May (OK); the latest was 25 on 19 May, also on Cerro El Pital. One on Caye Caulker 6 May (J&DB) represents one of the few records from the Belize cayes. Always rare as far s. as Costa Rica, 35 at Costa de Pajaros in mid-Mar (MQ), and 3 at Zona Protectora El Chayote 6 May (JRZ) were noteworthy.

WARBLERS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

The latest spring dates for Chestnut-sided and Magnolia Warbler this year came from Caye Caulker, with the former last seen 27 May and the latter last seen 23 May (both J&DB). A Cape May Warbler foraging at a flowering tree with Tennessee Warblers in the San Luis Valley below Monteverde 29 Mar (EA) was quite unusual; one in Belize City 1 Apr (PB, MC, AB) was unusual away from the cayes. A **Townsend's Warbler** near Boquete, Chiriqui Prov., 10 Apr (PM) was only the 6th record for Panama. All previous records have been from the w. highlands. Hermit Warblers were reported from three sites in Costa Rica this spring. Unusual were a male and female Prairie Warbler coming to a backyard hedge in Hacienda Los Reyes, La Guácima de Alajuela, Costa Rica from Jan through mid-Apr (WO). Received late was a report of an imm. male Palm Warbler closely studied by RuP and RG in the courtyard of the Eco-Lodge, L. Cote, Costa Rica 6 Feb. A Blackburnian Warbler on Caye Caulker 15 Mar (J&DB) was early, but a Worm-eating Warbler at Monkey R. Town 22 Apr (MMu, RE) and 3 Wilson's Warblers on San Miguel Volcano 24 May (OK) were later than expected. A male American Redstart at Puerto Barillas, El Salvador 5 & 6 May (OK) was considered late for the Pacific slope; however, birds in early May are not unusual on the Caribbean slope, where the species is more common. A Yellow-breasted Chat was reported in lower Braulio Carrillo 3 May (JC, *vide* JRZ).

SA Arguably, the event of the spring in Belize was the appearance of **Lesser Goldfinches** in n. Orange Walk District. Other than a female tentatively identified as this by LJ on 1 Sep 1998 at August Pine Ridge, these represent the first records for Belize. JU and DH first reported a group of 3 (ad. male, imm. male, and female) at the Tower Hill Toll Bridge, New R. 22 Apr. Then WM (*vide* OF) reported seeing as many as 4 in Trinidad Village as far back as Feb, with at least 3 present through May. August Pine Ridge, Trinidad, and the Tower Hill Bridge are all within 18 km of each other.

Lesser Goldfinches may be on the move elsewhere as well. Although a common bird throughout much of El Salvador, it may have only recently colonized San Miguel Volcano. OK found it to be a common resident at the volcano when he visited the site in late May. It had not previously been reported from the area.

A Blue Seedeater seen 22 Apr at Hill Bank, Orange Walk District (JB et al.) was at a new locality in Belize. A pair of Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercers and 3 pairs of White-naped Brush-Finches on San Miguel Volcano 23–24 May (OK) established first records for Dept. San Miguel. A pair of Rusty Sparrows in heavily disturbed open scrubland near Jalacte Village on the Guatemala border 19 Apr (LJ) was a surprise, as this species is thought to occur in Belize only in pine woodlands. Jalacte is 45 km sw. of the nearest pines and of the nearest previous Belize record of the species. There are, however, at least three records from similar scrub habitat near Poptun, Guatemala, 25 km w. of Jalacte. “Thousands” of Dickcissels flushed from a marsh near the junction of Dawson Cr. and New R. Lagoon 26 Apr (MM) may be unprecedented for Belize, where the species is locally common in spring but seldom abundant.

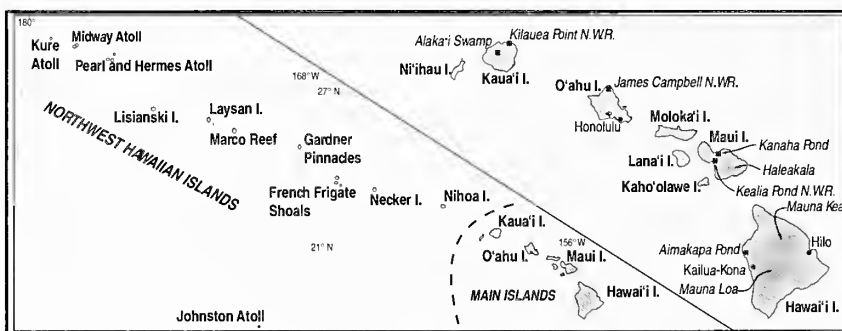
The Bobolink is one of the least common of Belize’s expected migrants, so one each on Caye Caulker 15 Apr (J&DB) and Ambergris Caye 28 Apr (MM) are worth reporting. An ad. and imm. Black-vented Oriole on San Miguel Volcano 24 May (OK) were the first ever

recorded in Dept. San Miguel. Quite unexpected was a Black-headed Siskin drinking at a water puddle in Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary 28 Feb (MH). This was the first recorded in Belize away from the Mt. Pine Ridge.

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There were fewer pelagic trips and sea-watches than last spring, but coverage was still pretty good. Records of birds at sea are especially valuable, as our knowledge of seabirds in Hawaiian waters remains poor. We were also happy to get reports on some of the rare native forest birds—even if the news was sometimes discouraging.

Abbreviations: E. (Endangered Species); H. (Hawai’i I.); Hanalei (Hanalei N.W.R., Kaua’i I.); Honouliuli (Honouliuli Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O’ahu I.); K. (Kaua’i Island); Kealia (Kealia Pond N.W.R., Maui Island); Kii (Ki’i Unit of Jas. Campbell N.W.R., O’ahu I.); K.P. (Kilauea Point N.W.R., Kaua’i I.); M. (Maui I.); O. (O’ahu I.); Waiawa (Waiawa Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O’ahu Island); T. (Threatened Species).

ALBATROSSES THROUGH STORM-PETRELS

Three Short-tailed Albatrosses (E.) observed on Midway during the winter left in mid-Apr (GS, NH et. al.), typical for nonbreeding birds. Large numbers of breeding Laysan and Black-footed Albatrosses remained through Mar+. Winter counts on Midway recorded over 18,000 breeding pairs of Black-footeds and over 284,000 breeding pairs of Laysans. Despite these impressive numbers, there is cause for concern. The Laysan Albatross count was a big drop from the nearly 389,000 breeding pairs counted in 1996 (U.S.F.W.S.). A lone Laysan Albatross was seen on Johnston Atoll 13–22 Mar (EA, OB, DO, LY), an unusual location.

A large, dark petrel with pale primary shafts was observed soaring over K.P. 20 May (†LN). Its identity remains a mystery. One or 2 unidentified large petrels were seen off w. Maui 22 Mar (RB, AL). One to 4 Hawaiian (Dark-rumped) Petrels (E.) were seen off Kaua'i 1 Apr (DK, CM), 3 Apr (CM), and 12 May (LB). Five or 6 Mottled Petrels and several unidentified *Pterodroma* were seen on a pelagic trip off Kaua'i 1 Apr. The only Bulwer's Petrel report was of 2 off Kaua'i 12 May (LB). Throughout Mar, 100–300 Wedge-tailed Shearwaters were seen daily at K.P. (CM). About 5000 Wedge-taileds flew past Nawiliwili Lighthouse, K. 3 Apr (CM). Unlike last spring, only small numbers of Sooty Shearwaters were reported—all off Kaua'i. Ten were seen on a pelagic trip 1 Apr (DK, CM) and 4 were seen from shore 3 Apr (CM), 3 on 9 May and one on 12 May (LB). Two Christmas Shearwaters were observed off Po'ipu, K. and one off Nawiliwili, K. 9 May (LB). The first Newell's Shearwaters (T.) were heard calling 1 Apr at Hanalei (CM). Three Newell's were seen off Nawiliwili, K. 3 Apr (CM). On 9 May 200 Newell's were observed off Po'ipu, K., and another 200 were observed off Nawiliwili, K. (LB). Birds believed to be Band-rumped Storm-Petrels were first heard calling on Kaua'i 31 May (DK).

GEESE THROUGH FALCONS

Hawaiian Geese (Nene) (E.) have been doing well in lowland areas of Kaua'i, the only main island free of mongooses. A flock 18 Nene remained at Hanalei through at least 25 Mar. One pair was seen with a newly hatched gosling 3 Mar (CM).

