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On the cover: Red Phalaropes, like this adult female photographed at Barrow, Alaska 18 June 2006, were much in evidence in North America in 2006. In early January, thousands were seen along Pacific shores, as gales battered the coast; in mid-May, when a powerful Atlantic storm struck New England, dozens were found at inland locations from New York through Québec and as far north as Maine. Photograph by George L. Armistead.





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A Streaked Shearwater (*Calonectris leucomelas*) record for Wyoming

DOUG FAULKNER • DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY • UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING • LARAMIE, WYOMING • (EMAIL: dfaulk@uwoyo.edu)

Abstract

This paper examines the discovery of a Streaked Shearwater (*Calonectris leucomelas*) carcass near Medicine Bow, Wyoming, on 13 June 2006 and criteria for its identification. The larger context for this record—in particular, other records of pelagic bird species from the western interior United States and their displacement by weather features—is also considered herein.

Field encounter

On 13 June 2006, Frank Mauer and Marji Patz (USDA–NRCS) were on a field review on the Cassidy River Ranch, Albany County (41.99° N, 106.08° W), northeast of Medicine Bow, Wyoming, when Mauer observed a bird carcass on the muddy shore of a small reser-

voir away from the water's edge. Mauer quickly recognized the bird's features (e.g., nari-corns) as indicating an oceanic species and thus its importance as a species uncharacteristic of Wyoming. Later that day, Patz stored the carcass in a freezer for delivery to Bob Lanka (Wyoming Game and Fish Department), who subsequently contacted David McDonald (University of Wyoming) to ask

Identification

his opinion on the identification. McDonald took photographs of the carcass (Figures 1-4) and forwarded them to the author for an additional opinion. The bird can be readily identified as a member of the seabird order Procellariiformes by the naricornes at the base of the maxilla (Figure 1); these are structures that encase the nostrils and are used in diverting salt excreted from the salt glands away from the bird's face (and probably in olfaction as well). The bill is also composed of multiple plates, rather than as a single piece, typical of procellariiforms. Fused naricornes are found in the families Procellariidae (shearwaters and petrels) and Hydrobatidae (storm-petrels); the latter

plumage, Figure 1 clearly shows these features. Similar Pacific shearwaters could include Buller's (*Puffinus bulleri*), Wedge-tailed (*P. pacificus*), and Pink-footed (*P. creatopus*). Buller's Shearwater is easily eliminated by the lack of boldly patterned upperwings (Figure 2). Additionally, Buller's shows a dark bill and clean white underwing primary coverts, whereas the Wyoming bird has a light-colored bill and dark underwing primary coverts. These latter attributes also help eliminate Wedge-tailed Shearwater. In addition to bill color and underwing primary pattern, light-morph Wedge-tailed Shearwater can be ruled out based on the long, white undertail coverts, which extend well beyond the feet (never so in Wedge-tailed). Examination of the Wyoming bird showed that the legs were nearly fully extended (Figure 3). The

lightest Pink-footed Shearwaters could appear rather similar to Streaked Shearwater, particularly individuals with abnormally pale faces or napes. Pink-footed also shares the attributes of a light-colored bill and pink legs with the Wyoming bird (Figure 4). Furthermore, Pink-footed has extensive dark pigmentation in underwing coverts, although usually this is more extensive than in Streaked. However, in contrast to the Wyoming bird (Figure 3), Pink-footed has dark undertail coverts and a shorter tail, so that the legs extend to nearly the tail tip. The size of the specimen rules out the larger Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*) of the Atlantic, and while the recently split Cape Verde Shearwater (*C. edwardsii*) is similar in size to the Wyoming

specimen, it is darker above and lacks pale plumage in the head and nape.

Discussion

How this Streaked Shearwater arrived in Wyoming remains a mystery. The natural occurrence of this species inland has been debated previously (California Bird Records Committee, in prep.), but it is inconceiv-

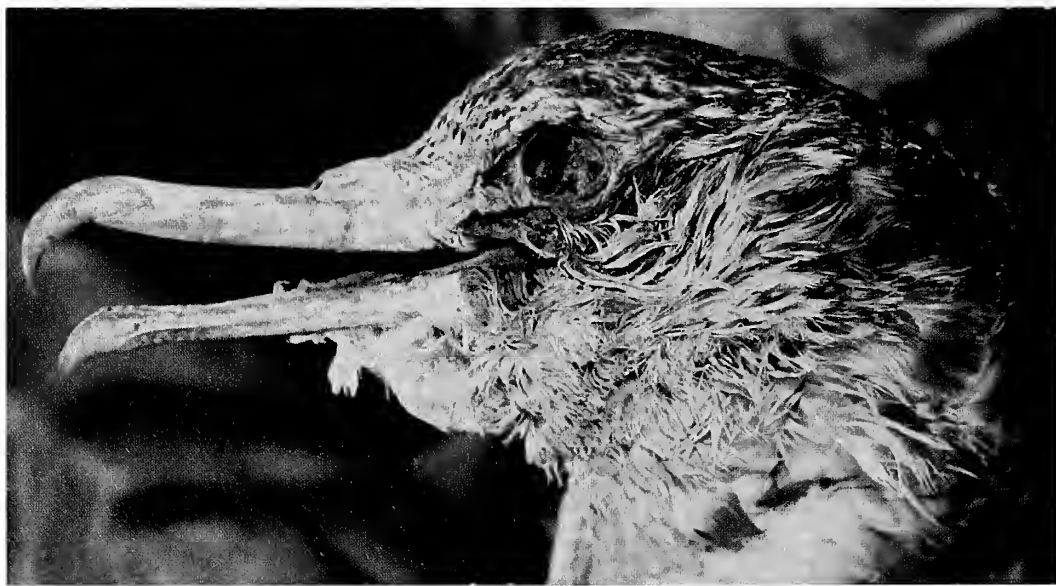


Figure 1. Streaked Shearwater carcass found in Albany County near Medicine Bow, Carbon County, Wyoming, on 13 June 2006. Note the white facial aspect and extensive streaking on the crown and nape, all typical of this species and not present in other shearwaters, although rare leucistic individuals of other species may show somewhat similar patterns. Photograph by David McDonald.

voir away from the water's edge. Mauer quickly recognized the bird's features (e.g., nari-corns) as indicating an oceanic species and thus its importance as a species uncharacteristic of Wyoming. Later that day, Patz stored the carcass in a freezer for delivery to Bob Lanka (Wyoming Game and Fish Department), who subsequently contacted David McDonald (University of Wyoming) to ask

can be ruled out by the bird's body length as compared to the length of a standard sheet of paper (27.9 cm; Figures 2, 3), which exceeds that of all storm-petrels.

According to Harrison (1985), the only procellariid with a combination of white facial aspect and streaked hindcrown and nape is Streaked Shearwater (*Calonectris leucomelas*). Despite the poor condition of this bird's

able, if implausible, that this bird arrived in Wyoming with human assistance. Streaked Shearwater, a species of the western North Pacific, is considered a fall vagrant along the North American Pacific coast, with the majority of accepted records (13) from California and all North American records from the period 5 August–9 October, including one inland at Red Bluff, California 5 August 1993, about 1360 km from the Wyoming location (Marshall et al. 2003; Garrett and Singer 1998). The actual date of the bird's occurrence in Wyoming, however, appears to have been within a week of discovery. A necropsy of the carcass found the viscera still moist and maggot-ridden—a condition that could apply only if it was recently deceased. The bird was clearly emaciated and had succumbed to starvation, as no visceral fat was evident, the pectoral muscles were atrophied, and there was no evidence of external trauma. In addition, neither the esophagus nor stomach had any contents (Cynthia Tate, pers. comm.).

Records of pelagic species in the interior West (defined here as North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho) are few, particularly in the summer season. All of these states but North Dakota have autumn records of Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*), and Colorado and Wyoming have autumn records of Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*) (Sibley 2000). Wyoming has a summer record of Lesser Frigatebird (*Fregata ariel*; 11 July 2003; see article, this issue), Montana a late-spring record of Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*; 30 May 2004; Trochlell 2004), and North Dakota a summer record of South Polar Skua (*Stercorarius maccormicki*; 13 July 1989; Berkey 1989). Colorado, Kansas, and Utah have one or more records of Magnificent Frigatebird (*F. magnificens*), mostly from the warmer months, as does Oklahoma and as do most interior states farther east (Sibley 2000). Oklahoma also has a record of a Great Frigatebird (*F. minor*; 3 November 1975; Heller and Barclay 1977). Some of the frigatebird records, but by no means all, can be tied to discrete weather events such as tropical storms; the absence of clear evidence linking the records of the skua and the shearwaters to storm systems suggests that other factors may have resulted in their disorientation. It is conceivable that off-course birds such as these travel along major waterways like the Colorado, Columbia, or Mississippi River systems, for instance, or that they simply have faulty navigational systems.



Figure 2. Streaked Shearwater carcass found in Albany County near Medicine Bow, Carbon County, Wyoming, on 13 June 2006. The fairly uniform upperparts help to rule out similar Pacific shearwater species, particularly Buller's Shearwater. Photograph by David McDonald.

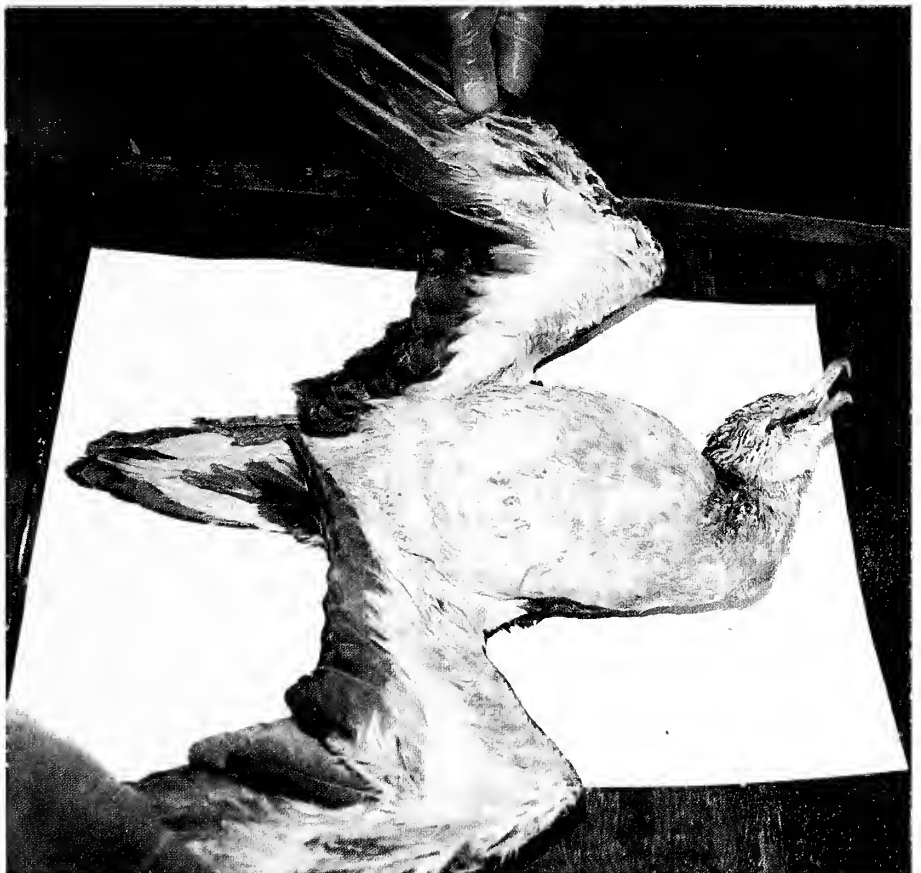


Figure 3. Streaked Shearwater carcass found in Albany County near Medicine Bow, Carbon County, Wyoming, on 13 June 2006. The facial streaking is better evident in this photograph than in Figure 1. The dark primary coverts and long, white undertail coverts extending beyond the feet eliminate Pink-footed and Wedge-tailed Shearwaters. Photograph by David McDonald.



Figure 4. Streaked Shearwater carcass found in Albany County near Medicine Bow, Carbon County, Wyoming, on 13 June 2006. Along with some plumage features, the bird's pink legs superficially suggest Pink-footed Shearwater. Photograph by David McDonald.

Acknowledgments

My thanks to Frank Mauer for recognizing the value of the carcass; to Marji Patz and Bob Lanka for preserving the specimen; to Cyn-

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Reassessment of a frigatebird record for Wyoming: Lesser Frigatebird (*Fregata ariel*)

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Abstract

This paper establishes the third record (chronologically, the second record) for North America of Lesser Frigatebird (*Fregata ariel*), an adult female found emaciated and near death on 11 July 2003 near Basin, Big Horn County, Wyoming. Details surrounding the original encounter, the bird's demise and final resting place, reassessment of documentary photographs, separation from other species, and weather conditions possibly responsible for this bird's presence in Wyoming are discussed herein.

Field encounter

On 11 July 2003, a Wyoming Game and Fish Department biologist discovered a severely emaciated frigatebird (*Fregata*) lying on the ground near the town of Basin, Big Horn County, Wyoming. He picked up the bird and delivered it to a wildlife rehabilitation clinic in Cody, where the bird died within an hour of its arrival. Prior to and after its demise, several photographs were taken (Figures 1-3). The bird was promptly placed in the rehabilitation center's freezer. Later, when the local museum refused the specimen because it was

not a species native to the state, the rehabilitator was compelled to dispose of it in the local landfill due to wildlife regulations regarding storage of non-game birds.

During this period, it was reasonably assumed to be a Magnificent Frigatebird (*F. magnificens*), and the record, along with all of the photographs presented here, was submitted as that species to the Wyoming Bird Records Committee. The Committee formally accepted it as the first state record of Magnificent Frigatebird (file WBRC #03-002).

Reassessment of the photographs

In late June 2006, while working on a major publication updating the status and distribution of Wyoming's avifauna, I asked the Cody wildlife rehabilitator about the Magnificent Frigatebird. She sent a single photograph (Figure 1) showing the bird's dorsal aspect post-mortem and mentioned that more photographs were submitted along with the records committee documentation. Several features immediately looked wrong to me for Magnificent: the reddish orbital ring, pink bill, and especially the white collar with rusty tinge on the hindneck. I consulted Harrison (1985), and, after finding that Magnificent did not exhibit any of those characteristics in any age/sex combination, I contacted the records committee's Secretary for the remaining photographs. I sent these images to several seabird biologists, who confirmed the identification as an adult female Lesser Frigatebird (*F. ariel*).

Identification

As Brennan and Schultz (2006) mention regarding their analysis of a Lesser Frigatebird in Michigan, it is important to determine age and sex of any frigatebird before trying to establish a specific identity. Fortunately, the available photographs of Wyoming's frigatebird are of an in-hand or deceased bird, and several diagnostic features are shown in close detail.

There are five frigatebird species worldwide—Ascension (*F. aquila*), Christmas Is-

land (*F. andrewsi*), Great (*F. minor*), Lesser, and Magnificent. All five share similar basic plumage features that more or less characterize age and sex classes. Using these basic plumage features, one may decisively rule out sexes and entire age classes.

The Wyoming frigatebird's black head rules out juvenal plumage of all species, in which the head is either white or rust-colored, depending on the species. Additionally, the combination of black head and white breast (Figure 2) eliminates males of all age classes in all species. Subadult and adult males typically exhibit a dark head and upper breast, though many age classes have a white belly (Harrison 1985, Howell 1994). In Figure 2, the Wyoming bird shows a dark head/throat, white breast, and dark belly, defining it as a female. The rusty tinge to the white collar, also apparent on the black throat in Figure 2, was determined to be stain from the handler's leather gloves.

Separation of close age classes can be difficult, as frigatebirds may take 4+ years to reach maturity (Harrison 1985, Howell 1994). Examination of the wing shows a non-juvenal p10 (tenth primary) and staffelmauser primary-replacement patterns indicative of a frigatebird at least four years old (Figure 1; Peter Pyle, pers. comm.). Thus, this bird has reached maturity and can be safely considered an adult female.

For adult female frigatebirds, the ventral patterning is crucial for separating species. The white axillary spurs (Figure 2) rule out Magnificent and all but a small proportion of Great Frigatebirds (Harrison 1987). Moreover, unlike in Magnificent Frigatebird, the Wyoming frigatebird has a reddish orbital ring, pink bill, and an extensive white collar dorsally (Figure 1): Magnificent shows a blue orbital ring, grayish bill, and a reduced gray hind collar (Howell 1994). The black throat rules out female Great Frigatebird, which has a pale gray throat; likewise, the white hind collar and alar bars (Figures 1, 3) further eliminate Great, in which both are brown (James 2004).

Of the three remaining species, Ascension and Christmas Island are superficially more similar to the Wyoming bird. However, pale-morph adult female Ascension Frigatebird has a dark head and brown chest (Harrison 1985), bill and orbital ring color are grayish and pale blue, respectively, and Ascension also has a dark alar bar. Christmas Island Frigatebird has more extensive white plumage below, which connects the collar to the chest and the belly, as well as black breast-tabs (James 2004): the Wyoming frigatebird's belly was black, and the white chest lacked black breast-tabs (Figure 2). Thus, we are left only with Lesser Frigatebird as having no plumage characteristics inconsistent with the

Wyoming bird. In addition, the size of this female frigatebird in comparison with a standard-sized newspaper (56 cm; cf. Figure 3) is too small to be any of the other four species (86 cm minimum: a full 50% longer than the newspaper). All other species are much larger than Lesser Frigatebird, which measures 71–81 cm (Harrison 1985).

Discussion

Brennan and Schultz (2006) thoroughly reviewed the only other North American record of this species (Maine, 3 July 1960) within their account of the Michigan Lesser Frigatebird. The occurrence of any frigatebird in

Wyoming is perhaps even more remarkable than the two other North American records, given the state's landlocked location in western North America. Of states adjoining Wyoming, only Colorado and Utah have confirmed records for Magnificent Frigatebird (Sibley 2000). Brennan and Schultz (2006) rightly indicate that strong tropical storm activity is probably only part of the equation for the occurrence of these birds in North America. While the previous Maine and subsequent Michigan Lesser Frigatebirds have been assumed to be vagrants of the South Atlantic Ocean subspecies *trinitatis*, which breeds on several islands far east of the coast of Brazil,

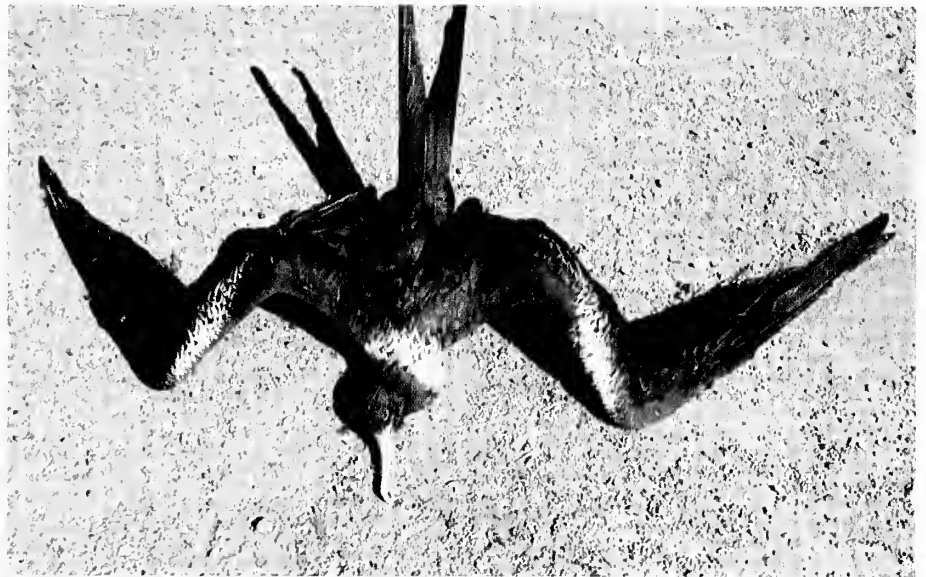


Figure 1. Dorsal aspect of a Lesser Frigatebird found near Basin, Big Horn County, Wyoming on 11 July 2003. Note the extensive white hind color, whitish alar bars, pink bill, and reddish orbital ring. The rusty tinge to the collar (see also Figure 2) is residue from the handler's leather gloves. Photograph by Susan Ahalt.



Figure 2. Ventral aspect of a Lesser Frigatebird found near Basin, Big Horn County, Wyoming on 11 July 2003. The prominent white axillary spurs, black belly, and white chest help to rule out all other frigatebird species. Photograph by Susan Ahalt.



Figure 3. Lesser Frigatebird found near Basin, Big Horn County, Wyoming on 11 July 2003, shortly before its death. This live bird is only slightly longer than a standard-sized newspaper (56 cm), a measurement that places the bird's estimated length below the range of all other frigatebird species. *Photographer unknown (also for frontispiece).*

the source population for the Wyoming Lesser Frigatebird is perhaps less likely to be in the Atlantic. The lack of significant tropical weather during the time of the bird's discovery, along with the prevailing westerly winds preceding the date of its discovery, suggest instead an Indo-Pacific Ocean origin, thus most likely indicative of a bird of the nominate subspecies, which is a widespread breeder in the central and eastern Indian Ocean and which disperses widely. The normal dispersal range of Lesser Frigatebird populations in the Indo-Pacific Basin does not extend north of Japan, but there are a few extralimital records for Siberia and Hawaii (Sibley and Clapp 1967, Harrison 1985, Pratt et al. 1987). The subspecies *iredalei* (sometimes called Mascarene Lesser Frigatebird) of the western Indian Ocean has a smaller population that is also geographically more remote from North America; it may not be a valid subspecies (Marchant and Higgins 1990).

Satellite imagery showing weather systems from the week before the Wyoming frigatebird's arrival marks a low-pressure system developing in the northern Pacific Ocean near Alaska's Aleutian Islands on 5 July; this system then moved in a southeasterly direction, toward Wyoming, producing thunderstorms across Montana and Wyoming on 8 and 9 July. The system quickly moved out, and both 10 and 11 July were mostly clear (UNISYS 2006). Thus, the frigatebird, if it arrived with this system, probably wandered for several days before being found and ultimately succumbed to starvation. If this bird did indeed arrive from the North Pacific with this weather system, it represents a remarkable displace-

ment, as the species is already a vagrant in the northeastern North Pacific Ocean.

In the intermountain West, there is scant precedent for this record. Colorado's only Magnificent Frigatebird record was of an adult female found near Denver on 14 September 1985, then again at a mountain reservoir on 16 September. The frigatebird, apparently in a starved state, was eventually killed by a group of windsurfers after it accosted one of them (Webb 1985). This record coincided with remnants of Hurricane *Elena* from the Gulf of Mexico. The possibility that Atlantic tropical weather influenced the Wyoming Lesser Frigatebird's arrival in the way that Hurricane *Katrina* almost certainly did for Michigan's Lesser (Brennan and Schultz 2006) appears to be remote: the only storm activity during this period was Tropical Storm *Bill*, which arrived on the upper Texas Gulf coast 30 June. This weak, slow-moving system moved abruptly eastward after making landfall and was not noted for any avian fall-out (Mark Lockwood, pers. comm.).

Acknowledgments

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graphs in this paper and to Susan Ahalt for permission to use her photographs of the bird.

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The Changing Seasons: Far fetched

EDWARD S. BRINKLEY • 106 MONROE AVENUE • CAPE CHARLES, VIRGINIA 23310

The spring of 2006 put most of us in mind, well, of the spring of 2005, in the eastern half of the continent, in any case: that is, it was warm, but there was some “weather” in May that slowed migration, so that the early part of the season saw an abundance of early arrivals (and few concentrations of migrants), but the latter part of migration slowed, as birds awaited favorable winds. Overall, conditions were driest in the Southwest, wettest in the Northeast and Northwest—as is true in most years—but generally warmer in the East, cooler in the West, a crude pattern familiar from many springs past and a function of the average position of the jet stream.

In Canada’s Atlantic provinces, temperatures ran about 3.5° F above average; next door, in Québec, temperatures were 3–5° F above normal, relatively warmer in the north, and set records in many cases; and Ontario also had a warm spring, likewise with a cool-down in mid/late May. Reports from the East generally agree that the season was warmer and drier than normal, with a wet mid-May that in some cases was extreme. For instance, while March in Massachusetts was the third driest in 112 years, May was the second *wettest* ever there, with over 50 cm of rain (and devastating floods) in some locations in northern Massachusetts. The effects of the mid-May storms were negligible in the Southeast and Gulf of Mexico states, where warm temperatures and moderate weather was reported throughout the period. Eastern Texas had some good soaking rains to relieve parched conditions there.

The Midwest had a more active weather pattern, as is typical in spring, with strong storms passing between late March and early April in the central Midwest. Between late March and early May, the Midwest recorded temperatures well above the average; April in Illinois and Indiana, for instance, saw temperatures that averaged 5–6° F above normal, “resulting in an early leaf-out and giving the impression of late arrival times for many groups of birds; actual arrival dates, however, proved to be about normal,” according to Jim Hengeveld, Keith McMullen, and Geoffrey Williamson. From Minnesota to Michigan, Iowa to Missouri, unusually warm weather continued through much of April but abruptly ended on 9 May, particularly in the north, as a large low-pressure system

stalled over Lake Michigan, bringing over a week of rain and cool temperatures. This period of cool, wet weather extended into Appalachia, and Brainard Palmer-Ball and Chris Sloan report mortality in some species such as Purple Martin in Tennessee and Kentucky. It is interesting that this mid-May cool-down oc-



Spring 2006 was most memorable for fallouts of shorebirds, from Alaska to Atlantic Canada. This striking adult Lesser Sandplover in breeding plumage was photographed on the edge of Sitkin Sound, along the east side of Clam Lagoon, Adak Island, Alaska on 16 May 2006. Photograph by John Puschock.

curring at nearly the same time as the coastal Atlantic storms.

As often seems to occur, the spring was warmer overall in the eastern prairies than farther west: March/April was warmer than usual in Manitoba but rather cool and often wet from Alberta westward through British Columbia and north into Yukon and Alaska. Mainland Alaska reported *La Niña*-like conditions, mostly cooler than average, cloudy, but with a week of 70° F weather in mid-May. To the south, Idaho and Montana also saw its warmest weather in May, while the Pacific Northwest’s extremely wet winter gave way to a wet, cool, late spring, with precipitation heaviest in the first half of the season, setting local records in Mono County and Humboldt County, California. From southern California to western Texas, north into the Great Basin and southern Rockies, conditions were warm

and very dry, reaching “extreme drought” proportions from New Mexico north to southeastern Colorado.

Regular readers of this column will be unsurprised to read the words “lackluster” and “uneventful” and “dull” and “slow” in two dozen regional reports in reference to passerine migration. Warm spring seasons with relatively few cold fronts make the job of writing this column both easier and more difficult! The height of migration, in May, saw fallouts of passerines in the Midwest and western Gulf Coast, but along most of the northern East Coast, into Canada, the northeasterly winds shut down migration of most birds through about 22 May. Blake Maybank, writing of the migration in the Atlantic Provinces, adds that in addition to the effects of contrary winds, “I suspect we are witnessing the persistent effects of the massive mortality events of spring 2005”—thus the low numbers of migrants but typical diversity. In the mid-Atlantic states, southerly winds blew mostly in early April, 23–25 April, 4–5 May, and 24–28 May, with strong land-bird migration noted from New England through Virginia during those windows but little migration documented during mid-May at all. As a result, “overshooting” species (kites, doves, and their ilk) were also mostly below average across the board, from the Rockies to eastern Canada. In the Midwest, observers lamented the rather dull, warm April, with few concentrations of migrants, and the mostly slow May; the cold, wet period in the middle of May led to local backups/fallouts of warblers in Iowa and in northeastern Ohio (which recorded 38 species of warblers) but to a “dead stop” to migration in Michigan and Wisconsin. Gulf Coast states had a rather mixed experience of the spring. Western Florida and Alabama had dry weather and few fronts; one seasoned observer remarked that it was “as though migration had not taken place.” To the west, however, Louisiana birders experienced a better migration than average, and several cool fronts coincided conveniently with weekends. As in the East, superlatives on migration were scarce in the regional reports from the West. Evidence of heavy migration was spotty and local: several good waves of western migrants were noted in Southern California, especially 22 April–4 May and 7 May; storm-groundings of

shorebirds came in mid-May in Colorado and Wyoming; and a good flight of Veery and Gray-cheeked Thrush was documented in Colorado.

I beg your pardon?

Picture this. The time is July 1976, a year of a great bicentennial celebration in the United States, the two-hundredth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Bell-bottom blue jeans, disco, pop-tarts, corn-dogs, and the environmental movement in full flower. At the Democratic National Convention in New York City, a lifelong birder named James Earl Carter, Jr., is nominated as the party's candidate for President of the United States. During one of the endless festivals of the summer, you duck into a tent, on a lark, to ask a psychic what birding will look like 30 years from now, in the futuristic-sounding year of 2006. She gazes into her crystal ball.

"I'm seeing a Verdin in Washington state; a Southern Lapwing in Maryland; White-tailed Hawks in Massachusetts and Jersey; maybe a Broad-billed Hummingbird in Nova Scotia. Whooping Cranes and whistling-ducks all over the place. Eurasian Collared-Doves nesting everywhere; they reach Yukon that year. Great Tits in Wisconsin. Eh? No, wise guy—the bird. *Breeding* in Wisconsin. Maybe another report of Ivory-billed Woodpecker; I'm getting ... Florida? Yes, Florida. Oh, plus all those splits—vireos, golden-plovers, sharp-tailed sparrows, murrelets, orioles, towhees, thrushes, flycatchers, gulls, geese, sapsuckers, what have you—vagrants of those, all over. Ooh, but hybrids, hon, watch out for hybrids. What a mess with those. Who knew?" She pauses ominously.

Your jaw drops and you shake your head, trying to take it all in. "That'll be \$5," she reminds you. Still in shock, you press for more. "What?" she says. "No, nothing else goes extinct that I can see. No, no splits in the warblers, hon, sorry; but no more lumps, either. And Kirtland's Warbler is doing well, yes. You'll get your Kirtland's. No, doll, no more birder-presidents. Enjoy this one. That'll be \$10."

Far fetched? *Welcome to Birding 2006. Keep your hands inside the roller coaster at all times.*

North of Normal

It seems that when these far-flung vagrants pop up in the mailbox, as they do increasingly often, I hear an evermore familiar voice saying: "What next?!" Just as we get used to far-flung White-winged Doves and Mississippi Kites in spring, we have to get our heads around non-migratory birds of the border states—White-tailed Hawk, Verdin—in the Northeast and Northwest, respectively. Like Marvin Gaye, we

may wonder "What's going on?"

Or could we take a different philosophical attitude: perhaps we should relax our view of "normal" distributional ranges when it comes to birds. Some schools of Buddhism teach that every situation is but a passing memory. So it is with our attempts to conceive of the actual distribution of a bird species—they are outdated as soon as we have described them. More than any other single factor, this is what makes our birding, and this journal, so perdurable and so fascinating: birds do not stay put. Even when we try to map their whereabouts in real time (such as in maps, as on <www.ebird.org>), we trade in illusion, in a sense. Birding can reassure, can calm us—like seeing old friends during the holidays—and the commoner birds are our companions throughout our lives. But birding also shocks us, presents us with visitors we scarcely expect. And as we adjust to these, incorporate and accommodate them, new, even less-expected visitors appear. And we need not even see these birds ourselves: as a birding community, we register shock and wonder vicariously, at the birding experiences of others. We may, when we are green and new to birding, envy such experiences; when we ripen, we come to marvel at them, allow them to inspire us and sharpen our anticipation and discernment. This journal's great task, and privilege, is to digest our experiences and make sense of them, to prepare and sharpen our minds for the surprises to come. We never do justice to a season of birding. But let's begin with the least surprising, with the patterns we know best, before pondering the singular and the strange.

Doves—those perennial components of nearly every spring "Changing Seasons" essay in recent memory (most thoroughly in Leukering and Gibbons [2005])—marched onward and upward in 2006 but not quite with the gale-force barnstorming we have seen in other spring seasons. White-winged Doves were just "average" in their appearances, aside from the 22 reports from Colorado and Wyoming and six in Indiana; Missouri and Northern California each reported two, and sightings of singles, mostly in May, came from Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New York, New Jersey, North Dakota, Minnesota, Illinois, Delaware, Virginia, and the mountains of Alabama. Inca Dove was seen in Nebraska and Missouri and noted as holding on or expanding in Colorado, Oklahoma, and Kansas. Eurasian Collared-Dove consolidated gains in the Southeast, particularly southernmost Virginia, and single birds made it to New York, New Jersey, Ontario, and Pennsylvania—none to New England or Canada otherwise. However, in the northwestern sector of the

continent, the species was on fire, with massive gains in Washington, Oregon, British Columbia, Idaho, and Montana. Northern California and many locations in Mexico are reporting increases as well. Reports of escapees in Guerrero, Mexico and in Petersburg, Alaska make understanding the "natural" spread of this species tricky—not least because some of the birds that escape are mixed with what we are now instructed to call African Collared-Dove (formerly Ringed Turtle-Dove), a specimen of which was found at Daytona Beach, Florida this season. Good documentation of the spread of *Streptopelia* doves is thus still very much warranted: the situation is not nearly as straightforward as it may seem.

Spring regional reports are also usually replete with records of kites "overshooting" their southerly ranges, and this season was no exception. Mississippi Kites are invariably the most numerous of the three widespread kites, and in spring 2006, 15 extralimital birds made it to Cape Cod (one), Cape May (and two other New Jersey sites; eight total in the state), and Pennsylvania (four), as well as to Calumet County, Wisconsin and Furnace Creek Ranch, California. Almost as widespread north of regular range, single Swallow-tailed Kites appeared in nine locations, all the in the East: two in Virginia, one in Maryland, two in Pennsylvania, one in Connecticut, one in Massachusetts, and two in Ontario. White-tailed Kite, the least prone to wanderlust, appeared in Nevada (two), Louisiana (two), Arkansas, and Osage County, Oklahoma; reports are increasing in Arizona and New Mexico, where the species appears to be in a mode of expansion (one as far north as Becker Lake, Arizona), and in the Pacific Northwest.

In the West, birders have been finding Crested Caracaras well out of range in recent years, in numbers that have been comparable to kite's counts. In spring 2006, single birds were found north Washington (one) and Oregon (two), as well as to Monterey, Santa Cruz, and Sonoma Counties, California (up to six total). In core range—in the United States, mostly southern Arizona and Texas—the species is expanding a bit: both states reported caracaras in extralimital locations, and New Mexico reports came from three sites. The trajectory of these remarkable flights is not just to the north and northwest, however; as in other recent seasons, some caracaras are apparently moving toward the northeast as well. This season, one was found on 15 April in Kankakee, Illinois. Given the northward expansion of caracaras in Florida (this season saw one in Orange County 31 May), it is tempting to wonder whether some

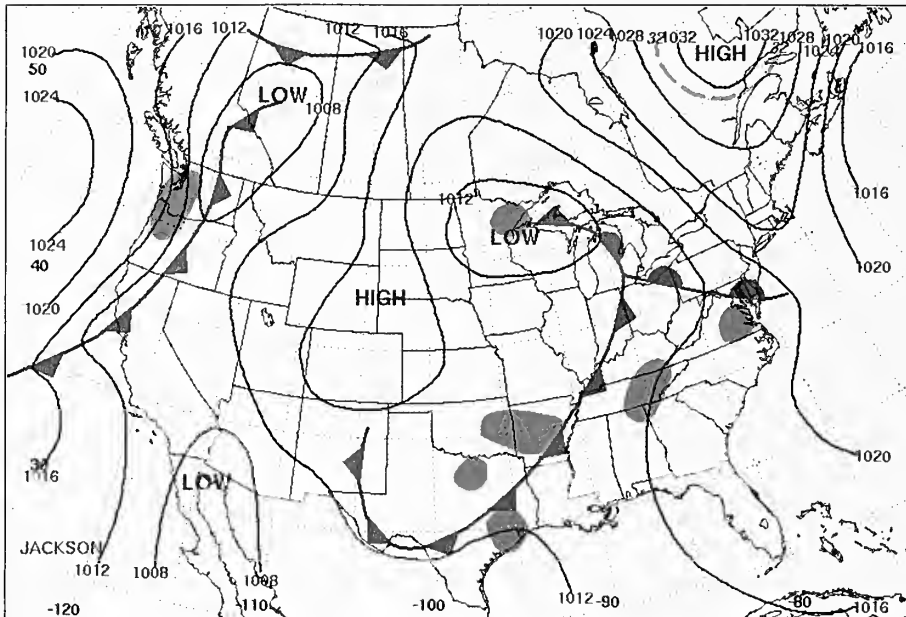


Figure 1. Surface weather map for 21 April 2006 at 0700 E.S.T. Graphic courtesy of the National Centers for Environmental Prediction, United States Department of Commerce.

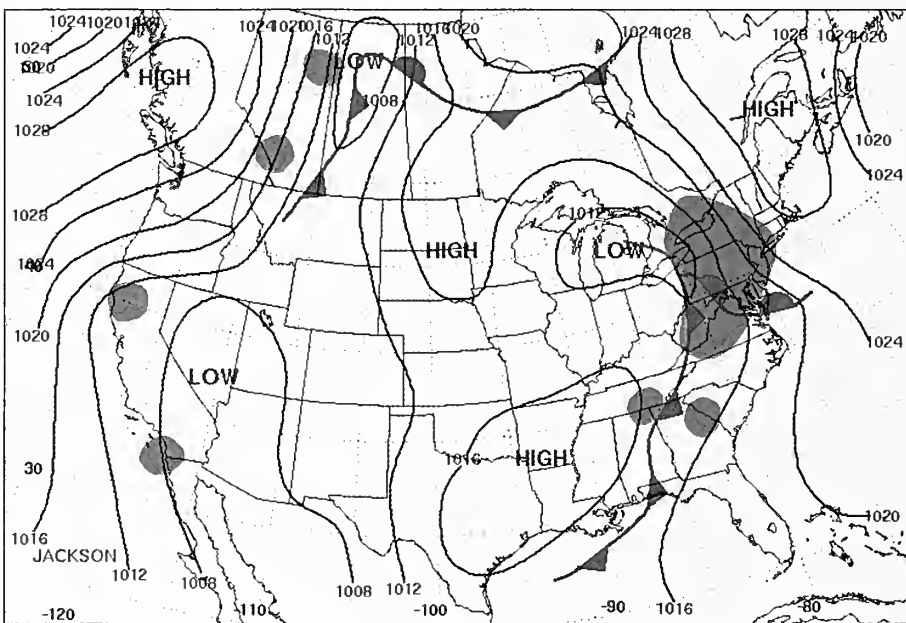


Figure 2. Surface weather map for 22 April 2006 at 0700 E.S.T. Graphic courtesy of the National Centers for Environmental Prediction, United States Department of Commerce.

of the recent eastern reports, as in New Brunswick, might refer to Florida birds; however, the absence of records in the Southeast otherwise suggests that the vagrants are mostly from the West.

Other raptors whose distributions lie mostly south of the U.S.–Mexico border are also being detected well north of usual range in the border states. Short-tailed Hawk leads this list, although most records are coming from new areas in border states, such as the Davis

Mountains Preserve (23 April+), the first for the Trans-Pecos region of Texas, and Rattlesnake Springs (24 April), only the second ever for New Mexico. Elsewhere in Texas, a pair was seen displaying in Bentsen (30 April), and another was at the Santa Margarita Ranch (25 April). We should recall that the species was barely known in Texas only a few years ago. Less widespread were reports of wandering Common Black-Hawk (northern California), Gray Hawk (new areas in Arizona and

New Mexico), and Harris's Hawk (Cherokee County, Oklahoma). But birders living within a few hundred kilometers of these species' range edges should keep an eye out for them.

Far less expected this season were reports of several extralimital White-tailed Hawks in Texas, as far north as Granger Lake, Williamson County (23 April). However, only a psychic could have foreseen the appearance of a White-tailed Hawk in Hadley, Massachusetts (22–24 April)—or of one at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, New Jersey (25 April), or one in North Truro, Massachusetts (27 April). At least two White-tailed Hawks, possibly three, were touring the East in late April! Normally, in light of the recent wandering of other southern raptors, our inclination would be to consider these birds wild; but photographs of the Hadley bird show an odd pattern of wear or damage to primaries, not unusual for birds held in captivity. Does this bird's condition then cast doubt on the wild provenance of the New Jersey bird or the Cape Cod bird, which apparently did not have damaged primaries? The Special Attention boxes in the New England and Hudson-Delaware reports are most instructive on these points. In weighing the evidence against the larger context—southern raptors straying to the north—one is tempted to discount the primary damage in favor of the notion of a "flight" of White-tailed Hawks in spring 2006. Were weather patterns conducive for bringing raptors from Texas to the Northeast in the last days of April? It would seem that they would favor movement of birds from southern Texas toward the Northeast, rather similar to the scenarios we see with Cave Swallows in November: an advancing low-pressure system crosses Texas and the prairies, pushing southwesterly and southerly winds ahead of it, 20–21 April (Figure 1)—effectively a pipeline toward the Northeast. The subsequent weather patterns (Figures 2, 3) show that the New Jersey-to-Massachusetts corridor would be literally the end of the line for a buteo using warm, southerly winds: this area had precipitation ahead of the warm front, a high-pressure area to the north, and lows to the east and west. Thus, it seems plausible that these White-tailed Hawks could have gotten to New Jersey and Massachusetts on favorable winds.

In the western-raptors-east department, we should point out not just the Illinois caracara but also number of dark-morph Western Red-tailed Hawks (subspecies *calurus*) in the East: one in Forsyth County, North Carolina (16 March); one in Jefferson County, Kentucky (30 March); one at Presque Isle State Park,

Pennsylvania (31 March); and one wintering at Gatineau, Québec (through 6 April). Two Harlan's Hawks in Hopkins County, Kentucky on 12 March also merit mention. These records are from the margins of range, or well beyond them, but my impression is that such records are increasing slowly, with greater attention to buteos over the years.

In spring, the general pattern of "overshooting" has been that most eastern birds stay east, most western birds west—the birds are mostly *north* of their usual latitudinal limits. Longitudinally displaced birds, which are not called "overshooters" (though there may be some common mechanism), are also well known in spring, if fewer in most years: California's unpredictable mid-May-through-early-June influx of eastern warblers and other Neotropical migrants; and the less-impressive scattering of western passerines in the East, usually most pronounced in the Northeast. The spring of 2006 was far below average in California for eastern birds but above average for western birds east, good examples this spring being Western Tanagers (Québec, Maine, North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio, Louisiana, plus 12 in the Western Great Lakes region); Golden-crowned Sparrows in New Brunswick (two), Nova Scotia (two), and Massachusetts (one); and a Lark Bunting singing in a Bangor, Maine spruce bog 28 May! Some of the tanagers and sparrows in these cases were clearly overwintering birds, but a few were migrants on the move, probably from extralimital wintering areas. Other species that appear to be moving as much eastward/westward as they are to the north include Glossy Ibis, actively expanding westward (many in Colorado, three in Arizona, seven in New Mexico, and three in Idaho), White-faced Ibis, continuing to expand eastward, and White Ibis, making a few more appearances out West (New Mexico, Colorado).

But most eastern birds stay east, western birds west, even when overshooting. Vagrant Swainson's Warblers, for instance, stayed mostly in the East: at St. Louis, Missouri 22 April; near Winnipeg, Manitoba 8 May; in the Toronto, Ontario area 12 May; at Headlands, Ohio 20-21 May; and in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania 25 May. Anhinga—which certainly wanders but mostly to the north of its southeastern range in North America—made it north to Exton, Pennsylvania 4 May (potentially a first documented for the state) and to Kidder County, North Dakota 9 April (one soaring with Sandhill Cranes was also a state first). Reports of Magnificent (or unidentified) Frigatebirds, when not tied to

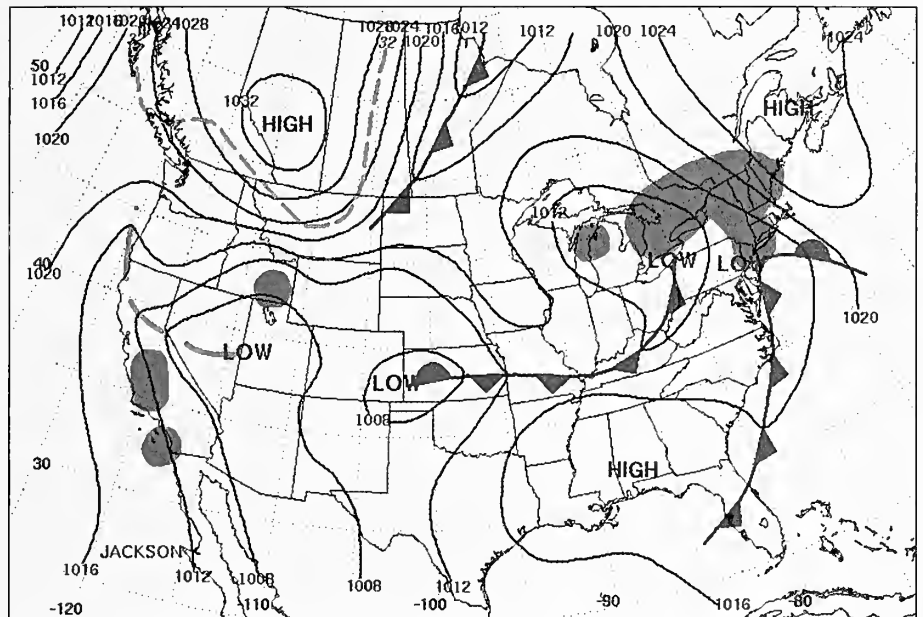


Figure 3. Surface weather map for 23 April 2006 at 0700 E.S.T. Graphic courtesy of the National Centers for Environmental Prediction, United States Department of Commerce.

tropical storms, are normally coastal but rarely as widespread as in the second half of May 2006: two were in Maine (20 May), one in Massachusetts (17 May), two in New Jersey (18 May), one in Virginia (26 May+), as many as eight in North Carolina (22 April, 15-26 May), and singles in South Carolina (27 May) and Georgia (24 May). Such records have shown distinct increases in recent seasons.