As usual, migrant waterfowl began leaving in Mar, and most were gone by mid-Apr, earlier than usual. Bay ducks left first. The last seen was one Ring-necked Duck at Kii 25 Mar (PD). The last Northern Pintails were reported 17 Apr at Kii (KH) and Kealia (MN). The last Northern Shovelers were seen 19 Apr at Kii

(KH) and Kealia (MN). We received few reports of uncommon or rare waterfowl. One Brant lingered at Kealia 17 Apr+ (MN). One male Cinnamon Teal in breeding plumage was seen 3 Mar at 'Aimakapa Pond, H. (RD). A pair of Eurasian Wigeon was at Hanalei 11 Mar (CM), and a female Canvasback was at 'Aimakapa Pond 8 (RD) and 19 Mar (DL).

An Osprey observed regularly at Hanalei, K. since late Jan remained to 16 Mar (CM). Single Ospreys were seen at Kealia 16 Apr (MN) and Waiawa 10 May (MS). Peregrine Falcons, rare fall through spring visitors, were last reported from the main islands 6 Mar. On that date, single birds were seen on three different islands, Kaua'i (CM), O'ahu (MR), and Kaho'olawe (LT). These were almost certainly 3 different individuals. One male Peregrine was observed on Johnston Atoll 1–5 May (DO).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

The first Hawaiian (Black-necked) Stilt (E.) nests were discovered 20 Mar at both Kii and Honouliuli—a bit earlier than usual (MS). At the Chevron Refinery, O. the first stilt nest was found 24 Apr, later than usual. One pond at the refinery was dredged and another partly filled with the dredged-up material. That may have affected the nesting behavior (LG)

Most migrant shorebirds departed on schedule from late Apr through mid-May. A few unusual species were reported. One Black-bellied Plover was at Kealia 20 Mar (MN). A brown-backed Whimbrel of the North American race that overwintered at Kii was last seen 19 Apr (MS). One Bristle-thighed Curlew was found dead at Kii 17 Apr (KH). Seven Bristle-thigheds still at Kii 24 May (MS) and 2 on Midway 29 May (LT) may have been over-summering. A **Black-tailed Godwit** (the only one recorded in Hawai'i) that moved from Maui to O'ahu in late Dec remained at Kii Mar+ except for a brief visit to Honouliuli 22 May (MS). A black-legged peep, possibly a Rufous-necked Stint, was observed at the Chevron Refinery 3 May (†PD). Single Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were at Kii Mar–7 May (PD, GF) and at Kanaha Pond, M. 13–17 May (v.t. LB). One Red Phalarope was seen at the Cyanotech ponds, H. 12 Apr (KU, SW)

Gulls remained scarce. Single imm. Laughing Gulls were reported on Kaua'i 1–10 Apr (CM, DK) and at Kealia 14 Apr–21 May. Single imm. Ring-billed Gulls were reported on Kaua'i 1–19 Apr (CM, RD) and at the Chevron Refinery, O. 28 Mar+ (PD, LG). A 2nd imm. gull seen at the Chevron Refinery, O. Mar+ has not been identified (LG). Most gulls in Hawai'i are imm. birds seen in winter. Franklin's Gulls are the exception, with most

records referring to late-spring birds in alternate plumage. Two Franklin's Gulls were observed this year 7 & 8 May at Kealia (MN). A Caspian Tern that moved from Kaua'i to O'ahu and then to Maui last winter was back on O'ahu at Nu'upia Ponds 7 Mar (MR). One Least or Little Tern was seen on Midway 27 May, and 2 were seen there 29 May (LT).

DOVES THROUGH PASSERINES

SA Only 3 **Po'ouli** (E.) are known to survive. One female was seen early Mar, and one male early Apr. A different female was last seen early Sep (JG). These individuals are in separate territories in the remote rainforest of e. Maui and probably never meet. Plans have been made to translocate one of the females into the male's territory in the hope that breeding will follow (EV).

Small numbers of Mourning Doves continue to be found on Maui. One was heard in Pa'ia 21 May (JJ, TP, EV), and at least 2 were heard in Makawao (FD, *fide* TP). One or 2 O'ahu 'Elepaio (E.) were reported along 'Aiea Trail, O. 3 Mar+ (MW, RM). 'Elepaio were regularly seen along the trail in the past but have been scarce there in recent years. It is possible that the recent drought has helped control avian pox, allowing 'Elepaio to reoccupy the area (EV). A White-rumped Shama was seen in se. Moloka'i 30 May (†RC). Only a few Shammas have ever been reported on Moloka'i. Three Puaiohi (E.), including a pair at a nest, were observed in the Alaka'i Swamp, K. 11 May. Three 'Akikiki and 4 'Akeke'e were also seen that day (v.t. LB, DK). Ten 'Akeke'e were seen along the Alaka'i Swamp trail 4 Apr (CM). A pair of 'Akeke'e was observed building a nest 24 May (DK). A pair of Palila (E.) with young, and a 3rd adult were seen at Pu'u La'au, H. 18 & 21 May (v.t. LB, RD, RP). The very rare 'Akiapola'au (E.) is seen regularly in only a few locations. Two birds seen off the Saddle Road, H. 9 Mar were unexpected (JJ). One juv. 'Akiapola'au and 20 Hawai'i Creepers (E.) were seen at Pu'u 'O'o Ranch, H. 18 May (v.t. LB, RP). Three 'Akohehohe (E.) were observed in Waikamoi Preserve, M. 16 May (v.t. LB) and 26 May (LT et al.).

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West Indies

Corrigendum

The caption for the Black-tailed Godwit photographs (*N.A.B.* 55: 234) should have read that the bird moved from Maui to O'ahu



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A Palm Warbler, an island first, was photographed in May at Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe. Photograph by Anthony Levesque/VIREO.

Nearly all the highland frontiers in the Antilles have begun to be explored for the lost endemic Caribbean seabird taxa, i.e., Jamaican Petrel on Jamaica and Black-capped Petrel on Dominica. One of the new frontiers for finding unrecorded or rare seabirds is offshore, in the realm of the 100-fathom contour or greater depths and around sea mounts or other areas of upwelling. From the Bahamas to Barbados, observers are venturing out when benevolent sea conditions and migration coincide and are finding the formerly elusive storm-petrels, shearwaters, and perhaps the biggest catch, albatrosses (cf. *Field Notes* 52: 507).

Another frontier lies in the genetic code of each insular bird population may have that distinguishes itself from its closest relatives. This column is humbly dedicated to the memory of one of the most dedicated researchers in this field, Dr. Nedra Klein, whose work on the genetics of insular birds in the Region was

aimed at sorting out affinities and emerging speciation among landbirds and of warblers in particular. Her gentle passion and enthusiasm will be desperately missed. A scholarship fund has been established to honor and remember her.

SHEARWATERS THROUGH TERNS

The "ice was broken" on the pelagic front when EB reported the first migrant Greater Shearwater on 2 Mar some five mi off Guana Cay, off Abaco, Bahamas. This was followed by Wilson's Storm-Petrels, Audubon Shearwaters, and a Black-capped Petrel eight mi off Elbow Cay 21 Apr. Thereafter, shearwaters and storm-petrels were seen on 11 May about 20 mi ne. of Abaco, Bahamas near Tabletops seamount, including Audubon Shearwaters, a Black-capped Petrel, Wilson's and Leach's Storm-Petrels, and one **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel** (EB, BB, PD, LL). Audubon's Shearwaters were noted near Highbourne Cay, Bahamas on 19 May; 24 were near Spanish Wells, Eleuthera, Bahamas on 21 May (NM). R. and M. Lindquist reported a Leach's Storm-Petrel off Musha Cay, Exumas 21 Apr and Wilson's Storm-Petrel (ph.) off Little Exuma 9 May. Another Wilson's was seen on 19 May near Highbourne Cay, Bahamas (NM). At Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe, remarkable numbers and species of seabirds were noted (MF) during a 3-hour seawatch 25 May that produced a **Manx Shearwater** as well as multiple Sooty,

Audubon's, and Cory's Shearwaters, and Wilson's Storm-Petrel (Table 1). Earlier seavatches at Nature Reserve of Petite-Terre produced similar species but lower numbers, and a repeat effort on 26 May produced fewer species and numbers, although a Greater Shearwater arrived that day, right on schedule. Andrew Dobson reports that a large pelagic migration was witnessed 26 May off Nonsuch I., Bermuda. Among the 1500 shearwaters counted there, Cory's Shearwaters were passing at about 30 per hour. Greater and Sooty Shearwaters peaked at 250 per hour. It appears that weeks of strong winds from the e. provided ideal conditions in the Region for savvy birders to expand our understanding of species composition and numbers just beyond the limits of our binoculars. Thirty-three Cahow chicks this spring represented a record high count for Bermuda's endangered gadfly petrel population (DBW). Overwash of nesting burrows from cyclonic storms and predation by Peregrines (*N.A.B.* 50: 111) continue to be a major concern for the continued survival of

the species. A Red-billed Tropicbird, first seen over Nonsuch I. on 19 May (LM) and again 21 May (DBW), provided only the 3rd Bermuda record. An imm. Masked Booby, also a very rare visitor to Bermuda from the Antilles, was seen at Gurnet Rock 21 Mar (DBW).

Two Snow Geese were found at Diamond Farms, New Providence, Bahamas 11–14 May, a very late spring record (PD). A male Ring-necked Duck that lingered at Spittal Pond, Bermuda through May was unusual (AD). A Swallow-tailed Kite first seen on 17 Mar over Devonshire Marsh, Bermuda (RG) stayed for at least a week and provided good views for many. Three ad. Swallow-tailed Kites were noted at West End, Grand Bahama on 21 Mar (AK), while a Red-shouldered Hawk there 20 Mar was the first report from the Bahamas (AK). Two Peregrines were seen on 18 Mar passing over the shallow lake at Trou Caiman, Haïti (JRC, SJ).

A **Yellow-breasted Crake** seen at close range on 24 Mar (JRC, SJ) at L. Bois Nef, near Pierre Payen, Haïti provided the first report from that country. It was seen again 15 Apr at the same

location (JRC). A Least Bittern was noted at L. Bois Nef, near St. Marc, Haïti 15 Apr (JRC). Greater Flamingos numbered 175 on 18 Mar at Trou Caiman, Haïti (JRC, SJ), where hunters had taken a few that day. A single Greater Flamingo was noted at Great Salt Pond, St. Kitts on 21 Mar, for one of the few reports from the Leeward Is. (RH); and 2 were noted at Little Whale Cay on 12 May, providing documentation for this little known birding site (NM). On 30 May, RL found a **Southern Lapwing** at Aruba. A **Reeve** was observed closely at Runaway Bay, Antigua on 19 Mar (RH). An American Woodcock at Great Bay, Bermuda on 31 May (PW) was very unusual.

Also noted among the passing shearwaters off Nonsuch I. on 19 May were 4 **South Polar Skuas** (PW et al.), a record number for that location. Not to be outdone, at Guadeloupe, MF recorded 3 **Long-tailed Jaegers**, along with single Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, on 25 May. A first-winter Great Black-backed Gull was seen at West End, Grand Bahama 21 Mar (AK). At Basseterre, St. Kitts, possibly 2 first-winter Black-headed Gulls were seen 17 Mar

Table 1. Records of resident and pelagic seabirds from Bermuda, Bahamas, and Guadeloupe in spring 2001.

Species	Number	Date	Location	Observer
Black-capped Petrel	1	21 Apr.	off Elbow Cay, Bahamas	EB
	1	11 May	seamount, 20 miles ne. of Abaco, Bahamas	EB
Cory's Shearwater	2	25 May	off Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe	MF
	30/hr	26 May	off Nonsuch Is., Bermuda	PW
Greater Shearwater	1	2 Mar	off Guana Cay, Bahamas	EB
	250/hr	26 May	off Nonsuch Is., Bermuda	PW
	1	26 May	off Petite-Terre	MF
Sooty Shearwater	2	25 May	off Petite-Terre	MF
	250/hr	26 May	off Nonsuch Is.	PW
Audubon's Shearwater	25	21 Apr	off Elbow Cay	EB
	20	11 May	seamount, off Abaco	EB
	2	19 May	off Highbourne Cay, Bahamas	NM
	24	21 May	off Spanish Wells, Eleuthera, Bahamas	NM
Manx Shearwater	8	25 May	off Petite-Terre	MF
	3	25 May	off Petite-Terre	MF
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	6	21 Apr	off Elbow Cay	EB
	1	11 May	seamount, off Abaco	EB
	1	19 May	off Highbourne Cay	NM
Leach's Storm-Petrel	48	25 May	off Petite-Terre	MF
	1	11 May	seamount, off Abaco	EB
	1	11 May	seamount, off Abaco	EB
	1	19 May	off Nonsuch Is.	DBW
Red-billed Tropicbird	1	19 May	off Nonsuch Is.	DBW
Masked Booby	1	21 Mar	off Gurnet Rock, Be	DBW
Pomarine Jaeger	1	25 May	off Petite-Terre	MF
Parasitic Jaeger	1	25 May	off Petite-Terre	MF
Long-tailed Jaeger	3	25 May	off Petite-Terre	MF
South Polar Skua	4	19 May	off Nonsuch Is.	PW



This Wood Thrush struck a window at Nassau, New Providence 28 May, a rather late date for a migrant through the Bahamas. *Photograph by Melissa Maura.*

(RH), providing a first report from that location. A second-winter Herring Gull was recorded on 19 Mar from Potsworks, Antigua (RH), one of the few reports from that island. The tally of Laughing Gulls (50), Royal Terns (10), Bridled Terns (24), Least Terns (3), and Brown Noddies (24) at Spanish Wells, Eleuthera, Bahamas 21 May (NM) may indicate local breeding. A Sandwich Tern was noted at Pigeon I. National Landmark, St. Lucia 7 Mar (JB), and one at Castle Harbour, Bermuda provided a rare occurrence (AD, JM). Twenty Roseate Terns were noted migrating past Little Whale Cay 11 May (WB et al.), while NM counted 12 there the next day. Egg dates for breeding Roseates in the Virgin Is. begin around 20–26 May (RLN). At Trou Caiman, near Port-au-Prince, Haïti, 22 Caspian Terns were noted 3 Mar (JRC) and one Gull-billed Tern was studied near Gonaives, Haïti 10 Mar. A Sooty Tern at Bermuda 22 May was an unusual visitor there (DBW); it was injured and perished (*Bermuda Aquarium & Museum).

DOVES THROUGH SISKINS

A White-winged Dove appeared at Saba, Netherlands Antilles for a few days in May (MW-M). While birding with DA on St. Lucia, JB counted about 20 St. Lucia Parrots. The success of the public school education campaign to save a symbol of the island's natural heritage was measured by a recent census that located 800 parrots, a major increase realized just in the past decade. Near a village at Trou Caiman,

Haïti, JRC noted 8 Hispaniolan Parakeets. A late Common Nighthawk was seen and heard at Cavello Bay, Bermuda 31 May (DH). A Chuck-will's-widow nest with two eggs was found 7 May at Rand Nature Centre, Freeport, Grand Bahama (RO). White-collared Swifts numbered 10+ on 18 Apr at Verrettes, Haïti (JRC), and 2 Black Swifts were also noted there 21 Apr. J. R. Crouse found 2 Golden Swallows 24 Apr at Fermanthe, Haïti, elev. 1350 m, an area that needs to be investigated for possible sanctuary or reserve status as montane habitat of the Golden Swallow, whose subspecies on Jamaica is apparently extinct. Both Hispaniolan Palm (3) and White-necked Crows (2) were reported from coastal habitat near St. Marc, Haïti 25 Mar (JRC, SJ). A window-killed Wood Thrush found at Nassau, New Providence 28 May provided evidence of late migration through the central Bahamas (MM). A Red-eyed Vireo on 14 May from Petite-Terre was also a good find (AL) in the Lesser Antilles. A Tennessee Warbler was reported (AL) from Nature Reserve, Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe, the first for that island, on 11 May. A Yellow-breasted Chat was found at Rand Nature Center (RO) on 15 Apr, one of the few spring records from the n. Bahamas. Two Scarlet Tanagers were seen at Saba on 1–2 May (MW-M). A female Antillean Siskin was seen 25 Apr (JRC) at Fermanthe, Haïti, while 15 were noted at Morne Tranchant, el. 1800 m, on 26 May. A female **Giant Cowbird**, a first for Barbados and the West Indies, was at Palm Beach 6 Mar (ph. Martin Frost).

Corrigendum

In *N.A.B.* 55: 111, the first line under "Petrel through Terns" was omitted and should read: "Bermuda's Cahows are being predated by Peregrine Falcons (DBW)."

Addenda

Received too late to be included in the winter season report are sightings of 7 Greater Flamingos using ponds of e. Vieques Is, Puerto Rico according to a Navy wildlife biologist (*vide* DG) from Oct 2000–Jan 2001; with bombing resumed there, the birds have undoubtedly departed. Apparently Killdeer have not nested at Vieques in the past three years, as drought conditions seem to be still evident. White-checked Pintail and other waterbirds were not evident there.

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Whither field ornithology?

Perspectives from the "inside"

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We read with interest the recent article by Alan Contreras in *North American Birds* (Contreras 2000) and found ourselves disagreeing with almost every word in that article. We contend that—rather than being in decline—field ornithology in North America is enjoying a period of surprising growth and diversity. Our perspective is that of the “academic insider” to whom Contreras alluded. We have been in academia continuously for between 2 and 3 decades; we publish in scientific journals and help decide on the fate of manuscripts submitted to many of those journals; we serve as officers in professional ornithological societies; we conduct some research involving avian DNA, and our research often entails more time in front of a computer than behind binoculars. However, some of our research also involves extended periods in the field, and some incorporates the work of a vast army of amateur field ornithologists. In addition, we have remained active birders and continue to submit sightings to regional journals, as well as to *North American Birds*. Therefore, we believe we have reasonably balanced perspectives on the nature, role, and importance of field ornithology today.