In the West, similarly remarkable were Hooded Orioles at Grand Junction, Colorado 26-30 May (first for the state) and at three Washington sites (2-24 May; sixth through eighth state records)—recalling their sorties as far north as the Yukon in spring 2005 (Leukering and Gibbons 2005). Reports of vagrant Broad-billed Hummingbirds came from Colorado Springs, Colorado 13 April (third for the state); Las Vegas, Nevada through 31 March; Johnson County, Kansas 26 April (state second); near Ramona, California 14-18 April; and at El Centro, California 20-21 April. Although the orioles were best characterized as "overshooting," at least some of the hummingbirds may well have wintered not far away—though not the Colorado Springs bird, which had wintered, and been banded, in New Iberia, Louisiana! Still unimpressed? How about an apparent Broad-billed Hummingbird in Halifax, Nova Scotia 23 May—not photographed but pretty well described, it would represent a first spring record for the Atlantic coast of North America. For a species of the Southwest, the arc of vagrancy described by these records—from

southern California to Atlantic Canada—is quite unusual and difficult to characterize using terms such as "overshooting" or "expanding." Certainly no other hummingbird species has such a pattern at this season.

Species with both eastern and western populations typically show the most widespread patterns of spring vagrancy, though we register such records when the birds are north of usual range, and so the degree of longitudinal displacement (the vector of vagrancy, if you will) is difficult to divine. Painted Bunting, whose vagrancy has been well canvassed in this journal (Mlodinow and Hamilton 2005), turned up this spring in Salt Lake City, Utah 10 May (a state first), Cumberland County, Kentucky 26 May (state second), and Bashaw, Alberta 4 May (also second). Black Rails, which also have a broad but discontinuous breeding range in North America, appeared in Illinois, Indiana (two), New Mexico, and Pebble Beach, California.

Whistling-ducks, which have eastern populations but which in the West probably (or mostly?) stray from Mexican populations, also showed widespread, scattershot patterns this spring, on par with records from spring 2003 (Brinkley 2003). Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were "all over," from the Caribbean to Baja California. Four were in Georgia on Little St. Simons Island 16 May, and 20 were at the Altamaha Wildlife Management Area, not far away, 28 May. Flocks of 11 were seen in Beaufort County, North Carolina through 16 May and at Islc of Palms,

South Carolina 23 May. In the Midwest, Missouri had two on 13-15 May at Pertle Springs, Johnson County and one on 14 May in Greene County, while Indiana had its third record in Tippecanoe County 20 April-1 May. Farther west, in Oklahoma, four were in Alfalfa County 24 May and one in McIntosh County 10 May (the species is found regularly in that state only at Red Slough, in the state's southeastern corner). Farther-flung Black-bellieds were seen in Baja California Sur at Lagunas de Chametla, where recently reported, and 11 at Salinas Punta Colorado 22 May added a new site for that species in the state. Eighteen in the Bahamas on Grand Bahama Island 28-29 May probably came from Florida—a first record for that country.

Fulvous Whistling-Ducks, well outnumbered by extralimital Black-bellieds, continued their widespread wanderings. One was in Lafayette County, Wisconsin 23 March (a state second); one in Robertson County, Tennessee 19 April-19 May was nearly as rare; one in Lake County 3 April was just Illinois's fifth since 1933; and three visited Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York 28 May into June. In the West, two at Moro Cojo Slough, Monterey County, California 24 April and another in Tulare County five days later were deemed genuine vagrants, following the winter flight of the species (one in Scottsdale, Arizona was last seen 31 March). Four at Imperial Reservoir, Pecos County, Texas 10 May were most unexpected in that far corner of the state and could well have come from Mexico.

With the Hooded Orioles, Broad-billed Hummingbirds, and whistling-ducks, a striking array of even scarcer vagrants is beginning to show patterns of pioneering northward flights. Among those in spring 2006 were a Mexican Duck in Colorado, a Hepatic Tanager in Kansas, a Bronzed Cowbird in Oklahoma, and a Common Moorhen in Washington (and another north of normal in Nevada). A White-crowned Pigeon in Mississippi, a Mangrove Cuckoo and multiple Black-whiskered Vireos in Texas, and Gray Kingbirds in Texas (and Missouri) made for a memorable Caribbean flavor to the western Gulf's spring. From well south of the U.S. border, one or two Piratic Flycatchers in Texas were noteworthy. And from possibly farther south, Southern Lapwings in Florida (6 May into June) and Maryland (17 June), however improbable, also have a history of expansion and vagrancy, sufficient at least to make those records seem plausible (see the S.A. boxes in this and the next issue).

In terms of precedence, however, these birds pale next to the Verdin that turned up at

Tillicum, Washington 25 May. This is not a species kept in captivity, nor is it a bird known to wander widely or migrate (a few extralimital Texas records notwithstanding). Certainly, great expanses of this species' habitat are lost to development, but would this explain a bird 1200 km out of range? If the past is any guide, this apparently anomalous record will probably get some "context" records in the future, as with other vagrants from the Southwest and Mexico.

Eurasian birds

While a lucky few flock to Alaska each spring in hopes of exotic Eurasian birds arriving with storms, most of us stay closer to home, taking in the migration of Nearctic and Neotropical birds, as well as home-grown vagrants. We may forget, however, that early spring can be a great time to find Eurasian birds in our backyards, particularly waterfowl but also finches. Areas nearer major coastlines or flyways have the greatest concentration of such records, while deserts and mountains have far fewer records of Eurasian taxa, but interior states such as Montana have been finding a rather impressive array of Eurasian birds in recent years. Records of Old World geese and swan are far fewer than those of ducks. This spring, a Pink-footed Goose was found at Saint-Mathias-sur-Richelieu, Québec 25 March, and single Barnacle Geese were at

Masson, Québec 5 May; at Southbury, Connecticut 15-28 March; at Eisenhower Park, New York until 6 March; and at the Great Swamp Conservancy, New York 9-10 April. (See the Hudson-Delaware report for a note on population increases in this species.) Late March was the time to see Bewick's Swan, considered a subspecies of Tundra Swan: one was found in Skagit County, Washington 23 March; Wisconsin had its first in Rock County 24 March; and singles were reported at Freezeout Lake, Montana and in Delta, British Columbia 25 March.

Eurasian Wigeon is the most widespread of the Old World ducks in North America; a majority of regions reported the species, some in the hundreds! Eurasian Teal—the shorthand for what this journal has called "Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal"—has seen a resurgence of records, perhaps owing to observer diligence. It was nearly as widely recorded as the wigeon, though not in such numbers, with reports from Newfoundland (two), New Brunswick (two), Québec (six), Maine, Connecticut (two), Massachusetts, the Hudson-Delaware region (three), Virginia, Maryland, Ontario (two), Pennsylvania, Oregon/Washington (six), and Northern California (nine). Garganey, a teal rather scarce in the 1990s but perhaps slightly increasing in recent years in North America, put in appearances in Iowa (7 April), Guadeloupe (through

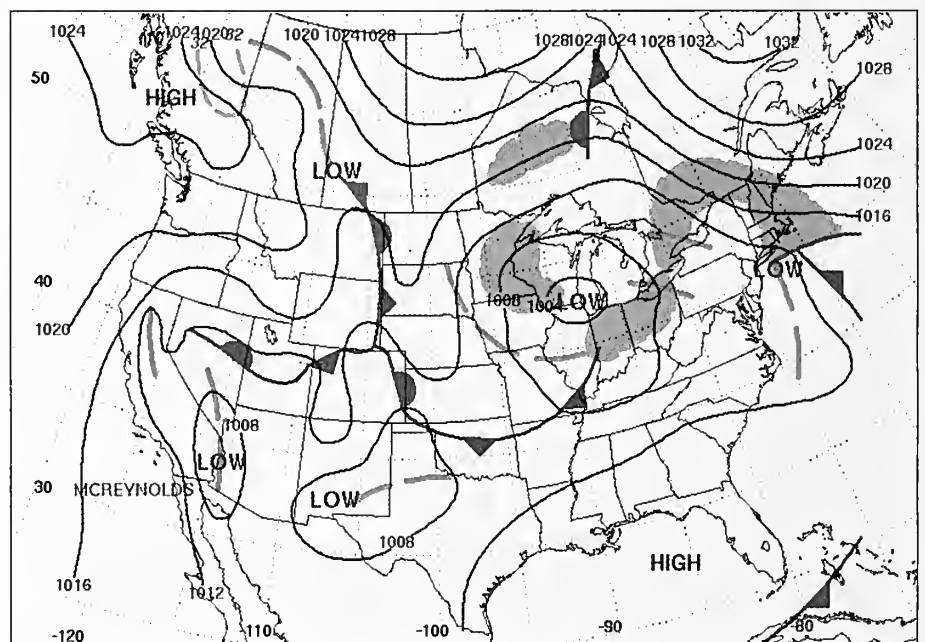


Figure 4. Surface weather map for 13 May 2006 at 0700 E.S.T. The coastal low-pressure system off the Northeast pumped easterly winds into the coast and beyond, as far as Québec. With the storm, about 55 Red Phalaropes and at least 140 Red-necked Phalaropes into interior areas, mostly in New England. At the same time, a strong low-pressure feature stalled over Lake Michigan, bringing migration to a halt over much of the Midwest. Graphic courtesy of the National Centers for Environmental Prediction, United States Department of Commerce.

27 March), Ontario (5 May), and Baja California (through 28 April); and rarer still, a Falcated Duck could still be found around Eugene, Oregon through 20 March. Away from Alaska, Tufted Ducks were most readily found in eastern Canada (Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Québec) and along the Pacific coast (California, Oregon, Washington), as is typical, but two were in Vermont and singles in Michigan and Virginia as well. That pearl among mergansers, Smew, was found just once outside Alaska: at Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Montana 12 May—a first for the state. (Go, Montana!)

Underappreciated across most of the continent, early spring also offers a chance, however small, to encounter Eurasian finches on the move. These are probably birds that wintered somewhere in the New World—or, in several recent cases, escapees or their offspring. There must have been a movement of Bramblings on 8 April, when single males showed up in Bellevue, Idaho (the state's third) and in Buffalo County, Nebraska (the state's second). In the Pacific Northwest, where rare but more regular, singles were in Duncan, British Columbia through 18 March, in Monmouth, Oregon 26 March–16 April, and Eugene, Oregon 1–13 April (the tenth and eleventh for that state). European Goldfinches were found in Maine (late April) and Massachusetts (16 April; 15 May), and a Eurasian Siskin turned up in New Brunswick 29–30 April (see <<http://homepage.mac.com/maryspt/PhotoAlbum9.html>>), the latter only the second for the province. Finally, in addition to the trickle of Siberian shorebirds, cuckoos, and passerines to Bering Sea islands in Alaska, there were several dead ardeids of interest found at Buldir Island in late May and early June: two Great Egrets (Asian subspecies *modesta*) and North America's first Intermediate Egret.

Shorebirds & Gulls

Most spring seasons pass with few superlatives regarding shorebirds, which typically move through most regions quickly en route to breeding areas. This season was different in that regard, with almost half the regions reporting interesting phenomena. The most easily grasped of these was the fallout of Red and Red-necked Phalaropes that spanned much of the Northeast, from Québec to Maine, south to New York. The fallout was clearly a product of the intense low-pressure system that affected the area (and migrants of all sorts), 12–21 May (Figure 4). Birders were quick to get afield, scanning local lakes and wetlands, posting their discoveries and en-

couraging others to get out and turn up more phalaropes. The results were most impressive, particularly inland. Québec birders described the 13–19 May fallout of 10 Red Phalaropes, plus dozens of Red-neckeds, as “unprecedented”; the province had just four May records of Red Phalarope since 1960. Neighboring Vermont apparently lacked phalaropes on Lake Champlain but had four Red and a Red-necked 14–20 May, while New Hampshire posted 32 Red-neckeds and seven Reds 12–15 May and Maine two Reds 13 May. As in the similar 2005 phalarope fallout (Leukering and Gibbons 2005), Massachusetts took the lion's portion: 82 Red-necked and 27 Red Phalaropes 12–16 May. In southern New England, three Reds and a Red-necked were in Connecticut 13–16 May, and neighboring Pine Plains, New York had a Red at the start of the storm, 13 May. The southernmost of the sightings may well have been a very late Red in breeding plumage found off Hatteras, North Carolina 17 May!

It is interesting that during the same window in the West, a fallout of shorebirds at Table Mountain, Wyoming 16 May included 47 Red-necked Phalaropes; 250 were counted on Duck Lake, Colorado three days later. Though unrelated to the fallout in the Northeast, the phalaropes were clearly moving across a broad front in mid-May: another 71 Red-neckeds were at Riverton, Missouri 13 May; and 653 were found between sites in Garden County and Sheridan County, Nebraska, 15 May. Back at Table Mountain, observers tallied remarkable counts of Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated, Pectoral, and Stilt Sandpipers, both dowitchers, and singles of Snowy Plover and Hudsonian Godwit; these and other species, particularly White-rumped Sandpiper, were found in Colorado over the next 24 hours. The brevity of such fallouts, which are usually fairly local in nature, is clearly discernable in a skim of the adjacent regional reports. To the south, in Arizona, 30 Red-necked Phalaropes at Gila Bend 13 May provided one of the few shorebird highlights, while to the west, a paucity of storms meant that shorebirds were hard to come by in the Great Basin: a Ruddy Turnstone, a White-rumped Sandpiper, and four Red Knots in Utah; and a Sanderling in Nevada. The message to take home: get out while the weather is still messy and the birds are grounded; most will be gone as soon as skies start to clear. (Take a day off work; it's only money.)

In recent springs in the East, strong southwesterly airflows have been noted in conjunction with the appearance of “western” shorebirds—Western Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper,

Long-billed Dowitcher in particular, species whose main migration routes lie well west of the Atlantic coast. New York and New England had notable records of all three species, but even states as far south as North Carolina had above-average counts of Stilt Sandpiper, for instance. In the Atlantic provinces of Canada, large spring flights of shorebirds are most unusual, as most species appear to turn inland toward nesting areas before reaching that latitude. During the second part of May, largely after the coastal storm had passed to the south, high counts of Black-bellied Plover, Red Knot, and other species from Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland prompted speculation that the dominant airflow in late May (from the southwest), rather than a low-pressure event, was responsible for an eastward shift in the migration of these species. Birders who watch the weather maps, not surprisingly, are often the ones who discover fallouts and unusual birds.

If there is any doubt about the high quality of shorebirding in the Southern Great Plains and the Missouri River Valley, a perusal of the relevant regional reports will dispel that doubt. Joe Gryzbowski and Ross Silcock noted not just across-the-board early arrivals but also high counts of *many* shorebird species on unprecedented early dates—perhaps another indication that the phenology of shorebird migration has begun to shift noticeably as the earth warms. Climate change will almost certainly effect a poleward shift in the breeding ranges of shorebirds, as with other birds, but as most shorebirds nest to the north of human population centers, we rarely witness such shifts firsthand: we experience these birds mostly as migrants. For species of the High Arctic, such as Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, and Sanderling, there is no land to the north of their nesting areas, and it is unclear how climate change will affect their ability to reproduce. But we observe “southern” shorebirds to the north of typical range with increasing frequency. This season, single Wilson's Plovers were boldfaced rarities in Saline County, Kansas 1 May and Bayfield County, Wisconsin 13–14 May; the pattern of inland and northerly records continues. Black-necked Stilts continue to spread northward along the Atlantic coast as well as into southern-central Canada; Manitoba's first nest of the species was discovered at Whitewater Lake 23 May. Not usually a shorebird regarded as “southern,” an American Woodcock near Medicine Hat 7 April was a first for Alberta. As with the other “north-of-normal” birds, we expect more such records in springs to come.

Though related to shorebirds, gulls have far fewer adherents, fewer champions, fewer fanatics—those folks often marginalized (or lauded) as “larophiles.” This may be because gull identification requires such painstaking attention to detail or high tolerance of uncertainty; or because hybrids, or potential hybrids, or uncertain species limits, produce on-line discussions that range from acrimonious to agnostic. A beginner seeking clear guidance on larger gulls may find the lack of consensus, and the level of discussion, bewildering. Despite these difficulties, the small army of gull enthusiasts did their usual fine job of proving that nothing is impossible in the genus *Larus*. In the West, vagrant Iceland Gulls were in Wallula, Washington; Calgary, Alberta; and Pierre, South Dakota. Western Lesser Black-backed Gulls, increasing annually, were at Moses Lake and Lake Lenore, Washington; at Vernon Creek, British Columbia; and Calgary, Alberta. Another “eastern” species increasingly detected in the West, Great Black-backed Gull was reported in North Dakota (two: second and third state records), South Dakota (first state record), and Wyoming (second state record). Also in the West, Slaty-backed Gulls kept up their string of appearances from Washington (its tenth), to Oregon (its eleventh), to California (four birds through early March were about the state’s tenth through twelfth). British Columbia also had three Slaty-backed, and Calgary, Alberta, had one at the end of March, followed by a Western Gull in April and a Glaucous-winged Gull in May! Not to be outdone by western Canada, Newfoundland’s St. John’s hotspots turned up two more Slaty-backed Gulls, a Glaucous-winged Gull, and yet another Yellow-legged Gull, in addition to the “usual fare” such as Common Gulls. European Herring Gull, which has been reported several times in Newfoundland, was documented for the first time in Florida this spring—despite buzz about a split (already a *fait accompli* in Europe), there was no stampede to see this bird. But things do change in the birding world; its obscurity today may turn to celebrity tomorrow, as with Newfoundland’s Yellow-legged Gulls. Smartly plumaged gulls that would brighten any birder’s day, Heermann’s Gulls made it to Utah and New Mexico, and two Ross’s Gulls were observed together at Sept-Îles, Québec in late May.

Numbers

Some counts are so impressive that they deserve some sort of spotlight in this column. The numbers say it all; we wish we had been there for:

- 210 Eurasian Wigeons on the Samish Flats, Skagit County, Washington, 2 March;
- 395 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 28 February;
- 700 Bald Eagles near Beaver Cove, British Columbia, 7 May;
- 1000 Lewis’s Woodpeckers at the San Joaquin Experimental Range, Madera County, California, 23 March;
- 1000 Painted Buntings in northeastern Kenedy County, Texas, 4 May;
- 1100 Black Swifts over Swan Lake, Vernon, British Columbia, 22 May;
- 1300 Band-tailed Pigeons at Lake Whatcom, Washington, 6 May;
- 1322 Long-billed Curlews in Finney County, Kansas, 4 April;
- 1460 Northern Flickers at Headingly, Manitoba, 16 April;
- 7500 Mountain Bluebirds near Gardiner, Montana, 7 April;
- 10,005 Lesser Yellowlegs at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Missouri, 13 May;
- 75,000 Wilson’s Phalaropes at Reed Lake, Saskatchewan, 14 May; and
- 400,000 Western Sandpipers at Bandon, Coos County, Oregon, 2 May.

Hidden in plain sight

One measure of the increasing sophistication in North American birding in recent decades is, I believe, the marked increase in reports of apparent hybrids. Some of these birds are relatively straightforward and expected: examples from this season’s reports include a Flame-colored Tanager × Western Tanager hybrid in Miller Canyon, Arizona; Indigo Bunting × Lazuli Bunting and Hermit Warbler × Townsend’s Warbler hybrids in California; a Golden-crowned Sparrow × White-crowned Sparrow hybrid in Washington; hybrid wigeon (and intergrade Green-winged Teal) at many sites but mostly in the Pacific Northwest; and *Aythya* hybrids, mostly scaup × Ring-necked or Tufted Ducks, in the Pacific Northwest and Northern California. *Anas* hybrids, less often reported, included a so-called Brewer’s Duck (Gadwall × Mallard) in Nebraska and a Mallard × Northern Pintail hybrid in the Yukon. Single male Cinnamon Teal × Blue-winged Teal hybrids, reported annually in the West, were more surprising at Jug Bay, Maryland 11 March and the same day at Viera Wetlands, Florida; another was at Juneau, Alaska 18 May. Much less expected was an apparent Green-winged Teal × Blue-winged Teal hybrid in Henderson County, Kentucky. As Glossy and White-faced Ibises expand rapidly, apparent hybrids between the two are turning up all

over: one at Harvard Marsh, Nebraska; one at Red Slough, Oklahoma; two in Jefferson County, Idaho; one in Belen, New Mexico; and up to five between Fremont County and Jefferson County, Colorado.

Gulls and geese produce more of the hybrid (and intergrade) reports in this journal than any other groups, and the Pacific Northwest appears to be the epicenter for both. Oregon and Washington had Snow Goose × Canada/Cackling Goose and Blue Goose × Canada Goose hybrids, while Northern California had something resembling a Brant × *minima* Cackling Goose hybrid. Blue-morph Ross’s Geese, some of which arguably may have had hybrid derivation, were reported from Minnesota, its first, and from Oregon, where nearly as rare. In Kentucky, an apparent Ross’s Goose × Snow Goose was photographed in Warren County. In addition to the usual large gull hybrids, there were several less-expected combinations: an apparent Franklin’s Gull × Ring-billed Gull hybrid was found in late March at Pierre, South Dakota (surely more likely here than Pallas’s Gull); the Laughing Gull × Ring-billed Gull hybrid came back to a Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant on Chicago’s south side for another season; a possible Herring Gull × Glaucous-winged Gull hybrid was at a well-checked landfill in southern Manitoba; and an apparent Great Black-backed Gull × Herring Gull hybrid was seen twice in April at Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania.

Some suspected hybrids are sufficiently subtle that they evoke shrugs among our esteemed editors at the journal; we present them as cautionary tales, if not ironclad evidence of hybridization. Among these this season were a possible Snowy Egret × Little Egret hybrid from Nantucket, Massachusetts; apparent Black-chinned Hummingbird × Ruby-throated Hummingbird hybrids in Oklahoma; a possible Boreal Chickadee × Mountain Chickadee hybrid banded in the Yukon; and a possible Northern Mockingbird × Bahama Mockingbird hybrid at Boca Chica Key, Florida. We genuinely appreciate receiving photographs of such birds, however much they may perplex us. Perhaps biochemical studies will give us a window on such birds in the near future.

Another measure of birding’s refinement in North America is the increasing detection of cryptic (that is, hard-to-identify, subtle) species, secretive species, or just plain rare birds buried in large flocks of common ones. In this last category, one would have to place most of the geese mentioned above, as well as the Common Crane found among the large Sandhill Crane flocks in Buffalo County, Ne-

braska 17 March; and the Pacific Golden Plover found near Edna, Texas 13 April. Since the split of Blue-headed Vireo, birders have watched carefully for vagrants from this complex; this season, a Plumbeous Vireo in Oklahoma and a Cassin's Vireo in Illinois were prizes in late April and early May, respectively. Vagrant swifts are the stuff of apocrypha: even those that are photographed (no mean feat, but getting a lot easier with the newer camera technology) are often left unidentified to species or even to genus. Thus the observers who documented Vaux's Swifts in New Mexico in late April and a Black Swift in Ontario in late May are to be commended for their careful attention to detail and for their courage.

Finally, some "hidden" birds are found because observers are looking specifically and patiently for them: a Sprague's Pipit in Iowa; a Long-eared Owl in Virginia; a Long-billed Murrelet in the Aleutians at Adak. Though we might easily gloss over such records while reading the reports, each one represents a breakthrough by birders who were well prepared with an understanding of the distribution, migration, habitat, behavior, vocalizations, and/or plumages of these shy or subtle birds. Drawing on this understanding, they discovered birds that in turn advanced our shared knowledge about these species. This is what *North American Birds* is all about. But hey, if a noisy, gaudy Southern Lapwing falls into your lap—well, we're all about that, too.

On the loose

Keeping up with Whooping Cranes has suddenly become a challenge for writers of this column. Most of the reports presumably refer to birds associated with the introduction efforts at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, Wisconsin, but the birds are apparently prone to wander widely. In Ontario, one was at Chesley 6 April, one at Sault Ste. Marie 13 April, two at Sandford 14 April, and two others in the Peterborough area that day; the latter two flew southward into New York state the next day. Other cranes visited Iowa: five subadults loitered in Winnebago County 6-26 May, and a flock of seven went as far west as Palo Alto County 19 May. In Indiana, three stopped in Greene County 7-10 March. Farther west, in Manitoba, a yearling Whooping Crane not associated with any reintroduction effort spent April through June near Niverville, becoming, according to Rudolf Koes and Peter Taylor, "probably the most-watched bird ever in the province." The popularity of Whooping Cranes—even those wearing satellite transmitters—is incon-

testable. Like the reintroduced California Condors, their larger-than-life presence recalls, if faintly, the avifauna of prehistoric America. This stands in contrast to the lukewarm reception of Trumpeter Swans in the East, which, rightly or wrongly, have been associated with usurpation of habitats needed by other wetland species—and in contrast, for different reasons, to reports of that other giant, Ivory-billed Woodpecker, which evades cameras with, as of press time, unsurpassed skill (see the latest reports online at <www.ace-eco.org/articles/78.html>). As birders, most of us struggle to bring our appreciation of birds into alignment with our understanding of science generally and bird conservation specifically—however problematic certain reintroduction projects may seem, or indeed however problematic basic documentation of a species, historical or current, may seem. Were Trumpeter Swans widespread in the East in early colonial times? Should that encourage us to support "restoration" efforts here? Are Ivory-billed Woodpeckers still among us? Should we help in the search for that species? And what does it feel like to watch Great Tits in Wisconsin, where birders reported them in four counties this spring? Was the reaction to finding them nesting in that state an outcry for the immediate eradication of this exotic? And, in the thick of all these questions, what role does the "countability" of a given bird—whether an exotic, or a hybrid, or a reintroduced bird, or a phantom listed as "Code 6"/Extinct—play in our attitude toward a bird? And what role should such a structure play?

Even the fortune teller of 1976 could not have prepared us for the hodge-podge of odd issues and far-fetched birds that assail the birder of 2006. We find slippery slopes everywhere we turn—exotics, reintroductions, tantalizing sight reports, aberrant birds identified as other species, "possible" hybrids, vagrants thousands of kilometers out of range, and birds whose provenance is shrouded in mystery. Our heads may spin on some days, now all the more rapidly because of instant communication over Internet and wireless devices, with rumors, leaks, distortions, and misidentifications flowing more rapidly, right along with extremely valuable, timely information. Filtering the flow becomes more and more challenging. I receive weekly emails that purport to depict some arcane rarity or hybrid or (my favorite) "quiz bird"—and in some of these, alas, I am not able to locate an actual bird.

I have begun to think that modern birding would do well to pull back from the maelstrom of information at our finger tips and

take a Zen approach to the torrent: observe it, and your reactions to it, without pressing yourself to make decisions about it. Perhaps, in so many cases, we could learn more about the judgments we make in birding, and about birds, if we suspend the judgments for a moment, listen to our thoughts, and attempt to understand what motivates our thinking at a more fundamental level. Modern birding need not overwhelm us; our connections with birds should bring us into the moment, should bring us into closer contact with their reality, not away from it. When our technology accelerates communication too much, perhaps we can leave the gadgets at home and just go birding again.

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Editors' Notebook

Readers of this issue will note that a specimen of African Collared-Dove was salvaged at Daytona Beach, Florida on 29 March and that Eurasian Teal were found in 42 locations across the continent. Before getting too excited about these “new” species, we should point out that these birds were formerly known as “Ringed Turtle-Dove” (usually in quotation marks, to indicate its status in North America as a feral avicultural form) and as Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal.

Bird names change—probably too often for most of us. In the 47th Supplement to the *American Ornithologists' Union's Check-list of North American Birds*, published in July 2006 (download at <www.aou.org>), there were mercifully few changes to birds' English names, African Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia roseogrisca*) being an exception: it was renamed to indicate that what we call Ringed Turtle-Dove, a bird produced by captive breeding, is most closely related to the wild African Collared-Dove, from which it was (mostly?) derived. Several species were split this year, resulting in changes in English and/or scientific names in the AOU Area. The Blue Grouse group was split into Dusky Grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*) of the interior West and Sooty Grouse (*D. fuliginosus*) of the Pacific coast ranges. The Red-breasted Flycatcher group was also split and is now represented in North America is represented by Taiga Flycatcher (*Ficedula albicilla*), a vagrant to Alaska (and recently to California). Finally, the Oriental Cuckoo group was finally split; it is represented in North America by *Cuculus optatus*—Oriental Cuckoo, now recognized as a species distinct from Hi-

malayan Cuckoo (*C. saturatus*) and Sunda Cuckoo (*C. lepidus*).

In addition, this journal is pleased to have played a role in the acceptance of two (of the three) new species for North America in the 47th Supplement: Cape Verde Shearwater and Black-bellied Storm-Petrel. Cape Verde Shearwater, now accorded status as a full species, was recorded off North Carolina 15 August 2004 (*North American Birds* 58: 468-473) and was split based in part on the *North American Birds* article's analysis. Black-bellied Storm-Petrel was seen in the same waters 31 May 2004 (*North American Birds* 58: 618-621). Both species had been reported by sight record in the western North Atlantic prior to these reports, and both have been documented since the recent photographic records—proof that there is still much to learn about our ocean environment.

The change from the clunky “Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal” to “Eurasian Teal” comes from another source entirely, one that will surely spark discussion among birders interested in standardizing English names. *Birds of the World: Recommended Standard English Names* (2006. Frank Gill and Minturn Wright, eds. Princeton University Press) represents the distillation of decades of work among prominent ornithologists and birders who believe that there should be one English name per species. The project was sponsored by the International Ornithological Congress. In that book, *Anas crecca* and *Anas carolinensis* are recognized as full and separate species, with the names Eurasian Teal and Green-winged Teal, respectively; the A.O.U. Checklist Committee regards these as subspecies of a single species, Green-winged Teal. In the

past, this journal has dealt with English names for subspecies in uneven ways, until the previous editorial group provided a list of names for subspecies or subspecies groups (*North American Birds* 53: 227). In selecting “Eurasian Teal” to refer to *Anas [crecca] crecca*, we are more interested in the brevity of the English name than any other aspect, and we do not mean to imply by its use that a split is warranted—though certainly some of the regional editors and editors of the journal are of that opinion. Whatever the ultimate uses of *Birds of the World*, it contains marvelous food for thought and a great many good ideas for future name changes—which seem to come, no matter how we kick and scream. It's worth investing in a copy to see how the decisions came down (but be prepared to lose Doviekie!).

Mistakes were made

In the article on Parkinson's Petrel (*North American Birds* 60: 166), the map in Figure 1 of Cordell Bank should have been credited to Les Lieurance. In the Central Southern regional report in the same issue (60: 87), 510 Great Egrets should instead be 510 Cattle Egrets. In the Changing Seasons essay in that issue, the Hurricane *Katrina* figure (60: 20) failed to include Alabama records of Band-rumped and Wilson's Storm-Petrels that were included in the regional report (60: 85). The spring 2005 Florida regional report, credited to Bruce Anderson, should have been credited to Bill Pranty. Thanks to Greg Jackson and Rich Stallcup for letting us know about these errors; we offer our sincere apologies to Les Lieurance and to Bill Pranty for these oversights. ☺

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STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS USED IN THE REGIONAL REPORTS

*	specimen collected
+	bird(s) seen through end of period
†	written details on file
A.F.B.	Air Force Base
acc.	accepted by records committee
A.R.C.	Avian Records Committee
b.	banded
B.B.S.	Breeding Bird Survey
B.O.	Bird Observatory
B.R.C.	Bird Records Committee
C.A.	Conservation Area
C.B.C.	Christmas Bird Count
C.P.	County Park
cm	centimeter(s)
Cr.	Creek
Ft.	Fort
G.C.	Golf Course
G.P.	Game Preserve
Hwy.	Highway
I. (Is.)	Island(s), Isle(s)
imm. (imms.)	immature(s)
Jct.	Junction
juv. (juvs.)	juvenile [plumage]; juvenile(s)
km	kilometer(s)
L.	Lake
mm	millimeter(s)
m.ob.	many (or multiple) observers
Mt. (Mts.)	Mount/Mountain (Mountains)
N.A.	Nature Area, Natural Area
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.P.	National Park
N.S.	National Seashore
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
p.a.	pending acceptance
P.P.	Provincial Park
Pen.	Peninsula
ph.	photographed (by + initials)
Pt.	Point (not Port)
R.	River
R.A.	Recreation(al) Area
R.B.A.	Rare Bird Alert
R.P.	Regional Park
R.S.	Regional Shoreline
Res.	Reservoir
Rte.	Route
S.B.	State Beach
S.F.	State Forest
S.G.A.	State Game Area
S.P.	State Park
S.R.A.	State Recreation Area
S.R.	State Reserve
S.W.A.	State Wildlife Area
S.T.P.	Sewage Treatment Plant/Pond
subad. (subads.)	subadult(s)
Twp.	Township
v.r.	voice recording (by + initials)
vt.	videotape (by + initials)
W.A.	Wildlife Area
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
W.T.P.	(Waste)water Treatment Plant/Pond

Atlantic Provinces & St. Pierre et Miquelon



Blake Maybank

For the Maritime provinces, the spring was warm (about 2° C above average) and mostly dry (10% of normal precipitation in March, normal in April, 80% of normal in May), with average sunshine. In May, a northeasterly air flow predominated, as was true last spring, but the strong storms and heavy rains of 2005 were thankfully not observed. Northeasterly winds are adverse for spring migration, and birds were scarce at the Region's hotspots, such as Brier Island and Grand Manan Island. Most observers continued to bemoan low numbers of migrants, and while some blamed May's easterly winds, I suspect we are witnessing the persistent effects of the massive mortality events of spring

2005 (see S. A. box, below). From St. Pierre, Etcheberry writes: "Passerine birds were once again on the low side this spring; although diversity is still there, quantities are quite low. Even Yellow-rumped Warblers were scarce. Birds arrived later than average and in lower numbers this season."

This spring marks the first season of the second *Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas* (20 years after the start of the first atlas), a five-year survey that should increase our understanding of the changing bird populations in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. Mind you, with the current rapid pace of climate change, these atlases might best be run on every five or 10 years. The atlas web site is <<http://www.mba-aom.ca>>.

Abbreviations: A.B.O. (Atlantic B.O.); C.S.I. (Cape Sable I., NS); G.M.I. (Grand Manan I., NB); H.R.M. (Halifax Regional Municipality, NS); SPM (Saint Pierre et Miquelon, France).

WATERFOWL THROUGH GREBES

Few Snow Geese were noted away from their ne. New Brunswick staging areas. An unidentified swan flew eastward over St. John's 25 May (BMT). Spring Eurasian Wigeons included the wintering pair at Sullivan's Pond, NS, a handful in Newfoundland (including a pair at Arnold's Cove on the Avalon 5 Mar and a male at Loch Lomond, Codroy Valley 31 May), one on Grand Barachois, SPM 14-25 Mar, and an impressive 9 in s. New Brunswick in Apr-May. Eurasian Teal were scarce: 2 in e. Newfoundland, 2 in New Brunswick (18 Mar at Mary's Point [DC] and 29 Apr-5 May at

Saint Anselme [Roger Leblanc]), and 3 on St. Pierre. On 4 May, Tingley found an apparent Mallard × Green-winged Teal hybrid in Fredricton, NB. A Northern Shoveler on St. Pierre, a *Wilma* bird, wintered successfully.

A number of Redheads wintered, following the autumn's influx; reports from Mar/Apr included more than 20 birds on mainland Nova Scotia, including 9 at Bayport, Lunenburg 4 Mar (EM), 3 in New Brunswick, and one at Spaniard's Bay, NL. Tufted Ducks away from e. Newfoundland were limited to singles at three locations in New Brunswick. King Eiders put on a good show; 2 males at Port George, NS delighted observers through Mar, while New Brunswick enjoyed 4, including 3 passing by Point Lepreau, while 5 were noted in e. Newfoundland, including 4 at Daleys Cove in mid-Mar. The spring scoter flight through New Brunswick appeared routine, but in Nova Scotia, a male Surf Scoter and female Black Scoter spent 14-28 Apr together at Sunken L., Kings (BF et al.), an unusual inland location for either.

For the first time since 1974, Red-throated Loons were unrecorded at St. Pierre et Miquelon, and numbers were low in Nova Scotia, but the species' migration past Pt. Lepreau, NB was normal. Nine Red-necked Grebes 6 May at Broad Cove, Lunenburg, NS (EM) were slightly tardy, and low numbers were recorded at St. Pierre.

PELICANS THROUGH DIURNAL RAPTORS

An American White Pelican began a grand tour through the Region this spring. The bird,

SA The traditional northbound shorebird migration routes lie w. of this Region, and our spring "flight" consists of local breeders and a few winterers. This year was different. In the latter half of May, there was an excellent spring passage noted Regionwide, especially of Black-bellied Plover and Red Knot (see table, below). The passage included Prince Edward Island and both coasts of Newfoundland, which recorded dozens of Black-bellied Plover and a few Red Knots. Ian McLaren speculates: "Perhaps long-distance over-water migrants like these shorebirds have taken advantage of the [May] wind setup, with winds offshore [that is, southwesterly] in the se. United States, and paralleling the coast nearer Nova Scotia."

Species	Saint-Leonard, NB (R&L)		Dune de Maisonnette, NB (Marcel David)				SPM (RE)		C.S.I.	Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia
	19 May	29 May	22 May	25 May	29 May	1 Jun	19 May	24-30 May	20-22 May	19-26 May
Black-bellied Plover			114	128	84	105	8	38	325	175
Ruddy Turnstone			13	4	12	21		3	125	175
Red Knot			18	20	21	11		10	75	49
Sanderling					5				hundreds	
Semipalmated Sandpiper			1	2	11	113		7		25
White-rumped Sandpiper		2		2	14	11				
Least Sandpiper	38	17	4	9	8					
Dunlin	1		4	2	17	7		5 on 12 May		
Short-billed Dowitcher		8		1	31	6		1		
Red-necked Phalarope	1									

first noted 23 May at Machias, ME, popped into Waterside, NB, near Fredricton, 25-26 May (Reg & Dorothy Hoar et al.). Its tour continued with a visit to Mary's Pt., NB 27 May (DC et al.), but the following morning it moved to Black Pond Migratory Bird Sanctuary, PEI (Nancy Ching et al.), where it remained through month's end, just the 4th provincial record. It was an unspectacular spring for overshooting herons and egrets, not surprising, given the contrary winds. The Nova Scotia/New Brunswick totals were as follows: Great Egret 9/6; Snowy Egret 9/2; Little Blue Heron 4/1; no Tricolored Herons or Cattle Egrets; Green Heron 3/3; and only singles of Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (Nova Scotia) and Glossy Ibis (New Brunswick). Prince Edward Island was shut out entirely, and St. Pierre had singles of Snowy Egret and Black-crowned Night-Heron in May. Farther n., there was an unexpected influx of 5 Great Egrets to s. Newfoundland, as well as a far-flung bird in Goose Bay, Labrador 8 May (Randy Rose), just the 2nd local record. A Glossy Ibis was at Bonavista, NL 30 Apr-3 May (Jon Joy, Rod Cox). There are now at least five Bald Eagle nests on St. Pierre et Miquelon, admirable given the islands' small area. The wintering Golden Eagle at St. John's, NL was last reported 2 Apr; the only other report was from Bertrand, NB 14 May (m.ob.).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A Purple Gallinule made a brief appearance 25 May near Baxter's Harbour, Kings, NS (Lance Bishop). A Sandhill Crane at Shepody, NB 7-9 May (Ken Haggart) provided that province's only report, but 4 visited Canso, NS, where spring sightings have been regular in recent years (TK). Another was near Yarmouth, NS 12-17 Apr (John Sollows).

At Bonavista, NL, a European Golden Plover was found 7 May and 3-4 on 9-13 May (Rod Cox, JJ). An American Golden Plover at Blackhead, NL 21-23 Apr (DB et al.) furnished a 3rd spring provincial record; all have been of birds in basic plumage. Another on Martinique Beach, H.R.M. 8 Apr was remarkably early (IM et al.). Killdeer are now regular breeders on St. Pierre et Miquelon (RE), though only a few pairs are present. The same may be said of American Oystercatchers on C.S.I., where 7 returned. A Black-necked Stilt at Martinique Beach 15-20 Apr (Terry Paquet et al.) marked the 15th provincial record. The only extralimital Upland Sandpiper was at Jeddore Oyster Pond, H.R.M. 9-14 Apr (Lucas



This third-winter Slaty-backed Gull at the well-watched landfill in St. John's, Newfoundland was the second of three to show up between January and April 2006 (here 18 March). Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.

Berrigan). There were two reports of single Eurasian Whimbrel: 25 May at Cape Spear, NL (Greg Stroud, Dave Fifield) and 6 May at St. Pierre (RE). Two Ruffs in breeding attire were at Goulds, NL 12-13 May (DB, Jennifer Harding et al.). At least 5 Long-billed Dowitchers successfully wintered on C.S.I., part of Hurricane Wilma's bounty.

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

There were eight May occurrences of Laughing Gull in Nova Scotia, well above the average in recent springs; the absence of sightings earlier in the season suggests these were not "Wilma waifs" left over from autumn 2005 but overshoots from the southwest. Two wintering Common Gulls in St. John's were joined by 2 migrants 19 Mar (BMt). However, a single Common Gull at Fredricton, NB 2-4 May (Gilles Belliveau et al.) generated much more excitement. The rare gull extravaganza at St. John's, NL continued into spring. A third-year Yellow-legged Gull was banded there 28 May (BMt)—perhaps the first subad. reported anywhere on the continent, and the latest spring record from the province (or the continent?) by six weeks. On the heels of an ad. in Jan, a third-winter Slaty-backed Gull was present 18 Mar-2 Apr and an identifiably different ad. 23 Apr-7 May (BMt, JC et al.). A Glaucous-winged Gull 21 Mar was thought to be the same bird as seen earlier in the winter (BMt, JC). An ad. Ivory Gull was unexpectedly inland along the Metchin R., Labrador, feeding on caribou carcasses some time in Mar/Apr (Tony Chubbs, Frank Phillips). A Black Tern 18 May at Sainte-Anne, NB might represent the first record of

the species for the n. portion of the province (R&CL). Two Forster's Terns from Wilma wintered successfully in Nova Scotia, possibly a Regional first.

DOVES THROUGH STARLINGS

A White-winged Dove appeared 24 May on C.S.I. (Johnny Nickerson); there are 35 previous provincial records, including one from the same feeder. Newfoundland's 4th White-winged Dove appeared 19-22 May at a Clarenville feeder (Cliff Briffet et al.). Yellow-billed Cuckoos are very rare Regionally in spring (and perhaps even more so following the massive mortality from Hurricane Wilma), but G.M.I. hosted no fewer than 3 birds 20-21 May (ST, m.ob.), and a bird was tallied 13 May in Nova Scotia (North American Migration Count). An Eastern Screech-Owl 8 May near Avondale, PEI (Dan McAskill, RC) furnished just

the 8th provincial record. An unexpected Great Gray Owl delighted birders 5-11 Mar near Juniper, NB (Tiffany Thornhill, m.ob.). Two nesting boxes on St. Pierre were occupied by Boreal Owls by mid-Apr (RE). A lone Common Nighthawk reached St. Pierre 17 May; the species is noted here in spring just one year in three. More remarkably, a Chimney Swift appeared 22 Apr at St. Lawrence, NL (Gail & Norman Wilson); the species is very rare on Newfoundland, and this is an extremely early record for anywhere in the Region. Numbers of Common Nighthawks and Chimney Swifts in Nova Scotia were distressingly low, the latter perhaps due Wilma mortality last autumn. Two Red-bellied Woodpeckers were reported in New Brunswick, and a pair was near Halifax, but we have no report of a nest as yet. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker wintered successfully for the 2nd time at Hantsport, NS, while one on St. Pierre 10 Apr was locally rare and rather early (Michelle Borthayre). The only Willow Flycatchers reported were in Grand Falls, NB 17 May (Paul Mansz, MC) and near Savage Harbour, PEI 27 May (DS).

On 23 May, Jill Cooper-Robinson observed a strange hummingbird in her flower garden in downtown Halifax. The most striking features were its red bill and iridescent green body with darker underparts. The description matches Broad-billed Hummingbird. The lack of any reddish on the wings was noted but not the whitish undertail coverts, which can be hard to see on perched birds. There are a few records of the species in e. North America, including one in New Brunswick in late Oct 1999, but apparently

none for spring. There was no feeder on the property, and the bird only stayed for a few hours. A presumed Ruby-throated Hummingbird was seen 18 May on St. Pierre by Philippe Autin, who reported that the hungry bird confused red gloves for (absent) flowers and tried to feed on each finger (*vide* RE). Two Warbling Vireos were found in late May in Nova Scotia: 28 May at Port William, Kings (Richard Stern) and 30 May on Brier I. (EM). The last Purple Martin colony in Nova Scotia, at Oxford, had only a few males this spring;



This adult Slaty-backed Gull was the third of its species to be found at the St. John's landfill in 2006; it was present 23 April (here) through 3 May. Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.

the species is declining in New Brunswick as well. However, 2 reached Newfoundland, where very rare: 12-16 Apr at Bonavista (JJ) and 15-16 Apr at Clarendville (Dan Myers), both sightings very early. One at St. Pierre 24-26 May (Pascal Asselin) was rare but more seasonable. Two Cliff Swallows 22-27 May at Allisary Creek, PEI were considered locally rare (DS). The Black-capped Chickadee population at St. Pierre has been reduced to a single male, noted sporadically 10 Mar-8 May (PB). Prince Edward I. enjoyed its first Carolina Wren 10 Apr+ in Charlottetown (Kevin Teather, Andy Horn). Nova Scotia's 13th Carolina Wren took up station in Spryfield, H.R.M. 30 Mar-8 May (FL et al.), and another was singing at Crystal Crescent Beach P.P., NS 25 Apr (HT).