Like most areas of human thought or activity, science is not static. Whereas Contreras bemoans today's reduced level of credit for descriptive field ornithology, we see instead the hallmarks of ornithology's maturation and integration into an array of scientific disci-

plines. In *all* disciplines, questions evolve as information is accumulated. In *all* disciplines, good university researchers should challenge themselves to be on the cutting edge, asking questions at the frontiers of understanding. Thus, in North America, most professional field ornithologists indeed have moved on from the basic questions (“what birds are where?”) that dominated ornithology from 1850 to 1950. Today, thanks to advances in our tool kits as well as our basic knowledge, we address far more difficult and penetrating questions, such as “why are these birds here?” and “do the ratios of different ages and sexes vary among populations?” and “how is this bird species evolving?” and “what causes birds' distributions or abundances to change?”

It is true, as Contreras contends, that our knowledge of avian distribution and abundance in North America remains far from complete. We agree with him that *documenting these basic facts of natural history is vital and ongoing*. However, it cannot be reasonably disputed that our level of basic knowledge in avian natural history today is enormous and sufficient to allow professional ornithologists to begin studying *the causes and implications* behind birds' distributions. Answering such questions often requires intensive study of small portions of a bird's range, working in the laboratory, and analyzing data at the office instead of inside a tent. This does not mean that field ornithology is declining—it means that the information collected by field ornithologists is being put to a greater diversity of uses than ever before. To the uninformed, field ornithology might seem to stop after sightings have been recorded. To a modern, academic natural historian, the most interesting questions and applications only begin there. As Contreras noted, descriptive studies are unlikely to be published in the “major” ornithological journals, and the venues in which these descriptive studies are published are not given equal weight in academic evaluations of ornithologists. We feel that this is proper. Science is not just the collection of facts but the placing of facts within a context and an explanation of why these facts are important.

Let there be no misunderstanding. Academia still does abound with genuine “natural historians.” Ironically, many of these probably are the often lab-bound “indoor ornithologists” about whom Contreras writes.

We refer especially to museum-based researchers—scientists who are versed in avian systematics and dedicated to gathering precise information on distributions of birds in relatively unknown parts of the world. These museum-based researchers are generally making expeditions to unexplored areas where the need for basic knowledge of birds' distributions is far greater than in North America. Almost every year, museum-based researchers are still discovering previously undescribed species. These are the same scientists who tend museum collections, protecting our most exhaustive “libraries” of verifiable information about birds and their distributions in previous centuries. Many of these scientists also explore the DNA of birds past and present, thereby providing ever-deeper understanding of the diversity that lies hidden inside the mantle of the term “species.” And today, many of these scientists actively incorporate their research into conservation efforts that will affect the persistence of bird populations far into the future. (We note, for example, the recent declaration of a spectacular new national park in Peru, which followed directly from the efforts of a number of field ornithologists from several institutions.)

All good professional scientists are responsible for publishing the results of their research. In these publications, it will always be true that mistakes occur. Contreras refers to published errors in patterns of distribution and movement. To these we can add other kinds of errors: improper analysis of data, omission of field or laboratory methodology, and even reaching conclusions not fully supported by the data. As Contreras noted, published errors occur because reviewers and editors are not omniscient. However, suggesting that the most egregious errors by authors and reviewers are consequences of decay in “field ornithology” simply reflects what is most important and interesting to Contreras. We cannot agree that published errors in detail about avian distribution or movements are any more common than errors of other kinds, and we certainly cannot agree that they are any more common now than they were in bygone eras.

We do concur that reviewers and editors (who are human) sometimes make errors in judgment. However, we know of no professional ornithological journal today in which the

editor or editorial board disputes the fundamental value of field ornithology. As a quick test, we examined the most recent issue of each of the four major ornithological journals of North America (*Auk*, *Condor*, *Wilson Bulletin*, and *Journal of Field Ornithology*). We were stunned by the results: of 83 full-length articles, *only one* did not involve extensive field work on wild birds or analysis of wild bird data and/or specimens gathered by others in the field. (Ironically, the single exception—an aviary study of juncos—was published in *Journal of Field Ornithology*.) Among the short notes, the results were equally overwhelming: 30 published notes, of which 29 involved field ornithology. We also noted, in a similar analysis, that only seven per cent of full-length articles were related to game species, countering Contreras's claim that students entering ornithology as a profession would be "working on game species in a system funded largely by hunters."

While it may be more difficult for an amateur field ornithologist to acquire all of the skills needed by a professional ornithologist today than would have been the case a century ago, the importance of amateur field ornithologists and their work have not diminished. In fact, we contend that the role of amateur field ornithologists in professional science today is greater than it has ever been. Many scientists, ourselves included, regularly publish peer-reviewed academic papers based *entirely* on

data collected by amateurs. The validity and importance of amateur-collected data are routinely demonstrated through papers published in many of the world's most prestigious scientific journals (e.g., Crick and Sparks 1999, Greenberg and Droege 1999, Rosenberg et al. 1999, Hochachka and Dhondt 2000, Boulinier et al. 2001). Most such studies would have been impossible to conduct if field work had been limited to professional ornithologists or hired technicians. Indeed, because of the increasing number of skilled amateurs across the continent, the questions that can be asked using amateur-collected data on birds today have attained an unprecedented level of scope and complexity.

The research publications listed in the previous paragraph were from professionally organized projects in which amateurs participated. Because they were readily accessible to the scientists who published these papers, these data could help document the dynamic nature of birds' distribution and abundance. The pages of *North American Birds* have also provided testimony to the dynamic nature of bird distributions—nearly every regional report contains first records of breeding, wintering, or migration occurrence for individual states or regions. In the face of global climate change and drastic habitat changes, scientific interest in these changing distributions clearly has not diminished. Data from *North American Birds* and its predecessors continue to be used to shed light

on regional distribution patterns (e.g. Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Patten and Marantz 1996) and other investigations of the dynamics of birds' distributions (e.g., Veit 2000).

In summary, we take exception with Contreras's limited vision of field ornithology and certainly with his contention that field ornithology is declining in its role in scientific research. Moreover, we contend that his perceived dichotomy between "academic" and "field" ornithologists is illusory. Never before have there been so many ways in which the amateur bird enthusiast can make enormous contributions to professional scientific research. Never before have the walls of ornithological academia been more open to being educated by the lay public. As professionals deeply rooted in this science, we are personally committed to fostering the collaboration between professionals and amateurs, and we could not be more thrilled about this new era of field ornithology.

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First Successful United States Nesting of Heermann's Gull: Challenges of an Urban Colonist

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Abstract

Heermann's Gull (*Larus heermanni*) is a colonial breeder confined mostly to islands in the Gulf of California in Mexico. The primary colony is on Isla Rasa, where 130,000 pairs breed (Velarde 1999). Recent surveys found nesting on 11 other Mexican islands and estimated a world population of 300,000 to 450,000 adults (Mellink 2001). The northernmost breeding occurs at two small colonies on the Pacific side of the Baja California Peninsula (Jehl 1976). In spring and summer 1999 and 2000, three pairs nested successfully on islets in a small freshwater lake adjacent to Monterey Bay in Seaside, Monterey County, central California. The first successful nests in the United States, these were about 700 mi north of the nearest colony of 200 adults on Isla San Benito de Enmedio, Baja California, Mexico (Mellink 2001). Breeding was initiated again in spring 2001, but this time the attempt failed. We summarize our observations of this remarkable isolated colonization here. We also describe the background to these instances of breeding and trace several disparate phenomena that may or may not have impacted the results.

Review of the status of Heermann's Gull in California

Grinnell and Miller (1944) summarized the status of Heermann's Gull in California a half-century ago: "Summer and autumn visitant from south; present in greatest numbers from June to November, then diminishing toward March; only strays or non-breeders present during spring months, when nesting is taking place south of Mexican line. Prior to 1915, numbers, at least south from Bodega Bay, sufficient to warrant term 'common': then, by 1930, marked reduction took place even to complete absence in previously favor-

able spots, locally; now, 1943, good recovery is apparent." Over the last half-century in Monterey County, the Heermann's Gull has been a common summer and fall post-breeding visitor, with numbers typically arriving in early June and present in the thousands through November. Many have departed by Christmas and only a few non-breeders remain into May before the next influx (Roberson 1985).