New Brunswick birders found the only Blue-gray Gnatcatchers this spring—at Saint John 1 May (MC) and on G.M.I. 22 May. There was an unprecedented spring movement of thousands of Black-capped Chickadees through Brier I., NS 5-30 May (m.ob.); most moved on, but many lingered on the island into Jun. Presumably, this flight involved returning individuals from the heavy autumn movement recorded throughout se. Canada and New England. The e. coast of Newfoundland enjoyed a small influx of Northern Wheatears: one at Broad Cove 11 May; one at Bonavista 14 May; 3 at Cape Race 14-15 May; and one at Cape Spear 26 May. Hermit Thrush has become the commonest thrush on St. Pierre, far surpassing Gray-checked Thrush,

which is now very uncommon and local (*vide* RE). A Townsend's Solitaire, Nova Scotia's 15th, was belatedly identified at Chezzetcook 27-30 Mar (Brenda McAloney) but had been present for some weeks. A Gray Catbird 27 Apr on St. Pierre (Patrick Hacala) was the earliest arrival on record. The only Brown Thrasher sightings were 4 in New Brunswick in mid-May.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

There was but a single rare warbler this spring, a Yellow-throated Warbler in Annapolis, NS 13 May (Donald Barnes). Etcheberry noted that Northern Waterthrushes arrived in low numbers and nine days later than average on St. Pierre. The annual Apr-May "rainbow show" of colorful passerines suffered from lack of southerly winds this spring: there were no Summer Tanagers and but 2 Scarlet Tanagers, both in Nova Scotia, plus a male Scarlet on St. Pierre 2-7 May, followed by a female 31 May (PB). Three Eastern Towhees, including a pair, wintered in Lunenburg, NS. Clay-colored Sparrows appeared only in New Brunswick, with sightings of singles at l'île de Lamèque 29 Apr (Hilaire & Rose Aline Chissou) and on G.M.I. 20-21 May (ST, m.ob.). Two Field Sparrows wintered in H.R.M., and there were six May sightings split equally between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. A Vesper Sparrow in the Forest Hill area, PEI 7 May was locally rare (RC), and a Swamp Sparrow wintered on St. Pierre. Three White-crowned Sparrows wintered in Kings, NS, as did 2 in New Brunswick. Golden-crowned Sparrows made the news in the Region this spring. New Brunswick's 4th successfully wintered in Memramcook (until 22 Apr), but then a 5th (or the same?) bird was found 28 Apr-9 May at a Quispamsis feeder, in full song (Geraldine Black). In Nova Scotia, the Barrington bird wintered (last seen 22 Apr, just as with the Memramcook bird), but the province's 9th was found in Wolfville 15 Apr (Jim Wolford et al.), where it lingered until 22 May. An Oregon Junco was nicely documented 13 May in Sand Lake, Cape Breton, NS (ph. Cathy Murrant); there are only a few previous records in Nova Scotia.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were thought to be in normal numbers in the Maritimes, but farther n. there was a good flight, with 10-12 noted across Newfoundland and at least 8 reaching St. Pierre. Remarkably, there was but a single Blue Grosbeak, in May in Lunenburg, NS, and the Indigo Bunting totals were subpar, 15 in Nova Scotia, 6 in Newfoundland, 3

in New Brunswick, 2 on St. Pierre, and one on Prince Edward Island. Nova Scotia's 18th Painted Bunting, which arrived in Lunenburg in Feb, remained through 13 Apr. Dickcissels were few: just 3 in Nova Scotia and one in New Brunswick.

A male Yellow-headed Blackbird at Peck Meadows, Kings, NS 5 May (Bernard Forsythe) could have been the same as the male reported in nearby Windsor almost two weeks later. Rusty Blackbirds continue their decline across the Region, with few in Nova Scotia and two reports from St. Pierre, where relatively rare (RE). There were only four May Orchard Oriole sightings in Nova Scotia and just one from New Brunswick. A Eurasian Siskin at a Mary's Point, NB feeder 29-30 Apr (ph. DC; <<http://homepage.mac.com/maryspt/PhotoAlbum9.html>>) was well documented and just a 2nd for the province. The New Brunswick Bird Records Committee has yet to rule on the report, but records of Common Chaffinches and Bramblings have been accepted. There was little to report regarding other "winter finches" except that American Goldfinches are now wintering on Miquelon; they had already begun doing so on St. Pierre.

Addenda: Several Nova Scotia sightings from summer 2005 were inadvertently omitted from the Regional report. A Least Tern was found and photographed at C.S.I. 24 Jul (Murray Newell); a small tern seen fleetingly at Canso 21-22 Jun (Tom Kavanaugh) was likely a Least as well. A Boreal Owl in a Guysborough nestbox produced 2 fledglings, for the province's first mainland nesting of this enigmatic species. A Chuck-will's-widow was flushed twice in Guysborough 9 May (†Fulton Lavender); another was heard at Williams L., H.R.M. in late May (Kris Allinson) and confirmed 23-29 Jun; locals reported having heard the same bird the previous summer! These represent the 10th and 11th records for the province.

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It was one of the warmest springs ever recorded in Québec. All regions experienced above-normal temperatures, northern Québec being 5° C above and southern Québec 2–3° C above normal. The northern part experienced precipitation levels 40 percent above normal or more. In the south, precipitation was closer to normal, although May was very wet. Ducks and geese put on a spectacular show along the Richelieu River in March. Out-of-range gulls stirred a lot of excitement, but shorebirds were almost absent, except for the phalaropes. Passerines migration was lackluster, with no significant fallout reported anywhere in the Region.

WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

An ad. Pink-footed Goose was a notable find at Saint-Mathias-sur-Richelieu 25 Mar, providing a 9th record for the province and a new Regional record-early date (GZ, PB, A. Messier, ph.). The same individual was spotted later the same day at nearby Saint-Basile-le-Grand (OB, MR, SD). A flock of 29 Greater White-fronted Geese, by far the largest ever reported in the Region, was observed flying over L. Abitibi, near Clerval 28 Apr (JS. Plante). Adding to this intriguing report, the Abitibi region had hosted a group of 15 at Authier-Nord in spring 2005 (J. Gagnon, JS. Plante, vt.). Brant were seen in larger numbers than usual in the Montréal area during a prolonged period of wet weather in mid-May, e.g., several hundred in a flooded field at Saint-Clet 20 May (W. Grubert). A Barnacle Goose stopped at Masson 5 May (JFJ, LJ). Tundra Swans made a very good incursion in extreme s. Québec in Mar: 2 were spotted at Sainte-Barbe 11 & 27 Mar (PÉ, S. Rochon), 7

at Saint-Paul-de-l'Île-aux-Noix 16-17 Mar, with 2 remaining until 24 Mar (MG et al.), 2 at Saint-Blaise 16-24 Mar (Y. Paquette, L. Simard, L. Gagné), 3 at Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka 18 Mar (B. Barnhurst), and 2 at Saint-Anicet 29-31 Mar (PÉ, m.ob.). Five unidentified swans near Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 12 Mar were probably this species (M. & C. Arnaudin).

Two male Eurasian Wigeons at Saint-Paul-de-l'Île-aux-Noix 18 Mar (D. Paquette, D. Ouellette) and 2 male Northern Shovelers in the same locality 12 Mar provided a Regional record-early date for both species (E. Samson, A. Lacasse). Single Eurasian Teal were at Noyan 25 Mar (PB, GZ), Portneuf 1 Apr (G. Cyr), Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures 10 Apr (CN), Rimouski 27 Apr (GG), La Pocatière 7 May (CA, CG), and Sept-Îles 7 May (CC, BD). A male Tufted Duck brightened Lévis 20-22 May (G. Lemelin, LR, A. Déry, ph.).

Two Gray Partridges at Cacouna 18 Mar (D. Bérubé) and 2 other at Pointe-au-Père 25 Mar (G. Proulx, M. Therriault) were well e. of their range. A Wild Turkey at Armstrong, Beauce 16 May confirmed a modest eastward range extension (SD, N. Hamel). Single American White Pelicans were noteworthy at Saint-Paul-de-l'Île-aux-Noix 21 May (R. Saint-Jean et al., *vide* MG) and at Saint-Lambert-de-Lauzon 29 May+ (O. Mongeon, LR, m.ob., ph.). Stray herons and egrets from the s. included a Snowy Egret at Saint-Siméon 22-27 May (M. Bujold, m.ob.), a Little Blue Heron at l'Anse-au-Griffon 27-28 May (G. Gélinas, O. Deruelle et al.), single Tricolored Herons at Montmagny 30 Apr–5 May (H. Nadeau, G. Cameron, Y. Hamel) and La Baie 28-30 May (S. Tremblay, R. Gagnon et al.), and a Cattle Egret at Ile Dupas 22 May (P. Franche, A. Gosselin). Single Glossy Ibis made an appearance at Baie-du-Febvre 11 Apr (L. Corriveau, S. Bouchard, D. Sainte-Marie) and again 21 Apr–7 May (J. Cadieux, P. Brassard et al.) and then at Montmagny 1 May (S. Bégin, L. Plante), while the same observers reported a *Plegadis* at Rivière-Ouelle 1 May.

RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS

An ad. Red-tailed Hawk of the *calurus* subspecies that successfully wintered at Gatineau for the 3rd consecutive year was still present 6 Apr (C. Blanchette, F. Leduc). An imm. gray-morph Gyrfalcon was late at Saint-Basile-le-Grand 22 May (R. Belhumeur). A Common Moorhen at Chandler 22 May represented the 3rd record only for the Gaspé Pen. (M. Larrivé). A Black-bellied Plover at Cap-Rouge 23-26 Mar provided a record-early date for the Region (P. Nadeau). An American Avocet was a good find at Cap-Tourmente 5 May (L. Major, PM. Marotte), while one at Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré 12 May (MR) was found dead the next day. A Greater Yellowlegs in the Magdalen Is. 23 Mar was extremely early (DGG). Willets made a good showing outside their limited breeding range in the Magdalen Is. Singles were at Gaspé 20-28 May (D. Jalbert) and Lévis 22 May (CN), while up to 2 showed on Ile Verte 28-31 May (Y. Gauthier et al., R. Gaudreault, F. L'Hécureux). The only Marbled Godwit of the spring turned up at La Pocatière 20-27 May (CA, CG). Also a rare spring visitor, a Stilt Sandpiper at Baie-du-Febvre 15-23 Apr provided a record-early date for the Region (F. Gariépy et al.).

A total of 5 Laughing Gulls was more than usual: single ads. were at Victoriaville 13 Apr, a record-early date (CR, M. Grégoire, J. Ducharme), Paspébiac 22-23 Apr (A. Couture), Rivière-Ouelle 14 May (CG, CA), Neuville 22 May (G. Lord, N. Boucher, JB), and Havre-aux-Basques 28-29 May (A. Richard, DGG). Franklin's Gulls were represented by an ad. at Victoriaville 21 Apr (CR et al.), an ad. at Métabetchouan 7 May (C. Cormier, GS), an ad. at La Malbaie 27 May, and a first-year bird in the same locale 28-31 May (A. Côté). Fairly good numbers of Little Gulls were also reported. Bonaparte's Gulls totaled 4000 at Bergeronnes 7 May (R. Pintiaux). Intriguing were 3 different Thayer's-type Gulls that were nicely photographed at La Malbaie 23 Apr, 21 May, and 30-31 May, re-

SA An unprecedented fallout of Red Phalaropes occurred in mid-May. Most birds appeared inland w. of Québec City, with several along the Richelieu R. valley, e. of Montréal. Two males and a female were first discovered at Baie-du-Febvre 13 May (DD, JP. Richard), followed by a male at Saint-Blaise 13-15 May (S. Mathieu et al., ph.), a female at Napierville 14 May (SD, P. Laporte, ph.), a female at Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley 14 May (JP. Pelletier, ph.), a female at Saint-Paul-de-l'Île-aux-Noix 14-15 May (which fell prey to a Peregrine Falcon; SD, PB, m.ob., ph.), a female at Lac-Etchemin 16 May (M. Labrie), one at Chambly 16 May (R. Chartier), and finally a female at Québec City 18-19 May (JL). There are only four Regional records of the species in the month of May, 1960–2005. This fallout was weather-related and probably attributable to an intense low-pressure system that moved nw. from the Atlantic through Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and s. Québec. Rain fell almost daily in s. Québec 12-21 May, causing major flooding 19-20 May e. of the Richelieu R. valley. Not as rare, Red-necked Phalaropes were also widely reported during the same period.



One of three adult Thayer's Gulls to show up in the Charlevoix area during May 2006, this individual was photographed 21 May at La Malbaie. Photograph by Alain Côté.

spectively (A. Côté). All birds were ads. and showed typical features for this species. Two Ross's Gulls, an ad. and a first-summer bird, were discovered at Sept-Iles 28-29 May (JFL, BD, CC), providing the 4th fully documented record for the Region and the first of 2 birds. Providing the 2nd and 3rd records for this year, an imm. Ivory Gull was photographed at Alma 31 Mar (S. Boivin), while an ad. was thoroughly described at Lévis 25 Mar (JL). A Caspian Tern at L. Osisko, Rouyn-Noranda 25-26 May furnished the 2nd record for *Abitibi* (M. Arsenault et al.).

CUCKOOS THROUGH THRASHERS

The only Yellow-billed Cuckoo was reported in Gatineau Park 29 May (LJ, JFJ). The Black-billed Cuckoo at Magpic 16 May was the easternmost ever seen on the North Shore (J. Lanthier, *vide* YR). A fledgling Eastern Screech-Owl was seen on a Montréal lawn 8 Apr (J. Harrison), a surprisingly early date for the Region. Snowy Owls continued to be locally numerous into Mar, with 15 at Saint-Clet 8 Mar (M. Dennis), an excellent figure for the Montréal vicinity. A research project in *Abitibi* on *Aegolius* owls yielded 18 nest boxes used by Northern Saw-whet Owl pairs and four by Boreal Owls (J. Gagnon et al.).

Single Red-bellied Woodpeckers were at Sainte-Foy 22 May (P. Caron) and Tewkesbury 26 May (J. Guay), while one present at Saint-Godefroi since last fall was still there 25 May (E. Arsenault). The spread of Common Raven into the St. Lawrence lowlands has been obvious for over a decade, but information about breeding pairs at the edge of their range is still patchy, so the discovery of at least four nests at Laval this season was remarkable (*vide* G. Lachaine). A Northern Rough-winged Swallow at Bécancour 11 Apr tied the earliest Regional record (ph. RB).

The relative mildness of last winter and light snow cover seem to have set the ground for an increase in Carolina Wren numbers. They were widely reported this spring, and breeding was confirmed in May at three localities in s. Québec: Repentigny (G. Santiago), Saint-Blaise (PB), and Philipsburg (PB). The Townsend's Solitaire at Beauport was last reported 13 Mar (JM. Giroux). A Wood Thrush at Pointe-des-Prairies Park, Montréal 18 Apr antedated the Region-wide early date by two days (J. Gawloski). The Varied Thrush discovered

at Grande-Rivière last Jan was last reported 14 Apr (R. Lemieux, *vide* D. Mercier), while a male was at Québec City 8-9 Apr (JB, N. Boucher). The Brown Thrasher present since last Dec at Val d'Or was seen until 12 Apr (C. Siano, R. Ladurantaye), whereas one in Maria was last seen 21 Apr (C. Lamarre), confirming rare but increasing cases of successful overwintering in the Region. Another Brown Thrasher at McWatters, *Abitibi* 9 Apr was quite early, in addition to being out of range (D. Guilbault, M. Letendre).

WARBLERS THROUGH ORIOLES

Up to 2 Blue-winged Warblers were present on their breeding grounds at Lac-Brome in May (PB et al.), while another was at Freighsburg 21 May (MR, P. Lane). A Lawrence's



This female Red Phalarope at Napierville, near Montréal, on 14 May was one of about 10 grounded by stormy weather in southern Québec in mid-May 2006. Photograph by Samuel Denault.

Warbler returned to Lac-Brome for the 3rd consecutive year (PB et al., ph.). A few record-early arrival dates among the warblers were broken or tied this spring: a Pine Warbler at Gatineau Park 2 Apr tied an old record from 1983 (D. Saint-Hilaire); a Black-and-

white Warbler at Cowansville 3 Apr bested the previous record by two days (JP. Santerre); and the returning Louisiana Waterthrush at Gatineau Park tied the earliest Regional record, first detected 2 May this year (E. Suárez, P. Matthews). Always a rare occurrence throughout the Region on migration, a Connecticut Warbler in Mount-Royal Park 26 May was the only one reported away from the breeding grounds (DD). A territorial Yellow-breasted Chat at Neuville 26 May+ delighted numerous observers (JB, ph.).

A female Western Tanager was at Cap-Tourmente 7 May (G. Lachance, G. L'Heureux, ph.), prolonging the Region's lucky streak of spring records of this species to eight consecutive years. The Spotted Towhee at Les Escoumins was last reported 18 Apr (JG. Beaulieu). A maximum of 9 Clay-colored Sparrows at Guigues, *Témiscamingue* 15 May was noteworthy (J. Fréchette). Far less frequent in s. Québec than in the e. half of the province, a Lark Sparrow at Danville was an interesting find 24-27 Apr (G. Huot, D. Labonté). A Grasshopper Sparrow at Saint-Marc-sur-Richelieu 17 May+ established a new site for this rare, Regionally threatened species (S. Rioux, ph.). Ten Lapland Longspurs at Baie-du-Febvre (D. Lavoie) and one at Saint-Basile-le-Grand (SD) 20 May were late for s. Québec, while a figure of 500 at Métabetchouan, *Lac-Saint-Jean* 29 Apr (JP. Bérubé et al.) was impressive; such concentrations are unknown in the vast agricultural landscape of the St. Lawrence lowlands farther s. but may be of annual occurrence in the Lac-Saint-Jean plain as well as in *Abitibi*.

A male Lazuli Bunting was photographed at feeders in Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Montréal 14 May (P. Patrick, E. Cowan), providing a first fully documented record for the Region. Singing Western Meadowlarks were reported from Cap-Tourmente 6 May (L. Messely, ph.) and Mont-Joli 27 May (*vide* S. Rhéaume), the latter being correctly identified a few days after its discovery (GG, D. Ruest). A female Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Baie-du-Febvre 16-25 May (RB, M. Berlinguette, and M.

Maheu). A singing Orchard Oriole was at Freighsburg 20 May (JG. Papineau, H. Jetten), not far from where the species nested in 2002.

Exotics: A Black Swan harassing a Canada Goose was videotaped at Dundee 22 May (J.



For the third consecutive year, a male Lawrence's Warbler occupied a territory in May 2006 and later (here 15 June) at Lac-Brome, Knowlton, Québec. Photograph by Pierre Bannon.

Brisson). A Saffron Finch attended a feeder at Saint-Ambroise, Saguenay 8-19 May (ph. G. Tremblay)

Addendum: A Tufted Titmouse at L'Anse-à-Beaufils 20 Jan 2006 provided the 2nd record for the Gaspé Pen (R. Côte).

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New England



Simon Perkins

The contrast in weather between March/April and May was stark. The first two months were very dry, with March in Massachusetts ranking as the third driest in 112 years of records. Then came May—which in Massachusetts ranked as the second wettest ever! Virtually all of the rain came courtesy of a series of coastal storms that bore an uncanny resemblance to the series of storms in spring 2005. To quote the great Yogi Berra: "It's déjà vu all over again." The rain peaked with a four-day barrage in the middle of the month that produced a staggering 54 cm in certain communities in northeastern Massachusetts. Predictably, record flooding occurred across wide areas in

northeastern Massachusetts, eastern New Hampshire, and southeastern Maine. Governors declared states of emergency, the National Guard was deployed to assist local residents, and entire towns were evacuated.

However, the water appeared to affect humans more than most birds. Last year's storms had more significant impacts on nesting species because the brunt of the weather came later in the month, when nesting was well underway. The birds that took the hardest hits were seabirds, many of which were cast against the coast and beyond by the incessant easterly gales. Indeed the break between systems during the middle week of May was so brief that the series of storms is referred to below simply as the Storm. With one striking, localized exception (on 5 May, prior to the onset of heavy weather), May migrants had no choice but to "pick their spots" and move during the few breaks in the weather: land-bird migration was thus very slow indeed. Shorebirds, on the other hand, were conspicuous, rarities plentiful, and early arrivals prevalent—all over again.

Abbreviations: Monomoy (Monomoy N.W.R., Chatham, MA); M.V. (Martha's Vineyard, Dukes, MA); Monhegan I. (Lincoln, ME); P.I. (Plum I., Essex, MA, including Parker River N.W.R.); Quabbin (Quabbin Res., cen. MA).

WATERFOWL THROUGH FRIGATEBIRD

Eight Tundra Swans reported Regionwide in-

cluded 6 in Massachusetts and 2 in Rhode Island. The Region's 9 Greater White-fronted Geese, a total that has become more or less



This male Black-necked Stilt, one of two in New England this spring, delighted birders during its eight-day stay in East Boston, Massachusetts 1-8 (here 3) April 2006. Photograph by John Crook.

expected in recent years, included 4 each in Massachusetts and Connecticut and one in n. Maine at Fort Fairfield 2 Apr (ph. BS). A Cackling Goose discovered on the Plymouth, MA C.B.C. remained there at least through 21 Mar (TLE et al.), and 2 were reported from Connecticut, both also in Mar (fide GH). In Connecticut, a Barnacle Goose visited Southbury 15-28 Mar (C. Harrison). Seven

Table 1. Selected reports of seabirds from New England, May 2006.

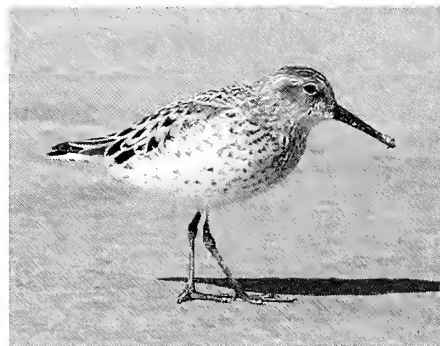
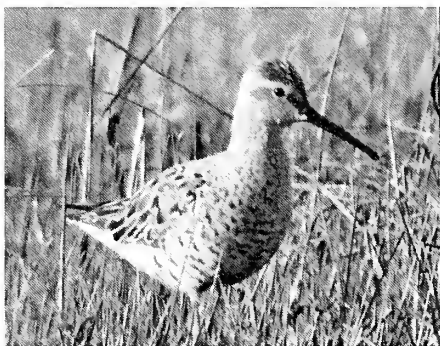
DATE:	MAY 13				MAY 14				MAY 15			MAY 16		MAY 17	
STATE:	ME	NH	MA	RI	NH	MA			NH	MA		RI	ME	MA	MA
Species / Location			Cape Cod	AP		Cape Cod	AP	PI		Cape Cod	PI				
unidentified albatross						1 (SN)									
Manx Shearwater				15	1 (J)	5 (CB)	5								
Unidentified small black-and-white shearwater										1 (CB)					
Wilson's Storm-Petrel			5 (P't)	1		2 (CB)	2								
Leach's Storm-Petrel			1 (P't)	2		1 (SN)	9								
Northern Gannet			850 (CB)	714		2850 (CB)	485								
Magnificent Frigatebird			1 ad. female (E)												
Red-necked Phalarope		1 (R)	261 (CB)	1	7 (R)	100 (SN)	386		10 (C)	63 (CB)			6 (SC)		75 (P't)
Red Phalarope	1 (SC)		74 (P't)	2		85 (CB); 150 (SN)	1			38 (CB)		1 (BI)	1 (SC)		
unidentified phalarope						21 (CB)				23 (CB)					
Pomarine Jaeger				4 ads.		3 (CB); 2 (SN)	1 ad.			2 ads. (CB)					
Parasitic Jaeger			16 (CB)	17 ad.		30 (CB)	1 ad.			16 (CB)		1 (BI)			
Long-tailed Jaeger						1 (E); 1 (CB)	1 ad.								
unidentified jaeger						11 (CB)									
Sabine's Gull						1 ad. (CB)									
Black-legged Kittiwake			1 (CB)	22		7 (CB)	8								
Arctic Tern							75 ads. 320			130 (CB)	65			1 ad. (PI)	
Common/Arctic Tern						1200 (CB)									
Common Murre				1			1								

KEY: Locality abbreviations (observers in parentheses)

AP- Andrew's Point, Rockport (C. Caron, RSH, SM)
 BI- Block I. (S. Tsagarakis)
 C- various coastal localities (SM)

CB- Corporation Beach, Dennis (BN, P. Flood, G. d'Entremont)
 E- Eastham (BN, A. Rudkin et al.)
 J- Jamestown (R. Emerson)
 PI- Plum I., Essex (RSH, T. Wetmore)
 P't- Provincetown (BN)

R- Rye (SM)
 SC- southern coast, various localities (DL, E. Hess, D. Reimer)
 SN- Sandy Neck, Barnstable (G. Hirth)
 Maximum counts in **boldface**



Stilt and Western Sandpipers follow roughly similar spring migration routes, which take them in a north-northwesterly direction across the continent, mostly bypassing New England altogether. Hence, these two species are very unusual in spring in New England and even more rarely photographed. The Stilt Sandpiper (left), one of three at the site, was in Weekapaug, Rhode Island 23 May 2006; the Western Sandpiper was in Charlestown, Rhode Island 30 April 2006. Photographs by Richard Ferren (Stilt) and Paul L'Etoile (Western).

Eurasian Wigeons were reported from Massachusetts, an average total. A high count of 225 Northern Pintails at PI. 20 Mar was probably comprised mostly of winterers; another noteworthy pintail count of 175 came from the Dead Creek W.M.A., Addison, VT 21 Mar (TGM). Eurasian Teal reports came from Machias, ME (EJR et al.), Connecticut (2),

and Massachusetts. A Eurasian Teal × Green-winged Teal intergrade was described from Tiverton, RI, while a Mallard × Northern Shoveler hybrid and a Common Goldeneye × Hooded Merganser hybrid were both in East Machias (ph. EJR et al.).

Wintering Redheads persisted into spring: 8 of the 9 that were at Scarborough, ME in

Feb remained until 8 Mar, and one was at Biddeford, ME 19 Mar–11 Apr. In Massachusetts, migrants found n. of traditional winter quarters included 14 in Concord and 10 in Randolph, and reports from Vermont included 8 in S. Hero 7 Mar and 10 in Ferrisburgh 18 Mar (TGM). The only Tufted Duck report referred to 2 (a male and a female, "behaving like a pair") at S. Hero, VT 7–21 Mar (TGM et al.); seen on this same stretch of L. Champlain 21 Mar were roughly 1700 scaup, the majority of which were Greater Scaup (TGM et al.). Very rare on L. Champlain, VT, were a male King Eider at South Hero 5 Mar (A. Strong, TGM) and a male Harlequin Duck in Charlotte 12 Mar (TGM). High inland counts of migrant seaducks included 585 White-winged Scoters, 3 Surf Scoters, and 12 Long-tailed Ducks on the Connecticut Lakes, Pittsburg, NH 21 May, and among these flocks were 8 Common Eiders (MH), the largest number ever recorded inland in the Region. This species is very rare anywhere away from the coast—and rarer even than King Eider except on L. Champlain. Also at the Connecti-

Salutation surrounding the discovery of a **White-tailed Hawk** in Hadley, MA 22-24 Apr (S. Sumner et al.) was tempered by examination of photographs, which showed that the bird had damaged remiges, apparently typical of damage often sustained by captive birds. The next day, 25 Apr, another White-tailed was reported from the Great Swamp N.W.R., NJ. Two days later, 27 Apr, another was reported at the Pilgrim Heights hawkwatch in Truro, MA (VL, DM). Could a single bird have accounted for all three sightings within a mere five-day span? This seems most unlikely. See the S. A. item in the Hudson-Delaware Regional report for more discussion.



This apparent Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser hybrid was present in East Machias, Maine 1-18 (here 11) March 2006. Photographs by Barry Southard (single bird) and E. J. Raynor (flock).



cut Lakes were 200 White-winged Scoters and 500 unidentified scoters seen migrating northward late in the day on 24 May (MH). Other significant seaduck fallouts included large mixed flocks of scoters and 30 Long-tailed Ducks in Aroostook, ME 18-19 May (BS), and 100+ unidentified scoters in Hudson, Penobscot, ME 30 Apr (BD). A minimum of 6 Barrow's Goldeneyes at S. Hero on L. Champlain 7-21 Mar included 5 together 21 Mar (TGM), the highest count in the Region.

Two reports of Pacific Loon at Race Point in Provincetown, MA 12 Mar (J. Hoyer) and 23 Apr (BN) may pertain to the same individual. Race Point is currently the most reliable spot in New England for the species. A Pacific Loon in breeding plumage was present at Biddeford, ME 23 May (DL). The remarkable Eared Grebe that spent its 11th winter in Gloucester, MA remained at least through 25 Mar (B.O.). Like most other freshwater marsh species in the Region, Pied-billed Grebe is in decline, and nesting confirmation is increasingly rare. A pair that included an ad. sitting on a nest at the Great Meadows N.W.R. in Concord, MA 15 May (DAS) furnished the most recent breeding record. Unfortunately, the nest and any clutch it might have contained became a flood casualty.

The two most unusual seabirds of the season, whatever they were, were both left unidentified to species. An albatross made a pass off Sandy Neck in Barnstable, MA during the Storm 14 May (G. Hirth), and the next day, a small black-and-white shearwater, first thought to be an alcid, flew by Corporation Beach in Dennis, MA. The observer, a seasoned salt with over 40 years of seawatching

under the belt, felt "pretty certain" that it was a Little Shearwater (BN), but, alas, the bird never approached close enough to allow him to pull the proverbial trigger on what would have been the Region's first and one of very few anywhere in North America. Overall, the total numbers of seabirds recorded during the Storm paled in comparison to those recorded during the storms in May 2005, no doubt because of this year's storm's earlier occurrence, but the species composition and geographical distribution were remarkably similar. As was the case last year, Massachusetts had most of



During its stay, 9-18 (here 18) May 2006, this King Rail at Concord, Massachusetts was forced to the margins of the marsh by floodwaters and soon became habituated to the presence of its many human admirers. Photograph by Shawn Carey.

the records; only smatterings of pelagic species (except for phalaropes; see S.A. item) were reported from neighboring states.

An American White Pelican put in a brief appearance in East Machias, ME 23 May (vt. G. Kraus, *fide* N. Famous) and then took a tour of the Maritime provinces. Three reports

of Magnificent Frigatebird included at least 2 different individuals: an ad. female in Eastham, MA 17 May (A. Rudkin et al.), and it (or another) ad. female was found in Casco Bay, ME 20 May (M. Martinkovic, J. Lamb), just 40 minutes before an ad. male was reported at Cape Elizabeth, ME (C. Jamcs). Reports of the species thus spanned the length of the Atlantic Seaboard this season.

EGRETS THROUGH RAPTORS

A possible Snowy Egret x Little Egret hybrid, probably the same individual that was found at Nantucket last May, reappeared there 18 May and remained into summer (ph. E. Ray et al.). At one point, it was seen entering a Snowy Egret colony. A White Ibis made a brief showing at Chappaquiddick I. in Edgartown, M.V. 17 Mar (D. Carter), and another or the same individual was found in Scituate, MA 1 Apr (C. Nims). Black Vultures were found in all six New England states: 25+ in Massachusetts, 4 in Rhode Island, 2 in Maine (n. to Bangor), 2 in Vermont, and one in New Hampshire. State compilers in Connecticut, where totals now probably reach triple digits every year, no longer tally the reports.

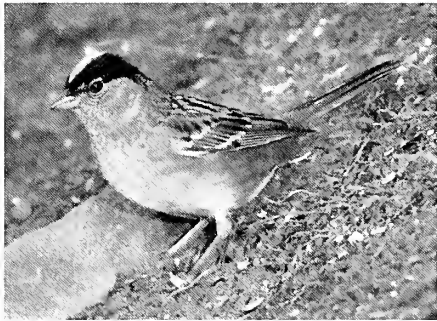
A Swallow-tailed Kite made a typical fleeting visit to Deep River, CT 28 Apr (J. Wilder); another put in a brief appearance in Wellfleet, MA 20 May (Eric Olsen et al.). On 29 May, a Mississippi Kite flew by the Pilgrim Heights hawkwatch in N. Truro, MA (D. Manchester), a locality that has become known as the most reliable kite site n. of Cape May, NJ. A late Rough-legged Hawk was noted in Worcester, MA 7 May (ML), and an equally late (especially for an ad.) Golden Eagle passed over Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, MA 6 May (LP et al.); at least 5 were reported from Maine (*fide* JD). Four Gyrfalcon reports included a gray morph in S. Hero, VT 7 Mar (TGM) and single dark birds in Nahant, MA 10 & 15 Mar (LP) and at P.I. 14 Mar (B. Secatore), the latter about 40 km from Nahant.

CRANES THROUGH ALCIDS

A total of at least 16 Sandhill Cranes included 4 in Maine, 3 in New Hampshire (including one back in Monroe for the 8th consecutive spring; *fide* PH), 2 in Connecticut, one in Massachusetts, and 6 on the Massachusetts/Connecticut border. Two of these latter birds, both ads., remained together in New Marlboro, MA through season and later (S. Mullen). With Sandhills now nesting annually in New York and Maine, will this be the next New England nesting site? A glance at

this rural section of the state with Google Earth (an excellent new tool for this sort of prognosticating) reveals ample areas of relatively remote, open, seemingly suitable wetland.

An above-average spring total of 5 American Golden-Plovers included 2 in Maine, 2 together in Rhode Island, and one rather early at Monomoy N.W.R., Chatham, MA 11-20 Apr (BH). Also somewhat early were a Semipalmated Plover in Machias, ME 17 Mar (BD), a Least Sandpiper in Sanford, ME 1 Apr (DL), and an Upland Sandpiper at Monomoy 10 Apr (BH). A remarkably hardy Marbled



This Golden-crowned Sparrow made a one-day stop at a feeder in Sturbridge, Massachusetts 26 April 2006. Photograph by Bruce deGraff.

Godwit that was first found on the local C.B.C. was last seen at Monomoy 8 Mar (C. Longworth); the same or another was there 16 Apr (BH). Both an American Avocet in S. Kingston, RI 20-24 May (T. McLeish) and a Black-necked Stilt in Westport, CT 13 May (FM) may have been dragged up the coast by the Storm. Another Black-necked Stilt was in East Boston, MA 1-8 Apr (L. Ferraresso et al.,



This Fork-tailed Flycatcher in Saco, Maine 6-8 (here 6) May 2006 appeared in a habitat that produces many vagrants in the East: a beach. Photograph by Suzanne Sanborn.

ph.). Stilt Sandpiper occurs less than annually in the Region in spring, the records usually involving one or 2 individuals, so 5 was an above-average count. Singles were in S. Thomaston, ME (M. Libby) and Scarborough, ME (ph. EH), both 30 May, and 3 were found together in Weekapaug, RI 23 May (ph. R. Ferren). Like Stilt Sandpipers and Long-billed Dowitchers, Western Sandpipers moving

SA Among the various species of shorebirds and seabirds (Table 2) that appeared inland during the Storm, phalaropes occurred in the greatest numbers—many more than during last year's wreck—and over the widest area, despite the fact that last year's storms were more intense. The farthest-flung phalaropes were in central Vermont; thus the lack of reports from L. Champlain was surprising. Below is a summary of the inland phalaropes by state.

Vermont

One Red and one Red-necked on an oxbow of the Conn. R. in Newbury, *Orange* 14-16 May (J. McQueen); 3 Red at Kent Pond, Killington, *Rutland* 18-20 May (ph. R. Renfrew). According to the latter report, a "local birder" reported seeing 18 "during the previous week."

New Hampshire

Up to 11 Red-necked at Pondicherry N.W.R. in Jefferson 12-15 May (D. Govatski); 17 Red-necked in nearby Whitefield 14 May (C. & L. Vendt); one Red-necked in Laconia 13 May (*vide* M. Suomala); 3 Red in Concord 14 May (R. Woodward); one Red and one Red-necked in Dorchester 14 May (P. Benham); one Red in Bow 14 May (I. Macleod); one Red in Gilford 15 May (D. Austin); and 2 Red and 2 Red-necked on L. Winnepesaukee, Gilford 15 May (A. LaVin)

Maine

Two Red in Monmouth, *Kennebec* 13 May (S. DeOrsey).

Massachusetts

Seven Red in Concord 12 May (S. Jaffe et al.); 11 Red at the Wachusett Res., Boylston/Sterling (TP); one Red-necked in Bolton 13 May (S. Sutton); 4 Red and 8 Red-necked in Brookline 14 May (RM); 3 Red-necked in Haverill (on the Merrimac R., roughly 16 km from the mouth) 14 May (D. Larson); 70 Red-necked in Haverill 14-16 May (RSH et al.); one Red in Bolton 15 May (TP).

Connecticut

The only phalaropes reported from Connecticut were inland: one Red (first state record in 15 years) in Hamden 13 May (F. McBride), one Red in Canton 16 May (J. Meyers), and one Red and one Red-necked in Killingly 16 May (MS).

Table 2. Selected records of shorebirds and seabirds, other than phalaropes, recorded at inland locations in New England 13-16 May 2006.

DATE	May 13	May 14	May 15	May 16
Species / Number and Location				
Black-bellied Plover	5 (WR); 7 (NAC)		1 (BF)	
Semipalmated Plover	2 (WR)		2 (BF)	
Greater Yellowlegs		19 (NAC)		
Lesser Yellowlegs		8 (BF)		
Least Sandpiper		30 (NAC)		
Dunlin			2 (BF)	
Laughing Gull	2 (NAC)			1 ad. (NAC)
Bonaparte's Gull		40 (H)		
Black-legged Kittiwake		3 (CHR)		
Caspian Tern	1 (Q); 2 (WR)	2 (WR)	2 (GM)	
Arctic Tern	1 (CR)	1 (P)	5 (H); 3 (HP)	

KEY: Locality abbreviations (observers in parentheses)

BF- Bolton Flats, Bolton, MA (S. Sutton, ML)

CHR- Chestnut Hill Reservoir, Brookline, MA (RM)

CR- Cambridge Res., Waltham, MA (JH)

GM- Great Meadows NWR, Concord, MA (RM)

H- Haverill, MA on Merrimac R. ~10 miles from mouth (D. Larson)

HP- Heard's Pond, Wayland, MA (JH)

NAC- Nine-Acre-Corner, Concord, MA (TP, SP)

P- Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson, NH (D. Govatski)

Q- Quabbin Reservoir in central MA (ML)

WR- Wachusett Reservoir, Boylston/Sterling, MA (TP et al.)



This adult male and juvenile Red Crossbill in Montague, Massachusetts 26 May 2006, members of a group of two adults and at least nine juveniles, provided strong circumstantial evidence of local breeding. Photograph by James Smith.

northbound along the East Coast in spring typically turn inland toward their Canadian breeding grounds well before they reach New England and hence are also less than annually reported in the Region in spring. One in Charlestown, RI 30 Apr was beautifully photographed (ph. P. L'Etiole).

No Ruff was reported in Newburyport, MA this year, a Reeve in S. Kingston, RI 12 Apr (D. Finizia) was the only one reported in the Region. A Curlew Sandpiper brightened the beach at Monomoy 27-30 May (BH). Four reports of Wilson's Phalarope from s. Maine culminated with a male and 2 females in Scarborough 31 May (ph. EH); a few isolated breeding pairs nest each year in the ecologically similar marshes at PI.

As in May 2005, easterly winds brought Long-tailed Jaeger, Sabine's Gull, and Arctic Tern to the coast (Table 1), species that typically pass far offshore during spring migration. A second-summer Franklin's Gull was in Newburyport Harbor, MA 23 May (RRV). Fifteen Black-headed Gulls (8 in Massachusetts, 7 in Connecticut) represented an above-average total by recent standards. Migrant Caspian Terns made a very strong showing. A minimum of 31 (a few of which are cited in Table 2) included 14 in Massachusetts, 12 in Rhode Island, 4 in Vermont, and one in Maine. The bird in Maine, at Machias 16 Apr (EJR), was also the earliest. Twenty-five Dovekies and 12 Common Murres in Rhode Island waters between Cox's Ledge and Block I. Sound 11 Mar (*vide* RF) represented high seasonal counts for those species, though Common Murre numbers, especially in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, have increased dramatically in recent years.

CUCKOOS THROUGH WARBLERS

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Orono, ME 22 Apr (S. Smith) was somewhat early, as was one at Nantucket, MA 25 Apr (ER). One of several wintering Snowy Owls at PI. remained at least

through 14 May (B.O.). *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were reported twice: one that first appeared at a feeder in W. Warwick, RI 20 Nov 2005 survived the winter and was last seen 20 Apr (C. Simas et al., ph. G. Dennis); an ad male *Selasphorus* in Orange, MA 22-27 Apr (A. & D. McLeod et al., ph. R. Scherer) was not identified to species. Two reports of early *Myiarchus* flycatchers included one in Falmouth, MA 2 Apr (ML) and Portland, ME 7 Apr (*vide* JD), the latter undetailed but reported as a Great Crested. Two Scissor-tailed

Flycatchers graced the Region, one in Boothbay, ME 24 Apr (N. Bither) and the other at



This possible Snowy Egret x Little Egret hybrid, possessing characteristics of both Snowy (short, bushy nape plumes) and Little Egret (two, long nape plumes), was present at Nantucket 21 May 2006 (here) through most of the summer. A similar bird, almost certainly this individual, visited the same marshes in spring 2005. Photographs by Edie Ray.

Block I, RI 11 May (S. Comings). A Fork-tailed Flycatcher in Saco, ME 6-8 May stayed long enough to be photographed (R. Lambert, ph. S. Sanborn).

Two Fish Crows in Bangor, ME 14 Apr (S. Smith) were well n. of the species' usual state outposts along the s. coast, and several returned again to Burlington, VT, where the northernmost nesters have been recorded since 1998. Early Barn Swallows were widespread. The first was in Essex, CT 16 Mar (J. Restivo), 3 were in Falmouth, MA 25 Mar (P. Morlock), 2 more followed in Truro, MA 31 Mar (DM), and another 2, also 31 Mar, made it to Falmouth, ME (L. Seitz). Three of 4 Boreal Chickadees that reached Massachusetts as part of the winter incursion stayed in spring, with their latest dates being 4 Mar in Plympton, 24 Mar in Rowley, 26 Mar in Orange, and 10 Apr in N. Brookfield. A count of 50+ migrating Red-breasted Nuthatches in Truro, MA 5 May (DM) was noteworthy for a non-irruption year, and a big push of kinglets at PI. 11 Apr included 192 Golden-crowneds and 17 Ruby-crowneds (RSH).

Northern Wheatear is much rarer in the Region in spring than in fall, so the presence of 2 two days apart was especially exciting. The first was doubly unusual, being well in-

land in W. Greenwich, RI 28 May (D. Cooper), and the other was at Nantucket 30-31 May (ph. ER et al.). A wintering Varied Thrush in Edgartown, MA remained at a feeder until 14 Apr (P. Spencer et al.), and another appeared at a feeder in New Hartford, CT 1 Mar-1 Apr (P. Anderhegger).

The stormy weather that prevailed for much of May made for extremely poor passerine migration that month, as was true over e. Canada as well. One window opened during warm, clear weather on 5 May, which saw a heavy flight of Yellow-rumped Warblers. The jackpot came in Hingham, MA where observers were overwhelmed by the task of trying to estimate the numbers but figured minimally 1000 Yellow-rumped, with the actual total possibly being two or three times that



number (H. Cross, P. Fitzgerald et al.); 15 Blue-winged and 75 Black-and-white Warblers were there as well, also top Regional counts this season. Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, MA was relatively quiet that day (e.g., 40 Yellow-rumped), but a few other sites produced fairly high counts: 100 Yellow-rumped at Block I., RI (*vide* RF); 10



This male Northern Wheatear at Nantucket, Massachusetts 30-31 (here 30) May 2006 was a very rare find anywhere south of Canada in spring. Another wheatear in interior Rhode Island was more remarkable still. Photograph by Edie Ray.

Nashvilles, 16 Northern Parulas, 13 Black-throated Greens, 60 Yellow-rumped, and 31 Black-and-whites at Cape Ann, Essex, MA (RSH); 14 Northern Parulas, 80 Yellow-rumped, 20 Black-throated Greens, and 22 Black-and-white Warblers at PI. (B. O.); and



This adult male *Selasphorus* hummingbird in Orange, Massachusetts 22-27 (here 26) April 2006 was either a fairly typical Allen's or a very green-backed Rufous.

Photograph by Rachael Scherer.

14 Northern Parulas, 8 Black-throated Blues, 75 Yellow-rumpeds (245 there 6 May), 21 Black-throated Greens, and 23 Black-and-whites in Medford, MA (MR). Judging by the lack of reports elsewhere within the Region—with the exception of Block I. and the mention of 15 species of warblers in Portland, ME—it appears that the 5 May fallout was restricted almost entirely to points on or fairly close to the Massachusetts coast. A big wave of Palm Warblers 27 Apr included a very high count of 125 at P.I. (S. Grinley), but this event was apparently also highly localized: other maxima on or about 27 Apr included 28 in Ipswich, MA the day after and 30 in Medford, MA the day before. American Redstarts came in with a bang 24 May, when 100+ were tallied at P.I. (S. Miller). The discovery of a pair of Louisiana Waterthrushes feeding young in Hallowell, *Kennebec*, ME 26 May represented a breeding range extension of roughly 30 km to the northeast (J. Wells). Northernmost among the “southern” warblers was a Hooded at Monhegan I., *Lincoln*, ME 30 May (B. Boynton).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A male Scarlet Tanager in Edgartown, MA 20 Mar shattered the previous arrival record in Massachusetts (8 Apr 1958) by nearly three weeks! The total of 7 Summer Tanagers in Maine exceeded the Massachusetts total by one. Most noteworthy among those in the Bay State were 2 far inland that visited the same feeder in Sheffield 10-17 May, in the southwesternmost corner of the state (ph. B. Friedman). One of the 3 Western Tanagers that spent parts of the winter in Maine remained in Machias until 9 Mar (EJR). Six Clay-colored Sparrows included 4 in Maine, one in

Rhode I., and one in Massachusetts. A well-described Lincoln's Sparrow in Berlin, MA 14 Apr (SS) was very early. What in the world was an ad. male Lark Bunting doing in a Bangor, ME *spruce bog* 28 May (J. Markowsky et al.)? This species is not annual in the Region, and when it does occur, it almost always appears in fall near the coast. This carefully studied and well-described bird was singing and even responded to a tape by teeing up on a spruce less than 20 feet from four amazed bird-a-thons. A Seaside Sparrow was gently pushing the geographic envelope in Yarmouth, *Cumberland*, ME 7-10 Apr (vt. DL).

A Golden-crowned Sparrow made a far-too-brief visit to a feeder in Sturbridge, MA 26 Apr (B. Courmier et al., ph. B. deGraff), but, luckily, at least two photographers secured excellent digital images. Each spring, so-called “overshooting” Blue Grosbeaks reach Maine, where they are found most consistently at Monhegan Island. One was there this season “some time during the



One of three *Selasphorus* hummingbirds present in Rhode Island in autumn 2006 survived the winter in West Warwick and remained at least through 20 April (here 5 March) 2006. Photograph by Geoff Dennis.

period 27-29 May” (K. Lindquist et al.). While single Indigo Buntings in Westport, MA 8 Apr (W. & M. Bender) and Shutesbury, MA 15 Apr (K. Weir) were decidedly early, they were trumped by 2 even earlier individuals, one in Old Lyme, CT 24-30 Mar (ph. D. Johnson) and another at P.I. 28 Mar (RSH). Dickcissels numbered 2 in Maine, 2 in Massachusetts, and one in New Hampshire.

The Regional total of 5 Yellow-headed

Blackbirds was well above average for spring: a male in Somers, CT 8 Mar (J. Collins); a female in W. Bridgewater 12 Mar-19 Apr (R. Finch et al.); an ad. male at Quabbin 1 Apr (ML); a female in Windsor, CT 28 Apr-2 May (J. Wojtanowski); and an imm. male in Chatham, MA (P. Bailey et al.). Up to 9 Red Crossbills in the pine barrens of Plymouth, MA 15 Apr-21 May (J. Trimble, E. Nielsen)



Among many phalaropes that appeared in inland New England during and immediately after a series of coastal storms in May 2006, those found farthest from the sea were in central Vermont at Killington, where three Reds spent 18-20 (here 19) May. Photograph by Peter Manship.

raised suspicions of nesting, but an ad. pair of Red Crossbills with approximately 9 juvs. in Montague, MA 26 May (ph. J. Smith et al.) left little doubt that the species bred somewhere locally. Likewise, the discovery of an ad. female White-winged Crossbill with 5 juvs. in Windsor, MA 13 May (P. Steinman) provided circumstantial evidence of the 2nd state breeding record. One or 2 lone female White-wingeds visited the same feeder in E. Providence, RI 13-14 Apr and again on 5-6 May (J. Sullivan). Two European Goldfinches brightened feeders in Maine and Massachusetts: one or 2 on Nantucket 16 Apr and 15 May (ph. P. & J. Goodwin) and one at East Blue Hill, *Hancock*, ME in “late Apr” (L. Gierasch).

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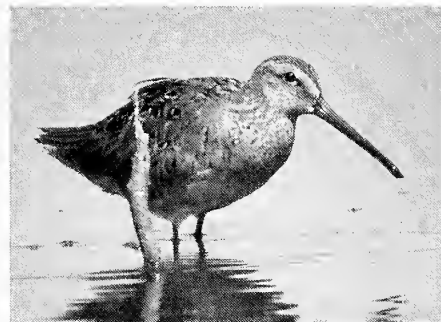
Spring 2006 was generally warm and dry, though March in Delaware was colder than normal. Weather conducive to northward migration occurred in early April, on 23-24 April, 4-5 May, and 24-28 May, which were also the peak dates for landbird migration. The middle two weeks of May were dominated by easterly or northeasterly winds across the entire Region, and little evidence of migration was reported. Numbers of shorebirds were universally reported as low, and more than one Long Island observer reported the "worst landbird migration in memory." These negative comments pertained to abundance rather than diversity, though, and many reported long lists of species by relatively early on in the spring. Numbers of southern species continue to push northward—the New York City area tied its high total of Summer Tanagers this spring, for example—and many species set records for early arrival.

Abbreviations: Batavia (Batavia W.T.P., Genesee, NY); Braddock Bay (near Rochester, NY); Brigantine (Unit of Forsythe N.W.R., NJ); Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook N.W.R., DE); Captree (Captree S.P., Long I., NY); Chazy (Chazy R., Clinton, NY); Derby Hill (Derby Hill Hawkwatch, Oswego NY); Hamburg (Hamburg Hawkwatch, near Buffalo, NY); Hamlin Beach (Hamlin Beach S.P., near Rochester, NY); Iroquois (Iroquois N.W.R., Genesee/Orleans, NY) Jamaica Bay (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Gateway N.P., New York City); Jones Beach (Jones Beach S.P., Long I., NY); Moriches (Moriches Bay and Inlet, Long I., NY); Little Creek (Little Creek W.M.A., DE); Mannington (Mannington Marsh, Salem, NJ); Montauk (Montauk Pt., Long I., NY); Palmyra Cove (Burlington, NJ); Pike's Beach (Moriches Bay, Suffolk, Long I., NY); Prime Hook (Prime Hook N.W.R., Sussex, DE); Riis (Jacob Riis Park, Queens, New York

City); Ripley (Ripley Hawkwatch, Chautauqua, NY); Sagaponack (Sagaponack Pond, Bridgehampton, Long I., NY); Sandy Hook (Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway National Recreation Area, NJ); Shinnecock (Shinnecock Bay and Inlet, Long I., NY); Ted Harvey (Ted Harvey Conservation Area/Logan Lane Tract, Kent, DE).

WATERFOWL THROUGH PELICANS

Three Fulvous Whistling-Ducks appeared at Jamaica Bay 28 May (John O'Connor, Jr., John O'Connor, Sr.) and remained into Jun. Three Greater White-fronted Geese were seen in Yates, Orleans, NY 2 Apr (WD'A, BP); 4 other single birds were seen in New York and New Jersey in Mar. Counts of Snow Geese were smaller than in recent years; but a good Regional total of 12 Ross' Geese included 6 near Lewes, DE 28 Mar (CDC) and 3 in Salem, NJ 18 Mar (FW et al.). A Regional total of 13 Cackling Geese, fewer than in recent years, included a group of 6 at Iroquois 19 Mar (PY, JP). Some 20,000 Brant were counted at Jamaica Bay 5 May (PL, SM), and 290 were along the shore of L. Ontario 22 May (BPu). There were at least 3 Black Brant (2 ads., one



This Long-billed Dowitcher at Yates, New York 29 April 2006 furnished the first spring record of the species for the Niagara Frontier region. Photograph by Willie D'Anna.

first-winter) in the Staten I., NY/South Amboy, NJ area in Mar; one of the ads. was pale and resembled a Gray-bellied Brant (SMu, RRV, SB et al.). Another Black Brant was at Ocean View, DE 26 Mar (Manny Barreta). There were 2 Barnacle Geese: one that wintered until 6 Mar at Eisenhower Park, Nassau, Long I., NY (m.ob.), the other at the Great Swamp Conservancy, Madison, NY 9-10 Apr (BB, Doug Linstruth). The w. European populations of Barnacle Geese have increased very substantially (as much as 3400% in the Netherlands between 1990-2000; see Birdlife International. 2004. *Birds in Europe: Population estimates, trends and conservation status*), and it seems overdue that we consider most Barnacle Geese in the East to be wild vagrants. A Trumpeter Swan wintering through 11 Mar at Selkirk Shores S.P., Oswego, NY

probably derived from the introduced population near Montezuma N.W.R. Tundra Swan numbers were low, most counts being in the 200-range, with the exception of 720 at Hamlin Beach 23 Mar (DT).

Numbers of most common waterfowl were described as low this spring; but a total of 16 Eurasian Wigeons was fairly high (cf. 22 in 2004), and 3 Eurasian Teal were found, plus Eurasian Teal x Green-winged Teal intergrades at Tobay, Suffolk, Long I., NY 25 Mar (PL, SM) and at Thousand Island Marsh, DE 15 Apr (Steve Kacir). Common Eiders extended southward in some numbers: 5000 were counted at the jetties at the entrance to L. Montauk 17 Mar (SB, RJ). The reliable Barnegat Harlequin Duck flock numbered 40 on 6 Mar; a male at Buckhorn Island S.P., Erie, NY 25 May was a record late date for upstate. The single female Barrow's Goldeneye that wintered yet again in the vicinity of Sandy Hook, NJ (m.ob.) was last seen 11 Mar (LM, SB). Several Northern Bobwhites on e. Long I. were, predictably, the only ones reported in New York.

Seven hundred Red-throated Loons were counted in Delaware Bay 24 Mar (MO'B), and a fallout of Common Loons was noted in New Jersey 23-25 Apr, when 150 were on Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon (John DeMarrais) and 90 on Culver's L., Sussex. A Pacific Loon that wintered on Cayuga L., Seneca, NY remained until 5 Mar (m.ob.). Three hundred Horned Grebes were found L. Ontario in the Rochester area 24 Mar, along with 1088 Red-necked Grebes (RSp, DD). Single Eared Grebes were at Dewey Beach, Sussex, DE 5-12 Mar (AG) and Braddock Bay 20 Mar (DT) and at Batavia in mid-Apr (fide MM). A Western Grebe was at Reed's Beach, Cape May, NJ 6-13 May (P. Brown, E. Masterson, m.ob.), a first for the famed World Series of Birding; possibly the same bird was found at Battery Park, New Castle, DE 28-31 May (Joe Francis, m.ob.), representing a first state record (previous reports are listed as Clark's/Western).

A Northern Fulmar was picked up freshly dead on Shelter I., Long I. 15 May (NH). American White Pelicans continue to increase: a record 9 were seen flying by Manitou, Braddock Bay 21 May (C. Betrus et al.), and perhaps the same 9 were at Montezuma 24-29 May. Four were at Dunkirk Harbor, Chautauqua, NY 13-15 Apr (D. Miga, DN), and 3 were at Sandy Hook 29 Apr (Ethan Huner). Three Anhingas were reported over Stokes S.F., Sussex, NJ 28 May (SK). Two Magnificent Frigatebirds were seen in New Jersey, both on 18 May: one imm. at Cape May (Brian McAllister, m.ob.) and an ad. male at Sandy Hook (J. McArthur-Heuser).

HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS

A Regional total of 13 Least Bitterns was reported. A tally of herons entering the breeding colony on Pea Patch I. on the Delaware R. 26 Apr (*vide* AEH) was informative: 46 Great Blue Herons, 80 Great and 26 Snowy Egrets, 44 Little Blue Herons, 296 Cattle Egrets, 194 Black-crowned Night-Herons, and 242 Glossy Ibis. This is the Regional stronghold of Cattle Egrets; the continued increase of Great Egret and the decline of Snowy are trends to monitor. Other significant records of herons include 43 Great Egrets at Tonawanda, Erie, NY 14 May (WW); a Snowy Egret at Derby Hill 11 May (JvanD), plus 2 in the Rochester, NY area 23-29 May; Little Blue Herons at Braddock Bay 10 May (DT) and Montezuma 4-5 May; and a Tricolored Heron at Buckhorn Island S.P., Erie, NY 12-31 May (Bruce Chilton, m.ob.). White-faced Ibis continues its inroads into the Region: singles were found at McNamara W.M.A., Tuckahoe, Ocean, NJ 17-18 Apr (JD, DD), Prime Hook 16-18 Apr (BGP, MVB), Jamaica Bay 27-29 Apr (SSi), and Island Beach S.P. 17 May (GW); 2 stayed at Beaver Swamp W.M.A., Cape May, NJ through May (Tom Reed, m.ob.); and up to 6 graded Cape May Courthouse, Cape May 12 May+ (PEL, m.ob.).

Somewhat extralimital Black Vultures included 6-7 on Staten I. and Long I. 4 Apr-6 May, one at the Hamburg Hawkwatch 6 Apr, and one at Braddock Bay 8 May. A total of 8 Mississippi Kites included at least 3 at Cape May 12 May+ (PEL, m.ob.), 4 at Sandy Hook 25 Apr-24 May (CB, TB, MF, AB), and one at Garret Mt., Passaic, NJ 25 Apr (Bruce McWhorter). Hawk migration was not exceptional this spring, aside from record-high numbers of Turkey Vulture; numbers of Bald Eagle were also above average. A comprehensive and easily accessed source of hawk migration data can be found online at <<http://www.hmana.org>>. This spring, major raptor/vulture flights occurred 31 Mar and 20-24 Apr. Highlights included 1703 Turkey Vultures at Derby Hill, plus 1676 at Hamburg and 3119 at Braddock Bay, all 31 Mar; 244



This Northern Hawk Owl wintered at Yates, New York, where it remained into March (here 15 January 2006).
Photograph by Willie D'Anna.

Sharp-shinned Hawks and 1190 Turkey Vultures at Derby Hill 3 Apr; 2305 Broad-winged and 609 Red-tailed Hawks at Derby Hill 21 Apr; 769 Broad-winged at Hamburg 20 Apr; 1859 Broad-winged, 200 Turkey Vultures, and 62 Sharp-shinned at Ripley 23 Apr; and 3484 Broad-winged at Derby Hill 24 Apr. The season's only Swainson's Hawk was one at Derby Hill 24 Apr. The most southerly Golden Eagles were one at Brigantine 3 Mar (*vide* Pat Sutton), one over the Garden State Parkway 5 Mar (Marleen Murgatroyde), and one at Prime Hook 17 Mar (Liz Dumont).

RAILS THROUGH ALCIDS

A Yellow Rail was flushed from South Cape May Meadows by a mowing tractor 20 Mar (*vide* PEL); another was found dead near Prime Hook 25 Mar (Ed Sigda, BJP). Black Rails were heard calling at Broadkill Beach near Prime Hook, DE on the nights of 4-6 May (BGP, AG, APE) and at Jakes Landing, Cape May, NJ 12-13 May (PEL). About 12 King Rails were found at four sites in Delaware, including the first one at Bombay Hook in 15 years (APE). This is certainly a local increase, and the following additional

records suggest that King Rails may be increasing elsewhere: singles at Mannington, NJ 1 Apr (FL), Dividing Creek, NJ 3 May (LZ), Tobay, Suffolk, Long I. 16 Apr-5 May (Dave Klauber, m.ob.), and Allendale Celery Farm, Bergen, NJ 4-10 May (*vide* L. Larson). Sandhill Cranes nested again near Montezuma, where they produced chicks during May. A few crane migrants were reported across the Region, including one at Scotia, Schenectady, NY, representing a first county record (Peter Lamboy). A count of 10 Common Moorhens 11 May at Kearney Marsh, Hudson, NJ (where formerly quite common) was noteworthy, as the species is now scarce as a breeder in the coastal portions of the Region.

Shorebird numbers were generally disappointing throughout the Region. About 7 American Golden-Plovers were found, fewer than in recent years. Continuing a recent pattern of spring appearances, single Wilson's Plovers were seen at Villas, Cape May, NJ 19 Apr-6 May (KL, T. Parsons, GM) and at Robert Moses S.P., Long I. 28 Apr (Anne McIntyre). Up to 2 Black-necked Stilts were n. to Brigantine 10-20 May (m.ob.), and 500 American Avocets at Ted Harvey 12 Mar (FR) were about average. Just 40 Greater Yellowlegs at Montauk 4 May (VB) and a meager 100 Lesser Yellowlegs at Raccoon Creek Marsh, Gloucester, NJ 10 Apr (Steve Kobinski) represented the highest counts of each species reported. At least 350 Whimbrels were at Brigantine 21 May (*vide* Pat Sutton), a respectable spring tally. Two Marbled Godwits at Island Beach S.P., NJ 12 Apr (GW) were the only ones reported. Pike's Beach on Moriches Bay, Long I. has produced substantial numbers of shorebirds in both spring and fall, especially in recent years. Despite the overall weak showing of shorebirds this spring, Lindsay and Mitra had 750 Ruddy Turnstones there 29 May (possibly the state's highest count), 1000 Sanderlings 26 May, and 2000 Semipalmated Sandpipers 29 May; all three species feed on Horseshoe Crab eggs during spring migration. There were only 2 Curlew Sandpipers this spring, both at Heislerville,

SA Even the most jaded of among us were jolted by news of a **White-tailed Hawk** at the Great Swamp N.W.R., NJ 25 Apr (†Andy Glasgow, ph. Jim Gilbert, Paul Murray et al.). Word quickly circulated, too, that up to 2 other White-tailed Hawks were seen in Massachusetts in late Apr (22-24 Apr at Hadley, and 27 Apr at the Pilgrim Heights Hawkwatch at North Truro)—indicating that, at minimum, 2 extralimital individuals were touring the East. Although the species has the lack of precedent of a very limited history of vagrancy in North America, it does have the broadest latitudinal distribution of any *Buteo* in the Americas and is prone to irruptive behavior in search of prey. There are records of dispersal to multiple Caribbean and Central/South American islands: Aruba, Trinidad, Bonaire, Curaçao, Marajó (Brazil), Margarita (Venezuela), Taboga (Panama), and St. Vincent, and the species has wandered into Louisiana.

White-tailed Hawks are rare in captivity, especially within the United States: ISIS (<www.isis.org>) lists a worldwide total of only 9 captives in zoos: one in Texas, the rest in Mexico. Photographs of one of the Massachusetts birds by Shawn Carey show peculiar worn inner primaries on the right wing, perhaps suggesting captive provenance. Such wear was not observed in the case of the New Jersey individual. The simultaneous escape or release of at least 2 captive White-tailed Hawks in the East, in any case, seems a far less likely scenario than northward wandering of several birds in response to severe drought in coastal savannas of Mexico and Texas, for instance. Together with n. Michigan's recent Short-tailed Hawk (Nov 2005), a record for which there is likewise scant precedent, these White-tailed Hawks may hint at more tropical and subtropical raptors on the horizon.

Cumberland, NJ 9-19 May (VE, m.ob.), where conditions were ideal. Single Stilt Sandpipers, uncommon in spring, were found at Sagaponack, NY 21 May (BK, HM) as well as at Heislerville 13 May (C. Wood et al.). A male Ruff was at Bombay Hook 16 Apr (Adam Dudley), and a different male was at Woodland Beach Wildlife Area, Kent, DE 27 May (FR, BGP). Of particular interest this spring was the occurrence of Long-billed Dowitchers in upstate New York: up to 6 were at Montezuma refuge 21-30 Apr (m.ob.) and another at Yates, Orleans, NY

29 Apr (WD'A et al.). Wilson's Phalaropes, increasingly rare in spring in the Region, were at Iroquois 5 May (G. Rising, G. Seamans et al.) and at Hogan Pt., NY 22 May (DT). Up to 5 Red-necked Phalaropes were at Batavia 25-28 May (M. Mason et al.), 3 were in Delaware 23-31 May (MVB, DLS), and singles were at Pike's Beach, Suffolk, Long I. 22-29 May (AB et al.) and at Nummy's I., Cape May 16 May (M. Fritz, GD). A Red Phalarope near Pine Plains, Dutchess, NY 13 May (J. Allison, R. Cohn et al.) made the first county record and southernmost in a remarkable inland fallout that stretched to Maine and Québec.

A Laughing Gull was seen at Fulton, Oswego, NY 15 May (M. Medler, J. Brin). About 14 Little Gulls were found Regionwide, including 8 at Hamlin Beach 2 Apr (RSp, WS), as were about 10 Black-headed Gulls. A first-winter Thayer's Gull was reported at Perinton, Monroe, NY 1 Mar (MV). Lesser Black-backed Gulls continue to increase; about 50-60 were reported Regionwide, with individuals n. to Derby Hill, Cayuga, and Oswego. About 10 Glaucous and 28 Iceland Gulls were found, the latter including about 20 along the Niagara R. in Mar, and a Glaucous Gull x Herring Gull hybrid was reported from Phoenix, Oswego, NY 21-23 Mar (fide BP). A Black-legged Kittiwake flew by Derby Hill 14 Mar, for the 6th local spring record (JvanD).

Twenty-one Gull-billed Terns were at Jenkin's Bogs, Chatsworth, Burlington, NJ 8 May (E. Bruder). Substantial though not exceptional counts of Caspian Terns included 106 at Cattaraugus Cr., Chautauqua, NY 28 Apr (DN) and 39 at Dunkirk Harbor, Erie, NY 13 May (DN). Single Forster's Terns, rare but nearly annual along the Great Lakes in spring, were at Batavia 23 Apr (MMo) and 26 May (WW, R&SSp), at Hamlin Beach 13 Apr (WS), and at Greece, Monroe, NY 20 May (WS). Twelve hundred Common Terns at

Shinnecock 14 May (PL, SM) was a large total for that locality, and 2 Arctic Terns at Morich-



An increasingly rare sight along most of the Atlantic Coast, where always irregular, these three Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were photographed at Jamaica Bay Refuge, New York 28 May 2006. Photograph by Scott Elowitz.

es Inlet 29 May (SM) continue the trend of increasingly frequent occurrence as spring migrants along the coast in the Region. Fifty-one Black Terns at Iroquois and Tonawanda 12 May (WW) was considered a good number for recent years. Few alcids were reported this spring, despite sustained northeasterly winds; 2 Razorbills that spent the winter at Indian River Inlet were still there 14 Mar (DLS).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared-Doves were seen near Stone Harbor, Cape May, NJ 7-14 May (CJV, m.ob.), at Sandy Hook 18 May (TB, R. Waynor), and at Millbrook, Columbia, NY 13 May (C&OW), the last about the 4th New York state record. Three White-winged Doves were found this spring: at Jones Beach 5 May (AJL et al.), at West Cape May 10-12 May



This Red-necked Phalarope was found along Port Mahon Road in Delaware, 24 May 2006, a typical date for an on-shore migrant, though offshore migration at this latitude appears to peak earlier. Photograph by Jeff Holmes.

(MSG, m.ob.), and at Cape Henlopen, DE 12-19 May (BGP, CDC). Eastern Screech-Owls at Central Park, New York City had nestlings by the exceptionally early date of 4-5 Mar (fide LS), but none fledged. About 5 Snowy Owls lingered into Mar, s. to Wildwood Crest, Cape May, NJ; one exceptional bird remained until 19 May at Genoa, Cayuga, NY (fide Matt Vic-

toria). The Northern Hawk Owl at Yates, Orleans, NY remained until 10 Mar (WD'A et al.). Elusive Long-eared Owls were found at Eastport, Long I. 17 Mar (M. Wood) and Noyes, Oswego, NY 1 Apr, both likely migrants. Chuck-will's-widows returned to their now traditional breeding site at Quogue, Suffolk, Long I. 27 Apr (R. Anderson).

Two migrant Rufous Hummingbirds were banded at Rehoboth Beach, DE 4 Mar (FR). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird appeared a bit early at Cape May 5 Apr (fide Pat Sutton), and the maximum count of Ruby-throateds at Derby Hill was 20 on 18 May (JvanD). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker wintered until at least 6 Mar at Orient, Long I. (R. Oliva). Single American Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpeckers were seen at Ferd's Bog, Hamilton/Herkimer, NY 15-17 May (fide JMCP).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

A singing Eastern Wood-Pewee at Inwood Hill Park, New York City 19 Apr (K. Allarie) was one of the earliest ever for New York. Four Acadian Flycatchers appeared in New York City parks 18-31 May; one was banded at Manitou, NY 25 May (Braddock Bay B.O.); and 2 others were found w. to Cattaraugus and Chautauqua, NY, where they breed regularly, 18-19 May (Tim Baird, Terry Mosher). A Great Crested Flycatcher on Staten I., NY 15 Apr (D. Eib) was early but not exceptionally so. A Gray Kingbird was found at Cape May 20-21 May (Todd & Meg Frantz, RC).

About 15 Northern Shrikes lingered through Mar in upstate New York, and single Loggerhead Shrikes were reported at Parma, Monroe, NY 20 Mar (DT) and Ashland Nature Center, DE 24 Apr (L. Maier). A White-eyed Vireo was rather far n. at Maxwell Creek, Wayne, NY 18 May (DD), and a Yellow-throated Vireo at Napeague, Suffolk, Long I. 13 Apr (L. Badkin) was early. About 10 reports of Philadelphia Vireos included 3 in New York City parks 11-26 May. Fish Crows were behaving in a territorial fashion over Rochester, NY in mid-May (R&SSp), suggesting a continued expansion. A migrant Common Raven was at Sandy Hook 13-16 Mar (SB, LM), and young ravens were ready to leave the nest near Stissing Mountain Rd., Dutchess, NY 29 May (fide BB). Even considering their rapid expansion, nesting of ravens in Secaucus, Hudson, NJ this spring was surprising in that intensely urban landscape.

Swallows arrived somewhat early overall, and indeed some Tree Swallows likely survived the winter in or close to our Region. Three Purple Martins were along L. Ontario near Rochester, NY 31 Mar (B. Carlson, RSp), one was at Bridgehampton, Suffolk, Long I.

28 Mar (JA), and 2 were at Tillman W.M.A., *Eric*, NY 3 Apr (*vide* MM). Five Tree Swallows were at Groveland, *Livingston*, NY 14 Mar (J. Kimball), 30 were on Staten I., NY 11 Mar (RRV), and 5 were at Iroquois 12 Mar (JP, R. Salembier, PY). A Cliff Swallow was very early at Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY 10 Apr (DDy), as was a Barn Swallow at Parma, *Monroe*, NY 19 Mar (G. & F. Lawrence). Following the strong winter flight, several Black-capped Chickadees were noted consorting with local Carolina Chickadees in Newark, *New Castle*, DE as late as 21 Mar (JWR). Kinglets were reported as generally numerous this spring, and a count of 391 Ruby-crowneds at Durand-Eastman Park in Rochester 30 Apr is very substantial (L. Grosshans et al.). The peak count of Blue Jays at Derby Hill was 6000 on 4 May. About 10 Sedge Wrens were reported this spring; one was at Thousand Acre Marsh, *New Castle*, DE 15-22 Apr (E. Schaefer, MVB), 3 were in *Jefferson*, NY at a traditional nesting location, and 3 other singles were scattered through the Region in mid-May. Thrushes were reported in small numbers. The largest count of Swainson's Thrush was a rather feeble 10 at Palmyra Cove 24 May (T. Bailey) and at Manitou 29 May (R. McKinney); 3 Gray-cheeked Thrushes were at Palmyra, *Camden*, NJ 27 May (T. Bailey) and 2 at Buffalo, *Eric*, NY 10 May.

WARBLERS

Studies of global climate change suggest that birds with southerly ranges should expand their breeding ranges northward and also appear earlier in spring. The parks around New York City and Long Island provide a good sampling of these migrants, as none of the species breed there, and the sites are intensely birded on a daily basis. Hooded Warblers (30 in 2005, 27 in 2006) and Kentucky Warblers (13, 16) appeared in similar or increased numbers compared to the record-breaking spring of 2005. Yellow-throated (16, 10), Prothonotary (26, 9), and Worm-eating (33, 7) Warblers, on the other hand, were less numerous in 2006 than in 2005. A Swainson's Warbler was seen on Staten I., NY 5 May (C. Nuzzi), and others were at Cape May 27 Apr (GM) and 24 May (CJV). This species, which was among the rarest of vagrants just a few years ago, is now appearing annually as far n. as New York City. Especially early migrants elsewhere included a Louisiana Waterthrush at Central Park, Manhattan 17 Mar (C. Vornberger), the earliest arrival ever for New York, and Wilson's Warblers at Glassboro Woods, *Gloucester*, NJ 21 Apr (SK) and Highland Park, Rochester, NY 24 Apr (K. Hartquist).

There seems to be an increasing number of spring migrant Connecticut Warblers in the Region. This year, 5 singles were recorded: at Voorhees S.P., *Hunterdon*, NJ 19 May (FS, Jr.; FS, Sr.); at Wilson, *Niagara* 25 May (BP); at Tift Nature Center, Buffalo 26 May (DDi); in *Monroe*, NY at Manitou 26 May (BC, DS); and in Greece, NY 27 May (ST). Seven Lawrence's and 5 Brewster's Warblers were reported across the Region.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Last spring's record-breaking total of 23 Summer Tanagers in the New York City area was tied this spring, which suggests a population increase or expansion for this species. About 14 Clay-colored Sparrows were found in upstate New York, most all around known or suspected breeding localities, and a migrant was seen at Sandy Hook 18-23 May (TB, RW). A Lark Sparrow wintered near Pennsville, *Salem*, NJ through 9 Apr (F. Weber); another was at Cape May N.W.R. 19 May (I. Byler). The only Henslow's Sparrow reported was on Huston Rd., Geneseo, *Livingston*, NY 7-31 May (J. Kimball, m.ob.). A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was banded at Manitou 18 May (Braddock Bay B.O.), and one was seen and heard singing at Napeague 21 May (K. Rubinstein). Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows were at Sandy Hook 14-15 Apr (CB, SB) and at Collier's Mills W.M.A., *Occan*, NJ 25 Apr (SB, LM).

Only 3 Blue Grosbeaks were on Long I. and in New York City 18-29 May, in contrast to large numbers of Summer Tanagers and Kentucky and Hooded Warblers. Numbers of Indigo Buntings on the outer coast were similarly modest. Seven Dickcissels were found widely scattered through the Region, but after one male appeared briefly at the now traditional breeding site near Harrington, DE 13 May (DLS), no territorial birds were seen. Three ad. male Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported flying overhead in blackbird flocks at Hamlin Beach S.P. 13 Apr (DT), one was photographed in Comstock, *Washington*, NY 15 Apr (Melissa Koos), and an imm. male was at Montauk 11-17 Mar (K&BR). Seven Brewer's Blackbirds wintered in Salem, NJ, and 5 of these were present until at least 13 Apr (m.ob.). A female Brewer's was at Kendall, NY 13 Mar (RSp). Forty to 50 Orchard Orioles made an impressive count at Sandy Hook 3-4 May (CB), as did 800 Baltimore Orioles at Sandy Hook 5 May (CB) and 248 Baltimores at Braddock Bay 4 May (DT, MD).

Some sizable flocks of Common Redpolls lingered into Mar in upstate New York, including 125 at Hasting, *Oswego* 12 Mar (*vide*

BPu) and 150 at Hamlin Beach S.P. until 19 Mar, the latter including 2 Hoary Redpolls (DT). Among the larger flocks of White-winged Crossbills reported were 20 at Selkirk Shores S.P. 5-12 May and 11 in *Oswego* 17 Mar (*vide* Matt Victoria). Groups of Evening Grosbeaks included 35 at Summer Hill, *Cayuga*, NY 25 Mar, 24 at Boyleston, *Oswego* 12 Mar, and 5 at Waterville, *Oneida*, NY 1 Apr.

Observers (subregional compilers in bold-face): Jim Ash, Pete Bacinski (New Jersey), Andrew Baldelli, Scott Barnes (North Coast Region, New Jersey: Sandy Hook B.O., P. O. Box 553, Ft. Hancock, NJ 07732), Maurice V. Barnhill, Ahmet Baytas, Brenda Best, Shane Blodgett, Michael Bochnik (Hudson-Delaware, NY: 86 Empire St., Yonkers, NY 10704), Tom Boyle (TBo), Calvin Brennan, Thomas W. Burke (New York Rare Bird Alert), Barbara Butler (Dutchess County, NY), Vicki Bustamante, Colin D. Campbell, B. Carlson, Richard Crossley, D. Daniels, Willie D'Anna, Mike Davids, Dean DiTommaso (DDi), John van Dort, Doyle Dowdell (DDo), Jim Dowdell, Paul Driver (sw. New Jersey: 915 Melrose Ave., Elkins Park, PA 19027), Gail Dwyer, Dale Dyer (DDy), Andrew P. Ednie (New Castle and Kent, DE: 59 Lawson Ave., Claymont, DE 19703), Vince Elia (South Coast and Delaware Bay Regions, New Jersey: CMBO R&E Center, 600 Rte 47 North, Cape May Courthouse, NJ 08120), Mike Fahay, Mark S. Garland (Cape May, NJ), Kevin C. Griffith (Genesee Region, NY: 61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612), Al Guarante, Nick Hamblet, Armas E. Hill (Philadelphia Birdline), Robb Jett, Sandra Keller, Brian Kane, Robert J. Kurtz, Laurie Larson (New Jersey), Anthony J. Lauro, Paul E. Lehman, Frank Lenik, Patricia Lindsay, Karl Lukens, Linda Mack, Hugh McGuinness (Eastern Long I., NY: P. O. Box 3005, Southampton, NY 11969), Shai Mitra (Long I. and New York City; P.O. Box 142, Brightwaters, NY 11718), Mike Morgante (MMo; Niagara Frontier region, New York: 59 Briar Hill Rd., Orchard Park, NY 14127), Sean Murphy, George Myers, Dave Neveau, Michael O'Brian, Bill Oslander (Finger Lakes region, New York: 80 Westmont Ave., Elmira, NY 14904), Jim Pawlicki, Bruce G. Peterjohn, John M. C. Peterson (Adirondack-Champlain Region, NY: 477 County Rte. 8, Elizabethtown, NY 12932), Betsy Potter, Bill Purcell (BPu; Oneida Lake Basin, NY: 281 Baum Rd., Hastings, NY 13076), Frank Rohrbacher, Karen Rubinstein, Barbara Rubinstein, Joseph W. Russell, Sean Sime, Frank Sencher, Jr. (nw. New Jersey: 43 Church Rd., Milford, NJ 08848),

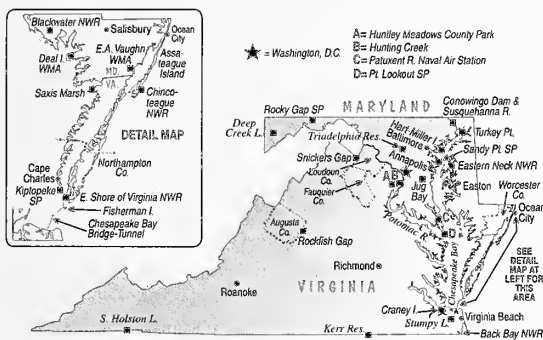
Frank Sencher, Sr., Dom Sherony, Robert & Susan Spahn (RSP/R&SSp; Genesee Ornithological Society), Lloyd Spitalnik (New York City area), Derek L. Stoner, Pat Sutton (Cape May B. O.), W. Symonds, S. Taylor, David Tetlow, Matt Victoria, Christopher J. Vogel,

William Watson, Rich Waynor, George Wenzelburger, Carol & Owen Whitby, Frank Winfelder, Will Yandik (Hudson-Mohawk region of New York: 269 Schneider Road, Hudson, NY 12534), Peter Yoerg, Robert P. Yunick, Louise Zemaitis. ☉

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Middle Atlantic



Todd M. Day

Spring 2006 held little to distinguish itself in the way of weather patterns, bird records, or dramatic intersections of the two, but recent trends continue: uncommon kites, ibises, pelicans, doves, and Anhinga are turning up in greater numbers and more locations; careful searches for rare nesters are detecting species like Northern Saw-whet Owl, Common Merganser, and Golden-winged Warbler in new locations; and even rarities, such as Pacific Loon, Magnificent Frigate-

× Blue-winged Teal hybrid and Varied Thrush in Maryland, and a White-winged Crossbill, a Long-eared Owl, and a state-third Tufted Duck in Virginia.

Abbreviations: Bay (Chesapeake Bay); Chinc. (Chincoteague N.W.R., Accomack, VA); Chino (Chino Farms, Queen Anne's, MD) Craney (Craney I., Portsmouth, VA); E.S.VN.W.R. (Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R., Northampton, VA);

Hart (Hart Miller I., Baltimore, MD); Pickering (Pickering Creek Audubon Center, Talbot, MD).

WATERFOWL THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS

The 6 Greater White-fronted Geese at Clear Creek L., Washington, VA were last reported 4 Mar (Sam Cross, Rack Cross); in Maryland, one was at the Chestertown S.T.P., Kent 12 Mar (NLM). A Ross's Goose was at Edmund's Park, Halifax, VA 18-20 Mar (JBI, AD), a first for that county and the s. Virginia Piedmont.



This Common Merganser family group, including eight ducklings, was observed at Violette's Lock, Montgomery County, Maryland 23 May (here) through 14 June 2006; more were observed along the Potomac River throughout the summer, including in the District of Columbia. Photograph by Dave Czaplak.

birds (most in June), Eurasian Whimbrel, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Townsend's Warbler, seem to be part of larger patterns, at least in the East as a whole. Other unexpected visitors this season were a Cinnamon Teal

At least 3 Cackling Geese of the nominate subspecies were among the few thousand Canada Geese 5 Mar at the pond on Belvoir Rd., Fauquier, VA (TMD); 15 Cacklings were with 5000 Canada Geese flying over Chino 9

Mar (JG). Two sibling Trumpeter Swans that were banded as hatch-year birds in Ontario at Wye Marsh, Grand Valley 15 Oct 2005 were reported separately in Maryland: the first with a yellow wing-tag numbered 962 on 4 May+ at Schoolhouse Pond, Prince George's (FS), the other at Indian Cr., near Benedict, Saint Mary's, wing-tagged 960 on 4 May (fide MLH); bird 960 would later relocate to Patuxent Oxbow Lake Nature Preserve, Anne Arundel, where it would summer (Jay Sheppard, fide Marcy Stutzman). Tundra Swans were widely reported 12 Mar, with several observers noting hundreds; the high of this lot was 813 at Loch Raven Res., Baltimore, MD (Steve Collins).

A male Cinnamon Teal × Blue-winged Teal hybrid was well described at Jug Bay, Anne Arundel 11 Mar (†Jeff Shenot, Danny Bystrak); the bird mostly resembled Cinnamon Teal but showed a white flank patch. The Eurasian Teal from 14 Jan at Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax, VA was reported sporadically through 25 Mar (RH, LM et al.); another was found 29 Mar at Pickering, where one wintered in 2005 (David Curson). A well-described Green-winged Teal × Eurasian Teal intergrade was at Swan Harbor, Harford, MD 11 Apr (JLS, MH, HH, JBr). A late Northern Pintail was at Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax, VA 27 May (JBa).

Good numbers of *Aythya* ducks were found in w. Maryland 18 Mar, all in Garrett: 40 Canvasbacks, 40 Redheads, and 120 Lesser Scaup at Broadford Res., and 50 Greater among 200 Lesser Scaup at Deep Creek L. (JLS, MH, HH, JBr). A Canvasback lingered at Great Oak Pond, Kent through 27 May (WGE, NLM). Fifteen Redheads were at Falls Mills, Tazewell, VA 26 Mar (Jim & Judy Phillips). The most unusual *Aythya* duck of the season was a drake Tufted Duck at Airlie, Fauquier 26 Apr-3 May (TMD, Eric M. Hynes, ph. SAH, ph. ESB, JKe), seen with several lingering Ring-necked Ducks; Virginia has just two other reports of the species. A first-winter male King Eider at the C.B.B.T.



An Eared Grebe at Violettes Lock, Montgomery County, Maryland was present 10-12 (here 11) April 2006, a typical passage period for this species in the Middle Atlantic region. Photographs by Dave Czaplak.

31 Mar furnished Virginia's only report between autumn and spring (Mike Iwanik, Vickie Gullet). Four Harlequin Ducks were seen from the C.B.B.T. 11 Mar (DLH et al.). Two Surf Scoters were in the Anacostia R., D.C. 22 Apr (RH, PP), and 2 were at Rocky Gap S.P., *Allegany*, MD 23 Apr (JBC). A Common Goldeneye was at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, *Harford* 25-26 May (Chris Starling). Hooded Mergansers again bred at Huntley Meadows, with young noted 14 May (Harry Glasgow et al.); a hen and 4 young were seen at Piney Run Park, *Carroll* 25 May (RFR). Once again, Common Mergansers nested along the Potomac R., either in *Montgomery*, MD or *Fairfax*, with young photographed 27 Apr (DCz); several sightings from that section of the Potomac would follow; another late sighting was 21 May at Susquehanna S.P., *Harford* (MH, JLS, MB et al.). A Red-breasted Merganser was at L. of the Woods, *Orange*, VA 29 May (PK).

The Pacific Loon found 1 Feb at Kerr was present through 27 Mar (JBL, AD, Wendy Ealding), and a Red-throated Loon there 27 May, in breeding plumage, was most unusual—perhaps the first Virginia report of that plumage (David Spears). The high inland count of Common Loons was 55 at Mill Creek L., *Amherst*, VA 17 Apr (Mark Johnson). Some 150 Horned Grebes were noted at Ft. Smallwood, *Anne Arundel* 29 Mar (HLW). A Red-necked Grebe was at L. Orange, *Orange*, VA 27 Mar (George & Rosemarie Harris). An Eared Grebe was on the Potomac R. at Violettes Lock, *Montgomery* 10-12 Apr (ph. BH, ph. DCz); the last one at South Holston L., *Washington*, VA was seen 29 Mar (JWC).

A Sooty Shearwater at Chinc. 13 May (VK, LM et al.) marked a typical arrival date. A Northern Gannet was well up the Rappahannock R., observed from *Lancaster*, VA at Belle Isle S.P. 28 Mar (VK); one was also at Cobb I. on the Wicomico R., *Charles*, MD (Mike Callahan). Thirteen American White Pelicans were seen at Carvins Cove on the *Roanoke/Botetourt*, VA line 31 Mar (Bill & Katie James, *vide* Mike Purdy); 4 were at South Holston L. 8 Apr (JWC et al.); and singles were at Poplar I., *Talbot* 8 Apr (*vide* JRe)

and 19 May (JRe, *vide* LR) and at Hog I., *Surry*, VA 19 & 23 Apr (BW, BTa). The breeding colony of Double-crested Cormorants on the Potomac R. in *Montgomery* had 20 nests, with all but three occupied (Clive Harris); another colony with nests on power line towers along the Patuxent R. on the *Prince George's/Calvert* line reportedly had at least 100 nesting birds. The first cormorant nest in Maryland was discovered in 1990, and the species is now known to breed in at least *Dorchester*, *Talbot*, *Montgomery*, *Prince George's*, and *Calvert*. There were five reports of Anhinga this season. Four were seen over the Dulles Toll Road, *Loudoun*, VA 10 Apr (HH); one was at Lilypons, *Frederick*, MD 18-23 Apr (Dan Eberly, Linda Friedland, Lydia Schindler, ph. MB, m.ob.); one was at Stumpy L., Virginia

23 Apr (JSh); and one at Laurel L. 6 May was a first for *Buchanan*, VA (*vide* RM). Twelve Great Blue Herons nests were found near Beaverdam Cr., at *Damascas*, *Washington*, VA 29 Mar (JWC); several nests were also located near Franks Mill, *Augusta*, VA 30 Apr (AL, Sarah Splaun, Mae Houff, ph. BTe). A Great Egret was at the Cumberland Terminus, *Allegany* 2-8 Apr (JBC). Two Little Blue Herons were at Kenilworth Park 14 May (RH). A Tricolored Heron at Silver L. 7 May was *Rockingham*, VA's first (Cheryl Lyon, *vide* CM); another was at Dyke Marsh, *Fairfax* 18 May (Scott Priebe). A 28 May visit to *Dorchester's* Holland I. confirmed that all of Maryland's breeding herons and ibis can be found nesting here (HTA). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons nested in several areas in metropolitan D.C.: along

Sligo Cr., *Montgomery*, MD, at least four nests were found 29 Mar and 13 Apr (Howard Youth; Tom Stock); birds frequented Rock Cr. at Chevy Chase, *Montgomery*, MD, where nests would be found in summer; and at Reston, *Fairfax*, at a site where the species has bred previously, a pair was nesting this spring, noted 27 Apr (Matthew Bender). One found at L. Shenandoah 31 May was good for *Rockingham's* first since 1968 (ph. Greg Moyers). As many as 4 White-faced Ibis spent a week at Huntley Meadows, with the



As many as four White-faced Ibis were at Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax County, Virginia 17-23 (here 19) April 2006, keeping company with one or two Glossy Ibis. Photograph by Cliff Otto.

first noted 17 Apr (Ed Eder). Over the next six days, many observers were able to see up to 4 working the mud with one or 2 Glossy Ibis, the last sighting being one bird 23 Apr (SAH, ph. PS, HFD, TMD, JKe, KG). Other White-faced Ibis reports were 11 May at the causeway to Chincoteague I., (KG), 24 May at Chinc. (PJM), and 20 & 22 May at the S. Point area of *Worcester* (ph. MLH; Wayne Laubscher). A Glossy Ibis was at the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, D.C. 25-26 Mar (Nick Lund, RH et al.). Forty White Ibis were seen flying over First Landing S.P., Virginia Beach 23 Apr (JRU).

Beach, 13 & 28 May (ESB; BL); and one was along Nawney's Creek Rd., Virginia Beach 29 May (RLAk). At Bellyache Swamp, *Southampton*, VA, a male Anhinga was first noted 27 May (Bill Keith) and documented displaying 30 May (ph. BTe). An ad. male frigatebird not identified to species was noted perched on a light pole on Fisherman I., *Northampton*, VA 26 May (ESB).

BITTERNS THROUGH CRANES

An American Bittern was at Chester Phelps W.M.A. 20 Apr, the 2nd for *Fauquier* (TMD, Mike Day); one was at Kenilworth Park, D.C.

Again this year, a pair of Black Vultures nested on the 3rd floor of the Ruscombe Mansion, Baltimore, this time while renovations of the building were underway; thankfully, the developer was willing to allow the breeding attempt to continue (*fide* Elliot Kirschbaum). Two circling Black Vultures were seen 4 Apr from along I-68 in w. Garrett (TMD). A Swallow-tailed Kite was seen over Fairfax County Parkway 17 Apr (†SAH); another was at Ft. Smallwood 24 Apr (SR). At Gloucester Pt., Gloucester, VA, a Swallow-tailed Kite was noted 1 May (*fide* BTa); this location has had reports of this bird in previous years in summer, but breeding remains unknown. The only Mississippi Kite reports came from Virginia, most from known or suspected breeding locations in Southampton and Fairfax. Exceptions included one at Stonewall, Appomattox 9 Apr, which was the season's first report (Peggy Lyons); one at the Julie Metz wetlands mitigation site, Prince William 18 Apr, where nearby-breeding is likely (MR); an ad. at Runt Powell's farm, Halifax 6 May, where seen in years past but not annually (JBI); a subad. near E.S.V.N.W.R. 13 May (BTa, KG); and one along Back Rd., Shenandoah 14 May (SAH, BL, J&BJL). Bald Eagles were confirmed nesting in Rockingham for the first time ever (J&BJL, John Irvine); another bit of diligence by Tekin and others resulted in the 9 Apr discovery of the first Bald Eagle nest in Highland, VA. The 2006 Bald Eagle survey conducted by Bryan D. Watts and Mitchell A. Byrd of the Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, showed an increase of over seven per cent in nesting pairs, with this year's total of 485 being the most ever recorded in Virginia. The survey covers Virginia's portion of the Bay and the major coastal tributaries. Known pairs of eagles produced a record 705 chicks in 2006, pushing the five-year total over 3000 young. A Broad-winged Hawk flew over Chestertown, Queen Anne's 29 Mar (JG). An imm. Golden Eagle at Langford, Kent 12 Mar was a good find; one near Monterey Mt., Highland 9 Apr was rather late (*fide* BTe). Twelve Merlins noted in one hour from Ft. Story, Virginia Beach 23 Apr was indicative of a good flight for that day (RLAn). The College Creek Hawkwatch, James City, VA completed its 10th spring season, with a near-record amount of hours of observation. Observers tallied a new season-high number of raptors and vultures. Tops in this group were Osprey, setting a new site record with

183 birds; disappointing were only 10 American Kestrels, despite good coverage (BTa).

Two or 3 Black Rails were heard along Elliott Island R., Dorchester 20 Apr (HLW, LD); two parties heard one Black Rail each on the Dorchester May bird count 6 May (HTA). King Rails were again easily heard and often seen at Occoquan Bay N.W.R., Prince William, throughout the reporting period, with the season's first report of 4 there 12 Mar; one was noted 14 Apr at Julie Metz wetlands (both MR); Maryland's lone report was one calling 13 Mar along the Patuxent R., Prince George's (FF, Jane Fallon). A Sora at Laurel L. 6 May was the first record for Buchanan (*fide* RM). A Purple Gallinule was



This White-faced Ibis was found 20 May 2006 (here) in the South Point area of Worcester County, Maryland and seen again two days later. Although reported annually in Virginia since 1999, the species is not found annually in Maryland.