Pacific sardines constitute 60% to 97% of the diet of Heermann's Gulls in the Gulf of California (Velarde et al. 1994). Assuming that same food source is used in Monterey Bay, we note that the collapse of the Monterey sardine fishery that occurred between the two World Wars could have contributed to the dearth in Heermann's Gulls recorded then. It may also be that our "typical" pattern of distribution is tied to decadal patterns of warm-water regimes off California. The middle decades of the twentieth century were periods of generally cooler waters off California (Chelton et al. 1982) without any significant El Niño–Southern Oscillation event (Rasmusson 1985). Indeed, the ten-year period from 1930–1940 was the longest stretch during the last century without an El Niño event anywhere in the world (Wallace 1985).

Previous nesting attempts in California

There were three prior attempts by Heermann's Gull to breed in California. In the summers of 1979, 1980, and 1981, a pair attempted to nest on Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay. Up to four eggs were laid in a season, but none hatched, possibly due to infertility (Howell et al. 1983). In May 1980, two pairs nested on a sea stack off Shell Beach, San Luis Obispo County, but these attempts were also believed to have been unsuccessful (Howell et al. 1983). A pair on Ano Nuevo Island, San Mateo County, hatched chicks three years in a row (1994–1996), but each time they were lost to predatory Western Gulls (*L. occidentalis*; Yee et al. 1995, Bailey et al. 1996). In all cases, the nesting attempts took place adjacent to breeding Western Gulls.

Anthropogenic influences on nesting waterbirds in the vicinity

In Monterey County, there has been a recent shift in Western Gull populations from the Big Sur coast to the Monterey Bay area. Bailey (1993) compared the governmental surveys of seabirds on the Monterey County coast in 1979 and 1989 to the findings of the county's Breeding Bird Atlas project and showed that there had been declines in the colonies along the wild Big Sur coast and increases near human-modified habitats. This shift paralleled expansions in the greater San Francisco Bay region in the 1980s. In this decade, the local Monterey County Western Gulls began using

manmade structures for nesting and apparently became more dependent on landfills with garbage.

Another man-aided avian population change in the 1980s in Monterey County was the introduction of a non-native population of Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*). These large waterfowl, apparently of the large race *moffitti*, had been nesting in the San Francisco Bay area since the mid-1950s (Lidicker and McCollum 1979). The introduced Monterey County population was first noted breeding in upper Carmel Valley in 1984. This population had grown to 80 pairs by 1992 and had expanded down the Big Sur coast. The geese spread to Salinas (nesting first noted 1991) and Monterey (nesting documented 1992; Roberson and Tenney 1993). At Lake El Estero in downtown Monterey, the handful of geese that began nesting in 1992 has increased exponentially. By June 2001, Roberson counted 161 grown Canada Geese on this small urban lake, and two pairs accompanied seven downy young.

Just two km northeast of Lake El Estero is Roberts Lake in the City of Seaside. Roberts Lake is actually less than a fourth of what was once the much larger Laguna Grande, which existed as a freshwater drainage into Monterey Bay. Laguna Grande was divided by the creation of Del Monte Avenue. The shallow western portion, separated from Monterey Bay itself by State Highway 1, became Roberts Lake. Its water surface is just 4.4 hectares in size and averages only 1.2–2 m deep; it is partially rimmed by tules (*Scirpus robustus*). The lake and surrounding land is now a public park under the jurisdiction of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District. The western corner is a popular duck-feeding spot for the public with several tame ducks and farm geese. As the lake is adjacent to Monterey Bay, it is heavily used for freshwater-bathing by gulls. Western Gulls bathe and loaf there throughout the year, and a dozen species of gull have been recorded there in winter, including California's first Lesser Black-backed Gull *L. fuscus* (Binford 1978). Despite the heavy usage by Western Gulls and their widespread nesting on roofs, boats, and pilings in nearby Monterey harbor, none have attempted to nest on Roberts Lake, perhaps because it is a freshwater lake. Heermann's Gulls bathe and roost in and around the lake in fair numbers in summer and fall. Both Roberts Lake and Lake El Estero in Monterey are favored locales by the few non-breeding Heermann's still present each spring.

In 1990, the City of Seaside received a grant from the California Coastal Conservancy to dredge and maintain the lake's integrity. The project, undertaken by a joint public agency composed of the cities of Monterey and Seaside and the Park District, was completed in February 1991. Among the Coastal Conservancy requirements was the creation of two islets in the southern portion of the lake as wildlife habitat. These islets are made of interlocking piles covered with earth and planted with arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepus*) and various shrubs and grasses. The total land surface area of these small islands is only 272.25 m². In addition, there is another larger islet at the east corner of the lake with denser stands of shrubs and rimmed with tules. The City of Seaside is required to maintain these islands.

Accounts of breeding at Roberts Lake

The unexpected breeding attempt by Heermann's Gulls on Roberts Lake was first discovered by Bailey on 26 April 1999 while he was scouting for a Big Sur Ornithology Lab birdathon. As this birdathon had been operated for several years before 1999 and the routes were scouted by numerous teams, we believe that 1999 was the first year in which Heermann's Gulls began nesting here. Bailey observed six alternate-plumaged adults on the two islets at the south end of

Roberts Lake, and two nests were being incubated. A male repeatedly delivered bits of nesting material to an incubating female. Egg-turning behaviors and copulation were also observed.

During following weeks, it became apparent that there were actually three nests on the two islets. A fourth nest was attempted along a berm that separates Roberts Lake from Del Monte Avenue. This scrape had an egg on 13 May (D. Haupt, pers. comm.), but it was adjacent to a jogging and bike path, and the nest was abandoned by 20 May (A. Baldrige, pers. comm.). The pair involved may have tried to nest on the islet in the eastern corner of the lake, but the attempt was apparently unsuccessful (dense bushes on that island made viewing difficult).

On the southern islets, two chicks were first seen at one nest on 20 May (A. Baldrige), and five were there by 28 May (cf. Figures 1, 2). On 7 June, at least seven nestlings were visible in three nests (two, two, and three), but eight were repeatedly counted by 28 June. All of these youngsters fledged in the period 1–3 July, making these the first successful nests in the United States (Figures 3, 4). By this time, there were not only the eight known adults in the vicinity (the three successful pairs plus the unsuccessful pair from the east side) but up to six additional adults, presumably recent arrivals from the south. Some of these new arrivals were chased by the breeding adults from the islets.

By coincidence, a male Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*), first discovered 5 May 1999, produced young with two females at two nest sites on Roberts Lake as the Heermann's Gull breeding efforts were underway. One of the grackle nests was in the bush directly above one of the Heermann's Gull nests. These were the first known nests of Great-tailed Grackle in Monterey County—remarkably, two unrelated species were confirmed nesting for the first time in the county within just a few feet of each other. At least three grackles fledged by 28 June just as the young gulls were ready to fly, and there were now three adult male grackles hanging about. All the grackles were gone by 7 July, but the juvenal-plumaged Heermann's Gulls remained in the vicinity throughout the summer (Figure 3). Although Great-tailed Grackles are staging a dramatic range expansion throughout California and elsewhere in the United States (Dinsmore and Dinsmore 1993, Jaramillo and Burke 1999), the first record of the species in Monterey County had been just five years earlier. Another nesting confirmation on Roberts Lake in the summer of 1999 was that of Canada Goose. A dozen precocial young were present by June.

A few Heermann's Gulls remained on Roberts Lake throughout the winter. By 13 March 2000, a pair was courting again on a southwestern islet, and they were apparently on a nest by 6 April. During April–May, three pairs again occupied nest sites that had been successful in the preceding year. The nest most easily visible from the public viewing area had one chick on 27 May and three chicks by 30 May. By 6 July, at least one juvenile had fledged, and at least five had fledged by 16 July. Several one-year-olds were also in the vicinity, apparently last year's offspring, as the first major influx from the south did not occur that summer until late July. Again it appeared that all three nests on the two islets were successful. (Great-tailed Grackles and Canada Geese both bred again on Roberts Lake in summer 2000.)

Heermann's Gulls remained around Roberts Lake throughout the fall and winter, sometimes roosting on the nesting islets. By February 2001, adults in alternate plumage appeared to be on territory again. From 24 April into early May, three pairs appeared to be on eggs at the three now-traditional nest sites. On 11 May, a fourth

pair flew in and bathed together before briefly visiting the island in the eastern corner of the lake. Interesting interactions occurred between adults and younger Heermann's Gulls in early May. On 11 May, there were 12 immatures present either adjacent to the islets or at the nearby gull roost: eight one-year-olds and four two-year-olds. One of the two-year-olds initiated a long-call display with head tossing towards one of adults of the fourth pair, and the adult responded with a head-tossing call of its own before becoming disinterested. We presume that the four two-year-olds are among the eight known fledglings from 1999, and that the eight one-year-olds must be the fledglings from last summer. We documented only five fledglings in 2000, but our visits were rather infrequent during this second year of successful nesting; we could easily have overlooked fledging successes (we typically found different numbers of juveniles in July of each successful year, as birds moved between Roberts Lake and the adjacent Monterey Bay shore).