Photograph by Mark L. Hoffmann.

seen 12 Apr along the L. Meade causeway, Suffolk, VA (Don Schwab); another was along Pitch Kettle Rd., Suffolk 22 Apr (*fide* Sheila Scoville); another was found dead at an unlikely location, Great Falls N.P., Fairfax 15 May (ph. Cheryl Bresee). A Common Moorhen at Rural Retreat L., Wythe 23 May was the Region's only report well away from the Coastal Plain (GE, JM). Sixty American Coots were at Hart 6 May, with one seen on a nest (EJS et al.). A flock of 15 Sandhill Cranes was seen on the Summers Tract, Frederick, MD 12 Mar (†Andy Sewell); one was at Middlebrook, Augusta 5 Apr (Paul Cabe); another was at the Virginia Polytechnical Institute campus at Blacksburg, Montgomery 16–17 Apr (ph. N&MM, John Kell); another was at Prices Fork, Montgomery, VA 25 Apr (Henry Floyd); and 2 were seen at Hog I. from the College Creek Hawkwatch and noted in both Surry and James City 10 May (BW, BTa).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Twelve Semipalmated Plovers made an appearance at Rural Retreat L. 23 May (GE, JM). A Piping Plover was a surprise at Flag Ponds S.P., Calvert 7 May (TB, JKo). Black-necked Stilts are expected at several coastal marshes in Maryland and Virginia, as well as at Craney, though 10 at Elliott Island Rd. 20 Apr was notable (HLW, LD). Less-expected locations where the species was reported this season included Shirley Plantation, Charles City, VA 22 Apr (ph. Allen Bryan); 3 at Pickering 5 May (SA, EA); and 4 at E.S.V.N.W.R. on 24 May (VK). An Upland Sandpiper was early at Prices Fork, Montgomery, VA 28 Mar (CK); another was at Cape Charles, Northampton 5 May (ESB). Twenty Whimbrel were unexpected at Tydings, Harford 21 May, but the bigger surprise was a Eurasian Whimbrel of the nominate subspecies, the first for Maryland (JH, ph. BH, MH, JLS, MB et al.) and only the 7th for the Region. The Long-billed Curlew at Chimney Pole Marsh, Northampton was last seen 2 Apr (Alex Wilke). Red Knots were seen at Chinc. 24 May (2 birds; ESB) and at Assateague I., Worcester 26 May (6 birds; Bill Schreitz); aerial surveys for the species in May–Jun found about 6000 in the intertidal areas of the Virginia barrier islands, about 4000 fewer than last year's survey. A Sanderling was with 11 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Huntley Meadows 29 May (JBa); 5 White-rumped Sandpipers were there 27 May (PJM). Rural Retreat L. had 5 late-ish Pectoral Sandpipers, 8 Least Sandpipers, and 28 Dunlins, all 23 May (GE, JM). Twenty-two Purple

Sandpipers at Poplar I. 23 May were relatively late (JR, *fide* LR). Two Dunlins at Swan Harbor, Harford 2 Mar were unusual for the date (MH). A Ruff (Reeve) was a nice surprise at Pickering 22–26 Apr (Shepard Krech, LR, m.ob.). Long-billed Dowitchers were seen, and heard, 1 Apr at Hart (EJS), 3 May at Oyster, Northampton (TS, ESB), and 24 May at Chinc. (ESB). A Red-necked Phalarope was found at Blackwater N.W.R. 13 May (*fide* HTA); it or another was there 16–17 May (Joshua Stone); another was at Chesapeake Farm, Kent 22 May (DP, *fide* MH). Interesting shorebirds found at the P.P.G. ponds at North Branch, Allegany 23 May included a Wilson's Phalarope along with White-rumped, Semipalmated, and Least Sandpipers, Dunlin, and Semipalmated Plover (Mikey Lutmerding).

Baltimore's Back R. continues to be the spot in the Region for Little Gull, with a report of 2–3 there 2 Mar with 1100 Bonaparte's Gulls

(GM, BC); more unusual were 2 first-summer Little Gulls at Tydings, *Harford* 21 May, a plumage rarely seen in the Region (ph. BH, MH, JLS, MB). A Black-headed Gull was seen at Sandy Point S.P., *Anne Arundel* 13 Mar (FS). The gulls at Hooper's Restaurant, *Worcester* included a first-winter Iceland Gull and a first-winter Glaucous Gull 18 Mar (SM). Back Bay N.W.R. is known as the Region's best spot for high counts of Lesser Black-backed Gulls; 50 were there 13 Mar (RLAk, DS). Larger gulls are rarely reported from w. Maryland, and a Lesser Black-backed Gull on the Potomac around Antietam Cr. 24–31 Mar furnished Washington's first record (ph. HH, RFR, MH, m.ob.); with this gull was a Great Black-backed Gull, providing possibly only the 2nd county record, as 4–12 were seen here 19–31 Mar (JH, RFR, MH, m.ob.). The last Glaucous Gull reported was a first-winter bird 29 Apr at Ocean City Inlet (Taylor McLean). Forty Caspian Terns at the Washington Navy Yard, D.C. 20 Apr was a good count (JSh); 4 at Claytor L., *Pulaski*, VA 22 Apr was a notable location (CK).

DOVES THROUGH LARKS

Eurasian Collared-Doves were engaged in a territorial display at the Belspring area, *Pulaski* 1 & 13 Apr (CK, Ray Callahan), and one was seen 16 Apr at Radford, VA (CK). In Maryland, the species is still decidedly rare; a *Worcester* feeder that attracted one 19 Apr–3 May provided just the 5th or 6th record for the state and the 2nd for the county (MLH). Virginia's 4th spring White-winged Dove was at Cape Charles 10–13 May (Jimmy Pruitt, TS, ESB, m.ob.). The Dulles Airport, *Loudoun*, Snowy Owl was last seen 17 Mar (Justin Dysart, Jim Emery, m.ob.). A Short-eared Owl was at Elliott Island Rd. 20 Apr (HLW, LD); 10 at Rectortown, *Fauquier* were last reported 10 Mar (TMD).

Chuck-will's-widows at the n. edge of their range on Virginia's Piedmont included one singing at Prince William Forest Park, *Prince William* 23 Apr+ (JKe, KG, MR) and one near Locust Grove, *Orange* 30 Apr (PK). Two

Northern Flickers showing at least some reddish coloration in remiges were banded at Chino 21 & 26 Mar (JG). Seventeen reports of Olive-sided Flycatcher from 13 locations 13–29 May reached the editor; only one was away from the Piedmont or Mountains and Valleys: 23 May at Chinc. (PJM). By contrast, there were only four reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, 18–29 May, all in Maryland. Alder Flycatcher's migration is poorly known in the Region; thus singing birds in spring away from expected breeding areas are always noteworthy. One was singing at Pocahontas S.P., *Chesterfield*, VA (Wendy Ealding); one was along River Rd., *Montgomery*, MD 24–26 May (Jim Green, DP); another was at Fort Hill Shopping Center, Lynchburg, VA 28 May (Gene Sattler). One of winter's most unusual finds was an Ash-throated Flycatcher that wintered along the James R. at Richmond (Manchester), last reported 4 Mar (Arun Bose). The Ft. McHenry Western Kingbird that has spent spring and part of summer at *Baltimore* for four years returned 25 Apr and was reported through 18 May (Jim Peters, *vide* Keith Eric Costley, m.ob.). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was photographed at Townsend, *Northampton* 25 Apr (Sheri Yaros, Tim Dixon, TS, ph. ESB), the 12th for that county. Loggerhead Shrike reports were all from Virginia: 8 Mar at Chase City, *Mecklenburg* (Grace McCrowell); at Sky Meadows S.P., *Fauquier* 2 Apr+, with a bird seen on nest (SB, m.ob.); and 3 km w. of Waverly, *Sussex* 19 May (SL, *vide* PS).

Common Ravens continue to march eastward, slowly. Reports from areas that only a few years ago would have been extremely noteworthy are becoming more expected. At Richmond, one was at Commerce Park and Carter's Creek Rd. 2 Mar (Brent & Jane Tartcr); one was heard and seen at Fort C. F. Smith Park, *Arlington*, VA 3 Mar (VK); one was at Great Falls N.P. 4 May (Ralph Wall); a nest was found on Maryland's Piedmont on a tower in se. *Frederick* 19 Mar (MH); four reports from *Howard*, MD—where the most recent record was from 1978—were 2 May on I-

70 near the *Carroll* line (HH); 6 May at Patapsco Valley S.P. (Bonnie Ott et al.); and two other reports from different locations 27 May (*vide* JSo). Other ravens included one at James River S.P., *Buckingham*, VA 22 May (SB) and one at Kerr Res., *Mecklenburg* 25 May (Frank Enders). There were two reports of Philadelphia Vireo this spring: 12 May at Rock Cr. Park (GM) and 20 May at Smallwood S.P., *Charles* (GMJ). A Horned Lark was unexpected at Kenilworth Park, D.C. 14 May (RH).

SWALLOWS THROUGH FINCHES

Two Tree Swallows nests examined in late April tied Virginia's earliest records for eggs, one with 6 and the other 7, both *Loudoun* 23 Apr (RBC). A Red-breasted Nuthatch was late at Idylwood W.A., *Caroline*, MD 28 May (Glen Lovelace). A Black-capped Chickadee, the last of the winter invasion, was caught and banded at Chino 27 Mar (JG). Brown-headed Nuthatches are at the n. edge of their range on Maryland's Eastern Shore, specifically at Kent I., *Queen Anne's* and also in *Kent*, and is rare despite seemingly good, extensive habitat. Eastern Neck N.W.R. has perhaps had pairs continually, and there were several reports from there this spring, all around the Boxes Point Trail. Three were noted 12 Mar (WGE, NLM), 2 on 2 Apr (MH, JLS), one on 22 Apr (WGE, NLM), and two pairs with two active nests were discovered 13 May, totaling 7 birds (WGE, NLM). At Stevensville, *Queen Anne's*, 3 were seen 26 Mar (Holly Merker). Perhaps more exciting was one found at Ft. Smallwood 27 Apr, *Anne Arundel's* first (HLW, SR); lastly, as many as 4 were found along Lloyd Brown Rd., *Calvert* 28 May, with an ad. seen feeding young (TB, JK). Another interesting report was of a nest-building Brown Creeper, well documented near the edge of the Patapsco R. at Halethorp Farms Pond, *Baltimore* 27 Mar (ph. Brian Sykes, SA). A Winter Wren was banded at Occoquan N.W.R. 12 May (Joanna Taylor). A Sedge Wren was at Occoquan N.W.R. 26 Mar (KG, JKe); another was at Dyke Marsh 5–6 May (*vide* KG); and one was at Rock Creek Park, D.C. 5 May (GM, BC). A Marsh Wren was noted along the North R. at Route 42, *Rockingham* 18 Apr (Dave Nealon).

A Bicknell's Thrush was seen and heard at Upper Watts Branch Park, *Montgomery* 16 May (Paul O'Brien); 2 were banded at First Landing S.P. 20 & 22 May (JRu); 4 were heard among 60 Swainson's and 50 Gray-checked Thrushes an hour before midnight over Bel Air, *Harford* 25 May (MH). Another Bicknell's was heard singing at Rock Creek Park 27 May (GM, BC). These dates—16 through 27 May—define the peak of spring migration for

SA The Virginia Society of Ornithology's spring foray this year targeted Northern Saw-whet Owls, a scarce breeder in the state, with only four previously confirmed records of nesting. Some 125 locations were visited, an audio-lure was broadcast, and there were responses in 15 locations. Sites in *Giles* were surveyed 28 Apr, with one bird located (Mary Ratliff). Two observers found 5 Saw-whets 6 May at stops in *Montgomery* (CK, Bruce Grimes). On 9 May, two observers covered several km along the s. portion of Skyline Drive in Shenandoah N.P., making seven stops and finding 3 owls, one in *Albemarle* and 2 in *Augusta*; the observers also noted 23 Whip-poor-wills along the route (Mark T. Adams, Dave Hogg). Another observer found Saw-whets on Allegheny Mt., *Highland* 9–13 May; these efforts also yielded one vocalizing **Long-eared Owl** 10 May, an extremely scarce breeder in the state (JSp). On 30 May, Saw-whets were found at three locations in *Frederick* (Judy Palladinetti). Breeding was not confirmed by this survey, but many new potential breeding locations were identified.

My thanks to Clair Mellinger for information summarized here.

SA In May, as part of the Center for Conservation Biology's survey of Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers in w. Virginia, four field technicians surveyed eight counties: *Highland, Bath, Botetourt, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Green, Albemarle, and Augusta* (fide Mike Smith). In total, 32 Golden-winged, 5 Blue-winged, and 4 hybrid warblers were located.

County	Date	Results
Highland	16–19 May	Golden-winged: 23 male, 2 female
		Blue-winged: 0
		Hybrid: 0
Bath	4–5 May	Golden-winged: 6 male
		Blue-winged: 3 male
		Hybrid: 0
Botetourt	26–31 May	Golden-winged: 0
		Blue-winged: 1 male
		Hybrid: 3
Rockbridge	23/31 May	Golden-winged: 1
		Blue-winged: 0
		Hybrid: 1
Augusta	22 May	Golden-winged: 0
		Blue-winged: 1
		Hybrid: 0

this scarce and clearly declining migrant in the Region. A Wood Thrush at Gloucester Pt. 19 Mar was a bit early even for this early thrush (Hayes & Joyce Williams). The *Anne Arundel Varied Thrush* from winter was seen through 26 Mar (fide GMJ). An American Pipit at Mathias Pt., *Charles* 23 May was late (GMJ).

A few wintering warblers survived the winter. The Nashville Warbler at Carroll Park, *Baltimore* was last seen 6 Apr (Jim Wilkinson); the female Black-throated Blue at an *Arlington* feeder was seen through 21 Mar (Linda Fields, Alan Schreck); and the Yellow-throated Warbler at Indian Head, *Charles* was noted 2 Apr (Carol Ghebelian). An Orange-crowned Warbler was banded at Chino 9 May (JG). A Townsend's Warbler was discovered 10 May at Seneca Landing, *Montgomery* along the Potomac R. (ph. DCz). Another Townsend's had been seen upriver at Noland's Ferry Rd., *Fredrick* 2–6 Jan. An early Ovenbird was early at the Great Dismal Swamp N.W.R., *Suffolk, VA* 12 Mar (DLH). On the same date, a Louisiana Waterthrush was noted early at Rapidan N.W.R., *Madison, VA* (Alex Minarik). A Kentucky Warbler at Cape Charles town 13 May was a good coastal find (TS). Hooded Warbler bested its early date for Virginia, heard 28 Mar at Prince William Forest Park (PS, SL).

A Clay-colored Sparrow was at Sky Meadows S.P. 6 May, only the 5th record for Virginia's Piedmont and *Fauquier's* 2nd (†SB). A Vesper Sparrow at Kenilworth Park 22–26 Apr was a good find (PP, RH) but paled in comparison to the Lark Sparrow seen there 23 May (FF). Henslow's Sparrows were reported from Old Legislative Rd., *Alleghany* 31 May, a typical breeding area (Steve Sanford). Two Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were at Swan Harbor 26 May (ph. MH). A Lincoln's Sparrow was banded at First Landing S.P. 25 May (JRu), the only report from the immediate coast of the 17 reports between 29 Apr–25 May. A Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow was banded at Chino 12 Apr (JG). A White-throated Sparrow at Cape Charles 21 May was late for the coast (Paul E. Lehman). A second-year female Painted Bunting was banded at First Landing S.P. 11 May (JRu). Two Dickcissels were at the Virginia Polytechnical Institute campus 8 Mar (N&MM).

A male Yellow-headed Blackbird visited a Kempsville, Virginia Beach feeder 20 Mar (Gary Schafran); one flew over Staunton, VA 21 May (Pat Lerner). Rusty



A Townsend's Warbler found 10 March 2006 (here) at Sycamore Landing, Montgomery County, Maryland was 24 kilometers from a Frederick County site that had held a Townsend's two months earlier—thus almost certainly a different individual. Photograph by Dave Czaplak.

Blackbird reports were predominantly of single-digit numbers of birds, with a few exceptions. Huntley Meadows had a wintering flock that a 30 Mar tally had as 600+ (Mark Moran); others routinely posted numbers between 50–200. The Great Dismal Swamp N.W.R. also claimed a few triple-digit reports (RLak et al.). Red Crossbills were seen rou-

tinely from the Confederate Breastworks, straddling the *Highland/Augusta* line, with as many as 5 birds seen, the last report 30 Apr; also in *Highland*, Red Crossbills visited a feeder at Bear Mt. throughout the season. A male White-winged Crossbill was photographed at a feeder at the Ruffins Pond Subdivision, *Spotsylvania* 5 May (ph. Pat Holland). Four Evening Grosbeaks were in a Glen Echo, *Montgomery*, MD yard 5 Apr (Robert P. Abrams). In Clapp's 15 years of monitoring Eastern Bluebird boxes, he discovered what is possibly North America's first truly runt egg (that of a House Sparrow) 28 Apr; such eggs have been previously recorded in Europe.

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Southern Atlantic



Ricky Davis

This spring's weather was generally uneventful, with no major storms or systems causing any problems for birds, resident or migratory. Temperatures were average early and late but slightly lower than average in April. Precipitation levels, however, remained on the low side, with dry conditions continuing through much of the period for many areas of the Region, especially inland. With this lack of serious weather systems, very few migratory events were mentioned, so one assumes the northward migration of birds through the Region proceeded normally.

Abbreviations: C. Hatt. (Cape Hatteras, *Dare*, NC); E.L.H. (E. L. Huie Land Application Facility, *Clayton*, GA); H.B.S.P. (Huntington Beach S.P., *Georgetown*, SC); Hoop. (Hooper Lane, *Henderson*, NC); Kennesaw Mt. (Kennesaw Mt. National Battlefield Park, *Cobb*, GA); Pea I. (Pea Island N.W.R., *Dare*, NC); S.S.S. (Savannah Spoil Site, *Jasper*, SC).

WATERFOWL THROUGH WADERS

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued their increasing presence in the Region this spring. Georgia hosted 4 on Little St. Simons I. 16 May (NVL) and 20 at the Altamaha W.M.A. 28 May (BC, m.ob.). Elsewhere, 11 were in a field in *Beaufort*, NC for several days at least until 16 May (AM, JR, CD); and 11 were seen flying southward at Isle of Palms, SC 23 May (DA). Greater White-fronted Geese, rare in the mts., were reported from Brevard, NC 11-18 Mar (7; TJ) and at Table Rock S.P., SC 2 Apr (one; SS). The 5 Cackling Geese from the winter near Macon, GA were still present as late as 26 Mar (BChu). Lingering waterfowl of note involved 5 American Wigeons in *Transylvania*, NC 13 May (NI), 2 Northern Shovblers at the S.S.S. 16 May (PS et al.), the wintering Common Eider at H.B.S.P. 21 May (ST et al.), and a male Ruddy Duck at the NCSU dairy farms, *Wake*, NC 22 May (DL). Single Surf Scoters were rare finds in the mts. at L. Junaluska, *Haywood*, NC 3 Apr

(WF et al.) and L. Julian, *Buncombe*, NC 8 Apr (MW et al.). Nesting Hooded Mergansers were observed at Arrowhead, *Floyd*, GA 2 May (DR), with one ad. and 7 young seen. This report provides one of the farthest inland nesting records for that state. Rare spring Common Mergansers included a "pair" in the French Broad R., *Woodfin*, *Buncombe*, NC 27 Mar (VS) and one at Brevard, NC 19 Apr (TJ). Also rare in the extreme upper Piedmont of Georgia was the nesting report of a Pied-billed Grebe and 3 chicks at Arrowhead, *Floyd* 2 May (DR). Eared Grebes mentioned included 2-3 at the E.L.H. 11-28 Mar (CI, m.ob.), one at Long Branch Park, L. Hartwell, GA 25 Mar (SSI), and one at the C. Hatt. salt pond 4 Mar (RD, JP). Of interest was the *Aechmophorus* grebe seen briefly in the surf at Jekyll I., GA 4 Mar (RS); there is only one previous record of Western Grebe from that state.

Amazingly, an ad. Yellow-nosed Albatross was discovered sitting on the beach near the point at C. Hatt. 11 Apr (P&NM, JB, B&JD; ML)—the same location where one had been



Eleven Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were present in a cornfield in Beaufort County, North Carolina for several days (here 16 May 2006). Photograph by Curtis Dykstra.

photographed two years earlier, to the day! The only other state record is of a bird photographed just 5 km offshore from this point, 5 Feb 2000. What was presumably the same individual was noted southward flying over Atlantic Beach two days later on 13 Apr (TL) and remained in and around a Brown Pelican colony in the Core Sound area late Apr+ (Sue Cameron). This season's pelagic coverage during the latter half of May off North Carolina's Outer Banks was more thorough than in any previous season, with almost daily trips aboard the new *Stormy Petrel* off Hatteras in addition to the *Country Girl* from Manteo. Tubenose highlights included six trips with one or 2 Herald Petrels, six trips with one to 3 Fea's Petrels, a Bermuda Petrel off Hatteras 23 May, and three trips with up to 4 Manx Shearwaters (BPI). A Sooty Shearwater off Hatteras 18 Mar (BPI) was extremely early, as most of these are found in May and Jun off our coast. That same trip off Hatteras 18 Mar produced a

rather impressive count of 60+ Manx Shearwaters (BPI). European Storm-Petrel was again found this spring, with one or 2 off Hatteras 29 May (S. Howell et al., BPI). After last year's multiple birds, it seems that the species may have been "overlooked" off our Region in late spring! Another rarity was the White-faced Storm-Petrel observed from a cruise ship off of C. Hatt 27 May (A&BDe). The bird, observed well as it "kangarooed" close to the ship, provided the earliest report for the species in our Region by almost a month.

Tropicbird reports included 3 White-tailed off Hatteras 30 May and single Red-billed off Hatteras 17, 22, & 29 May (BPI). Elsewhere, the s. coast of North Carolina got its first Brown Booby with an imm. resting on the beach at Bald Head I. 25-26 Apr (MDe, RM). All previous sightings of this species have been from the cen. and n. coastal areas. American White Pelicans continued to make news in the Region. Noteworthy inland reports involved 6 at the Bradley Unit, Eufaula N.W.R., GA 5 Mar (PF), up to 8 at Jordan L., NC 5-14 Apr (AP, AJ et al., JM et al., m.ob.), 5 at Falls L., NC 16 Apr (RD), and one over the North Carolina Zoo, *Randolph*, NC 17 Apr (SA). Good coastal area counts were the 49 over L. Mattamuskeet, NC 15 Mar (D&SD), 28 at Bulls I., C. Romain N.W.R., SC 18 Mar (ND), and the 55+ at Andrews I., Brunswick, GA 23 Apr (BB et al., m.ob.). Inland Brown Pelicans are very rare in the Region, so 7 at L. Murray, SC were noteworthy 11 May (IP, AD). Anhingas seem to be wandering farther away from the Coastal Plain each year. This spring, the farthest inland were 2 over Shamrock L., *Clayton*, GA 26 May (CL et al.) and one over Baker's Mt., *Catawba*, NC 13 May (*vide* DM). Also of interest was the discovery of a nesting colony of Anhingas with 10+ nests at a swamp along I-95 w. of Enfield, *Halifax*, NC 25 May (FE). This site is easily one of the farthest inland in that state. Magnificent Frigatebirds staged an invasion into the Region this spring. Multiple reports from North Carolina's Outer Banks included singles at Kill Devil Hills 22 Apr (JL), at Buxton 15 May (imm.; ph. ESB, GLA), from the Hatteras-Ocracoke ferry 15 May (Jason Andre), at Hatteras Inlet 18 May (CD), at Frisco 20-21 May (imm.; different from Buxton bird; ph. ESB), at Buxton 24-26 May (LG, BZ, EH et al.), and an ad. male offshore e. of Oregon Inlet 20 May (BPI). Elsewhere singles were over Core Sound near Davis, NC 30 May (*vide* JF), at Sullivan's I., SC 27 May (WH), and at Jekyll I., GA 24 May (DCh).

Two nesting pairs of Great Blue Herons were found in the Brevard, NC area this spring (TJ, m.ob.), the westernmost breeders in the state. Other wandering long-legged

waders far inland included a Snowy Egret at L. Julian, NC 21 Apr (WF), a Little Blue Heron at L. Junaluska, NC 8 Apr (CW, BO), a Black-crowned Night-Heron off Rte. 191 in Henderson, NC 4 May (MW, BO), and a Glossy Ibis in Bartow, GA 28 Apr (DV). Noteworthy Reddish Egrets were at Bulls I., SC 18 Mar (*fide* ND), at Bear Island W.M.A., SC 8 Apr (ND), and at Gould's Inlet, GA 24 May (DCh). Also, what must be a first for the Region was the flock of 8 Reddish Egrets flying over the Altamaha W.M.A., GA 6 May (BL et al.)! Other locally unusual wader reports involved a Roseate Spoonbill at the Santee Coastal Reserve, SC 20 May (ND) and a Wood Stork over the Black R., Clear Run, Sampson, NC 11 May (GG).

RAPTORS THROUGH ALCIDS

This spring's Swallow-tailed Kite reports from the North Carolina Outer Banks, an almost annual phenomenon, involved 4 at Pea I. 15 Apr (JBe et al.) and one the same day farther s. at the Ocracoke campground (*fide* JBe). Locally rare spring sightings of Mississippi Kite included singles over Kennesaw Mt. 1 May (GB et al.) and over Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 29 May (RSe, JLi). Also very early were single Mississippis at Congaree Swamp N.P., SC 28 Mar (RC et al.) and Columbia, SC 30 Mar (CE). Late Northern Harriers were found at Tanglewood Park, Clemmons, NC 13 May (*fide* LD) and at Griffin, GA 15 May (EB). Reports of dark *calurus* Red-tailed Hawks in the Region have increased in the past several years; this spring, one was found in Forsyth, NC and brought 16 Mar to a rehabilitator (JC), with whom it died 22 Mar. The wintering Rough-legged Hawk at Alligator River N.W.R., NC was last noted 3 Mar (RD, JP). This spring's Golden Eagle sightings involved an ad. along the causeway at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 27 Mar (GH) and one near Sparta, *Alleghany*, NC 2 Apr (*fide* ED). Late was a Merlin at the S.S.S. 1 May (SC et al.). A Black Rail pair with 4-5 tiny chicks was found near Beaufort, NC 19 May (ESB, GLA et al.). Most unusual was an apparently tired Yellow Rail in a mowed hayfield in Rutherfordton, NC 28 Apr. The bird was taken to UNC/Asheville, where it was released in a nearby marshy area (*fide* MW). Reports of this species in the w. part of the state are few and far between. Other inland rail reports involved a Clapper Rail found dead in downtown Goldsboro, NC 27 Apr (ED), a Virginia Rail four feet off the ground in a rhododendron thicket at Craggy Gardens, *Buncombe*, NC 14 May (TD et al.), and a Sora at Hospital Fields, *Transylvania*, NC 30 Mar (BM). A Purple Gallinule at Spring Creek Preserve, *Whitfield*, GA 24 Apr (MM) provided only about the 3rd

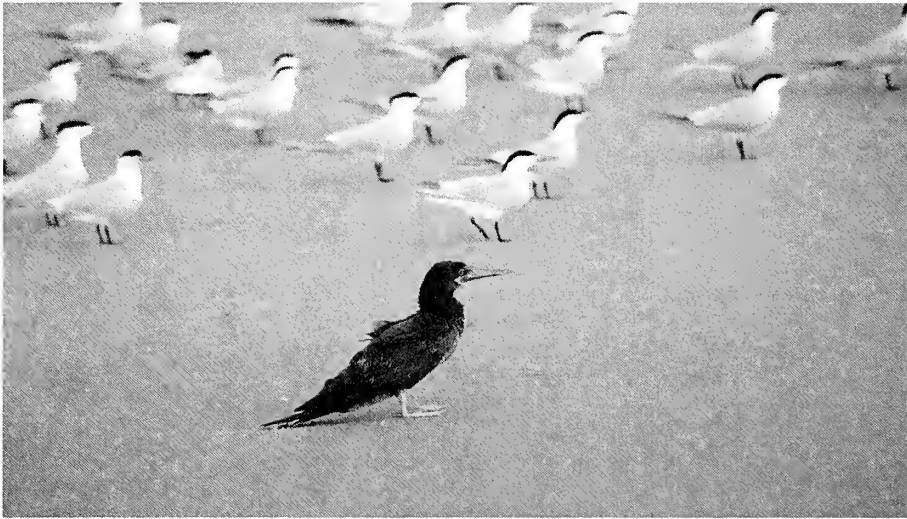
report for the mts. of that state. In North Carolina, where the species is extremely hard to find, one continued at L. Medcalf, Sunset Beach 15 Apr (TP). Inland Common Moorhen reports of note included an excellent count of 7 at the E.L.H. 26 May (CL) and one at Jordan L., NC 7 May (GT). American Coots seemed to linger in numbers more than usual, with counts of 35 at the S.S.S. 16 May (PS et al.) and 280 at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 21 May (RD) being exceptional. Sandhill Cranes normally migrate through Georgia each spring; thus most unusual was the flock of 12+ flying northward high over I-40 in Durham, NC 2 Mar (TD). Other spring migrant cranes somewhat e. of the normal migration corridor included 4 flying northward in Greenville, SC 16 Mar (JC) and 2 flying past Devil's Courthouse, *Transylvania*, NC 23 Apr (MW).

Spring American Golden-Plovers are normally hard to come by, but all three states reported them this season. Georgia had four reports, with the largest count being of 4 along Douthit Ferry Rd., Bartow 26-28 Mar (KB). Much rarer along the coast, singles were at Savannah N.W.R., SC 28 Mar (*fide* SH) and at Wrightsville Beach, NC 19 Apr (JE). North Carolina got its 2nd Snowy Plover at C. Hatt. this spring. First reported 25 May (BLa), it was again observed 27 May+ (SHw, PS et al.; m.ob.). Of interest was that the bird was very active and seemed to be highly territorial, driving away any bird that was nearby.

Very rare was a Willet at Hoop. 28-30 Apr (STs et al.), providing about the 5th report for the mountains. Upland Sandpiper numbers seemed about average for the spring, with the top count being 7 at Hoop. 9 Apr (WF). Quite rare inland in the Region, 2 Whimbrels were good finds at L. Wheeler, Raleigh, NC 22 May (DL, SSh). Even rarer inland were the 11 Marbled Godwits found at L. Julian, NC 19 Apr (WF, BO, MW, JLi), only the 2nd report from the mts. of that state. Semipalmated Sandpiper is among the most common transients but rarely counted. Thus of interest was the total of 10,958 tallied on South I., Yawkey Wildlife Center, *Georgetown*, SC 13 May (ND et al.). Inland peep counts were about average, but numbers of White-rumped Sandpipers seemed to be up somewhat, with the best totals reported being 15+ along the French Broad R., Henderson, NC 23 May (WF) and 11 at Sweetwater Creek S.P., GA 26 May (EB). Our Region lies e. of the normal spring migratory route of Baird's Sandpiper, but this year there were three reports! One was found along the French Broad R., Henderson, NC 23 May (WF) for only the 3rd spring sighting for the mountains. One at Pea I. 26 May (*fide* ND) would furnish only about

the 2nd spring coastal report for that state, if documented and accepted. In Georgia, one was reported the same day at Sweetwater Creek S.P. (EB). There were three reports of Ruff this spring, all from South Carolina: a male at Bulls I. 18 Mar (ND), a female at Santee Coastal Reserve 30 Apr (WH, ND et al.), and possibly the same female at South I., Yawkey Wildlife Center 13 May (ND et al.), not far from the Santee Coastal Reserve. It was an above-average spring for Silt Sandpiper; 9 at Pea I. 15 May (GLA, ESB) was high for the season there. The best inland Short-billed Dowitcher report involved 34 at Taff Rd., Bartow, GA 14 May (PB et al.). The only Wilson's Phalaropes reported were at the Yawkey Center, *Georgetown*, SC 23 Apr (BMo, ND et al.), near Savannah N.W.R., SC 7 May (DC), and at Rum Creek W.M.A., *Monroe*, GA 20 May (*fide* TJs). Only one Red-necked Phalarope was found onshore, that being at C. Hatt. point 19 May (CD et al.). A Red Phalarope in breeding plumage off Hatteras, NC 17 May (BPI) was late. Interestingly, during the strong easterly winds 15-20 May, there was a major influx of both phalaropes between New York and Maine, of which these two birds may have been the southernmost.

A pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC 5 Mar produced an ad. California, 2 Iceland (one ad.), and 10 Lesser Black-backed Gulls (BPI). Inland gulls of note included an ad. Herring at the New R., *Ashe*, NC (D&SD), a most unusual report, and an ad. Great Black-backed at Rock Hill, SC 25 Mar (TA). Also unexpected was the Sabine's Gull that flushed from the beach at C. Hatt. 26 May (BPe et al.). Numbers of migrant Caspian Terns inland were down this spring. Three Black Terns at Bulls I., SC 18 Mar (ND) were rather early, and the species continued to be scarce on the coast and offshore. Noteworthy inland Forster's Tern reports involved 15 at L. Thurmond, SC 15 Apr (JG) et al., 12 at Brevard, NC 19 Apr (TJ), and 2 over the New R., *Alleghany*, NC 11 May (HB). Only one South Polar Skua was noted this spring, that being off Hatteras, NC 31 May (BPI). Offshore jaeger numbers were down this spring, especially Pomarines. Single Parasitics were off Hatteras 11 & 29 May and off Oregon Inlet 20 May (BPI). An ad. female Common Murre was found beached at Folly Beach, SC 2 May. It died in captivity two weeks later and is now in the Charleston Museum (WP). This record most likely represents the southernmost confirmed report for the Atlantic Coast, but the species has been reported in record-high numbers from Massachusetts to New York in recent seasons, and a single was observed off Virginia in February 2006, so more Regional records may be forthcoming.



This immature Brown Booby was found on the beach at Bald Head Island, North Carolina 25-26 (here 25) April 2006—the first documented record for the southern coastal area of that state. Photograph by Maureen Dewire.

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

White-winged Doves were reported from Georgia at least five times, with the farthest inland being singles at Blue Ridge, *Fannin* 27 Apr and 6 May (TS) and Epworth, *Fannin* 25 May (NS). In North Carolina, one was at a feeder in Nags Head 24 Apr (SM, JL), and 2 were in Beaufort 31 Mar (SB). Common Ground-Dove is one of the more “watched” species in the Region, as populations have been steadily declining at the n. edge of its range for several decades. Thus a count of 21 in one area inland in Thomaston, GA 4 Mar (MB) was especially encouraging. Black-billed Cuckoos were reported from all three states this spring, and as usual the mts. and coastal areas had the most. The most interesting sighting was of one early at St. Simons I., GA 22 Apr (LT et al.). Two reports of very early Yellow-billed Cuckoos were received, with one at Davidson, NC 9 Mar (TLo) and one near Meggett, SC 11 Mar (ND).

Olive-sided Flycatchers had a good spring this year, with singles reported near Murphy, NC 12 May (SK), in n. *Greenville*, SC 13 May (JC), at Cochran Shoals, GA 16-17 May (PH et al., m.ob.), at Townville, SC 16 May (LK), near Busick, *Yancey*, NC 17 May (GM), at Chickamauga National Battlefield Park, GA 22 May (KC), and in s. *Mecklenburg*, NC 22-23 May (CH, JBu). An *Empidonax* found at Congaree Swamp N.P., SC 5 Mar (RC) was photographed and voice-recorded. The bird had yellow on the throat and a definite teardrop-shaped eye ring. It was determined, after much study, to be a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. The sonograms showed enough to rule out other species, including the Pacific-slope and Cordilleran Flycatchers. Thus this bird provided the first documented

winter/early spring record n. of Florida. Other *Empidonax* flycatcher reports of note included 2 Alders at Paulk's Pasture W.M.A., *Glynn*, GA 6 May (GK), a Willow near Weldon, *Halifax*, NC 1 May (FE), and a Willow at Long Leaf Pine Heritage Preserve, *Lec*, SC 7 May (RC et al.). Nesting Eastern Phoebe are normally found eastward only into the inner Coastal Plain; thus of interest was a nest under a bridge near Albertson, e. *Duplin*, NC 29



Reports of dark Red-tailed Hawks have increased in the Southern Atlantic region in the past several years. This *calurus* Red-tailed found in Forsyth County, North Carolina on 16 March 2006 was taken to a local wildlife rehabilitation facility, where it died of unknown causes 22 March. Photograph by Jean Chamberlain.

May (GG) and a pair at the Voice of America site (“A”) in *Beaufort*, NC 17 May (GLA, ESB). A Gray Kingbird was a good find along the road to Harris Neck N.W.R., GA 23 Apr (BB et al.), somewhat away from the usual s. coastal locations for the species. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers returned to the McDonough, GA

site 27 Apr (LR) for at least the 5th year in a row. Other Georgia sightings involved singles near Cornelia, *Habersham* 25 Apr (*vide* JS) and in s.-cen. *Quitman* 28 May (JS, CL). In North Carolina, one was present at Southern Pines 7 May+ (W1 et al., m.ob.).

Very early Yellow-throated Vireos were detected in nw. *Atkinson*, GA 12 Mar (JF1, EH) and near Fayetteville, NC the next day (BP). A Bell's Vireo was photographed at Conyers, *Rockdale*, GA 6 May (EB) and should provide about the 3rd documented record for that state. The most interesting Warbling Vireo report was of 2 at Charleston, SC 7 May (CW); this species is a decidedly rare spring transient along the coast. Rare for the mts., Fish Crows were noted at L. Julian, NC 3 Apr (WF) and at Hoop. 29 Apr (WF, RD). Common Ravens once again were found toward the e. in North Carolina, with one in *Person* 30 Mar (HL), one e. of L. Norman S.P. 29 May (TLo), and one at River Park North, *Greenville* 26 Apr (JSo). Several Cave Swallows that wintered at H.B.S.P. were last seen 22 Mar (PT et al.). A pair of nesting Brown-headed Nuthatches was located at Rabun Gap, *Rabun*, GA 2 May (FR), providing most likely a new elevation record of nesting for that state. Exciting was the pair of Brown Creepers building a nest near Burrell's Ford, *Oconee*, SC 3-5 May (FR), for a potential first

breeding record in that state. Inland wren reports of interest included 4 Sedge Wrens and 4 Marsh Wrens along the French Broad R., *Henderson*, NC 12-13 May (MW et al., WF) and 6 Marsh Wrens at the E.L.H. 2 Apr (CL, JS). The thrush migration was considered to be poor over most of the Region, although

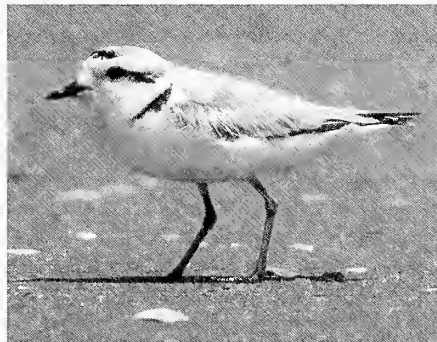
this impression probably has more to do with the secretive nature of forest thrushes and the weather conditions, rather than the birds' actual abundance. Four Swainson's Thrushes were rather early at Winnabow, *Brunswick*, NC 24 Apr (GM). At Mt. Mitchell, NC, a Swainson's plus 17 Hermit Thrushes 27 May (MW) made a good tally; the latter species is a local nester.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Always of interest, Brewster's Warblers were found at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC 21 Apr (AK) and at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 23-24 Apr (WF et al.). Nashville Warblers were reported in average numbers this spring, but one in *Columbia*, GA 17 Mar (EH et al.) was most likely a wintering bird rather than an early migrant. Other warblers that were probably wintering included a Black-throated Blue at Jekyll I., GA 23 Mar (PF), a Black-and-white at Buxton, NC 4 Mar (RD, JP, KA), an Ovenbird on Cumberland I., GA 9 Mar (RS), a Northern Waterthrush at *Atkinson*, GA (JFI, EH), and a Yellow-breasted Chat on Skidaway I., GA 7 Mar (BR). Two Yellow-rumped Warblers on Mt. Mitchell, NC 27 May (MW) were possibly lingering and not just late migrants, as this species has been found there in summer the past several years. Several truly late warblers included a "territorial" Black-throated Green at Raven Rock S.P., NC 17 & 25 May (PHa) and a Bay-breasted and Blackpoll in the C. Hatt. lighthouse area 30 May (JSJ). A Cerulean Warbler was a good find along the Tar R., *Persson*, NC 10 May (HL); this species is infrequently found away from the localized breeding areas in that state. A Worm-eating Warbler found at Sosebee Cove, *Union*, GA 2 Apr (NS) was very early. Locally rare around Charlotte, *Mecklenburg*, NC, 3 Swainson's Warblers were located 21 May+ (TP, m.ob.). There were three Connecticut Warbler reports, about normal for the spring season. Singles were at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 13 May (WF), at Hospital Fields, *Transylvania*, NC 14 May (TJ), and at Chickamauga National Battlefield Park, GA 22 May (KC). Mourning Warblers put on an even better showing, with single birds at Hospital Fields, NC 4 (EG) & 14 May (NSi), at Carters L., *Murray*, GA 10-13 May (JSp), at Ringgold, *Catoosa*, GA 21 May (DH), at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 21-27 May (RSe et al.), in s. *Mecklenburg*, NC 22 May (TP), and at Hamilton Lakes Park, *Greensboro*, NC 23-25 May (HLi et al., m.ob.). The Summer Tanager that wintered in Whispering Pines, *Moore*, NC was last noted 8 Mar (SCb). Western Tanager reports included the wintering bird at a feeder in York, SC remaining until at least 12 Mar (JG, LG et al.) and one in a yard in South-

ern Pines, NC 1 Apr (WI).

Rare spring sparrows reported were a Clay-colored at a feeder in Lexington, SC 1-2 May (AD), a Lark at Sweetwater Creek S.P., GA 8 Apr (CLo), and a Henslow's at Glen Cannon, *Transylvania*, NC 19 Apr (NSi). Always good finds in spring, Lincoln's Sparrows were found in w. Raleigh, NC 15 Mar (AP), at Griffin, GA 24 Apr (EB), at Conyers, GA 30 Apr (EB), and at Hospital Fields, *Transylvania*, NC 2 May (NSi et al.). Late White-crowned Sparrow reports included one at Pea I. 9 May (BA) and 2 at Southport, NC 18 May (GM). Too early for migrants were the Indigo Bunting at Chapel Hill, NC 12 Mar (HM) and the Painted Bunting at Kinston, NC through all of Mar (BG). Dickcissels were once again found in all three states. The best counts were of the 6



North Carolina's second Snowy Plover (but first to be documented) was present on the beach at Cape Hatteras 25 (here 28) May through the first week of June 2006.

Photograph by Sidney Maddock.

back at North R. Farms, *Carteret*, NC area 7 May (JF et al.), 4 at Townville, SC 16 May (LK), 4 along Fagala Rd., *Murray*, GA 22 May (JSp), and 3 along Brandon Farm Rd., *Bartow*, GA 5 May (MD).

Only one Yellow-headed Blackbird was mentioned this spring, that being a male photographed at Griffin, GA 22 Mar (PSa, *fide* EB). Also a Rusty Blackbird was rather late at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 30 Apr (TP, RD). The male Bullock's Oriole that was present at a feeder n. of Pittsboro, NC since Jan remained until at least 7 Mar (SCb). Reports of nesting Baltimore Orioles away from the mts. are always noteworthy; thus of interest was a pair building a nest along Shimpock Rd., *Cabarrus*, NC 16 May (JBU). The female was noted to be incubating 30 May. This season's Red Crossbill reports involved 2 in *White*, GA 17 Apr (*fide* TM), a pair with 2 juvs. in nw. *Fannin*, GA 26-27 Apr (*fide* TS), 5 at the feeders at Snowbird Lodge, *Graham*, NC 3-4 May (STs), a pair with 4 juvs. at Sky Valley, *Rabun*, GA 13 May (CS), 18 in a flock n. of Mt. Mitchell, NC 27 May (MW), and 5 at Balsam Gap near Mt. Mitchell, NC 29 May (WF).

Corrigenda: The Little Egret reported from Pea I. 29 Aug 2005 (N.A.B. 60: 55) was not accepted by the N.C.B.R.C. and should be deleted. The 4 Brown Noddies reported out of Charleston, SC 17 Sep 2005 (N.A.B. 60: 56) should have been reported as one ad. Brown Noddy in Georgia waters.

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Bill Pranty

The weather was mostly hot and dry for much of the season, with only 3.7 cm of rain during March–April in the western Panhandle. Consequently, there were few fallouts reported, and those few were minor. Bob Duncan stated that it was “as though migration had not taken place.” The only potential mega-rarity reported was Florida’s first European Herring Gull, a subspecies recently elevated to full-species status by European authorities.

Abbreviations/definitions: N.S.R.A. (North Shore Recreation Area, *Orange*); report (any observation); record (only reports verifiable from photograph, videotape, or specimen evidence).

WATERFOWL THROUGH FLAMINGO

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued their colonization of the peninsula, with 160 at Gainesville, *Alachua* 12 Apr (DH), 3 at St. Petersburg, *Pinellas* 12 May (EH), 20 at Ocala, *Marion* 21 May (BAn), 2 at Lower Wekiva River Preserve S.P., *Lake/Seminole* 24 May (LoM), and 6 at Cutler Ridge, *Miami-Dade* 25 May (RT). In contrast, numbers of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks seem to be decreasing, with only three reports: 5 at St. Marks N.W.R., *Wakulla* 5 Apr (AW), one at a *Polk* phosphate mine 11 May (PF), and up to 25 all season at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. (HR). Four single Snow Geese were reported, 3 singles in *Brevard* (DF) and one at Springhill Road W.T.P., *Leon* 14–29 Mar (GM). Northerly Mottled Ducks were one at Tallahassee accompanied by an apparent Mottled Duck × Mallard hybrid 10 Apr (ph. SM) and 2 at Egans Creek Wetlands, *Nassau* 12 Apr (JH). An apparent drake Blue-winged Teal × Cinnamon Teal hybrid was photographed at Viera Wetlands, *Brevard* 11

Mar (ABa), while a drake Cinnamon Teal was found at St. Marks 18 Mar (TC). Lingered waterfowl included a Northern Pintail at Honeymoon Island S.P., *Pinellas* 4 May (WY), 45 Redheads at Tierra Verde, *Pinellas* 13 May (BAh, DP), 3 Ring-necked Ducks at *Polk* mines 11 May (PF), 2 Greater Scaup at St. Marks 8 May (JDo), 4 Lesser Scaup and one Bufflehead at Springhill Road 31 May (GM), and one Surf Scoter at Merritt Island N.W.R., *Brevard* 29 May (TD).

In the w. Panhandle, Pacific Loons are rare but regular. This spring, there were singles at Gulf

Breeze, *Santa Rosa* 25 Mar (PBa) and Destin, *Okealoosa* 21 May (DWa). A recently detected pattern is the cross-peninsula migration of Common Loons; this spring, Kratter observed flocks flying northeastward over Gainesville 60–120 min. after sunrise; 90% of the loons were in alternate plumage. Top counts were 117 on 22 Mar and 193 on 5 Apr. Nearby, Hintermister saw 4 over Cary S.E., *Nassau* 12 Apr. A Horned Grebe tarried at Ft. Walton Beach W.T.P., *Okealoosa* through 24 May (MMy, BD). A pelagic trip off Ponce Inlet, *Volusia* 1 Apr netted 2 Black-capped Petrels and one White-tailed Tropicbird 170 km out, and 2 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels—the first verified off Florida’s Atlantic coast—135 km out (BW, MB). Two Leach’s Storm-Petrels were just off the mouth of the St. Johns R., *Duval* 15 May (RCl). Another White-tailed Tropicbird was w. of Key West, *Monroe* 25 Apr (MGe, DWi), and a Red-billed Tropicbird was salvaged at Boynton Beach, *Palm Beach* 19 Mar (*UF45217; *fide* TW). Sulids at Dry Tortugas N.P., *Monroe* included 17 Masked Booby nests in Apr (*fide* MGa) and single Red-footed Boobies 16 & 23 Apr (MGa et al.). Atlantic coastal Brown Boobies were observed at New Smyrna Beach, *Volusia* 4 May (*fide* MB), off Jacksonville, *Duval* 15 May (2; RCl), and off Jupiter Inlet, *Palm Beach* 31 May (J&LH). Brown Pelicans are regular inland in the cen. pen., but one at L. Talquin, *Leon* 7 May (SM) was noteworthy. The wintering Great Cormorant at Orange Park, *Duval* remained until 11 Mar (BAh, DP).

There were 20 American Bitterns at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 1 Mar (HR), while one tarried at Florida International University, *Miami-Dade* 31 May (BSc). A Great White Heron near Oak Hill, *Volusia* 18 May had been present for two weeks (MB). Rare inland was the imm. Reddish Egret at w. Kendall, *Miami-Dade* 8 May (JB). A high inland count of 27

Yellow-crowned Night-Herons came from Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 25 Apr (HR). Present for several years, an ad. Scarlet Ibis (or hybrid/backcross) at Lakes Park, Ft. Myers, *Lee* attempted to breed with a White Ibis during May (AM). Casual but increasing in the Panhandle was the Glossy Ibis at L. Jackson, *Leon* 20 May (HH). Becoming regular in Florida, 3 White-faced Ibis remained at Micanopy, *Alachua* through 22 Mar (JH, PBu et al.), with another at Ft. Walton Beach 17 May (MMY, BD). Roseate Spoonbills bred for the first time at *Polk* mines, with three active nests 2 Apr (CGe) and 11 ads. in the colony 11 May (PF). A Greater Flamingo near Key West 25 Apr (ABi) may have been a natural vagrant.

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

After more than 800 trips to Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. since Aug 1999, Robinson recorded his high count of 113 Ospreys 17 May. A pair of Snail Kites again bred at L. Istokpoga, *Highlands* in Apr (MMc), while a single strayed to Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P., *Okeechobee* 14 May (PM). Four Mississippi Kites at Green Cove Springs, *Clay* 29 May (RR et al.) were at the se. edge of their range. Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. hosted 170 Northern Harriers 4 Mar (HR). There were 12 reports of 16 Short-tailed Hawks (7 dark, 5 light, and 4 unspecified), with one ne. to Fernandina Beach, *Nassau* 1 Apr (PL). Dark-morph Swainson’s Hawks were identified at a *Polk* mine 3 Mar (PF, DB) and at Southern Glades Wildlife and Environmental Area, *Miami-Dade* 5 Mar (RD). Curiously expanding their range northward, a Crested Caracara was found near Bithlo, *Orange* 31 May (GS). Lingered falcons included a Merlin at Tate’s Hell S.E., *Franklin* 5 May (JS) and a Peregrine Falcon at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 7 May (HR).

A Yellow Rail was flushed from native prairies at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve 5 Mar (PM); several have been flushed there in the past few years. A good count of 49 Purple Gallinules came from Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 30 Apr (HR). Limpkins have mysteriously disappeared from much of their n. range recently, so the report of a pair with 5 fledglings at L. Munson, *Leon* 12 Mar (MH) was encouraging. Meanwhile, Limpkins persist at St. Petersburg, where 10 were counted at Roosevelt Wetlands, a recent stormwater control/wetlands restoration site, 14 May (DM). Far outside the species’ Florida breeding range, a Sandhill Crane enlivened Ft. Walton Beach 13 May (LF), and another was seen southbound high over the Wakulla R., *Wakulla* 29 May (MK).

Good counts of Black-bellied Plovers were 60 at Werner–Boyce Salt Springs S.P., *Pasco* 21

SA A Southern Lapwing graced St. Marks 6 May–11 Jun (TC et al., ph.). Although it was of the “correct” subspecies group (*cayennensis*) to be a potential vagrant to the United States, the species is kept in captivity, and so questions of provenance arise. The *cayennensis* group now breeds north to Panama and has recently been detected numerous times in Costa Rica, Suriname, and s. Caribbean islands. The expansion of the species at the n. edge of its range, along with the emerging pattern of vagrancy into s. Central America and the Caribbean, will be important to monitor, particularly if more records of the species accrue for the United States.

Apr (KT) and 145 at Huguenot Memorial Park, Duval 11 May (RCI); one inland at Myakka River S.P., Sarasota 27 May (RS) was late. Ten American Golden-Plovers enlivened Bald Pt. 3 Mar (JDo), with 4 others in Flagler 5 Mar (RS et al.) and one at St. Marks 14 Apr (AW et al.). Plovers at Three Rooker I., Pinellas included 32 Snowies, 23 Wilson's, and 32 Pippings 7 Apr, while 10 Snowies and 10 Pippings were nearby at Anclote Bar, Pasco 21 Apr (KT). A Snowy nest was found at Cape Romano, Collier 9 May (DS). Three Wilson's Plovers were on territories at St. Vincent N.W.R., Franklin 20 May (BSt), where rare. Twenty-seven Semipalmated Plovers were inland at Polk mines 11 May (PF). American Oystercatchers are rare in the w. Panhandle, so singles at downtown Pensacola, Escambia 11 Apr (CB) and Destin 1 May (PG), plus 3 at Bayou Grande, Pensacola 20 Apr (BD et al.) were notable. Representing a slight range extension, a pair of Black-necked Stilts produced a chick at Seven Springs, Pasco 28 May (KT). The 1110 American Avocets at Polk mines 2 Apr (CGe) established the all-time Florida high count. Other avocet reports included 5 at St. Vincent I. 7 Apr (TL), 9 at Three Rooker I. 20 May (KT), 4 at St. Mark 27 May (JDo, JM), and 2 at Bystre L., Hernando 28 May (MGa).

The count of 76 Solitary Sandpipers at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 7 May (HR) was the state's 2nd highest. Among a smattering of Upland Sandpiper reports was one at Graham 10–11 May (DR, JH) that furnished the first for Bradford. Freeland counted 35 Whimbrels at Canaveral N.S., Brevard 14 Apr. A Marbled Godwit at Springhill Road 11 Apr (JC) was casual inland. The high count of Red Knots was 1000 at Nassau Sound, Duval 1 Mar (PL). Casual inland, a Sanderling 7 May was a surprise at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. (HR). Sumter is rarely birded, so a visit to Center Hill and the Green Swamp 7 May netted Smith county firsts for Solitary Sandpiper (one), Semipalmated Sandpiper (12), White-rumped Sandpiper (one), and Stilt Sandpiper (2). White-rumped Sandpipers were widespread, with 15 reports of 46 individuals 28 Apr–28 May. The highest total was 9 at Springhill Road 23 May (GM). Peeps at Polk mines numbered 12,000 on 5 Apr and 6000 on 11 May (PF), while 1100 Long-billed Dowitch-

ers were there 3 Mar (PF, DB). Merritt Island N.W.R. supported 6000 Dunlin 3 Mar (DF, MGa). There were four reports totaling 8 Buff-breasted Sandpipers, seemingly higher than typical, including 4 at Ft. Walton Beach 20 Apr (MMY, BD) and 2 at Captiva I., Lee 18 May (CE). A somewhat late Wilson's Snipe was at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 7 May (HR). A flight of Wilson's Phalaropes was obvious 20–26 May, with singles at Three Rooker I. and Seven Springs (KT, BPr), 2 at Marathon, Monroe (BM), 4 at Springhill Road (AW), and up to 31 at St. Marks (AW, RM). Single Red-necked Phalaropes were in n. Escambia (LC) and at Ft. Walton Beach (BD, WD), both 20 May.

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The Tomoka Landfill, Volusia was the hotspot for rare larids this season, hosting Florida's first European Herring Gull and an imm. Iceland Gull 12 Mar (JH et al.). Apparently the highest count of Lesser Black-backed Gulls in the New World was established when Rosenberg counted 395 at Ft. Lauderdale 28 Feb; other reports included 15 at Crandon Park Beach, Miami-Dade 16 Mar (RD) and singles at Anclote Bar 11 & 20 Apr (KT), Lower Matecumbe Key, Monroe 30 Apr (DF), and Longboat Key, Manatee 21 May (RPe). Three subad. Common Terns lingered at Little Estero I., Lee through 23 May (CE). An Arctic Tern enlivened the Florida Straits w. of Key West 21 Apr (MGa). Seventeen Least Terns courting at Ponce Inlet (Volusia) 29 Mar (MB) were early arrivals, while high counts included 115 at Anclote Bar 11 Apr (KT), 45 over an office building roof near Loughman, Polk 27 Apr (KT), and 60 over an Albertson's (grocery store) roof at Bonita Springs, Lee 15 May (DS). Early and late Black Tern reports were 2 each at St. Marks 16 Mar (BB) and Ft. George Inlet, Duval 20 May (PL). An imm. Black Noddy was spied at Dry Tortugas 26 Apr (ABi). Unreported last year, Black Skimmers apparently bred in mined lands near Bartow, Polk for the 2nd year; this year, 40 ads. were found (PF). Thirty other skimmers over an office building near Loughman 27 Apr (KT) may have also been breeding.

Four White-winged Doves at Bald Pt. 15 Apr–15 May (JM, JDo) and one at Weeki-

Wachee, Hernando 8 May (MGa) may have been migrants, but 3 at St. Petersburg 6 May+ (MW) and one at Altamonte Springs, Seminole 14 May (GB) were probably residents. Eighteen Burrowing Owls were censused at the far-isolated “colony” at Eglin A.F.B., Okaloosa 23 Apr (LF). Up to 2 Caribbean Short-eared Owls visited Dry Tortugas 16–25 Apr (MGa). A Lesser Nighthawk was detected at St. George Island S.P., Franklin 27 Apr (JC). A female Antillean Nighthawk salvaged at John Pennekamp S.P., Monroe 6 May held one egg in an ovary (*UF 45226; fide AKr)—the first verifiable breeding record for the Upper Keys. Meanwhile, a nighthawk photographed at St. George I. 27 Apr (AW) was identified as an Antillean based on plumage features (KK). If confirmed, this would furnish the first record of Antillean Nighthawk in Florida outside the Keys or extreme se. mainland. A dusk survey netted 33 Chuckwill's-widows at Starkey Wilderness Park, Pasco 14 May (KT). A Buff-bellied Hummingbird was found at Fairchild Tropical Gardens, Miami-Dade 10 Mar (LMa), where one has wintered previously. An active Ruby-throated Hummingbird nest at Kirby Storter Roadside Park, Collier 7 May (BSc, SS) was at the s. edge of its range. *Selasphorus* lingered at Orlando through 3 Mar (fide BAn), at Valrico, Hillsborough through 4 & 15 Mar (SBa), and at Tallahassee through 21 Mar (C&NN). The state-rare Hairy Woodpecker was detected at Rainbow Springs S.P., Marion 16 Mar (JH) and at Tosohatchee State Reserve, Orange 20 Mar (pair; PHu).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWING

Irregularly detected in Florida, a Willow Flycatcher sang repeatedly at Bolen Bluff Trail, Alachua 9 Apr (†BCa, BE). A singing Least Flycatcher at Starkey Wilderness Park 1 Apr was locally rare (KT); one wintering at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. remained through 19 Apr (HR), while one at Withlacoochee S.F., Hernando 28 May (MGa) was extremely late. An apparent migrant Vermilion Flycatcher was found at St. Marks N.W.R. 18 Mar (TC); none were reported during winter. Wintering Ash-throated Flycatchers remained at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. through 1 Mar (2; HR) and at Ft. Walton Beach through 16 Mar (MMY, BD). Early Great Crested Flycatchers were reported at Tallahassee 3 Mar (FR), Weekiwachee Preserve, Hernando 4 Mar (A&BH), and Alachua, Alachua 10 Mar (PBu). The 2 Brown-crested Flycatchers that wintered at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. lingered through 1 & 5 Mar (HR). Single La Sagra's Flycatchers graced Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P., Miami-Dade 26–29 Mar (RD) and 20–22 Apr (CW,

TM). Other wintering tyrannids at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. lingered into spring: a Tropical Kingbird until 24 May, a Cassin's Kingbird until 4 Mar, 34 Western Kingbirds until 8 Mar and 4 until 7 May, and 4 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers until 22 Mar (HR, SBe). Newly discovered roosts near Bartow and The Villages, *Marion* contained 20 Western Kingbirds 14 Mar (TP), and 41 Western Kingbirds and 3 Scissor-taileds 31 Mar (JDi), respectively. Westerns carried at Ft. Walton Beach 5 May and Gulf Brceze 16 May (BD). A Gray Kingbird at St. George I. 18 Mar (AKn, JM) was early, while others at Tallahassee 29 Apr–7 May (RCa) and Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 14 May (HR) were rare inland.

A wintering Bell's Vireo at Southern Glades remained through 18 Mar (RD et al.). Early was the singing Yellow-throated Vireo at Morris Bridge Park, *Hillsborough* 2 Mar (BAh). Casual in spring were the Warbling Vireo at Bald Pt. 4–5 May (JDo) and the Philadelphia Vireo at Sanibel Lighthouse, *Lec* 27 Apr (VM). A Black-whiskered Vireo at Coconut Pt., *Brevard* 6 May (ABa, SH) was somewhat out of range. Tree Swallow numbers at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. peaked at 71,000 on 10 Mar, with one remaining until 24 May (HR). Cave Swallows were widespread, with 12 reports totaling 19 birds, most or all of the subspecies *pelodoma*. Multiple counts were up to 2 at St. Marks 22–27 Mar (RM et al.), 3 at Bald Pt. 11 Apr (GM), 2 at Key West 15 Apr (MGa), and 4 at Dry Tortugas 16–27 Apr (MGa). A Barn Swallow was early at Cape Coral, *Lec* 6 Mar (JG), while one heading southward past Cayo Costa S.P., *Lec* 21 May (CE) may have been lost.

A Tufted Titmouse continued at A.D. Barnes Park, *Miami-Dade* 9–29 Apr (JB). Lingered wrens included a House at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. through 7 May (HR), a Winter at O'Leary S.P., *Columbia* through 11 Mar (BCh), and a Marsh at L. Jackson 9 May (GM). One or more Sedge Wrens sang through the season at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve (PM). Single Wood Thrushes at Orlando 11 Mar (BPa) and Tallahassee 26 Mar (PHo) were early, while 2 at Ft. De Soto 29 Apr (BAh, DP) were locally rare. Thirty thousand American Robins were still at a St. Petersburg roost 4 Mar (DM). Two Common Mynas bred at Southern Glades 4 Apr (RD), while a vanguard single at St. Petersburg 29–30 Apr (L&NS, ph.) established the northwesternmost record in Florida. Always late to depart, 60 Cedar Waxwings tarried at Altamonte Springs 15 May (PHu), while 30 others remained at Mead Garden, Winter Park until 20 May (BAn et al.). A strange-looking Northern Mockingbird with flank streaking and reduced white in the wings and tail at Boca Chica Key, *Monroe* 1

Mar (ph. CGo) was thought by some to be a Northern Mockingbird × Bahama Mockingbird hybrid.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

The only Golden-winged Warbler reported graced Ft. De Soto 19–22 Apr (LA, PF et al.); a Brewster's Warbler appeared there 9 Apr (LA). A small warbler fallout was noted at Ft. De Soto 29 Apr, with 15 Black-throated Blues, 85 Blackpolls, 20 Ovenbirds, and 18 Hoodeds (BAh, DP). Warblers at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. included a Nashville 1 Mar, 2 Palms 17 May, 73 Blackpolls 5 May, 17 American Redstarts 3 May, 25 Northern Waterthrushes 28 Apr, and 75 Common Yellowthroats 17 Mar (HR). Cape Florida supported 83 Northern Parulas and 208 Western Palms 8 Mar, 305 Prairies 24 Mar, and 228 Common Yellowthroats 26 Mar (RD). The "Migrant Funnel" at Green Key, *Pasco* produced 62 Cape Mays 1 May, 31 Black-throated Blues 30 Apr, 304 Blackpolls 29 Apr and 202 on 30 Apr, and 24 American Redstarts 29 Apr (KT, BPr et al.). A male Cerulean Warbler graced Ft. De Soto 10–12 Apr (LA et al.), and Smith saw 2 Prothonotary Warblers there 23 Mar. Six reports of Swainson's Warblers included singles that struck windows at Wellington, *Palm Beach* 21 Mar (*UF 45213; *fide* AKr) and St. Augustine, *St. Johns* 24 Mar (*UF 45185; *fide* AKr), with 4 at Cape Florida 28 Mar (RD). Four Connecticut Warblers were at Wekiwa Springs S.P., *Orange* 14 May (RPo et al.), with 2 at Hugh Taylor Birch S.P., *Broward* 20 May (BR). Wilson's Warblers enlivened Koucky Park, *Leon* 1 Mar (RL) and Ft. De Soto 18 Mar (CGj). A Canada Warbler at A.D. Barnes 19 Apr (RT) furnished the sole report of this scarce migrant. Up to 9 Yellow-breasted Chats were on territory at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. by season's end (HR).

A Summer Tanager at Orlando 10 Mar (BPa) was very early or wintering. A female tanager carrying nesting material at Babcock-Webb W.M.A. 30 Mar (B&LC) established the first breeding report for *Charlotte*. A male *zena* Western Spindalis graced Everglades N.P., *Miami-Dade* 23–25 Apr (PS et al., ph. CW). Lingered sparrows at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. included Clay-colored through 26 Mar, Lincoln's through 19 Apr, and Savannah and Swamp through 19 May (HR). Another Clay-colored remained at Valrico until 13 Apr (SBa). Three Henslow's Sparrows sang at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve 6 Apr (PM). The latest of 6 Lincoln's Sparrows was found at Ft. De Soto 5 May (CR). A local rarity was the White-throated Sparrow at Ft. De Soto 9–29 Apr (LA et al.); another White-throated tarried at High Springs, *Alachua* until 2 May

(DR). Robinson tallied 340 Northern Cardinals at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 17 Mar and 8 Painted Buntings 5 Mar. Other Painted reports included a singing male at Ft. Walton Beach 17 May (BD) and a female at Winter Park through 20 May (BAn). Single Dickcissels were found at three sites, while up to 4 spent the season at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. beginning 28 Apr (HR). Good numbers of Bobolinks were found in the pen., with 14,000 at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 28 Apr (HR), 400 at Merritt Island N.W.R. 28 Apr (DF), 850 at St. Augustine 4 May (JKe), and 350 at Crystal River State Buffer Preserve, *Citrus* 12 May (JH, DR). Yellow-headed Blackbirds enlivened Homestead, *Miami-Dade* 3–5 Mar (BM, AH) and Ocoee, *Orange* 8 Apr (E&RN).

There were 15 reports totaling 29 Shiny Cowbirds statewide, with up to 6 at Dry Tortugas 16–25 Apr (MGa), 4 at Alligator Pt., *Franklin* 30 Apr (JM), 3 at Bald Pt. 7 May (JM, JDo), and duos at Key West 15 Apr (MGa), Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 17 May (HR), Captiva I. 26 May (VM), and Key Largo Hammocks State Botanical Site, *Monroe* 24 May (RT). Bronzed Cowbirds were limited to *Miami-Dade*, with one at w. Kendall 31 Mar (JB) and 3 at Homestead 9 May+ (LMa). Seventeen Orchard Orioles were on territory at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 31 May (HR). Tallahassee's wintering Bullock's Oriole remained until 11 Apr (FR et al.). House Finches were reported in *Citrus*, *Dixie*, *Duval* (bred), *Lafayette*, *Orange*, *Pinellas* (bred), *Seminole*, and *Taylor*. Lingered finches included a Pine Siskin at Columbia City, *Columbia* 26 Mar (JKr) and single American Goldfinches at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 7 May (HR) and Winter Park 11 May (BAn).

UNESTABLISHED EXOTICS

Mandarin Ducks were seen copulating at Madison, *Madison* 25 Mar (SM). An African Collared-Dove (formerly known as Ringed Turtle-Dove) specimen was salvaged at Daytona Beach 29 Mar (*UF 45235; *fide* TW). The male Rose-ringed Parakeet at Paisley, *Lake* 26 May (CH) and the Zebra Finch at Archer, *Alachua* 14–16 Apr (MMe) were presumably local escapees.

Cited observers (members of the Florida Ornithological Society Field Observations Committee in boldface): Brian Ahern (BAh), Bruce Anderson (BAn), Lyn Atherton, Steve Backes (SBa), Peggy Baker (PBa), Andy Bankert (ABa), Sam Benedetto (SBe), Brad Bergstrom, John Boyd, Greg Bretz, Adrian Binns (ABi), David Brooke, Michael Brothers, Cheryl Bunch, Pat Burns (PBu), Bob Carroll (BCa), Rodney Cassidy (RCa), Laura Catter-

ton, Jim Cavanagh, Bruce Christensen (BCh), Roger Clark (RCI), Buck & Linda Cooper, Tom Curtis, Robin Diaz, Jim Dinsmore (JDi), Jack Dozier (JDo), Bob Duncan, Will Duncan, Thomas Dunkerton, Becky Enneis, Charlie Ewell, Paul Fellers, Lenny Fenimore, David Freeland, Murray Gardler (MGa), Patrick Gault, Chuck Geanangel (CGe), Matt Gearheart (MGe), Colin Gjervold (CGj), Carl Goodrich (CGo), Jon Greenlaw Jack & Liz Hailman, Erik Haney, Al & Bev Hansen, Alex Harper, Darrell Hartman, Michael Hill, Claire Hilliker, Shirley Hills, John Hintermister, Peter Homann (PHo), Harry Hooper, Paul Hue-

ber (PHu), Kevin Karlson, Jacqueline Kern (JKe), Michael Keys, Alan Knothe (AKn), Andy Kratter (AKr), Jerry Krummrich (JKr), Patrick Leary, Rob Lengacher, Thom Lewis, Lorne Malo (LoM), Larry Manfredi (LaM), Don Margeson, Anita Marshall, Sean McCool, Vince McGrath, Ross McGregor, Mike McMillian (MMc), Michael Meisenburg (MMe), Gail Menk, Paul Miller, Trey Mitchell, Brennan Mulrooney, John Murphy, Mac Myers (MMy), Chris & Nicole Newton, Eric & Rebecca Nichols, Tom Palmer, Becky Payne (BPa), RuthEllen Peipert (RPe), Richard Poole (RPo), David Powell, Bill Pranty (BPr),

Peggy Powell, Chris Rasmussen, Dotty Robbins, Bryant Roberts, Harry Robinson, Ken Rosenberg, Rex Rowan, Fran Rutkovsky, Pat St. John, Barbara Schneider (BSc), Susan Schneider, Ron Smith, Lee & Nathan Snyder, John Spohrer, Barbara Stedman (BSt), Gene Stoccardo, Doug Sutor, Roberto Torres, Ken Tracey, Bob Wallace, Don Ware (DWa), Tom Webber, Margie Wilkinson, Dave Williams (DWi), Chris Wood, Andy Wraithmell, Wilfred Yusek. ☺

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Ontario



Matthew L. Holder

Overall, the spring in Ontario was warmer than normal, with cold nighttime temperatures in early March contrasting with warm days. With the exception of cool nights in the first few days of the month and a cool wet spell in the third week, May was very warm, with temperatures breaking 30° C at the end of the month. Despite the warm temperatures, numbers of wintering birds were found lingering in southern locales surprisingly late into the spring. The regular spring overshoots that birders see during May did not arrive in the usual numbers, inhibited by the general lack of southerly winds during the first half of the month. However, Ontario's spring highlights were rare vagrants, many of which were one-day wonders, including Garganey, Band-tailed Pigeon, Black Swift, Painted Bunting,

and Great-tailed Grackle. Rarer shorebirds such as Wilson's Plover, Black-necked Stilt, and Curlew Sandpiper also tantalized observers with short visits to the province.

Abbreviations: L.P.B.O. (Long Point B.O., Norfolk); N.P.H (Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch, Niagara); P.P.B.A. (Point Pelee Birding Area; Point Pelee N.P. and environs, Essex); s.l. (sewage lagoons); T.C.B.O. (Thunder Cape B.O., Thunder Bay). Place names in italics refer to districts and regional municipalities as well as to counties.

WATERFOWL THROUGH VULTURES

A good number of Greater White-fronted Geese was observed throughout the province this spring. Two were at Minesing, *Simcoe* 13 Mar (DMi), an amazing 20 were observed at Rondeau, *Chatham-Kent* 11 Mar (BAM), surpassed by the 22 at Dry L., *Decewsville, Haldimand* 25-26 Mar (JG), and singles were at Beachville, *Oxford* 15 Mar (JHo), ne. of Carlsbad Springs, *Ottawa* 26-31 Mar (TAH, RC), at Cobden, *Renfrew* early Apr-9 Apr (MF, CR), in *Ottawa* 2 Apr-3 May (PW, m.ob.), at Ridgetown s.l., *Chatham-Kent* 22 Apr-13 May (DSm et al.), and at Algonquin P.P., *Nipissing* 4-20 May (LT, RGT et al.). The two small flocks of Greater White-fronted Geese at Hillman Marsh, *Essex* during the early part of 2006 were last seen 6 Mar (AW et al.), and 4 were there 22-27 Mar (DJW et al.). The 3 Ross's Geese present at Hillman Marsh, *Essex* in Feb were last seen 21 Mar (DJW et al.); 2 were at Ste-Rose, *Prescott-Russell* 5 Apr (BDL), and 2 others were in *Thunder Bay* 27 Mar, moving to the mouth of the Current R., *Thunder Bay* 10 Apr (BM; GWi).

Single Ross's Geese were near Manotick Station, *Ottawa* 18 Apr (TBe), n. of Navan, *Ottawa* 23 Apr (TBe), and at Winchester s.l., *Stormont-Dundas-Glenarry* 8 May (RC). The Brant ne. of Carlsbad Springs 6 Apr was record early for *Ottawa* (H. Tremblay). Unusual for the location, a Trumpeter Swan was at the Tip of Long Pt., *Norfolk* 1 May (KGB, ODB). The maximum count for Tundra Swan for the spring in the Pinery P.P. area, *Lambton* was 15,000 (AR).

A high count of 80 Wood Ducks was at Hillman Marsh, *Essex* 10 Mar (AW). Single male Eurasian Wigeons were present at Presqu'île P.P., *Northumberland* 10 Mar-18 Apr (DS), at Townsend s.l., *Haldimand* 11 Mar (KGB, MVB), at Hillman Marsh, *Essex* on 11-16 Mar (AJH, RAH, ACP et al.), 30 Mar (DJW), and 27 Apr-9 May (RGT et al.), at Lee Brown W.M.A., *Norfolk* 15 Mar-3 Apr (RWW, TB), at Aylmer, *Elgin* 21-25 Mar (SR), e. of Bourget, *Prescott-Russell* 2 Apr (MT, m.ob.), at Neibauer's Marsh, *Wellington* 14-16 Apr (JM), at Rice L., *Peterborough* 15 Apr (PB, CDJ), at Oshawa Second Marsh, *Durham* 23 Apr-8 May (AP, m.ob.), and at Chippewa, *Thunder Bay* 26 Apr (BM). A Garganey toured s. *Durham* 5 May, visiting Thickson's Pt., then Oshawa Second Marsh before disappearing during the night (DBa).

Hillman Marsh hosted high numbers of waterfowl this spring, with 800 Northern Pintail 8 Mar (IMR, AW) and 1200 Green-winged Teal 11 Apr (AW) being noteworthy numbers. The 4th and 5th records of Eurasian Teal for the P.P.B.A. were represented by single males at Hillman Marsh 31 Mar (DJW) and 7 May (BRH, EWH et al.). An ad. malc King Eider was off Stoney Creek, *Hamilton* 22 Mar (JG),

and a female was there 23-26 Mar (RZD). A male Barrow's Goldeneye was in Ottawa until at least 11 Mar (m.ob.).

A Pacific Loon at Pt. Pelee N.P. 14 May (MKP, GB, GC) provided the P.P.B.A. with its 9th record. A high count of 2270 Horned Grebes was at Rondeau P.P., *Chatham-Kent* 9 Apr (JTB), and 663 Red-necked Grebes were tallied off *Halton* and *Hamilton* 2 Apr (RZD, JW). Single Eared Grebes were at Toronto 13 Apr (NM, NMCh) and at Pt. Pelee N.P. 14 Apr (AW) and 2 May (GTH et al.). The P.P.B.A. had up to 16 American White Pelicans 17-20 May, split between *Hillman Marsh* and Pt. Pelee N.P. (TAH et al.). Another 11 were at Red Bay, *Bruce* 8 May (fide CC), and 9 were at Ashbridge's Bay Park, Toronto 31 May (AD).

Single Snowy Egrets were at *Hamilton* 12 Apr (RZD), at *Courtright*, *Lambton* 25 May (CRo, GW, JA, POH), at *Peacock Pt.*, near *Nanticoke*, *Haldimand* 28 May (DG), and e. to *Kanata*, *Ottawa* 31 May (SG, TBe, RC). A Little Blue Heron was at *Tobermory*, *Bruce* 2 May (JHa), and another was at Toronto 17 May (NM, AA). A very early Cattle Egret was observed flying over *Hillman Marsh*, *Essex* 13 Apr (AW), and others were at *St. Clair National Wildlife Area* 25-26 Apr (JH), *Amherst I.*, *Lennox and Addington* 5 May (fide PG), and *Milford*, *Prince Edward* 15 May (fide TS). Pt. Pelee N.P. hosted an ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 5-10 May (MBR et al.). A Black Vulture at *Rondeau P.P.*, *Chatham-Kent* 4-5 May was well watched by many observers.

RAPTORS THROUGH SANDPIPERS

An observer looking up from his home on *Crosby L.*, *Leeds and Grenville*, identified a Swallow-tailed Kite flying along the shoreline 31 May (P. Stohart); another was at *Amherstburg*, *Essex* 8 May (James W. Hunt). Record-high counts of eagles were noted at *Beamer C.A.*, *Niagara* 1 Mar-15 May, with 85 Bald Eagles and 13 Golden Eagles (N.P.H.). Single Gyrfalcons were at *Hare's Creek*, *Manitoulin* 25-26 Mar (ST), at *Beamer C.A.*, *Niagara* 17 Mar (N.P.H.), and at *Sault Ste. Marie* 6 Apr (KMcl); the Gyrfalcon seen in *Ottawa* in Feb was still present 29 Mar (SA, IW).

The *Rainy River* area was extremely dry this spring, and not a single Yellow Rail was noted during surveys conducted in late May and early Jun, which contrasted sharply with the abundance of these birds during 2005 (DHE). Several Whooping Cranes wandered through Ontario this spring, including one reported from *Chesley*, *Grey* 6 Apr (S. Brownell), another associating with *Sandhill Cranes* flying over *Sault Ste. Marie* 13 Apr (KMcl), 2 reported from *Sandford*, *York* 14

Apr (JF), and 2 that spent the night in *Peterborough* before flying s. to *New York* 14-15 Apr, being tracked by researchers as they went (DB).

A *Wilson's Plover* first reported 17 May at *Presqu'ile P.P.*, *Northumberland* (anonymous observer) was refound 26-27 May (WG, DM, m.ob.). A *Piping Plover* banded last year in *Michigan* briefly visited *Presqu'ile P.P.*, *Northumberland* 29-30 May (DS), and an unbanded individual was at *Windy Pt.* on *Lake of the Woods* 31 May (DHE, MCE, AB, JB). Two *Black-necked Stilts* were well watched at *Brighton*, *Northumberland* 10-15 Apr (B&MR). Two *American Avocets* were at *Nonquon s.l.*, *Durham* 5-9 May (BFA), one was at *Thunder Bay* 10 & 14-15 May (AG), and 5 were n. of *Wheatley*, *Chatham-Kent* 15 May (BG). The *American Avocet* at *Hillman Marsh*, *Essex* 21 May was record late for the P.P.B.A. (m.ob.), as was the *Upland Sandpiper* at Pt. Pelee N.P. 22 May (IMR). However, also at *Hillman Marsh*, the *Lesser Yellowlegs* 18-20 Mar (AW et al.), the *Hudsonian Godwit* 27 Apr (GBM), and the *Red-necked Phalarope* 6-8 May (AM et al.) were all rather early. P.P.B.A.'s 2nd spring record of *Purple Sandpiper* came from the e. side of *Wheatley Harbour*, *Chatham-Kent* 29 Apr-1 May (AW et al.). *Townsend s.l.*, *Haldimand* hosted a *Curlew Sandpiper* 23 May+ (JL, m.ob.). A male *Ruff* was at *Wallaceburg*, *Chatham-Kent* 29 Apr-2 May (LCo), followed by a female there 8-10 May (BAM); a female was also at *Alfred s.l.*, *Prescott-Russell* 19 May (JBo).

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Single Laughing Gulls were at Pt. Pelee N.P. 9-13 (BDL et al.) & 15-17 May (AW, MS et al.), at *Pelee I.*, *Essex* 14 & 16 May (fide PC), at *Rondeau P.P.*, *Chatham-Kent* 13-16 May (JTB), at *Hillman Marsh* 18 May (AJH, RAH), and at *Long Pt.*, *Norfolk* 18 (KGB, MVB) & 27 May (MDB). An imm. *Franklin's Gull* was at *Wheatley Harbour* 27 May (AW), and 6 were at *Windy Pt.*, *Rainy River* 31 May (DHE, MCE, AB, JB). *Northumberland's* 12th ever *Black-headed Gull* was at *Cobourg* 23 Apr (CEG). An ad. *Mew Gull* w. of *Wheatley Harbour* 31 Mar was P.P.B.A.'s 6th record (AW), and an imm. *California Gull* was at *Kingsville*, *Essex* 20 Mar (DJW). A *Ring-billed Gull* in *Thunder Bay* 9 Mar (MC) was very early for the district. Ad. *Arctic Terns* were at the *Tip of Long Pt.*, *Norfolk* 18 May (RR, SAM, ODB, DRB) and at *Presqu'ile P.P.*, *Northumberland* 26 May (FH). The 207 *Forster's Terns* in the P.P.B.A. 29 Apr was a remarkable high count (AW), and the imm. *Forster's Tern* at *Presqu'ile P.P.* 26 May+ was unusual at that lo-

cation (FH).

Observers at *Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area*, *Huron* had brief but good views of a *Band-tailed Pigeon* before it flew out of sight 29 Mar (LS et al.). A *Eurasian Collared-Dove* was at the *Tip of Long Pt.*, *Norfolk* 25 May (MDB) for the site's first record, and a *White-winged Dove* was there 12-13 May (MDB, ACK). *Snowy Owls* and *Great Gray Owls* appeared at many locations in early spring where they had not been all winter, with many lingering well into the season, as late as mid-May in some locations in s. Ontario (m.ob.). Rare for *Rainy River*, a displaying *Long-eared Owl* was at *Atikokan* 14 Apr (DHE, DRE). A *Chuck-will's-widow* at *Wheatley P.P.*, *Chatham-Kent* 1 May furnished the earliest record for the province (AK); one was at *Rondeau P.P.*, *Chatham-Kent* 9-31 May (RWW et al.).

The bird of the spring was an apparent *Black Swift* at the *Tip of Long Pt.*, *Norfolk* 21 May (SAM, DRB, HR). The bird was seen well as it flew with a small flock of *Chimney Swifts* low over *L. Erie* and appeared larger and wholly blackish without pale feathering on the throat; this would represent the first record for Ontario if accepted by the Ontario B.R.C. Record-early *Ruby-throated Hummingbirds* were observed at Pt. Pelee N.P. 13 Apr (SER, DRJD, CM) and at *Algonquin P.P.*, *Nipissing* 17 Apr (TW). A *Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird* was photographed as it visited a *Thunder Bay feeder* 7-9 May (S&MB); there are very few spring records of the species from the northeastern quadrant of the continent. Very early migrant woodpeckers at Pt. Pelee N.P. included a *Red-headed Woodpecker* 11 Apr (FJU) and a *Yellow-bellied Sapsucker* 23 Mar (AW).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

A *Say's Phoebe* was at the *Tip of Long Pt.*, *Norfolk* 28-29 Apr (PHC, MDB), and an *Ash-throated Flycatcher* at *T.C.B.O.* was an exciting find 26 Apr (ph. JWo), a first for n. Ontario. The first *Loggerhead Shrike* seen in the P.P.B.A. in five years was at Pt. Pelee N.P. 31 Mar (AW et al.). A well-documented *Bell's Vireo* was at *Rondeau P.P.*, *Chatham-Kent* 20 May (BAM, SC); a *White-eyed Vireo* at Pt. Pelee N.P. 15 Apr was very early (AW); and a *Red-eyed Vireo* was there 23 Apr (SM, RM). A pair of *Common Ravens* in *Flamborough*, *Hamilton* 5 Mar+ (RZD) was later confirmed nesting in a quarry, representing the first confirmed breeding record for *Hamilton*. The *Tip of Pt. Pelee N.P.* had a very early *Barn Swallow* 31 Mar (AW), and a *Blue-gray Gnatcatcher* at *Windsor*, *Essex* 1 Apr (FJU) was also significantly early. The *Blue-gray Gnatcatcher* in Ot-

tawa 23 Apr (MBo) was a rarity for the area. A Boreal Chickadee was a surprise capture at Prince Edward Pt. B.O., *Prince Edward* 18 Apr (*fide* TS), well s. of their breeding range in Ontario. The wintering Townsends Solitaire near Kars, *Ottawa* stayed through at least 11 Mar and was seen again nearby 1 Apr (RN, SL). Single Varied Thrushes were at Verona, *Frontenac* 2 Mar (*fide* JGr), at Shallow L., *Grey* 3 Mar (m.ob.), at Southampton, *Bruce* 9 Mar–28 Apr (*fide* MP), and at Brooklin, *Durham* mid-Mar–early Apr (R. & A. Mason); the bird wintering at Batchawana Bay, *Algoma* was present through 19 Apr (m.ob.). A Sage Thrasher at Chippewa park, *Thunder Bay* 24 May was a wonderful addition to a birdathon big day (S&MB, RBr).

Very rare in *Ottawa*, a singing Blue-winged Warbler established a short-lived territory w. of Dunrobin 16 May (RH). A Yellow-throated Warbler was at Pt. Pelee N.P. 10 May (TT, DSk, RWB), and a Kirtland's Warbler was there 21 May (AW et al.). A very late migrant Pine Warbler was at Pt. Pelee N.P. 25 May (SM, RM). Although it was not relocated by other birders, a singing Swainson's Warbler at Mount Pleasant Cemetery, *Toronto* 12 May was well described (AF). The Common Yellowthroat at Windsor, *Essex* 12 Apr was record early for Ontario (FJU). Summer Tanagers overshooting their breeding areas s. of the Great Lakes were not as numerous this spring; only 5 were found at P.P.B.A., up to 5 were at Rondeau P.P., and 2 were at Long Pt. in May (m.ob.).

A well-described Spotted Towhee visited a feeder in Port Hope, *Northumberland* 29 Apr (L&AJ), but it did not linger long enough to allow other birders to see it. A Lark Sparrow was banded at the Tip of Long Pt. 26 Apr (PHC, MDB), and Algonquin P.P.'s 4th Lark Sparrow was observed at a feeder, associating with Chipping Sparrows, 12 May (S&TO). A Lark Bunting was e. of Nipigon, *Thunder Bay* 18–19 May (SB). Although no Le Conte's Sparrows were found at Pt. Pelee this spring, one was at South Cayuga, *Haldimand* 11 Apr (BS), one was observed at Long Pt., *Norfolk* 26 Apr (MDB, PHC), and another was reported from the Toronto Is., *Toronto* 23 May (NM). Several weeks earlier than normal, a Lincoln's Sparrow arrived at Prince Edward Pt., *Prince Edward* 11 Apr (*fide* TS). The wintering Harris's Sparrow at Holiday Harbour, *Chatham-Kent* was last seen 28 Mar (JMG, JNF et al.); another was at Pt. Pelee N.P. 21 May (REL et al.). A White-crowned Sparrow at Pt. Pelee N.P. 20–21 Apr was very early (AW). A Chestnut-collared Longspur was at Reesor Pond, *York* 25 May (SLo et al.); there are fewer than 10 reports of this species for

the province.

An imm. male Blue Grosbeak was at Pt. Pelee N.P. 15 May (KS, JN, WK), and one was at Rondeau P.P., *Chatham-Kent* 16 May (m.ob.). An imm. male Lazuli Bunting was captured and banded at Prince Edward Pt., *Prince Edward* 23 May (*fide* TS), for the county's first record, and remarkably, a male Painted Bunting was in the n. at Sudbury 26 May (ph. C&SM). The only Dickcissels reported this spring were 2 at the Tip of Long Pt. 11 May (MDB). A singing Western Meadowlark near Port Hope, *Northumberland* 16 Mar (MB) was the first for the county since 1995, while the first in the P.P.B.A. since 1999 was at Pt. Pelee N.P. 15 May (WGL, KAM, BSC, LC); another was at Long Pt., *Norfolk* 23 May (SAM). A Yellow-headed Blackbird successfully wintered e. of Embrun, *Prescott-Russell*, lingering through at least 12 Mar (m.ob.); one was at Toronto 29 Apr (HC et al.), and one at Presqu'île P.P. 21 May was a very good sighting for *Northumberland* (ML et al.). Three Brewer's Blackbirds were at Stoney Creek, *Hamilton* 12 Mar (KAM), and single birds were at Long Pt., *Norfolk* 8–11 (SAM) & 20 Apr (SAM, RR), Beamer C.A., *Niagara* 26 Apr (BRH et al.), Shrewsbury, *Chatham-Kent* 4 May (JTB), and Hillman Marsh 7 May (GTH), the last being the P.P.B.A.'s 2nd spring record. Ontario's 5th Great-tailed Grackle was at Colchester, *Essex* 8 May (DJW). An Orchard Oriole coming to a feeder n. of Rainy River 31 May was a very rare sighting for *Rainy River* (CG).

An unbanded European Goldfinch at Ear Falls, *Thunder Bay* 4 May (GS) and an unbanded Common Chaffinch at Atikokan, *Rainy River* 7 May (DHE, MCE) were presumed to be escapees; other presumed escaped European finches were reported from several locales in s. Ontario. Several Hoary Redpolls were reported across Ontario during the spring, but the individual near Leamington, *Essex* 7–8 Mar (HTO et al.) provided the P.P.B.A.'s 5th record. Also rare in the s., an Evening Grosbeak was at the Tip of Long Pt., *Norfolk* 4 May (KGB).

Corrigenda: In the spring 2005 report, the Little Blue Herons listed on 20–25 and 27 Apr–4 May pertain to the same bird, not to different birds. The American Avocets at Wheatley Harbour (12 on 28 Apr; 14 on 1 May), were different flocks, not an increasing flock as published.

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Eastern Highlands & Upper Ohio River Valley



Victor W. Fazio, III | Rick Wiltraut

The cool, dry March meant that arrival of migrants, from raptors to waterfowl, was close to average. Among waterfowl, numbers of Ross's Geese in Ohio continued to be seen into spring, but puddle duck numbers were unremarkable, other than for Eurasian Wigeon. Egret news was mixed: most species were scarce in the western parts of the Region, but several highland sites posted high counts, and Cattle Egret, a species in decline, was widely reported. Mild temperatures and moderate weather in April allowed songbirds to pass northward with few hindrances, but rains that began in May arrested migration in some areas: 38 species of warblers were reported from northeastern Ohio alone.