These May 2001 observations strongly suggest that the three successful nesting pairs in 1999 and 2000 fledged at least eight young each summer (three from two nests, and two from the remaining nest). The supposition is further supported by the state of molt of the immatures. The wing molt of the four two-year-olds was more advanced than that of the eight one-year-olds, with only the inner primaries still growing, while the one-year-old birds had missing or very short inner primaries. Both age classes had freshly-molted rectrices, and in each age class the molt pattern was synchronous. This makes sense, as the youngsters all fledged within a few days of each other in each of the two summers.

By 11 May 2001, however, difficulties were apparent out on the breeding islets. The closest pair seemed to have lost their eggs, but they were copulating again. The middle pair was milling about, while only the far nest was still being incubated. Prolonged copulation by a pair of Western Gulls was observed at the edge of the islet, but throughout the following weeks, the adult Heermann's remained aggressive towards any Western Gull that approached the nest sites. Western Gulls did not seem to be an obvious problem. By 24 May, all nests seemed abandoned.

Throughout early June, two pairs continued to roost in the vicinity of nest sites, and a bird sometimes sat on a scrape, but no eggs were observed. The most likely explanation for the abandonment

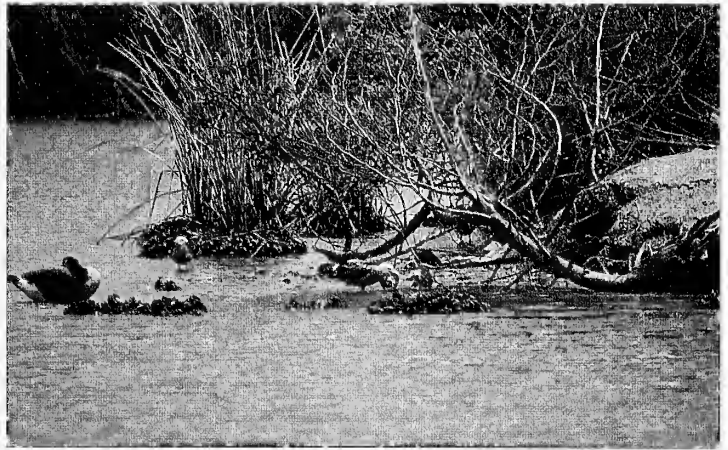


Figure 2. One of the chicks hatched in late May 1999 is fed by its parent at the edge of the islet in June. Roberts Lake is a shallow freshwater lake; the adults foraged in adjacent Monterey Bay. *Photograph by Don Roberson.*

was recurrent encroachment by non-native Canada Geese. Up to 188 Canada Geese were counted on Roberts Lake in June, and dozens of them were now roosting on the islets, as the few tame farm geese had been doing for years. On some days, the geese were sleeping right atop the gulls' nesting sites. The adult Heermann's were tenacious in remaining on the islets but were not aggressive toward the geese. By 30 June, all Heermann's had left the islets. The first immigrants from southern populations were on Roberts Lake by 17 June (in a roost at the north end of the lake) and presumably the failed nesters joined the roost by the month's end. The best theory we can devise for the nest failures in summer 2001 was the pressure of the burgeoning goose population. (The Great-tailed Grackles, apparently unaffected by the geese, were successful in nesting at Roberts Lake again.)

Our observations on the successful nesting of Heermann's Gulls on Roberts Lake were sporadic and opportunistic, but we were impressed by the nesting synchrony displayed within this tiny colony. On Isla Rasa, where 95% of the world's population nests, the colony is characterized by high nesting density and high nesting synchrony (Velarde 1999). Beyond the publications of Urrutia and Drummond (1990) and Velarde (1999), little has been published on the details of breeding chronology. The incubation period may average 28 days (Ehrlich et al. 1988); studies on Isla Rasa indicate that flight occurs 45 days after hatching (Urrutia and Drummond 1990).

Our data were consistent with what has been published about breeding phenology. Like the prior California nests described by Howell et al. (1983), the Roberts Lake nests were simply scrapes in the earth rimmed with bits of vegetation. During the two successful years of breeding on Roberts Lake, the first chick hatched on 20 May and 27 May, respectively. These hatching dates should correspond to egg-laying in late April, an extrapolation consistent with our behavioral observations. The Roberts Lake nests appeared to have two to three eggs each, a detail also consistent with Isla Rasa (68% of large sample had 2 eggs, 18% had 3 eggs; Urrutia & Drummond 1990). During the successful years on Roberts Lake, the first fledging occurred about 1 July and 6 July, respectively. This is a period between hatching and fledging of at least 40–41 days.

The tiny three-pair colony on Roberts Lake had a nesting chronology (eggs laid in April, hatching in May, fledging by end of June) more similar to the primary colony on Isla Rasa (Urrutia and

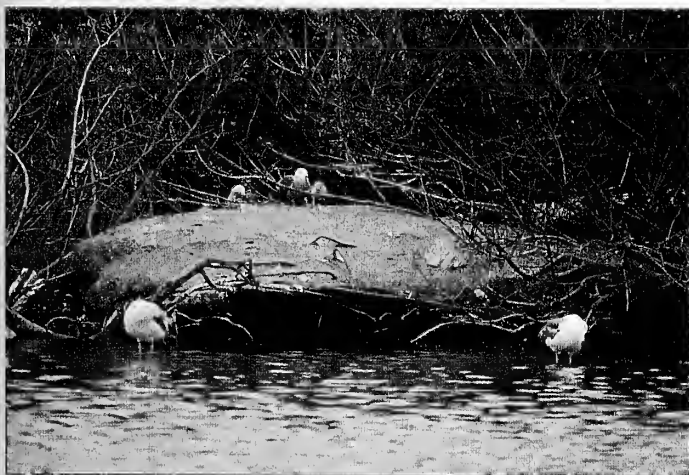


Figure 1. A just-hatched Heermann's Gull with its two sleeping parents at mid-day on 27 May 1999. This was one of three nests on two tiny man-made islets in Roberts Lake, Seaside, Monterey County in central California that summer. *Photograph by Don Roberson.*

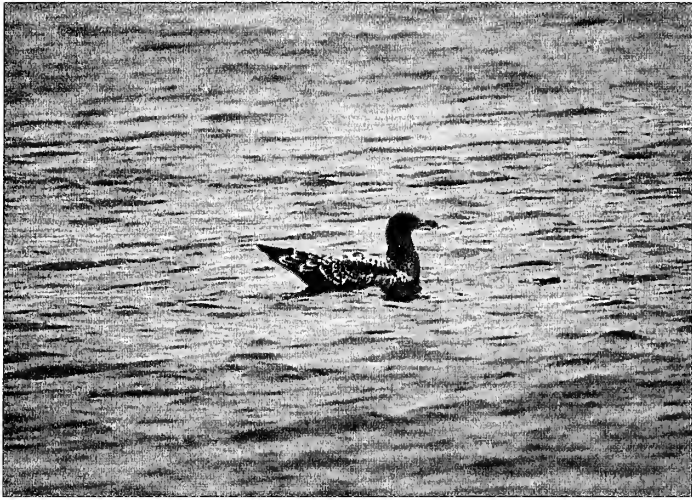


Figure 3. A just-fledged youngster in juvenal plumage on Roberts Lake 3 July 1999. Eight young fledged in summers 1999 and 2000, representing the first successful Heermann's Gull nests in the United States. Photograph by Don Roberson.

Drummond 1990, Velarde 1999) than to the isolated colonies in western Baja California, which initiate breeding a month or two later (Jehl 1976). The prior California attempts have also been later, with eggs not laid until mid-May or even later (Howell et al. 1983). Noting that all prior California efforts have been unsuccessful, we wonder if the earlier initiation of breeding by the Roberts Lake pairs contributed to their success.

Finally, it is interesting that the tiny Roberts Lake population now appears to be resident and that two-year-olds have already begun practicing courtship behavior. Whether the failures of summer 2001 will bring an end this far-flung pioneering colony remains to be seen.

Acknowledgments

Diana Ingersoll at the City of Seaside Department of Public Works graciously provided information on the creation and maintenance of the islets in Roberts Lake. Alan Baldrige, Dave Haupt, and Dan Singer directly supplied us with details of their observations, and we benefited from reports by others left on the local rare bird alert maintained by the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society.