Abbreviations: B.D. (Bradford Dam, Bucks, PA); Hoover (Hoover Res., Delaware/Franklin, OH); B.C.S.P. (Buck Creek S.P., Clark OH); B.I.W.A. (Big Island W.A., Marion, OH); C.C.S.P. (Caesar Creek S.P., Warren/Greene, OH); Conneaut (Conneaut Harbor, Ashtabula, OH); C.V.N.P. (Cuyahoga Valley N.P., Cuyahoga/Summit OH); Headlands (Headlands Beach S.P., Lake, OH); Killbuck (Killbuck Marsh W.A., Wayne/Holmes OH); K.P.W.A. (Killdeer Plains W.A., Marion/Wyandot, OH); L.B.L. (Little Blue L., Beaver, PA); L.N. (L. Nockamixon, Bucks, PA); Longbrakes (Longbrake Wetlands, Hardin, OH); Magee (Magee Marsh W.M.A. and Crane Creek S.P. Ottawa/Lucas, OH); M.C.W.M.A. (Middle Creek W.M.A., Lancaster/Lebanon, PA); Metzger (Metzger Marsh W.M.A., Lucas, OH); O.N.W.R. (Ottawa N.W.R., Ottawa/Lucas, OH); P.I.S.P. (Presque Isle S.P., Erie, PA); P.N.R. (Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland, PA); P.W.T. (Penn Warner Tract, Bucks, PA); Shawnee (Shawnee S.F., Scioto/Adams OH); S.L. (Somerset L., Somerset, PA); Y.C.S.P. (Yellow Creek S.P., Indiana, PA)

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

Greater White-fronted Geese reported in Ohio included 32 at Funk Bottoms W.A., Ashland 19 Mar (J. McCormack et al.), up to 18 in

Warren 5-13 Mar (C. Mathena, M. Ream), 12 at L. Rockwell, Portage 5 Mar (J. Heflich et al.), and 50 at K.P.W.A. 15 Mar (BZ). A 7 Mar Ross's Goose in Paulding, OH (D. & M. Dunakin), a county first, was followed by singles at Slate Run Metropark, Pickaway 16-19 Mar (A. Haslage) and in Auglaize, OH 16-17 Apr (J. Bowers et al.). Three Ross's Geese were at M.C.W.M.A. in early Mar (*vide* AH) and one at L. Ontelaunee, Berks, PA 11 Mar (RK). Up to 110,000 Snow Geese were present at M.C.W.M.A. in early Mar (*vide* AH). In contrast, the w. Snow Goose flight was especially weak, with scattered singles across the landscape. One individual lingered in Tucker, WV 9-23 May (C. Rucker, m.ob.). A Cackling Goose 2 Apr passed a lakewatch in Lake, OH (JP). Little comment was received on the Tundra Swan flight other than a flock of 100 over

50 Canvasbacks 25 Mar on Archbold Res., Fulton, OH (J. Diller) and 45 at S.L. 15 Mar (JPa) were strong showings inland. A subpar Ring-necked Duck flight saw about 1000 at Killbuck 19-30 Mar (SS, BG). A strong flight of Redheads through Ohio involved substantial flocks at many reservoirs, but no counts higher than the 400 at C.C.S.P. 15 Mar (J. Lehman) were received. A Bufflehead lingered through 23 May in Wayne (SS); another was at L.N. through 2 Jun (DF). The 25 Surf Scoters across Ohio's inland reservoirs was normal, while 17 Surf Scoters in Pennsylvania 12 Mar-4 May included 6 on the Ohio R. in Allegheny 14 Apr (MV et al.). A White-winged Scoter was noted 18 Mar in Clinton (LG), and 4 were reported across Pennsylvania 25 Mar-22 Apr (m.ob.). The lone Black Scoter was found 25 Apr at K.P.W.A. (M. Misplon).



This male Varied Thrush was present in Boalsburg, Centre County, Pennsylvania from mid-March (here 26 April) through 1 May 2006. Photograph by Mark Niessner.

Northeastern Ohio observers were treated to a widespread fall-out of Long-tailed Ducks: 9 in the Richland/Wayne area 24 Mar (BG, G. Cowell et al.), 8 in Summit 29 Mar (GB), and 4 in Portage that same week (LR). Pennsylvania reports were led by 17 at Forty Fort, Luzerne 25 Mar (SG) and 42 in Armstrong 27-28 Mar (J. & J. Valasek). An average flight of Red-breasted Mergansers was reported, with 1038 at Seneca L., Noble 29 Mar (BG) the high tally inland. The Central Basin flight in Lake peaked at 3600 9 Apr (JP).

The declining Northern Bobwhite rarely receives comment, but 19 at Crown City W.A., OH

28 May (DP), in Appalachia, and 2 at a feeder in Greater Cleveland 18 Mar (*vide* CC) were noteworthy. Known for early spring forays into suburban/urban settings of Cleveland, a Wild Turkey made an incongruous sight 30 Apr on the Cleveland lakefront (SZ). One in a Shaker Heights, OH yard in late Apr remained into the summer period (C. Fazio). A Common Loon remained on Alpine L., Preston, WV (GF) through at least 31 May; 60 at Apple Valley L, Knox 29 Mar (J. Larson) topped the inland reports. A Red-throated Loon in Summit, OH 5 Apr was the only one reported (GB). An average flight of Red-necked Grebes saw one arrival at Alum Creek Res., Delaware, OH 18 Mar (J. Gerbacht, S. Tackett, C. Wood). No flocks greater than 40 were reported for Horned Grebe in Ohio. Single Eared Grebes were on Upper Sandusky Res., Wyandot 24 Mar (RC) and at Conneaut 19 Mar (JP).

Shepardstown, Jefferson, WV 6 Mar (E. Kirschbaum). Eurasian Wigeons were well reported: single ad. males were observed through 8 Mar at Walborn Res., Stark, OH (C. Fenstermaker et al.); 12 Mar at O.N.W.R. (JP); 18-26 Mar at Metzger Marsh, Lucas, OH (B. Whan et al., N. Fensler et al.); 16 Apr at the nearby Mallard Club Marsh, Lucas, possibly the same bird (JP); 11 Apr at Killbuck, OH (A. Yoder); 9-10 Mar at P.I.S.P. (JM), accompanied by a first-year male; and 17-21 Mar in Chester, PA (m.ob.). Although an occasional vagrant in the w. portion of the Region, the origin of a banded male Cinnamon Teal at B.D. 31 May was deemed problematic (AM, m.ob.). A Eurasian Teal was found at John Heinz N.W.R., Philadelphia in early Mar (*vide* AH). Both scaup posted good counts, e.g., 215 Greater Scaup at Forty Fort, Luzerne, PA 25 Mar (SG), 10,000 scaup (mostly Lesser) on Maumee Bay, Lucas 16 Apr (JP), and 12,000 off East Harbor S.P., Ottawa 11 Mar (JP). The

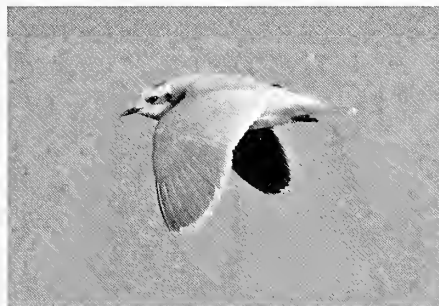
American White Pelicans were widespread but not especially numerous in Ohio: 8 over

Pipe Creek W.A., Erie 22 Apr (B. Cullen et al.); 3 at Turtle Creek W.A., Ottawa 15 Apr (SY, S. Burris); and singles at East Fork S.P., Clermont 24-25 Mar (J. Landon, K. Hutton), B.C.S.P. 7 Apr (DO), and C.C.S.P. 17 Apr (RA). The 600 Double-crested Cormorants on Hoover 29 Apr (CB) led inland reports, although 11 on the New R. at Hinton, Summers, WV 20 Mar was a nice local tally (J&JP). A Great Cormorant lingered though the end of May at Martins Creek, Northampton, PA (RW). A female Anhinga at Exton, Chester, PA 4 May (C. Chalfant, N. Pulcinella) was the first one photographically documented in that state.

An early American Bittern appeared in Geauga, OH 18 Mar (B. Townsend). The 6 Least Bitterns at Conneaut 26 May (SW) and 6 at P.I.S.P. 14 May were part of the annual late-May flight. A seasonal total of 25 Great Egrets were at P.I.S.P. 1 Apr-24 May (m.ob.). Cattle Egrets were unusually numerous: 11 in Fairfield, OH 22 Apr (J. Watts), 10 in Indiana, PA 24 Apr (fide AH), 6 in Knox, OH 20 Apr (J. Capper, B. Hooper et al.), 3 in Darke, OH 20 May (fide RS), plus singles in Lehigh, PA 19 May (S. Boyce), at P.W.T. 13-18 Apr (H. Eskin), in Clinton, OH 14 Apr (B. Mitchell), in Hocking, OH 25 Apr (J. Fry), and at Greenbottom W.A., Cabell, WV 9 Mar (CEI), the last bird quite early. A Tricolored Heron and a Snowy Egret were at P.I.S.P. 29 May (JM). The only extralimital Snowy Egret in Ohio was at Conneaut 12 May (CH). Inland, Ohio Little Blue Herons appeared in Warren 19-23 May (M. Ream, RA), Delaware 3 May (K. Davis), Richland 23 Apr (R. Troutman), Lorain 10-15 Apr (D. Jones, D. Sheldon, m.ob.), and Conneaut 12 Apr (BG); one was at Greenbottom W.A., Cabell, WV 23 May (J. Tharp II). Little Blue Herons in Pennsylvania included singles in Berks 1 May (T. Clauser, m.ob.), at B.D. 5 May (AM), and in Washington 12-18 May (MV et al.). The Bexley, Franklin, OH pair of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons had arrived at their nest site by 4 Apr (P. Unger). Two ads. were noted 1 May at Killbuck, where they could be found into the summer period (RR, SS, m.ob.). A Plegadis ibis was reported from Pickerel Creek W.A., Sandusky, OH 20 May (S. Corbo et al.), while single ad. Glossy Ibis appeared at Slate Run Metropark, Pickaway 1-2 May (G. Stauffer, B. Powell) and Killbuck 7 May (Samuel Weaver et al.). Fifteen Glossy Ibis were at M.C.W.M.A. 11 Mar (ph. RW) and 15 also at P.W.T. 8 Apr (DF). An early concentration of Turkey Vultures at Chillcothe, Ross 3 Mar numbered 57 (T. Bain), apparently displacing the local roost of Black Vultures, which had peaked at 80 birds in winter. Black Vultures continue to inch their

way northward in cen. Ohio, with several reports received from Delaware, and are increasing in Preston and Monongalia, WV (GF). Up to 80 Black Vultures came to a yard every evening in Mar for handouts, feeding amongst chickens at Bangor, Northampton, PA (P. Karner, RW).

Single Swallow-tailed Kites were seen in Pennsylvania at Rose Tree Hawkwatch near Media, Delaware 20 Apr (m.ob.) and near Easton, Northampton 24 Apr (A. Koch). Four Mississippi Kites in Pennsylvania included singles at S. Eaton, Luzerne 2 May (WR), Reading, Berks 5 May (RK), Keystone Res., Westmoreland 20 May (F & B. Haas, m.ob.), and Plumstead Twp., Bucks 21 May (B. Webster). A dark-morph Red-tailed Hawk was seen at P.I.S.P. 31 Mar (JM). The raptor flight at Conneaut 31 Mar held 1644 Turkey Vul-



This Little Gull at Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania 30 March 2006 was one of up to six present there this spring.
Photograph by Jerry McWilliams.

tures, 156 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 114 Red-tailed Hawks, 12 Rough-legged Hawks, and 85 American Kestrels (BG et al.), while on 22 Apr, 17 Ospreys, a Golden Eagle, 117 Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 1073 Broad-winged Hawks (BG et al.) were tallied. Single Golden Eagles were also reported from K.P.W.A. 12 Mar (BWA) and adjacent B.I.W.A. 2 Apr (K. & J. Davis). A spring total of 149 Golden Eagles at Tussey Mt. Hawkwatch, Huntingdon/Centre, PA was about average (G. Gould), and a late one was seen in Indiana, PA 17 May (M. Cunkleman). Several undetailed reports of extraordinarily early Broad-winged Hawk were received; well documented was one in Summers, WV 7 Apr (J&JP). A Merlin pair was found defending a territory in Bradford, McKean, PA 5 May (L. Ostrander); details on the state's first nesting will follow in the next report.

The pair of King Rails at Magee was observed copulating 23 May (fide MW). A Common Moorhen at McClintic W.A., Mason, WV 23 May (G. Rankin) was locally rare. American Coot failed to elicit comment in Ohio beyond the 500 on Wellington Res., Lorain 13 Apr and 1000 at B.I.W.A. the same day (CB, B.

Simpson); up to 557 at Y.C.S.P. in Apr was considered a notably high number. Sandhill Cranes went mostly unreported other than in small numbers, exceptions being an amazing 53 over State College, Centre, PA 6 Mar (W. Cottrell, fide D. Brauning) and 55 total recorded in the Erie/Crawford area. Early were 2 at Greenbottom W.A., Mason, WV 9 Mar (CEI); 4 over Hinckley, Medina 6 May (GL) were locally rare; and 5 loafed at Magee 3-13 May (fide MW). Ohio breeders continue to reclaim ancestral range, as evidenced by 16 at Funk Bottoms, Ashland 29 May (DPI).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

There was a strong, widespread flight of Semipalmated Plover, led by 104 at Conejohela Flats 25 May (DH). Sample concentrations in Ohio include 95 at B.C.S.P. 6 May (DO), 44 at Killbuck 13 May (GH), 42 at Funk Bottoms W.A., Ashland 17 May (SS), and 56 in Wyandot 27 May (RC). Eight were at a single Berkeley site in the panhandle of West Virginia 24 May (M. Orsie). A modest flight of American Golden-Plovers was reported for Ohio, where 400 were found in Hardin 21 Apr (RC). American Avocets were largely missed in Ohio, with a mere 5 at B.C.S.P. 22 Apr (DO) the only report. Arrivals in Ohio of Greater Yellowlegs 12 Mar in Wayne (BG) and Lesser Yellowlegs 13 Mar in Scioto (BS) were within expectations and reflected the overall average timing of the remainder of the shorebird migration this season. Record numbers of Willets were led by 57 at C.C.S.P. 29 Apr (RA, LG et al.), surpassing a typical seasonal total for the state. In the Highlands, 16 on the Allegheny R. at Fox Chapel, Allegheny, PA 5 May (D. Yagusic et al.) and 2 at Bluestone R., Summers 21 May (J&JP) were good finds. The only flock of Whimbrels reported was 47 at Longbrakes 24 May (BWA); singles in Pennsylvania, unusual away from P.I.S.P., were at L.B.L. 21 May (MV, George Malosh) and Berlin, Somerset 23 May (JPa), a county first. The 10 Ruddy Turnstones at Longbrakes 24 May (BWA) furnished a rare double-digit tally inland. Red Knots only make brief appearances in Ohio: 2 at Headlands (RH) and 3 at Conneaut (CH), both 25 May. Pectoral Sandpiper, normally reported in the thousands in w. Ohio, was scarce, with just 150 each in Longbrakes 21 Apr (RC); an early report came from Scioto 11 Mar (BS). Six early Least Sandpipers were at L. Arthur, Butler, PA 11-12 Mar (m.ob.); 181 at B.D. 11 May (AM) and 70 at B.C.S.P. 6 May (DO) were modest tallies. Eighteen White-rumped Sandpipers at Conejohela Flats 25 May made a good count (DH).

Inland, no more than 300 Dunlins were reported at Longbrakes 22 May (RC), while the O.N.W.R. flock peaked 10 May at 1830, with some 1400 remaining in *Lucas* 27 May (B.S.B.O.). Some 150 Semipalmated Sandpipers were at Conneaut 29 May (MV). A Ruff at Sandy Ridge, *Lorain* 17-26 Apr (J. Mizanin, CC, m.ob.) was a bright spot in an otherwise dull shorebird season. A Stilt Sandpiper at the Longbrakes 14-16 Apr (RC) was accompanied by 4 early Short-billed Dowitchers on the last date. The best tally of 67 Short-billeds came 18 May at L.B.L. (MV), and a Long-billed Dowitcher was reported from B.C.S.P. 6 May (DO). Wilson's Phalarope arrival was marked by one at Pickrel Creek W.A., *Sandusky* 24 Apr (VF); the last migrant was reported at P.I.S.P. 26 May (JM, BC). One at Longbrakes 6 May (RC) grew to 3 by season's end (m.ob.). Two Red-necked Phalaropes were at the Imperial Grasslands, *Allegheny*, PA 19-21 May (MV et al.), *Conejohela Flats* 25 May (DH), and at Killbuck, OH 13-17 May (GH); one was at Headlands 14 May (P. Keefe et al.). Good counts of Wilson's Snipe came from O.N.W.R., with 100 present 15 Apr (NG); 50 were in Cincinnati 12 Mar (B. Hull).

Gulls' numbers were unimpressive, notable more for their delayed departure than for any concentrations. Two Laughing Gulls appeared at Headlands 25 May (RH), just on the heels of singles at C.C.S.P. 23 May (LG) and Conneaut 21 May (JP). One on the Ohio R. in *Allegheny*, PA 10 Apr (GM) was rare for the cen. highlands. The unprecedented wintering bird in *Lake*, OH was last seen 5 Mar (JP). Four Little Gulls were seen in *Lake* 19 Mar (JP) and 6 at Headlands 1 Apr (PC), with 2 there 3 May (H. Petruschke et al.). Little Gulls in Pennsylvania included one in *Lancaster* in early Mar (*vide* AH), one at P.W.T. 8 Apr (DF), and 2 at Y.C.S.P. 18 Apr (MH et al.); up to 6 were at P.I.S.P. 9 Mar-8 Apr (JM et al.). An ad. Black-headed Gull, nearly in breeding plumage, was found on the Cleveland lakefront 2 Apr (SZ, GL). Late Thayer's Gulls appeared at Headlands 25 Apr (RH) and the Cleveland lakefront 30 Apr (SZ), with 3 at P.I.S.P. 10-17 Apr (JM, BC, RS). Central Basin Iceland Gulls were at two *Lake* sites 19 Apr (G. Cudworth) and 7 May (JP); singles were also in the Eastern Basin at P.I.S.P. 23 Mar-22 Apr (JM). Five at L.N. 22 Mar was a local high count (BE). Glaucous Gulls totaled 10 for the season at P.I.S.P. 1 Mar-29 Apr (JM), and late ones were at P.W.T. 20 May (DF) and P.I.S.P. 22 May (BC). A Great Black-backed Gull × Herring Gull

was at P.I.S.P. 3 & 10 Apr (JM, BC), and 350 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at L.N. 16 Mar was the highest total for that locale (BE). A minor gull flight in *Lake* 19 Mar included 7 Lesser Black-backed Gulls (JP), and 2 were still at Headlands 25 Apr (RH). One lingered through 25 May at Conneaut, where up to 21 Great Black-backed Gulls also loafed (CH). An ad. California Gull at L.N. 23-25 Mar provided about the 4th record for Pennsylvania (G. Franchois, m.ob.); another ad. wandered to Conneaut 31 Mar (CH).

Single Eurasian Collared-Doves were at Eckville, *Berks*, PA 16 Apr (D. Barber) and Bay View, *Erie*, OH 7 May (p.a., CC). In mid-May, one was photographed on a farm near Cambridge, *Muskingum*, OH (*vide* R. Hinckle), just the 2nd confirmed for the state. Mourning Doves migrate along the s. shore of



A Snowy Egret and a Tricolored Heron made a rare duo at Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania 29 May 2006. Photograph by Jerry McWilliams.

L. Erie, a phenomenon largely overlooked by birders; thus a report of 125 from Dike 14 on the Cleveland lakefront 12 Apr (SZ) was most welcome. Several observers commented on a distinct bimodal passage of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo; for instance, up to 3 appeared in *Cabell*, WV 23 Apr (DP), yet the species was not widespread across Ohio until 29-30 May (RTh, m.ob.). Two Snowy Owls could be found at Burke Lakefront Airport in Cleveland through 28 Mar (PL), with one lingering 5 Apr. Up to 10 Short-eared Owls were at K.P.W.A. 15 Mar (BZ). Twelve Northern Sawwhet Owls were heard along a "toot route" in *McKean*, PA 12-13 May (JF). An impressive count of 2000 Common Nighthawks was tallied 20-23 May along the Delaware R. between Morrisville and Washington Crossing, *Bucks*, PA (J. Maret, P. Brundage, M. Witmer). A Chuck-will's-widow returned for the 3rd summer at Bald Eagle Mt., *Centre*, PA (D. Thomson), while one put in a brief appearance in *Holmes*, OH 31 May (*vide* BG). We received numerous undocumented Mar reports of Ruby-throated Hummingbird; an 11 Apr

arrival in Chillicothe, *Ross* (DH) is more within the norm.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

An early Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at Clear Creek Valley, *Hocking*, OH 30 Apr (RTh). The arrival of Eastern Wood-Pewee within the Region is sometimes clouded by erroneous reports in Mar and early Apr, typically birds heard (not seen) by single observers. Verifiable reports in Ohio are generally not had before 28 Apr, as was the case this year, a few days after the first Acadian Flycatchers were back on territory in s. portions of the Region. Astounding was the record-early appearance of Willow Flycatchers in Ohio 23 Apr, with singing birds seen in Granville, *Licking* (H. Nagy) and at Ash Cave, *Hocking* (D. Horn).

Single Loggerhead Shrikes were near Lewisburg, WV 7 Mar-12 May (B. Williams) and near Oberlin, *Lorain*, OH 22 May (D. Sheldon). Northern Shrikes were widely reported across Ohio in Mar from *Ottawa*, *Auglaize*, *Lucas*, *Summit*, *Wyandot*, and *Cuyahoga* (JP, N. Fensler, C. Spagnoli, E. Mulholland, C. Witt, m.ob.). Bell's Vireo continues its effort to colonize Ohio, with a pair ensconced on the Ohio State campus in Columbus 8 May+ (A. Boone, m.ob.). New sites for the species included *Greene* 25 May (J. Karlson) and *Darke* 21-27 May (R. Schieltz et al.). The 157 Red-eyed Vireos at Shawnee 28 Apr (RR) was consistent with past reports from that location. Several Blue-headed Vireos were back at Pipestem S.P., *Summers*, WV 29 Mar (J&JP). In this species, it is difficult to separate singing migrants from the first actual local nesters; Royle noted, for instance, that 5 in Shawnee 30 Mar, singing from sites that have had territories in past years, preceded the main flight of migrants by about a week. Tree Swallows appeared early and in numbers across the Ohio Valley, with 16 at Greenbottom W.A., *Cabell*, WV 2 Mar (CEI) leading the way. Another early Barn Swallow was one at L. Pymatuning, *Ashtabula*, OH 11 Mar (PC). A Northern Rough-winged Swallow returned to *Hamilton*, OH 31 Mar (D. Brinkman).

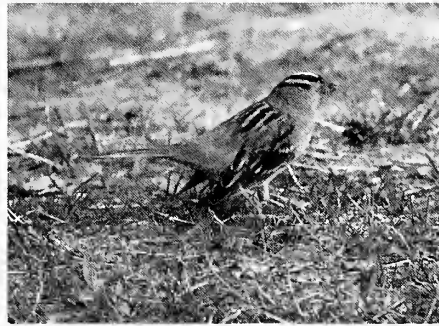
A Fish Crow at Natrona Heights, *Allegheny*, PA 23 Apr was rare for sw. Pennsylvania (PH). A Black-capped Chickadee in *Delaware*, OH 11 Mar (Jack Stenger, JS) may have been a holdover from the winter irruption. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet in *Jefferson*, WV 6 Mar (C. Del-Colle) may have wintered; one was n. to Shaker Lakes, *Cuyahoga*, OH 30 Mar (PC), where 171 were counted 21 Apr (VF). A

Sedge Wren at Oakland Mills, *Juniata*, PA 5 May provided the only report for the season (T. Johnson). Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were in *Greene*, OH by 1 Apr (D. Edens) and one in *Allegheny*, PA the next day (B. Smith). Gray Catbirds in the C.V.N.P. 5 Mar (E. Kistler), in *Summers*, WV (J&JP), and in *Lake*, OH 30 Mar (JP) appeared well before the expected migration, and may have been strays from the winter period; one in *Ross*, OH 8 Apr (DH) was more likely a very early migrant. A male Varied Thrush was present in *Boalsburg*, *Centre*, PA from mid-Mar through 1 May (ph. A. & F. MacEachren, m.ob.). A Swainson's Thrush was at *Shawnee* 18 Apr (JS et al.), and a Gray-cheeked Thrush was on the *Cleveland* lakefront 30 Apr (SZ). A modest flight of American Pipits saw 200 in *Ross*, OH 29 Mar (DH).

A Nashville Warbler was in *Columbus* 14 Apr (RR). Orange-crowned Warbler arrived in *Ohio* 12 Apr in *Pickaway* (RTh) and tarried in *Hocking*, OH 21 May (GC). Northern Parulas had reached cen. *Ohio* 9 Apr in *Belmont* (GC) and 11 Apr in *Columbus* (RR). A Yellow Warbler appeared 12 Apr in *Jane Lew*, WV (D. Saeler). A male Audubon's Warbler was well described from *Heistand Woods*, *Van Wert*, OH 16 Apr (John & Jean Perchalski), as was another at P.I.S.P. 26 Mar (C. Gehringer). A fallout of 400+ Yellow-rumped Warblers and 95 Palm Warblers at *Rushland*, *Bucks*, PA 23 Apr (S. Conyne, F. Gill) was among the few reported for the season. A Yellow Palm Warbler was reported from *Sandy Ridge*, *Lorain*, OH 28 Apr (J. Brumfield). A Cerulean Warbler in *Beaver*, PA 22 Apr (GM) was early. A Black-throated Green Warbler was early in *Allegheny*, PA 11 Apr (J. & J. Solomon), and one was already nest-building in *Hocking*, OH 24 Apr (J. Duerr). Two Black-throated Green and 2 Blackburnian Warblers were at *Cabwaylingo S.E.*, WV 27 May (DP). Yellow-throated Warblers appeared early across the *Ohio R. Valley*—singles in *Hamilton*, OH 31 Mar (D. Brinkman), in *Scioto*, OH 1 Apr (B. Sparks), in *Summers* 2 Apr (J&JP), and in *Fayette*, WV 2 Apr (L. Pollard)—and to the *L. Erie Basin* 11 Apr (SW). Two Pine Warblers were n. to *Mohican S.E.*, *Ashland*, OH 30 Mar (BG). It was a record season for *Kirtland's Warbler*, with no fewer than 5 along the *L. Erie* shoreline. Four appeared at *Headlands*, with 2 males present 10 May (RH, m.ob.), a second-year female 22 May (A. Fjelstad et al.), and another female 24 May (RH). The obligatory Magee showstopper had many observers agog 21 May (fide K. Kaufman). Up to 16 *Prairie Warblers* were counted 18 Apr at *Shawnee*, where *Royse* notes the species is moving into the massive

forest wreckage of the Jan 2002 ice storm. A Black-and-white Warbler was in *Fayette*, WV 7 Apr (S. Pettrey). A Prothonotary Warbler returned to *Hoover* 17 Apr (CB). *Royse's* survey of *Shawnee* 28 Apr also included 28 Worm-eating Warblers, 92 Ovenbirds, and 76 Hooded Warblers, all within expectations. Singing Swainson's Warblers at *Headlands*, OH 20-21 May (one of few records for the *L. Erie Basin*; LR, JP, m.ob.) and at *Roaring Run Natural Area*, *Westmoreland*, PA 25 May provided rare records (Len & Linda Hess). A *Louisiana Waterthrush* was n. to *L. Erie* in *Lake* 28 Mar (JP).

A rather early *Scarlet Tanager* was in *Wood*, WV 15 Apr (R. Esker). Two ad. male *Western Tanagers* were found in *Ohio yards*, one the *Warren/Greene* county line 19 Apr (ph. Jim & Annette Arnold), the other in *Oregon*, *Lucas*



This Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow visited Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania on 4 May 2006.
Photograph by Jerry McWilliams.

12 May (ph. P. Henry). A tally of 116 *Eastern Towhees* came from *Shawnee* 18 Apr (JS et al.). *Ohio Clay-colored Sparrows* included one at *Rocky River Metropark*, *Cuyahoga* 21 May (fide K. Metcalf) and 2 at *Dike 14*, *Cleveland* 30 Apr (SZ). *Vesper Sparrows* s. of their range in *Ohio* included one 6 May at *Indian Creek W.A.*, *Brown* (JS et al.) and 2 at *Crown City* 28 May (DP). Two *Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows* were at *Conneaut* 26 May (SW). *Dark-eyed Junco* passage along the *L. Erie* shoreline peaked at 400 in *Cuyahoga*, OH 12 Apr (SZ); 2 remained in s. *Ohio* at *Indian Creek W.A.*, *Brown* 6 May (JS et al.), while a straggler appeared 30 May along *L. Erie* in *Erie*, OH (SY). An *Oregon Junco* was reported from a *Trumbull*, OH feeder 1 Apr (A. Bahl). The *Harris's Sparrow* at *Oakland Mills*, *Juniata*, PA remained until 7 May (A. Troyer). *Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows* were seen at P.I.S.P. 4 May (ph. JM) and at *Bradford*, *McKean*, PA the day before (JF; L. Fedak). Up to 200 *Lapland Longspurs* were in *Hardin*, OH 16 Apr (RC). *Painted Buntings* in *Pennsylvania* included a second-year male in *Muhlenberg Twp.*, *Berks* 21-26 Apr (C. Drasher) and an ad. male in *Nicholson Twp.*,

Wyoming 13 May (WR). An early *Indigo Bunting* was in *Erie*, PA 8 Apr (S. Winterberger). *Blue Grosbeaks* of note in *Ohio* included 3 in *Ross* 31 May (DH), one near *Spring Valley W.A.*, *Warren* 8-9 May (M. Boyd, m.ob.), and 11 at *Crown City* 7 May (RR). A *Blue Grosbeak* at P.I.S.P. 18 May (RW) furnished just the 6th local record. A *Dickcissel* on *Kelleys I.*, *Erie*, OH 18 May (PL et al.) and one singing in *Pleasantville*, *Berks*, PA 19 May were locally rare (CE).

A *Western Meadowlark* was in *Holmes*, OH 17 May (BG). A *Baltimore Oriole* at *Peace Valley Park*, *Bucks*, PA 24 Mar was probably a wintering bird (B. Lishman). The only *Yellow-headed Blackbird* reported was in *Ottawa*, OH 15 Apr (NG), where there were 4 *Brewer's Blackbirds* 11 Mar (JP). A lone female *Evening Grosbeak* appeared in *Ashland*, OH 25 Mar (DPI). Two *White-winged Crossbills* were in *Lemon Twp.*, *Wyoming* 28 Mar (WR), and one was at *Lock Haven*, *Clinton*, PA 23 Mar-5 Apr (J. Schaffer). *Nesting Pine Siskins* were found at *Marilla*, *McKean*, PA 30 Apr (JF).

Observers (subregional editors in boldface): OHIO: Rick Asamoto (RA), Greg Bennett (GB), Charlie Bombaci (CB), Craig Caldwell (CC), Philip Chaon (PC), Rick Counts (RC), G. Crippen (GC), Victor Fazio (VF), Larry Gara (LG), Neil Gilbert (NG), Bruce Glick (BG), Ray Hannikman (RH), Dave Hess (DH), Craig Holt (CH), Gabe Hostetler (GH), Gabe Leidy (GL), Paula Lozano (PL), Doug Overacker (DO), Donald Plant (DPI), John Pogacnik (JP), Larry Rosche (LR), Robert Royse (RR), Brad Sparks (BS), Su Snyder (SS), Jay Stenger (JS), Rob Thorn (RTh), Suzanne Wagner (SW), Ben Warner (BWa), Mary Warren (MW), Sheryl Young (SY), Sean Zadar (SZ), Brian Zweibel (BZ). PENNSYLVANIA: Ben Coulter (BC), Catherine Elwell (CE), Bill Etter (BE), Devich Farbotnik (DF), Stan Galanty (SG), Greg Grove (GG), Paul Hess (PH), Margaret Higbee (MH), Armas Hill [Phila. Birdline], Rudy Keller (RK), Robert C. Leberman (RCL), Ken Lebo (KL), Geoff Malosh (GM), Jerry McWilliams (JM), Linda McWilliams (LM), August Mirabella (AM), Judy Mirabella (JM), Jeff Payne (JPa), Tom Pluto (TP), William Reid (WR), Randy Stringer (RS); Mark Vass (MV), Rick Wiltraut (RW). WEST VIRGINIA: C. Ellis (CEL), Gary Felton (GF), David Patick (DP), Jim & Judy Phillips (J&JP). 🐦

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Illinois & Indiana



James Hengeveld | Keith A. McMullen
Geoffrey A. Williamson

The spring season produced a roller coaster of weather activity, with strong storms in late March and early April that resulted in an influx of early arrivals for a number of species. For all three months of the period, temperatures were higher than normal. This was particularly evident in April, when temperatures averaged 5–6° F above normal throughout the Region, resulting in an early leaf-out and giving the impression of late arrival times for many groups of birds. Actual arrival dates, however, proved to be about normal. Precipitation throughout the period was close to average, though slightly above average in May in the northern portion of the Region. This resulted in high water levels in northwestern Indiana and a lack of suitable shorebird habitat. There was an assortment of good finds throughout the Region, including Black-bellied and Fulvous Whistling-Ducks, Tricolored Heron, White Ibis, several Black Rails, a Purple Gallinule, Kirtland's Warbler, and MacGillivray's Warbler.

Abbreviations: Bev. Sh. (Beverly Shores, Porter, IN); Carl. L. (Carlyle L., s. IL); Chau. (Chautauqua N.W.R., IL); Dunes (Dunes S.P., Porter, IN); FP. (Forest Preserve); F.W.A. (Fish & Wildlife Area); Goose Pond (Goose Pond F.W.A., Greene, IN); Hawthorn (Hawthorn Mines, Greene & Sullivan, IN); Hennepin (Hennepin-Hopper Lake Restoration Area, Putnam, IL); Jax. P. (Jackson Park, Chicago); L. Cal. (L. Calumet, Chicago); Miller (Miller Beach, Lake, IN); Montrose (Montrose Pt., Lincoln Park, Chicago).

WATERFOWL THROUGH GROUSE

A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, representing the 3rd record for Indiana, was present at an industrial site in Tippecanoe 20 Apr–1 May (p.a., ph. JC, ScS, *vide* JBD), photographed

and identified by plant workers. A Fulvous Whistling-Duck, only Illinois's 5th since 1933, was in Lake 3 Apr (ph. SM). Geese moved out rather quickly this spring, but 4700 Greater White-fronted Geese 4 Mar at Hennepin (DFS) and a spring record total of 1473 Greater White-fronted Geese reported in Indiana exemplified the increase of that species in the Region. A single Greater White-fronted Goose 28 May in Stephenson, IL (EWW) was tardy. An astounding 120 Ross's Geese were at Kankakee F.W.A. 7 Mar (RHU, JK); prior to this year, Indiana's highest count of Ross's Goose was 8. An exceptional total of 60 Mute Swans was noted 25 May in Tazewell, IL (KAM). Two Trumpeter Swans observed at a nest 29 May in Carroll, IL (EWW) were significant, as this may be the first known nesting of the species in the Region since the late nineteenth century.

American Black Duck numbers were down in the Region, while counts of 2000 Blue-winged Teal at Carl. L. 13 Apr (DMK) and of 10,000 Northern Shovelers, 4000 Northern Pintails, and 6000 Green-winged Teal at Santa Fe Bottoms 26 Mar (DMK) represented high counts. The shoveler total was the 2nd highest for Illinois, exclusive of aerial survey data. Cinnamon Teal made a splash in the Region: a pair 8–20 Apr at Eagle Park Marsh, Madison, IL was seen by many (P&BJ, ph. FRH, ph. KAM, m.ob.), and Indiana's 14th, in LaPorte 1–24 Apr (KM, m.ob.), also proved cooperative. A Canvasback 26 May in Lake, IL (JS) was late to depart the Region, as was a Redhead seen 28 May at Horseshoe L., Madison, IL (FRH). A fine count of 1700 Redheads was made at Brookville Res. 11 Mar (WRB), and 2265 Ring-necked Ducks were tallied in w.-cen. Indiana 16 Mar (LWS). Greater Scaup, which continue to be scarce in spring in Illinois, moved into inland locations in Indiana in unprecedented numbers, as the inland total of 1688 birds was 10 times the 20-year mean. The maximum tally of 924 at Brookville Res. 5 Mar (JyS, JB, JS) overshadowed the previous inland high of 189. Scoters were typically scarce, with 11 Surf and 6 White-winged noted throughout the Region. Two female Black Scoters, the rarest scoter inland, were discovered on L. Lemon 18 Mar (DRW), and one lingered through 22 Mar. No Long-tailed Ducks were seen along the lakefront, though a fine inland count in Indiana included 4 different singles. There was only one report of Ruffed Grouse, that of 2 in Washington, IN 19 Apr (RLH). This species has become increasingly scarce over the past five years. Illinois's Greater Prairie-Chicken population was notably lower than last year's (JWW), with just an estimated 49 males at Prairie Ridge, Marion (SAS).

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

Red-throated Loons were reported only on L. Michigan, where at Bev. Sh. a phenomenal 26 were logged 4 Mar (BJG); the Region's previous one-day high count was 14. Common Loons appeared in lower-than-average numbers in Indiana, though in Illinois a count of 135 along L. Michigan at Wilmette 8 Apr (RDH) provided the highest spring total in 13 years. The 203 Pied-billed Grebes along a census route at Chau. 21 Apr (R&SB) provided Illinois's 2nd best spring total in at least 14 years. The Horned Grebe passage was weak, and the only Red-necked Grebe for the season was a bird in alternate plumage found at Potato Creek S.P. 18 May (RHU). Eared Grebes made a typical showing, with 7 noted, all in Illinois. American White Pelicans maintained a strong presence in the Region: 3000 were along the Mississippi R. in Whiteside, IL 18 Mar (DJS). Double-crested Cormorant numbers were down from the last few years.

Hérons appeared in good diversity and numbers throughout the Region this season. A fine total of 75 American Bitterns was reported, led by counts of 6 at Oakwood Bottoms, Jackson, IL 29 Apr (TAM, SDB, CAT) and 5 at TNC Kankakee Sands, Newton, IN 9 May (JBH). The 40 Least Bitterns reported throughout the Region was also an excellent total. The 176 Great Egrets at the Baker's Lake colony in nw. Cook, IL 6 May (GAW) provided the highest spring total in six years, while 78 Snowy Egrets at Horseshoe L., Madison 30 Apr (FRH) represented a record-high spring count. It was a good spring for Little Blue Herons in Indiana, as 16 were reported, the peak count being 6 at Goose Pond F.W.A. 30 May (LP). Indiana's 15th Tricolored Heron appeared in the company of 3 Cattle Egrets in s. Vigo 22 Apr (AWB, EM, SK). An exceptional count of 200 Cattle Egrets was made in St. Clair, IL 15 Apr (DMK). The Cattle Egret observed 18 Mar in Whiteside (DJS) was 10 days ahead of the average Illinois arrival date, which is especially notable given the northerly locale. A Green Heron seen 2–3 Apr in Jax. P. (MGG, BRK) was also ahead of schedule, providing a record early date for that site. Following last year's drought-induced nesting failure, Black-crowned Night-Heron numbers were considerably reduced at the L. Cal. breeding colony, with only 288 counted there 6 May (WJM). However, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron numbers were encouraging, with 16 in Madison, IL 24 Apr (FRH) setting a record-high spring count.

An ad. White Ibis observed 22 Apr–4 May at Rend L. (DMK, ph. LH et al.) provided only the 6th spring Illinois record and just the 4th verified record of an ad. bird. Two Glossy Ibis

were in *St. Clair*, IL 6 May (ph. SC), and at least 3 of 4 *Plegadis* observed 10–15 May at Chau. (R&SB, ph. TEd) were positively identified as White-faced. Indiana's 7th White-faced Ibis, and earliest ever, was found at Cane Ridge W.M.A. 28 Apr (G&LB) and seen again 2 May (LP). A *Plegadis* ibis was seen as a flyby at Goose Pond 30 May (LWS, DW, PS), and another was noted 16–17 May in *St. Clair*, IL (FRH, DMK, KAM). A Black Vulture observed 23 Apr in *Perry*, IL (VMK), n. of traditional breeding locations, provided another example of this species' continuing northward push.

HAWKS THROUGH CRANES

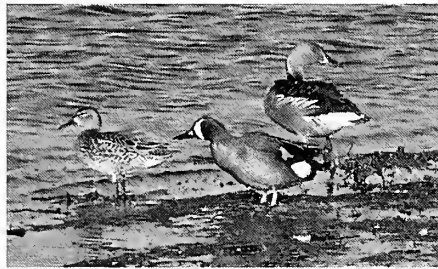
An Osprey seen 18 Mar at Shabbona Lake S.P. (DJS) tied both the record early arrival date for n. Illinois and the 3rd earliest date for the state overall. The spring hawk flight at Dunes was rather poor for the 2nd straight year. Broad-winged Hawk numbers were down this year throughout the Region; the peak tally consisted of 16 at L. Lemon 23 Apr (J&SH). A rare dark-morph Broad-winged was seen 23 Apr at Glacial Park, *McHenry*, IL (ph. MF), and a light-morph Swainson's Hawk was seen at Dunes 11 Apr (BJG). The Region enjoyed an exceptional total of Golden Eagles, with 17 reported. There was also a strong flight of Merlins, with 18 tallied in Indiana, the daily maximum consisting of 5 birds at Dunes 13 Apr (BJG). A Crested Caracara was quite a surprise 15 Apr in Kankakee, IL (p.a., †JBH, BR). The identification of this bird was clear, but the issue of its provenance, and whether this species has begun to show a pattern of vagrancy, remains a topic of discussion.

Rails were very evident throughout the Region this spring. An excellent total of 11+ Yellow Rails was reported, all but one from Illinois, including a record-early sighting 22 Mar in *Marion* (TE, SAS) and an astonishing 5 at Carl. L. 17 Apr (ph. TAM, SDB). Amazingly, 3 different Black Rails, representing Indiana's 3rd and 4th spring records in the past 25 years (p.a.), and Illinois's 6th in the past 10 years (p.a.), were documented. Unfortunately, the first Indiana bird was found dead in a parking lot in Carmel, *Hamilton* 5 May (JCr); the others were at Carl. L. 17 Apr (DMK, KAM) and at Hawthorn 13 May (SJ). It was a phenomenal spring for King Rails, as at least 35 different birds were recorded, including an impressive 6 at Illinois Beach S.P. 6 May (JS). In Indiana, the high count consisted of 4 at Goose Pond 3 Mar (LWS, J&SH, MC), birds that might have wintered there. Virginia Rails were fairly common, including an early bird at Prairie Ridge S.N.A. 26 Mar (CLH) and a high of 15 at Carl. L. 20–21 Apr (SDB, PSW).

An elusive Purple Gallinule, Indiana's 15th, was discovered at Salamonie Res. 8 May (JAH). The 47 Common Moorhens reported throughout the Region represented an excellent total. Nice aggregations of Sandhill Cranes included 4700 reported 23 Mar in *Cook*, IL (WSS) and 3500 at Goose Pond 3 Mar (LWS, J&SH, MC). Three Whooping Cranes from the introduced Wisconsin migratory flock were seen at Goose Pond 7–10 Mar (LP, G&LB, DRW).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Seven Piping Plovers were reported throughout the Region, all but one from Illinois. Two were seen 6 May at Carl. L. (ph. KAM, RH, DWs, DMK). Black-necked Stilts continue to increase in the Region. Indiana's 2nd earliest appeared in n. *Posey* 8 Apr (JyB), and a pair in *Clay* 13 Apr (RES, CLH) provided the 3rd earliest arrival date for Illinois. A stilt in *Stephenson*, IL 27–30 May (DFS, m.ob.) was unusually far north. This was the 3rd straight spring in Illinois with double-digit numbers (20) of stilts, and two double-digit



Sue Murray found and photographed this Fulvous Whistling-Duck at Independence Grove Forest Preserve in Lake County, Illinois 3 April 2006; there are only five prior accepted state records since 1933. Photograph by Sue Murray.

counts in Indiana included 16 at Cane Ridge W.M.A. 2 May (G&LB) and 11 at Goose Pond 30 May (LP). Prior to 2006, the Indiana state maximum count was 5. American Avocets were scarce, with just 3 reported, all from Illinois.

Willetts staged an unprecedented movement through the Region at the end of Apr, as 61 Willetts were noted at three sites in Indiana and 67 were noted between Waukegan and Illinois Beach S.P. (EWW) 29 Apr. On 30 Apr, the 82 seen in *Clinton*, IL (DMK) and the 112 at Montrose 1 May (GAW et al.) set new record high counts. Of the 17 Whimbrels recorded in the Region this spring, a group of 8 seen flying over Wolf L. 19 May (JK, CAM) matched Indiana's all-time high spring count for the lakefront. Hudsonian Godwits staged a good movement, with 17 reported, all in Illinois; 7 at Rend L. 19 May (RH) provided the peak tally. The sole Marbled Godwit was observed 18 May in *St. Clair*, IL (TJD). Pectoral

Sandpipers peaked with a nice count of 5000 in *Fayette*, IL 9 Apr (DMK). A Dunlin at L. Decatur 18 Mar (TAM) was record early by three days for Illinois. A Long-billed Dowitcher seen 23 Mar at Cypress Creek N.W.R., *Pulaski*, IL also was rather early (KAM). Three Red-necked Phalaropes were seen 12–13 May in *Ford* (SR et al.), and one was at Cane Ridge W.M.A., *Gibson*, IN 14 May (KZ, B&KA).

Lakefront gull numbers continue to plummet: all species except Great Black-backed were reported in numbers below their averages. Five Laughing Gulls were seen, and the apparent Laughing Gull × Ring-billed Gull hybrid returned 1 Apr–21 May to a se. Chicago Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant for the 3rd consecutive year (†WJM, ph. JG). An ad. California Gull seen 19 Mar at L. Cal. (ph. RDH) was a highlight, as were 7000 Bonaparte's Gulls seen 3 Apr at Rend L. (KAM). A late ad. Thayer's Gull was noted 13 May in Waukegan, IL (RDH), and a single worn second-year Glaucous Gull was seen at Miller 17 May (JJM, JKC, LSH, KJB). The maximum count of Great Black-backed Gulls was of 9 birds at various lakefront sites 4 Mar (JKC, SRB, SN, RJP). Both Caspian and Common Terns were reported in low numbers, though single Caspian Terns 27 Mar at Wolf L. (CAM) and 28 Mar at Jax. P. (KMC) provided the earliest and 2nd earliest Illinois arrival dates. Contrastingly, a large total of 264 Forster's Terns was noted 5 May at Waukegan, IL (JS).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared-Doves were again reported widely throughout the Region. The White-winged Dove invasion in Indiana continued this spring, with an astounding 6 birds reported, including 2 in New Albany 15 Apr (GD), one in Chesterton 16 Apr (KJB), 2 at Dunes 23 Apr (BJG), and one at TNC Kankakee Sands 31 May (JK). Monk Parakeets were again seen constructing nests in Highland, IN on both 3 & 19 May (RLH, CH, LAC).

Three Barn Owls were reported throughout the Region. The last Snowy Owl observation this spring was 2 Apr in *LaSalle*, IL (DJS). The Burrowing Owl first noted last Aug in Pyramid S.P., *Perry*, IL was still present 25 Mar (ph. JPU, JWE, JM). A Common Nighthawk 13 Apr at Carl. L. (DMK) provided Illinois's earliest arrival date, but numbers generally were discouragingly low. At least 8 Chuckwill's-widows were reported from four different locations in Indiana this spring. Indiana's first Mar Ruby-throated Hummingbird appeared on the 30th in *Vanderburgh* (*vide* SS). The female Rufous Hummingbird that win-

tered at a Poseyville feeder lingered until 15 Apr (*vide* DG), providing Indiana's first spring record.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Counts of Yellow-bellied and Least Flycatchers were down. A record-high 46 Willow Flycatchers in Indiana was made at Bev. Sh., Kankakee F.W.A., and Michigan City 26 May (JKC, LSH, KJB). Six Western Kingbird reports included three each from s. and ne. Illinois. Indiana's 9th spring Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found in *Parke* 17-18 May (PPS, AWB), and one was in *Lee*, IL 2-3 May (JEH).