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Figure 4. A one-year-old Heermann's Gull stretches its wing at Roberts Lake in May 2001 where it had fledged the previous summer. Each summer the three nests were highly synchronous, and thus young birds a year later were in very similar states of molt. Nearby two-year-olds were already engaged in courtship behavior toward adults. Photograph by Don Roberson.

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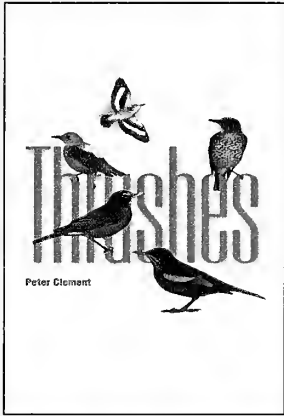
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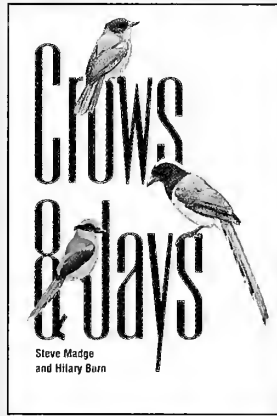
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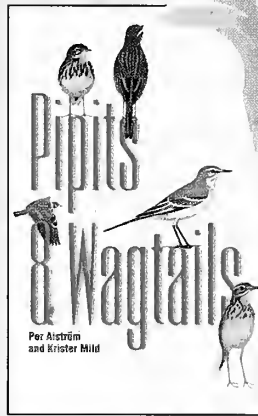
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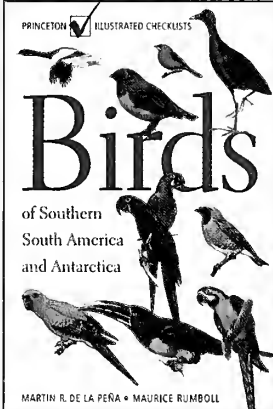
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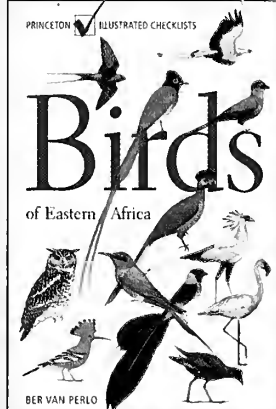


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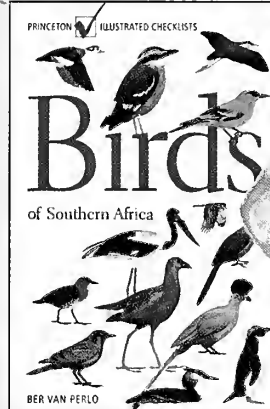
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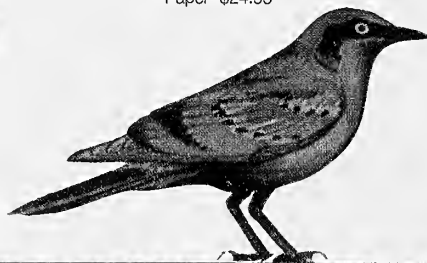
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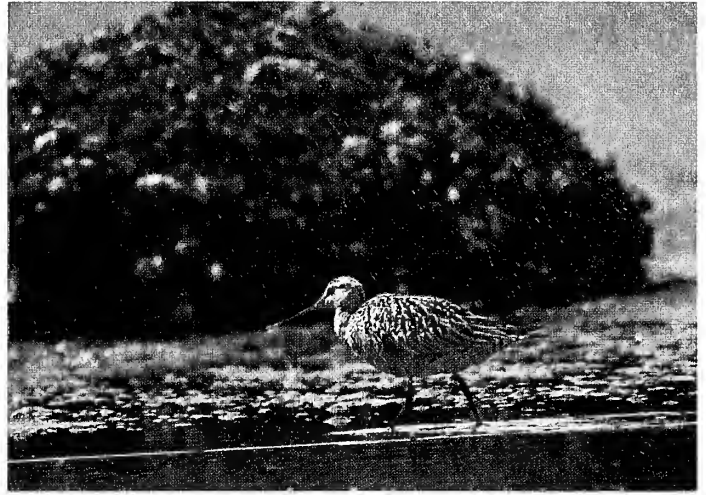
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PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Northern California's first Glossy Ibis was in Alviso, Santa Clara County 14–15 May and in nearby Alameda County 20–21 May. It accompanied a major incursion of White-faced Ibis towards the coast and indeed a major flight of both dark *Plegadis* out of range in spring 2001. This photograph was taken on 15 May near the TiVo™ parking lot by the intersection of Highway 237 and Gold/Lafayette streets in Alviso. Photograph by Les Chibana.



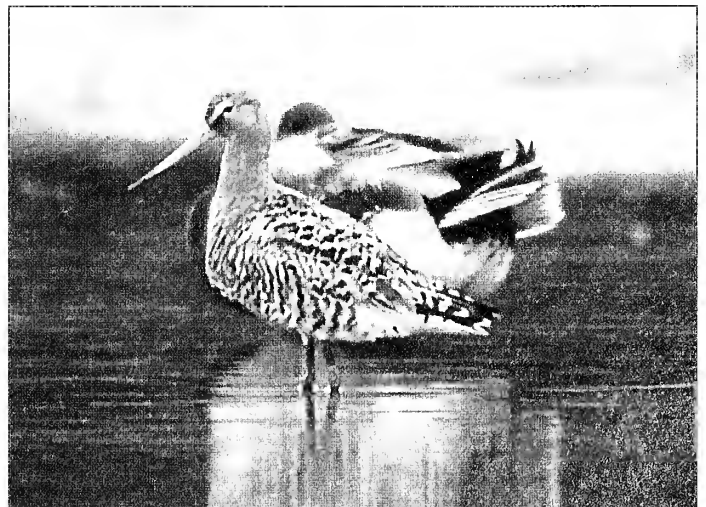
One Bar-tailed Godwit was among 100 Whimbrel in Tofino, west Vancouver Island 16–19 May. This is the second local record. Photograph by Richard Staniforth.



Arguably the best bird of the season in Montana was its first Whooper Swan in Somers. Discovered by subregional editor Dan Casey, this bird arrived 5 March with migrant Trumpeter and Tundra Swans and left with them on 11 March. It had intact flight feathers and no leg bands or other indications of captivity. Photograph by Dan Casey.



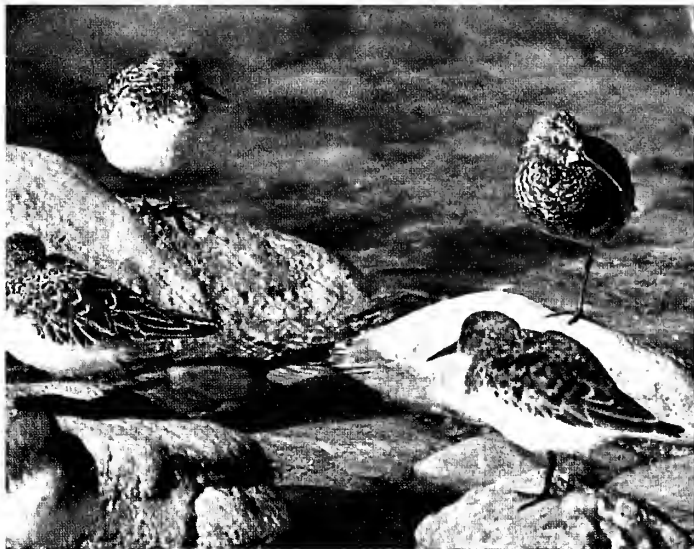
A very rare visitor to Florida, this male Masked Duck at Pembroke Pines, one of at least two discovered here 19 May, was photographed 9 June. Photograph by Alex Calzadilla.



The much-observed Black-tailed Godwit at Eastport, Long Island was New York's first; it was identified to subspecies as *Limosa limosa islandica* by virtue of its extensive rich chestnut underparts. Photograph by Dr. M. Stubblefield/VIREO.



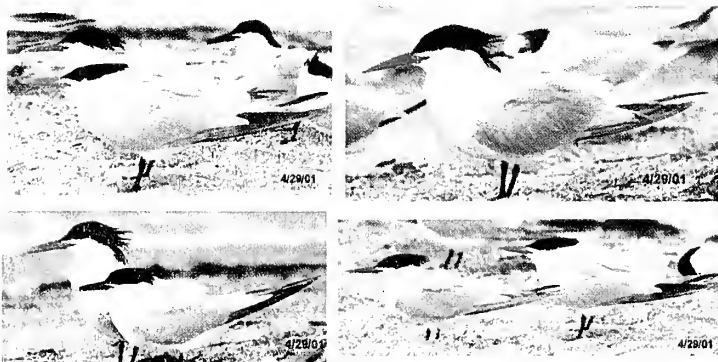
This Wandering Tattler, a species rare anywhere in the continent's interior, was found at the Antelope Island Causeway, Davis County, Utah, on 25 May. It remained into June and allowed extensive study by many observers. This spring was particularly productive for shorebirding in the eastern Great Basin. *Photograph by Terry Sadler.*



A Curlew Sandpiper at the Antelope Island Causeway, Davis County, Utah 6–8 May was the third state record for the species. *Photograph by Terry Sadler.*



Among a great passage of pelagic seabirds documented throughout the Lesser Antilles, Bahamas, and Bermuda this spring, this Arctic Tern was captured on film 21 May on the beach at Guadeloupe. *Photograph by Anthony Levesque/VIREO.*



This adult Elegant Tern, thought to be the same individual as noted in December 2000, courted, then copulated with this female Sandwich Tern at Fort De Soto County Park, Florida 26 April 2001; the Elegant Tern had first been refound on 20 April. *Photographs by Lyn Atherton.*



A Barn Owl present for one day 21 April at Île des Soeurs, Québec, attracted much attention. Although there are at least 50 records for Québec, this may be the only the second time this species has been photographed alive in the wild here. Very few birders from Montreal had seen this species in the province before this individual appeared, as most of the records are from farmers or of specimens found dead. The photograph was taken by digiscoping (to learn more, consult: <http://www.vdn.ca/~ledy/portfolio1e.html>). Photograph by Yves Leduc.



This Boreal Owl, banded at Presque Isle State Park, Erie, 7 April 2001, provided the first Pennsylvania record since 1896, when one was collected near Pittsburgh. Photograph by David Darney.



This male Costa's Hummingbird was Colorado's first at Crow Valley Campground, Weld County (photographed 17 May 2001). Photograph by Ruth Dick.



A long-staying male Black-backed Woodpecker delighted many observers at the Pocono Environmental Education Center in Pike County, Pennsylvania from 6 March to 16 May. It provided the second documented state record. This image was taken 29 April 2001. Photograph by Rick Wiltraut.



This Common Grackle, a species showing up with greater frequency in western states and provinces, was in Quatsino, north Vancouver Island, British Columbia, 20–24 April. This was the island's third record but first in spring. Photograph by Shirley Wold.



The first Eyebrowed Thrush in North America away from western Alaska shocked visitors to Galileo Hill Park, an oasis in the Mojave Desert of Kern County, in southern California on 28 May. *Photograph by Bob Steele.*



Birders touring Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska were welcomed from 28 May onward by this handsome male Eurasian Bullfinch that frequented the town's middens. *Photograph by Gil Ewing.*



The West Indies' first Giant Cowbird, a female, was documented nicely on Barbados at Palm Beach 6 March 2001. *Photograph by Martin Frost.*

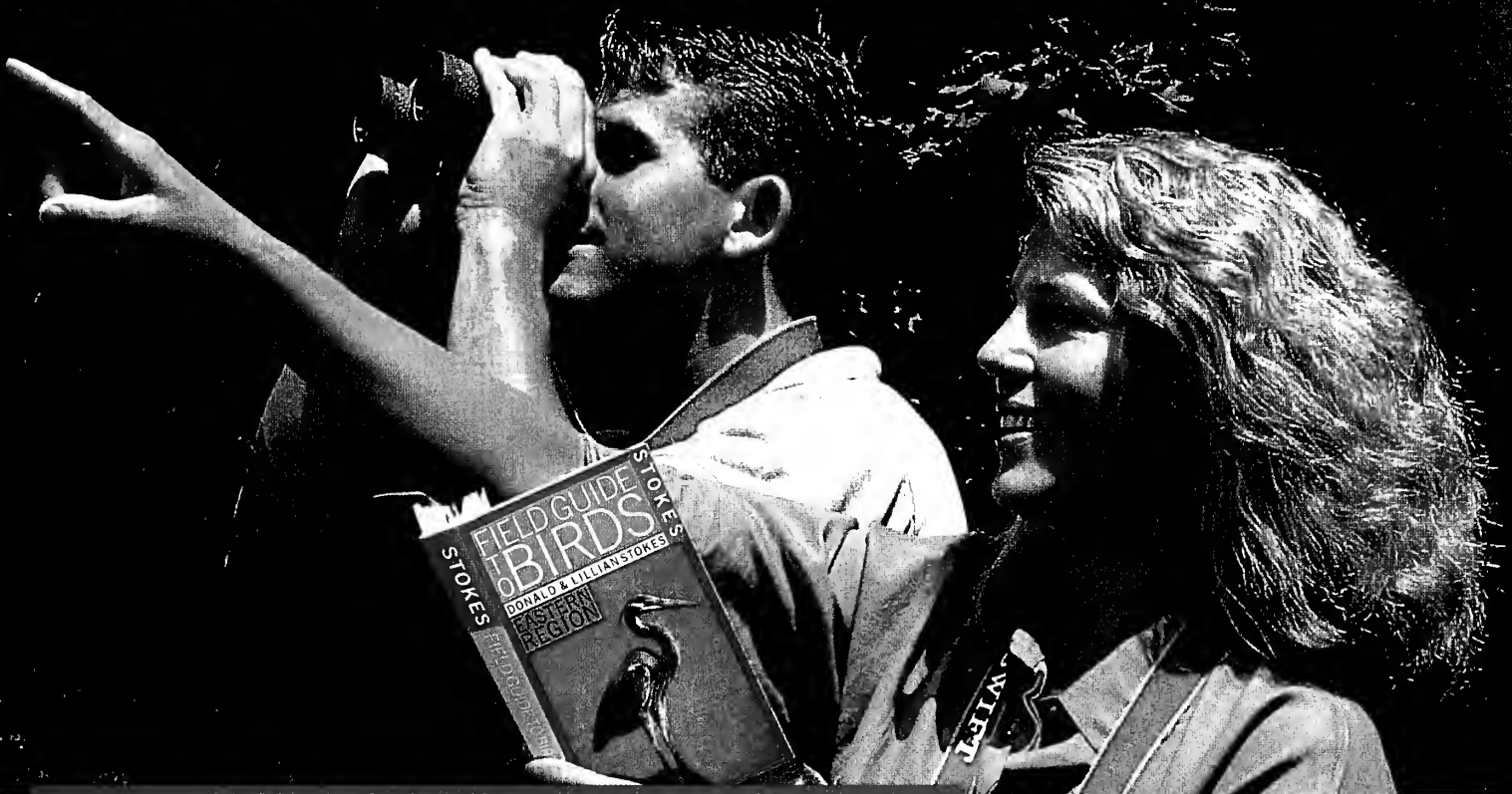


A male Lazuli Bunting, one of two in Florida this spring and a genuine vagrant in the East anywhere, frequented a very productive Mulberry tree at Fort De Soto County Park 18–24 April, the only previous record for Florida comes from 1977. *Photograph by Ken Tracey.*



One of two recorded in spring 2001 in Alaska, this Great Spotted Woodpecker was noted 11 May on Shemya Island, Alaska. The other was much farther east on St. George Island five days earlier. These are the seventh and eighth individuals recorded in the state. *Photograph by M.T. Schwitters.*

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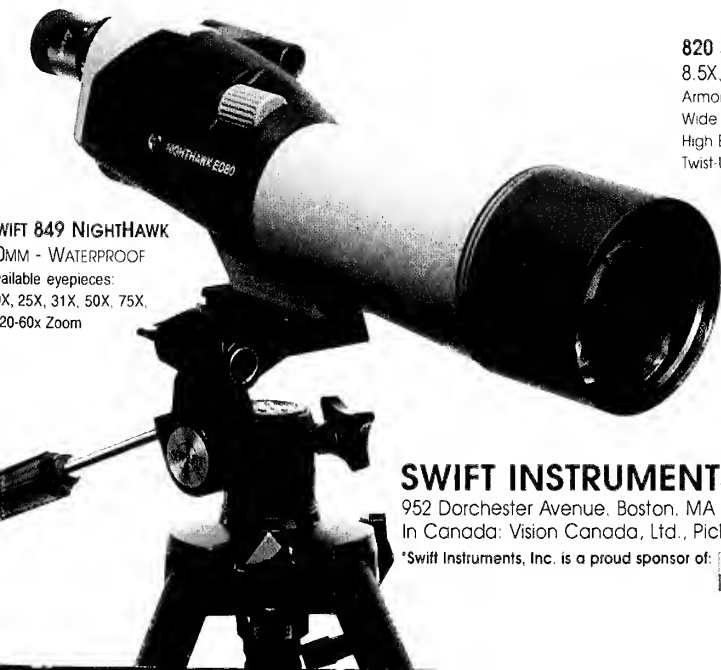
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