Among the 15 Loggerhead Shrikes reported from Illinois was one 6-31 May+ at the n. location of *Winnabago* (DTW), where a pair nested last year. Seven Northern Shrikes were recorded, primarily in the n. tier of counties, the latest being a bird in *LaPorte*, IN 2 Apr (RHu). An excellent total of 72 Bell's Vireos was tallied throughout Indiana; 2 in *Adams*, IL 21 Apr (AGD) provided a record-early arrival date. Other early vireos included a Blue-headed at Lincoln Park, Chicago 19 Apr (GAW) and a Warbling at Mermet L., *Massac*, IL 7 Apr (KAM). Yellow-throated Vireo numbers were also up, but the most intriguing vireo of the season was a silent bird 6 May at Carl. L. fitting the description of a Cassin's Vireo (p.a., †DMK). There are no accepted records of this species for the Region.

All of the swallows exhibited strong spring flights, exemplified by 5000 Tree Swallows at Rend L. 3 Apr (KAM) and 696 Barns 11 May in *Lake*, IL (JS). Carolina Wrens appear to be doing well in the Region, as 182 birds were reported in Indiana. A Winter Wren lingered until 22 May in *Lake*, IL (DRD). Indiana's earliest spring record for Marsh Wren consisted of 2 at Goose Pond 4 Mar (ph. JWL). Rare at the Indiana lakefront, 2 Northern Mockingbirds were reported. The American Pipit migration was very strong, as 800 were seen at Santa Fe Bottoms 11 Mar (DMK), an all-time high for Illinois. A fine longshore count of 2545 Cedar Waxwings was made from Dunes 24 May (KJB).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

In general, warbler migration started early but was squelched by several weeks of northerly winds in May. A Northern Parula 17 Mar in *Massac* (FKB) was record early by seven days. Other notable early warbler arrivals included a Magnolia at Ft. Massac S.P. 22 Apr (KAM); a Black-throated Blue in Jax. P. 29 Apr (ph. MGG); and a Worm-eating in *Union*, IL 7 Apr (KAM). A highlight of the warbler migration was a male Kirtland's Warbler in Wilmette, IL 23 May (ph. HS). Lower-than-normal num-

bers of Palm Warblers were noted throughout the Region. A Prothonotary Warbler 6 Apr at Mermet L. (FKB) was early; a tally of 29 was made at Kankakee F.W.A. 26 May (KJB, LSH, JKC). Another exciting find was a male MacGillivray's Warbler reported at Hampshire EP, *Kane*, IL 21-22 May (p.a., †SAC, JJD). A count of 21 Hooded Warblers in *Union*, IL 6 May (SDB) was notable.

A single Spotted Towhee was reported from 20 Apr into May at Binnie EP, *Kane*, IL (KML, AF, JJD). An excellent count of 250 American Tree Sparrows was made in *Newton*, IN 6 Mar (JBH). In Indiana, 4 Clay-colored Sparrows were totaled, from three locations. The 2nd record of Lark Sparrow in *Allen*, IN 15 May (JAH) was part of a fine total count of 34 in the state. A Henslow's Sparrow 1 Apr in Chicago was early (SJH). Two Le Conte's Sparrows were reported in Indiana, one at West Beach 14 Apr (JKC, JJM, KJB), the other at the Prairie Chicken Refuge, *Newton* 8 May (CF). Only 3 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported, the latest at Whiting Park, *Lake*, IN 27 May (KJB, JKC, LSH, EMH). Two Harris's Sparrows were in Illinois, and White-crowned Sparrows staged a strong flight in Indiana, with 634 birds reported. The longspur flight throughout the Region was lackluster, and there were only two reports of Snow Buntings, both singles. An ad. male Painted Bunting at a Charleston, IL feeder 17 Apr (ph. D&FR) furnished a record-early arrival date for Illinois; a second-year male was also noted 28-29 May at the now traditional E. St. Louis site (DMK, KAM).

Yellow-headed Blackbirds seem to be doing well, with a maximum count of 35 at Spring L., *Carroll*, IL (DTW). Singles in Indiana were found at Wakarusa Wastewater Treatment Facility, *Elkhart* 5 May (DS) and at Big Pine Creek, *Benton* 18 May (JCI, JK). Notable was an ad. male Brewer's Blackbird at a feeder in Bloomington, IN 23 Mar (DRW), while a flock of 6000 at Carl. L. 11 Mar established a new record for Illinois (DMK). A male Great-tailed Grackle made a one-day appearance at Spring L., *Carroll* 13 May (p.a., †DTW). This species has been reported in Illinois with greater frequency since 2003, with only two accepted records prior to that year. Baltimore Orioles were well represented this spring, the flight highlighted by a count of 122 at Dunes 3 May (KJB, JKC, PBG, RJP). The exceptional record in a dismal season for winter finches was a spectacular tally of 185 Purple Finches at Dunes 16 Apr (BJG), which easily eclipsed the previous maximum count of 100 recorded in 1931. Only 17 Pine Siskins were reported throughout the Region.

Undocumented reports: A White-winged Dove was reported at a feeder in *LaSalle*, IL 23 May (JEH). There are 10 accepted records of this species for Illinois, all in six of the previous seven springs. A reported Great Crested Flycatcher 31 Mar in *Lake*, IL (JGr) would be record early by 10 days.

Corrigendum: A Fork-tailed Flycatcher in Illinois (16 May 2005) was an ad., not an imm., as reported (*N.A.B.* 59: 436).

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Adam M. Byrne

Slightly above-average temperatures and normal to above-average precipitation ushered in the season in all three states. Drier and unusually warm weather in April continued in the Region through 8 May; however, on the next day, a massive low-pressure system brought an abrupt change in this pattern, stalling over Lake Michigan for several days and bringing cold, wet conditions. For Michigan, the Midwest Climate Center noted: "The month of May was as bizarre as they come." In the Upper Peninsula, Marquette reached daily high temperatures of 27° F on 22 May and 93° F on 29 May, while in the south, Lansing had precipitation every day 10-21 May, with temperatures five degrees below normal during this period. Both Michigan and Wisconsin reported a cessation of migration during this prolonged cold and wet spell, and Minnesota described the warbler migration as pathetic! Late May turned quickly to summer, with very warm temperatures by Memorial Day weekend.

WATERFOWL

A Fulvous Whistling-Duck in *Lafayette* 23 Mar (p.a., JR) provided Wisconsin its 2nd record. Geese were seen in exceptional numbers Regionwide. Minnesota reported a record-high count of 18,200 Greater White-fronted Geese at Mud L., *Traverse* 4 Apr (KJB). Michigan had almost 100 individuals from seven counties, more than doubling its highest total over the past five years. Wisconsin reports came from seven counties. Minnesota's first blue-morph Ross's Goose was part of a record-high 529 Ross's in *Traverse* 2 Apr (KJB). Minnesota had a statewide total of 867+ Ross's Geese this spring! This once rarely observed species was recorded in 10 Wisconsin counties. Michigan had 2 in *Washtenaw* 1-5 Mar (MJ, SJ, m.ob.), 3 through 5 Mar at Brown Sanctuary, *Berrien* (m.ob.), one from winter through 6 Mar at Harbor Beach, *Huron* (JD), and one at Eau Claire, *Berrien* 18-21 Mar (JW, KM, TB), all pending acceptance. Illustrating the potential magni-

tude of Cackling Goose migration through w. Minnesota was a record-high count of 3000 in *Cottonwood* 25 Mar (BRB) and another strong count of 2317 in *Traverse* 2-3 Apr (KJB).

Wisconsin reported its first Bewick's Swan in *Rock* 24 Mar (JB, p.a.). A Eurasian Wigeon was present 17 May in *Beltrami*, MN (JEB, RBJ), while Wisconsin had singles in *Sheboygan* 19-29 Mar (m.ob.), *Dane* 29 Mar (ST), and *Kenosha* 19 Apr (JM). An ad. male Cinnamon Teal treated Wisconsin birders 7-13 May in *Ozaukee* (TU). Minnesota had ad. males in *Cass* 12-13 Apr (ph. LO, DY, ph. CMB, PHS) and *Nobles* 26 May (BTS). A male Tufted Duck in *Huron* 15-21 May (JBU, JZ, m.ob., p.a.) would represent Michigan's 4th state record. Michigan had 2 Harlequin Ducks through 4 Mar in *Berrien* (JW), one in *St. Clair* 19 Apr (SJ), and a male in *Keweenaw* 23 Apr (JY), while in Wisconsin, 3 in *Racine* from winter lingered through 29 Apr (RH). Michigan reported good numbers of scoters, including a surprising 5 Surfs at an inland gravel pit in *Hillsdale* 17 Mar (JRe). Long-tailed Duck numbers were way above those from recent years at Whitefish Point B.O. (hereafter W.P.B.O.), *Chippewa*, MI, with a peak of 1430 on 17 May. Wisconsin's wintering Barrow's Goldeneyes were last reported 4 Mar in *Milwaukee* (AP) and 5 Mar in *Sheboygan* (TW); Minnesota had a male in *Aitkin* 13 Apr (PEJ). Rare in Michigan's Upper Peninsula was a Ruddy Duck in *Keweenaw* 21-29 Apr (TA).

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

A Red-throated Loon at L. Byllesby, *Dakota* MN 30 Apr (JPM) furnished only the 2nd county record. Wisconsin had a good spring, with seven reports from L. Michigan, topped by 9 in *Sheboygan* 20 Apr (JF). Michigan had average numbers of Red-throated at W.P.B.O., where 504 were tallied after 15 Apr, with a peak of 116 on 27 Apr. A systematic count at Chequamegon Bay, *Ashland* WI on 22 Apr tallied a remarkable 1482 Horned Grebes (RB). Eared Grebes were scarce this spring, with only 3 in Michigan and one in Wisconsin. Wisconsin had 2 Western Grebes in *Kenosha* 11 Mar (RHo) and one in *Eau Claire* 23 May (JP), while Michigan had one from winter through 1 Mar in *Marquette* (SH). Not surprisingly, Minnesota hosted the only Clark's Grebes at Thielke L., *Big Stone* 17 Apr (BJU), L. Osakis, *Douglas* 21 May (DB et al.), and South Rockwell L., *Big Stone* 28 May (PHS). Michigan has been recording more American White Pelicans in recent years; this year there were 50+ birds reported from 12 counties.

Minnesota reported 26 Snowy Egrets from 16 counties, while Wisconsin had 9 in five counties. In Michigan, there were 3 Snowy

Egrets, including one n. of normal 8 May in *Alger* (ph. SHi). Continuing the trend of s. herons in extreme n. Michigan locations were a Little Blue Heron 4-6 May (DJ, SH) and a Tricolored Heron 13-24 Apr (C&RY, SH), both in *Marquette*, the former constituting only the 2nd Upper Peninsula record. Michigan also had a Little Blue in *Berrien* 17 May (JO) and a Tricolored in *Macomb* 8 May (ph. JA, ph. RP). Minnesota's 7 Little Blue Herons was the highest number in recent memory; the ad. in *Lake* 20 May (ph. JWL, SLL) furnished a first county record. Wisconsin's only Little Blue was an ad. in *Kenosha* 13 Apr (RHo). Minnesota had at least 76 Cattle Egrets in 21 counties, including one n. to Agassiz N.W.R., *Marshall* 5 May (JN), while Michigan had 4 in three counties. All three states reported Yellow-crowned Night-Herons. Michigan had singles in *Washtenaw* 17 Apr (EL, p.a.) and *Allegan* 20-21 Apr (CM, ph.), Wisconsin had one 4-7 May in *Iowa* (AH, RaH), and Minnesota had one in *Anoka* 5 May (TM). A lone White-faced Ibis made a brief appearance in *Grant*, WI 5 May (MG, p.a.), while Minnesota had singles in *Lac Qui Parle* 21-22 Apr (ph. BJU), *Anoka* 22 Apr (ph. JMc, AXH), and *Otter Trail* 1-2 May (ph. SPM, D&ST). The only Glossy Ibis was in *Dodge*, WI 12-16 May (TW), and an additional *Plegadis* ibis was in *Swift*, MN 4-6 May (CV).

VULTURES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Most raptor totals were well below those from recent years at W.P.B.O., most likely due to the poor weather conditions. Michigan claimed the only Black Vulture, one in *Clare* 6 Apr (MP, p.a.), while the only Mississippi Kite flew over a softball game in *Calumet*, WI 4 Apr (JeB). Minnesota reported a record-high count of 1213 Bald Eagles at L. Pepin, *Goodhue/Wabasha* 12 Mar (KJB). Michigan had Swainson's Hawks 3 May in *Keweenaw* (BJ) and 20 & 21 May at W.P.B.O., and a Ferruginous Hawk 6 Apr in *Houghton* (ph. JK, ph. TA). Both Minnesota and Wisconsin had wintering Gyrfalcons linger into Mar. Minnesota reported Prairie Falcons from *Wilkin* 19 Mar (PBB) and *Lac Qui Parle* 15 May (BJU). Rarely detected during migration were 3 Yellow Rails in *Anoka*, MN 23-27 Apr (WCM, SBM). The only King Rail reports came from s. Wisconsin.

A female Wilson's Plover 13-14 May in *Bayfield* (RB) gave Wisconsin its 2nd record, and a Semipalmated Plover in *Racine* 14 Apr (JDi) was the state's 3rd earliest record. Distressing was the absence of Piping Plovers in Minnesota and only 2 in Wisconsin. Black-necked Stilts continued their recent invasive trend. Wisconsin had stilts in *Ashland* 16 Apr (TO), *Dodge* 5-6 May (JBa), and *Manitowoc* 16 May (CS),

while Minnesota had 2 ads. 27 May in *Anoka* (SM, DFR, ph. RPF). One in *Hillsdale* 14 Apr (JRe) provided Michigan its 5th record. Minnesota had 89 American Avocets in 12 counties, including 4 on the 2nd earliest date of 9 Apr in *Big Stone* (DFN) and a record-high spring count of 41 along the Minnesota River Valley, *Chippewa/Lac Qui Parle* 14 Apr (BJU). Wisconsin also had one its largest flocks ever recorded (41) on 22 Apr in *Columbia* (MM). Michigan had avocets in *Saginaw* 5-8 & 23-27 May (DP, m.ob.) and in *Ottawa* 18 May (CF). Wisconsin birders experienced a huge Willet migration on 29 Apr, with hundreds moving through the state in flocks ranging from 30 to 70 birds. Minnesota had 157+ Willets in 23 counties, while Michigan had 36 in three counties. Whimbrels were scarce in Minnesota, but noteworthy were inland records in *Lac Qui Parle* 25 May (BJU) and *Anoka* 31 May (BRL et al.). Wisconsin had one of the best Whimbrel migrations in recent memory, while numbers were normal in Michigan. Both godwits were reported in very low numbers. A Ruddy Turnstone in *Dakota*, MN 1 May (DWK) was the state's 2nd earliest record. Both Michigan and Wisconsin had only two reports of the declining Red Knot. Noteworthy for Michigan were single Stilt Sandpipers in *Saginaw* 3 May (DP) and *Berrien* 18 May (PC).

JAEGERS THROUGH NIGHTJARS

The only jaeger reports were 2 Parasitics and one unidentified at W.P.B.O. Michigan had Laughing Gulls in *Benzie* 12 May (SJ) and *Berrien* 14 May (JJ, DV, JW) and Franklin's Gulls in *Berrien* 12 May (JJ) and at W.P.B.O. 30 May. Wisconsin's only Franklin's Gulls were in *Racine* 23 May (EK) and *Bayfield* 28 May (RB). Wisconsin had its best Little Gull season in decades, with reports from six counties; in contrast, Michigan and Minnesota had no reports. Rare were California Gulls 11 Mar in *Racine*, WI (p.a., RH) and 6 May in *Keweenaw*, MI (ph. BJ, p.a.). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported in good numbers from Wisconsin and Minnesota. Wisconsin had a Glaucous-winged Gull in *LaCrosse* 22-24 Mar (DJa) and a Black-legged Kittiwake in *Milwaukee* 10 May (DG). A large flock of 1100 Forster's Terns was recorded in *Ozaukee*, WI 11 May (SF), while Michigan had the only Least Tern at W.P.B.O. 29 May (JoM, AMB, PC).

Wisconsin's wintering Band-tailed Pigeon remained through 1 Apr in *St. Croix* (MB). Eurasian Collared-Doves have a strong foothold in both Minnesota and Wisconsin, with reports from 13+ and nine counties, respectively. The only Michigan report was of the continuing birds in *Berrien* (JW, m.ob.). The only White-winged Dove was at Mora, Kan-

abec, MN 10-16 May (CAM, ph. DAC). Some of the winter's Snowy Owls lingered late into the season, with one in *Portage*, WI 29 May (DC) and another through end of period in *Grand Traverse*, MI (EW). Minnesota had Burrowing Owl pairs in *Polk* 27 Apr+ (JE, JM, ph. PHS) and *Norman* 6 May+ (ABL, JM, ph. PHS) and one in *Olmsted* from early May+ (CCB, m.ob.). Representing Minnesota's 3rd highest count from a single location were 22 Short-eared Owls in *Pennington* 22 Apr (JM, PHS). Michigan had Chuck-will's-widows in *Livingston* 4 May (p.a., DW, LH) and after 7 May in *Berrien* (JW, p.a.), while the bird at Chaseburg, *Vernon* WI (DJa) returned for its 3rd year.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

In Michigan, Western Kingbirds were reported from *Allegan* 22 May (SJ) and *Delta* 25 May (SH). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were observed in Minnesota 23 Apr in *Lac Qui Parle* (HF et al., ph. BJU) and 1-2 May in *Clay* (MM et al.), while Wisconsin had reports from *Douglas* 17 May (RaH) and *Jackson* 28 May (fide GG). Loggerhead Shrikes continue to decline in the Region. Minnesota reported only 29 birds in 12 counties, below normal for the 10th consecutive spring. Wisconsin had a nesting pair in *Oconto* (T&IB) and one in *Bayfield* 23 Apr (RB). Michigan hasn't had a spring bird in four years! Wisconsin had White-eyed Vireos in six counties; Minnesota had one in *Rock* 29 May (RLL, DML). Bell's Vireos were found in traditional areas in Minnesota and Wisconsin, but one in *Wayne* 6 May (CP, p.a.) would be Michigan's first spring record since 1997.

A Black-billed Magpie in *Keweenaw* 30 Mar (NA, TA) provided Michigan its 7th state record. Minnesota had a record-early Cliff Swallow in *Dakota* 31 Mar (BRL), while Wisconsin had an early Barn Swallow on 17 Mar in *Waukesha* (MG). Wisconsin reports the presence of Great Tits (escapees) in four counties, including confirmed breeding. Minnesota reported the only Rock Wren from *Rice* 7-8 May (GDB, LM), a record-early Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in *Douglas* 13 Apr (SPM), and 3 Mountain Bluebirds and a Townsend's Solitaire in *Lac Qui Parle* (BJU). Wisconsin had solitaires linger through 3 Mar in *Sauk* (JDi) and 6 Mar in *Ashland* (RB), while Michigan had one through 6 Mar in *Marquette* (LT) and one in *Keweenaw* 2 Apr (ph. TA). Gray-cheeked Thrushes were very scarce this spring, the exception being 22 seen on 9 May in *Grant*, WI (RaH). Winter Varied Thrushes remained into early Mar in *Winnebago*, WI (RK) and in *Benzie*, *Manistee*, and *Muskegon* in Michigan.

Very rare for Michigan's Upper Peninsula was a Blue-winged Warbler in *Schoolcraft* 20 May (LD). A Golden-winged Warbler on 8

Apr (p.a., MH) and a Tennessee Warbler on 20 Apr (MM), both in *Dane*, were reported on record-early dates, while an Audubon's Warbler in *Milwaukee* 27 Mar provided Wisconsin its 2nd record. Also noteworthy for Wisconsin were three reports each of Yellow-throated and Prairie Warblers. The first ne. Minnesota record of the declining Cerulean Warbler came from *Lake* 4 May (ph. JWL, SLL), while a Prothonotary Warbler on 16 May in *Polk* (BDF) was far from the usual state haunts and provided only the 2nd county record. Worm-eating Warblers were recorded in eight Wisconsin counties; Michigan had one in *Berrien* 16 May (PC, TWe). A male Kentucky Warbler returned for the 7th consecutive year in *Blue Earth*, MN 24 May+ (CMB); Michigan had at least 2 at their usual haunt in *Hillsdale* (JRe) and one in *Berrien* 27 May (KM). A Hooded Warbler in *Delta* 24 May was the first Upper Peninsula report since 1992. Michigan reported a poor year for Yellow-breasted Chats, with regular birds in *Hillsdale* not detected until Jun (JRe); Wisconsin had six reports from four counties, and Minnesota had chats in *Freeborn* 22 May (ARW), *Olmsted* 23 May (LAV), and *Lac Qui Parle* 27 May (BJU).

TANAGERS THROUGH OLD WORLD SPARROWS

Michigan had Summer Tanagers in three counties, including an unprecedented 2 together in the Upper Peninsula's *Delta* 25 May (SH). Wisconsin had reports from four counties and Minnesota from only two. Minnesota had an influx of Western Tanagers, with 7 total in six counties. Wisconsin reported them in *Milwaukee* 16 May (JM) and *Juneau* 22 May (TM), and Michigan had sightings in *Baraga* 9-15 May (ph. CW, ph. SH, ph. JK), *Washewau* 13 May (p.a., JS), and *Iosco* 26-27 May (p.a., JS, SJ, SF). In Minnesota, a wintering Spotted Towhee lingered through 8 Mar in *St. Louis* (m.ob.), while migrants were recorded on 21 Apr in *Chippewa* (BJU), 9-11 May in *Chippewa* (SPM) and *Polk* (ph. D<), and 10-12 May in *Martin* (JNB). A Lark Sparrow in *Sauk* 11 Apr (AH) established the 2nd earliest date for Wisconsin. Early in Wisconsin were a Le Conte's Sparrow in *Milwaukee* 1 Apr (JM) and a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow in *Iowa* 9 May (RaH). Michigan had a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow in *Muskegon* 29 May (p.a., SMi) and a Harris's Sparrow in *Keweenaw* 8 May (JY). A Smith's Longspur in *Keweenaw* 23 Apr (ph. JY, ZG) provided Michigan with its first spring record since 1998. Minnesota had some good Smith's Longspur totals, with 90 and 106 in *Lac Qui Parle* on 22 & 28 Apr, respectively (BJU), and 60+ in *Polk* 9 May (RPR). Rarely detected as a

migrant anywhere away from its last remaining stronghold in Clay, MN was a Chestnut-collared Longspur in *Lac Qui Parle* 17 Apr (BJU). A tardy flock of 20 Snow Buntings was found in *Columbia*, WI 7 May (CMA).

Michigan reported the only Painted Bunting, a male in *Marquette* 10 May (ph. GJ, LT). Not surprisingly, the only Great-tailed Grackle reports came from Minnesota, one 15-17 Apr in *Wright* (KTP, CMB) and 2 males and a female courting and nest-building in *Brown* 6 May+ (BTS). Michigan's winter Bullock's Oriole lingered through 5 Mar, while one in *Milwaukee* 3 May provided Wisconsin its 2nd record. Winter finches were reported in low numbers from Michigan, highlighted by a Hoary Redpoll in *Schoolcraft* 15 Mar (BJ) and singles at W.P.B.O. on 25 & 26 Mar and 8 Apr. Michigan had 2 Common Chaffinches in *Keweenaw* and another 2+ at W.P.B.O., all appearing in early May; these are certainly either escapees or the offspring of escapees. The wintering Eurasian Tree Sparrow in *Cass* lingered through 2 Apr, and another visited a feeder in *Ontonagon* 18 Apr-6 May (ph. RS, KW); these are Michigan's only state records!

Corrigenda: The Western Grebe in *Portage*, WI 25 Apr was reported by Murray Berner (MBe, not MB); the Black Vulture in *Shi-*

awassee, WI should have been from *Shiawassee*, MI; delete the Mississippi Kite from *Dane*, WI 22 May; and the Eurasian Tree Sparrow from *Schroeder*, *Cook* was erroneously attributed to Wisconsin instead of Minnesota (N.A.B. 59: 438-440).

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Iowa & Missouri



Stephen J. Dinsmore

The 2006 spring season was characterized by continued drought conditions throughout the Region. The season began with a strong southerly air flow in early

March that produced 38 tornadoes on 12 March in Missouri. Cooler weather returned in late March and retarded migration throughout the Region. April was generally warm, dry, and windy and saw a good push of migrants with the southerly winds during the latter half of the month. May was less consistent weather-wise, as several cold fronts swept across the Region in mid-month. This caused moderate groundings of Neotropical migrants, and the active weather produced good movements of migrants through the end of the month, especially in parts of Iowa. A big theme this spring was the excellent shorebird migration, especially on the western edge of the Region, and perhaps related to this was the exceptional flight of dark ibis. Rarities included Garganey, Ruff, Inca Dove, and Gray Kingbird, plus a nice assortment of lesser strays, many with a southern or western flavor.

Abbreviations: C.C.N.W.R. (Clarence Cannon N.W.R.); E.B.C.A. (Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area, *Boone*, MO); Hawkeye (W.A.,

Johnson, IA); R.M.B.S. (Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, *St. Charles*, MO); Riverton (W.A., *Fremont*, IA); S.C.R. (Squaw Creek N.W.R., *Holt*, MO); T.G.P. (Tower Grove Park, *St. Louis City*, MO).

WATERFOWL

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued their pattern of spring occurrence in the Region, with two reports from Missouri: 2 on 13-15 May at Pertle Springs, *Johnson* (†Kurt Dean) and one on 14 May in *Greene* (Jerry Sowers, †Dean Rising et al.). Greater White-fronted Geese were well represented across the Region this spring: high counts were 800 on 2 Mar at Ted Shanks C.A. (PHa), 2600 on 4 Mar at Riverton W.A. (SJD), 17,830 on 7 Mar at S.C.R. (FD), and 3000 on 17 Mar at Badger L., *Monona* (GLV). White geese were also numerous, and Ross's Geese continue their slow increase, with numerous double-digit counts in Mar in the w. half of the Region. Tundra Swans were again scarce this spring, with one Missouri and three Iowa re-



This Sandhill Crane nest, apparently only the second for Missouri, was discovered 17 May 2006 (here) at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge in Holt County. Photograph by Brian Lomas.

ports, all in Mar. Cinnamon Teal were well represented, with at least four Missouri reports and two Iowa reports; two pairs at S.C.R. 18 Apr (TR) was an unusually large number for the Region. A stunning male Garganey was discovered 7 Apr s. of Sioux City, Woodbury, marking the 3rd Iowa record (ph., †PR). A count of 50,000 Canvasbacks 11 Mar at Pool 19, Lee (CRE) highlights the importance of this Mississippi R. spring staging area for the species. The only "sea" ducks reported were a Surf Scoter 26 Apr–2 May at R.M.B.S., St. Charles (JWE et al.) and a Long-tailed Duck 22 Apr at Twelve Mile L., Union, IA (JG, SJD, AB). A count of 564 Red-breasted Mergansers at Saylorville 2 Apr (BE) was a remarkable spring total for the Region. Linger-ing waterfowl seemed more numerous than usual, especially in Missouri, with May records for all of the more common species.

GROUSE THROUGH RAPTORS

There were only three reports of Gray Partridge, all from the n. half of Iowa, an indication that this species has still not recovered from the precipitous decline in the early 1990s. There was mixed news on Greater Prairie-Chicken, although numbers at most Missouri sites and the single Iowa locale seemed to be steady or slightly increasing. Notable loon reports included a Red-throated Loon at Little Wall L., Hamilton, IA 14 Apr (†MPr, m.ob.) and a Pacific Loon 15 Apr at Stockton L., Cedar, MO (BB). Red-necked

Grebes were reported only in Iowa, with six reports after 1 Apr; some of these birds were noted at potential nesting locales in May. Western Grebes were reported from six locales in the w. half of Iowa, including a record spring count of 15 on 5 May at L. Manawa, Pottawattamie (LJP, BKP).

Missouri documented the first nesting by Double-crested Cormorants in the w. half of the state with 24 nests on 26 May at Truman L., Henry (†Brad Jacobs). Herons were well reported in both states, although their distribution differed in that few were found in traditional sites in se. Missouri, but more than usual occurred throughout the rest of the Region. The eight Snowy Egret reports from Iowa were indicative of a good spring and complemented five Little Blue Heron reports. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were found in small numbers throughout Missouri and the s. half of Iowa, except for one in Chickasaw, IA 9 May (DCH). Unusual were two White Ibis reports in Missouri: one s. of Belton, Cass 29 Apr (†Tom Martin) and another 8 May at Bob Brown C.A., Holt (†KM). One of the big patterns of the spring was the push of *Plegadis* through both states. Glossy Ibis, a casual but increasing spring migrant, were reported only in Missouri, with one at Bean L., Platte 15 Apr (†KM) and up to 2 at S.C.R. 26 Apr–20 May (†TR, m.ob.). White-faced Ibis were widely reported this spring, and in unprecedented numbers, especially along the Missouri R. corridor. The first were 12 on 12 Apr at

Owego Wetlands, Woodbury (GLV). Huge numbers were found at S.C.R. mid-Apr+, with top counts of 137 on 2 May (TR) and 80 on 28 May (KM, JPU).

Mississippi Kites were well reported in Missouri, especially away from their traditional Mississippi R. haunts, but none were found in Iowa. Nesting Bald Eagles are becoming so numerous that they now draw little attention. In Missouri, there were 123 nests this spring, an increase of 50 from 2001 (Andy Forbes). Swainson's Hawks were well reported in both states, with 200 on 18 Apr at Bigelow Marsh, Holt (†PM et al.) being a record count for Missouri. Late Merlins were reported in both states, through 14 May in Missouri and 21 May in Iowa. Peregrine Falcons were perhaps more numerous than usual this spring, especially in early and mid-May as they tracked the shorebird migration through the Region. The only Prairie Falcons were in Missouri, where there were three mid-Mar reports

RAILS THROUGH TERNS

Yellow Rails were reported only in Iowa, where there were three reports in the period 24-29 Apr. King Rails are a species of concern throughout the Region, so it was heartening to have small numbers detected by dedicated rail surveys in Missouri, including up to 12 birds in May at C.C.N.W.R., Pike and up to 6 in May at BK Leach/Bittern Basin, Lincoln (AD et al.). None were reported in Iowa. Single Common Moorhens were reported in both states after 20 Apr. A Sandhill Crane nest was discovered 17 May at S.C.R., Holt (†FD, ph. Brian Lomas), marking only the 2nd nesting record for this species in Missouri. A pair n. of C.C.N.W.R., Pike on 22 May (AD) was suggestive of nesting. This species was also widely reported in Iowa in Apr and May, with many of the reports probably pertaining to nesting birds. Five wandering subad. Whooping Cranes from the reintroduction project at Necedah N.W.R. in Wisconsin spent 6–26 May at Lande River W.A., Winnebago, IA (†CJF, Robert Schwartz). A later flock of 7 explored as far w. as Palo Alto, IA 19 May before returning home (†Robert Schwartz). One wonders if this pattern of occurrence in the Region will increase.

The shorebird migration was excellent this spring, especially along the Missouri R. corridor in both states. In Missouri, the hotspot was S.C.R., where impressive numbers on 13 May included 10,005 Lesser Yellowlegs (TR) and 516 Hudsonian Godwits, 2903 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 8918 White-rumped Sandpipers, 5002 Pectoral Sandpipers, 1012 Stilt Sandpipers, 1720 Dunlins, and 2011 Wilson's Phalaropes (DAE et al.). The hotspot in

Iowa was Riverton, just to the n. of S.C.R., where counts that same day (13 May) included 491 Hudsonian Godwits, 2000 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 800 White-rumped Sandpipers, 213 Stilt Sandpipers, 284 Wilson's Phalaropes, and 71 Red-necked Phalaropes (SJD). Dowitcher ratios (Short-billed to Long-billed) of 701:50 at S.C.R. (DAE et al.) and 77:244 at Riverton (SJD) on 13 May did little to clarify the timing and abundance of their migration through the w. part of the Region. Long-billed Dowitcher is generally far more abundant along the Missouri R., and they occur here much later in spring than elsewhere in the Region.

American Golden-Plovers staged a relatively early migration this spring, with a peak of 2000 in Lincoln 1 Apr (Tom Borman, DR); peak numbers in Iowa occurred in the period 8-12 Apr, and few were seen anywhere in May. Black-necked Stilts continue to increase in the Region. In Missouri, these included up to 3 after 15 Apr at S.C.R. (KM, m.ob.), one at E.B.C.A. 23-27 Apr (KA et al.), 2 at R.M.B.S. 28 Apr (JWE), and 2 in Lincoln 13 May (SS, Eric Schuette). In Iowa, pairs were seen 25 May at Mallard Marsh, *Cerro Gordo* (ph. PH) and 25-27 May at Hawkeye (CRE, DP). There was a decent flight of American Avocets through the Region in late Apr, with peaks of 30 at Coralville Res., Johnson, IA 20 Apr (CRE et al.) and 38 at R.M.B.S. 25-26 Apr (JPU, JWE); other predominantly "western" migrants like Willet and Marbled Godwits occurred in near-normal numbers. Rarities included 2 Whimbrel reports in each state between 9 and 21 May and at least one female Ruff 29 May-1 Apr at Bigelow Marsh, Holt, MO (†DAE, †TR, m.ob., ph.) and another 21 May at E.B.C.A. (†Jean Leonatti).

Laughing Gulls are rare spring transients in the Region, and the only reports were single ads. on 12 Apr and 25 May at R.M.B.S., St. Charles (DR, CM). Franklin's Gulls were one of the few "western" waterbirds that was scarce this spring, with no reports of concentrations over 200 birds. An ad. Little Gull at R.M.B.S., St. Charles 12 Apr (ph., †JPU) was a good find in spring. Other notable gull reports included a California Gull 2 Mar at Saylorville (†AMJ), 3 Icelands in Scott, IA through 28 Mar (ph., †SMF, m.ob.), Lesser Black-backed in Iowa (five reports) and Missouri (one report), and possibly as many as 5 Great Black-backed through 7 Apr in Scott, IA (†SMF, m.ob.). There were 2 reports of Least Terns from each state, all from expected locales along major rivers.

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

White-winged Doves, clearly on the increase in the Region, were reported only in Missouri, with singles 15-18 May at Liberty, Clay (Linda Williams) and 16 May at East Prairie, Mississippi (site of a 2005 nesting attempt; Shane Pruett). An Inca Dove made a rare appearance 12 Apr at Columbia, Boone (†Sarah Pelc et al.). The only spring holdovers from the Snowy Owl irruption were in Iowa, where an



A Prairie Warbler was present at Pleasant Creek Recreation Area, Benton County, Iowa after 20 (here 27) May 2006. Photograph by Jay Gilliam.

ad. male lingered through 25 Apr at Clear Lake, *Cerro Gordo* (ph. PH). Two Long-eared Owl nests in Livingston (SK) provided a rare Missouri nesting record. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds arrived ahead of schedule in both states, on 2 Apr at both Cape Girardeau and St. Louis in Missouri (*vide* CM) and on 22 Apr in Carroll, IA (†Victor Webber).

Yellow-bellied and Alder Flycatchers were reported in small numbers from both states, most during their expected mid- to late May migration window. Western Kingbirds continue to consolidate their range slowly in both states, with increasing reports in the e. part of the Region. A Gray Kingbird reported 24 May at Salem, Dent (†David Plank), said to have been present for several days prior to this date, would be a first for Missouri and the Region if accepted. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers are expanding northward in Missouri, with Apr-May reports from Boone, Buchanan, and Cass; there was a lone report from Iowa on 29 Apr in Fremont (Steve Matherly, *vide* WRS), where the species is still rare.

White-eyed Vireos were reported from 11 Iowa counties after 22 Apr, an above-normal number for spring. Fish Crows were again well reported from Missouri, with a few scattered individuals n. and w. of their core range, especially along the Missouri R. Black-billed Magpies continue to maintain their toehold in nw. Iowa: 2 were in Plymouth 15 May (Dick Bierman). Swallows arrived early this spring,

especially Tree Swallow, with first reports on 6 Mar at E.B.C.A. (KA) and 12 Mar in Lee, IA (Linda Johnson). A few Red-breasted Nuthatches remained from the minor invasion this winter, including late dates of 7 May at T.G.P. (Mike Thelen) and 12 May at Ames, Story, IA (David C. Edwards). Bewick's Wrens continue to be scarce in the Region. In addition to the usual scattered few in Missouri, reports included a pair in Decatur, IA 8-22 Apr (†JRL), 2 in Boone, MO late Apr-12 May (PM), and a pair after 15 May at Shimek S.F., Lee, IA (CRE, DP).

The thrush migration was fair through the Region, with good numbers detected on the ground and at night in early to mid-May. The Gray-cheeked Thrush movement was particularly good in both states, and late Hermit Thrushes were detected 13 May in Buchanan, MO (LL) and 19 May in Hancock, IA (AB, ph.). A Sprague's Pipit 22 Apr in Fremont (†SJD, †AB, †JG) was found as a result of a targeted search for this species, which may be a regular but overlooked migrant in w. Iowa. An extremely late American Pipit on 29 May at R.M.B.S. (†BR) was the latest ever for Missouri.

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS

The warbler migration drew mixed reviews, with generally weak flights in Missouri but good flights in many parts of Iowa. Interesting reports included a rare Brewster's Warbler in late Apr in Adair, MO (Philip Wire), single male Black-throated Blues in Iowa at Ledges S.P., Boone on 13-14 May (NAO) and at Jester Park, Polk 21 May (BE), a male Audubon's Warbler at Nine Eagles S.P., Decatur, IA 15 May (†SSP, †JRL), a Prairie' after 20 May at Pleasant Creek Recreation Area, Benton, IA (Jim Forde et al.), and a Swainson's 22 Apr in St. Louis, MO (†Randy Korotev). Oddly, it was a poor year for Cape May Warblers in Missouri (three reports 30 Apr-13 May), but above-average numbers were detected in Iowa, especially 21-25 May in n.-cen. Iowa (SSP, KLP, PH, John Bissell). Species that drew attention in both states were Cerulean and Connecticut Warblers. Cerulean was widely reported from the e. half of Missouri, with a peak of 12 at Weldon Springs C.A., St. Charles 22 Apr (BB, Rad Widmer), while 17 Iowa reports were all from the se. portion of the state except for one in *Cerro Gordo* 20 May (SSP, KLP). The Connecticut Warbler flight was better than average, with six Missouri reports 12-24 May and five Iowa reports 20-26 May exemplifying their narrow migration window in the Region. Hooded Warblers were thought to be expanding in Missouri, while the typical

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smattering of reports in Iowa included a cluster of three reports 6-20 May in n.-cen. Iowa (RGo, PH).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

Spotted Towhee reports totaled 6 birds in Missouri and 2 in Iowa through early May. Clay-colored Sparrows experienced a typical migration, with a few in the e. parts of both states; high counts were reported at Algona,



This cooperative male Painted Bunting graced Brookside Park in Story County, Iowa 7 (here 11) May 2006 and later, providing just a second state record. Photograph by Jay Gilliam.

Kossuth, IA 3 May (12; MCK) and in Clay, MO 13 May (7; KM). Henslow's Sparrows were widely reported in both states, but especially in Iowa, and they are now considered locally common in s. Iowa, where rare 20 years ago. Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows are rare-but-regular late spring migrants in the Region. This spring, there were 3 in Missouri 8-19 May (SK, PM, DR, CM) and 3 in Iowa 20-29 May (NAO, SSP, PH), about normal for spring. Sparrows, especially the *Zonotrichia*, lingered into mid-May in both states. A tardy Fox Sparrow through 18 May in Boone (†Edge Wade) was Missouri's latest ever. A Harris's Sparrow in Linn, IA 23 May (Bill Scheible) was late, as was a White-crowned Sparrow the same day in St. Charles, MO (JWE). Oddly, there were more May reports of Dark-eyed Juncos in Missouri than in Iowa, including a single through the end of the period at Kearney, Clay (Jo Ann Eldridge). Smith's Longspurs are known to be regular spring migrants across the Region, but their secretive habits, short migration window, and preference for open habitats not often visited by birders usually cause them to be underreported. Reports this spring were encouraging. The four Missouri sightings spanned 3 Mar-1 Apr, with a peak of 350 at St. Joseph, Buchanan 3 Mar (MR). The nine+ Iowa reports in the pe-

riod 5 Mar-22 Apr included peaks of 200 on 9-10 Mar in Decatur (†JRL, Nathan Miller) and 120 on 23 Apr at three locations in Kossuth (MCK, PH). Snow Buntings lingered into Mar in both states: 14 Mar at Mazingo L., Nodaway (†DAE) and 17 Mar at Hanlontown Marsh, Worth, IA (ph. PH).

Lazuli Buntings reports included 3 birds in w. Missouri in the period 14-17 May, more than normal; a report from Iowa is under review. A cooperative ad. male Painted Bunting 7 May+ at Brookside Park in Ames, Story (†SSP, KLP, in.ob.) furnished Iowa's 2nd record. The Great-tailed Grackle expansion in the Region seems to have slowed, although increasingly this species is appearing in the e. half of the Region, as indicated by this spring's reports of 5 in e. Missouri and one in e. Iowa. After the lackluster 2005-2006 winter finch flight, it wasn't surprising that few were reported this spring. Purple Finches lingered through late Apr in both states. Iowa had a White-winged Crossbill at Fairmont Cemetery, Scott 8 Mar (WMZ) and a Common Redpoll at Bacon Creek Park, Woodbury 22 Mar (PR). Pine Siskins were also scarce, but the few reports included singles in Holt, MO

through 1 May (TR), in Cerro Gordo, IA 4 May (CJF), and at Cedar Hill, Jefferson, MO 13 May (Wally George).

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The spring 2006 season was one of highly variable weather conditions. While the northern portion of the Region experienced relatively normal rainfall, much of southern Kentucky and Tennessee were quite dry, especially during April. Overall, temperatures were warmer than normal, with an abnormally warm month of April bringing an early onset to spring. In contrast, much of the middle of May was cooler and wetter than normal. The early season warmth resulted in an early emergence of leaves, making for difficult passerine viewing conditions. The cool, wet period in mid-May was severe enough to cause some mortality and nesting failure in several species. Most remarkable was an apparently fairly widespread die-off of Purple Martins across central and western Kentucky. In part due to the lack of early-season flood waters to create habitat, shorebird migration was relatively unspectacular in most areas. Rarity highlights included a Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Gull-billed Tern, and Varied Thrush in Tennessee and a pair of Cinnamon Teal, Swainson's Hawk, and continuing Varied Thrush and Spotted Towhee in Kentucky.

Abbreviations: Barkley Dam (Barkley Dam, *Livingston/Lyon*, KY); Britton Ford (in Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., *Benton*, TN); Ensley (Ensley Bottoms, including the EARTH Complex, in sw. *Shelby*, TN); Kentucky Dam (at n. end of Kentucky L., *Livingston/Marshall*, KY); Kentucky Dam Village (Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park, *Marshall*, KY); Pace Point (Pace Point, Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., *Henry*, TN); Radnor (Radnor L. State Natural Area, *Davidson*, TN); Sauerheber (Sauerheber Unit Sloughs W.M.A., *Henderson*, KY); S. Holston L. (*Sullivan*, TN); Standifer Gap (Standifer Gap Marsh, *Hamilton*, TN).

WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

Overall, waterfowl migration was modest. The only notable peak counts were for ca.

1000 Northern Pintails in w. *Henderson*, KY 1 Mar (CC) and 546 Ruddy Ducks—a new state high count—at L. Peewee, *Hopkins*, KY 26 Mar (AM). Rarities were limited to a Fulvous Whistling-Duck—a very rare vagrant to the Region—in *Robertson*, TN 19 Apr–19 May (MMu, m.ob.) and a pair of Cinnamon Teal at Sauerheber 8 Apr (ph. DR, KOS)—10 Apr (DAy). Two reports of hybrids from Kentucky were of interest: an imm. goose that

exhibited intermediate characters between Ross's and Snow in *Warren*, KY 21 Mar–Apr 20 (ph. DR) and a male teal possessing characters of both Green-winged and Blue-winged, in the company of ca. 6 of the latter at Sauerheber 18 May (BP).

The wintering flock of Tundra Swans at Sauerheber lingered into early Mar, with 7 last reported there 11 Mar (BP, CC). A second-year male Surf Scoter was at Cane Creek Park, *Putnam*, TN 23 May (SJS). A White-winged



This pair of Cinnamon Teal was present in Henderson County, Kentucky 8 (here) through 10 April 2006. Photograph by David Roemer.

Scoter was at S. Holston L. 13 Mar (WC, LaM, CP). The only scoters reported from Kentucky were single female/imm. Black Scoters on the Ohio R., one at *Louisville* 5 Mar (ph. BY, MY), and one near the *Daviess/Hancock* line 6 Mar (DAy). Female Hooded Mergansers with broods in *Boone* (LeM, JC, KaC), *Ohio* (RDn), and *Rowan* (SJS, BSt et al.) all represented first county breeding records in Kentucky.

Tardy waterfowl included a male Gadwall at Kentucky Dam 25 May (DR); a pair of Northern Shovelers at Sauerheber through 19 May (DR); an injured male Northern Pintail at Kentucky Dam through 25 May (DR et al.); a female Ring-necked Duck in *Rowan*, KY 20 May (GR); a female Greater Scaup in w. *Fulton*, KY 5 May (ph. HC et al.); a Bufflehead in *Hamilton*, TN 23 May (KeC, DJ, KW); a female Common Merganser at *Middlebrook L.*, *Sullivan*, TN 21 Mar (RK) and 5 above *Barkley Dam* 25 Mar (BP); and a female Red-

breasted Merganser on the Ohio R., *Campbell*, KY 20 May (FR).

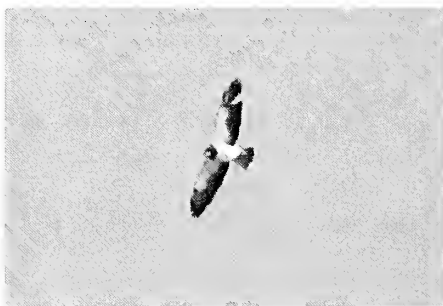
A Red-necked Grebe and 2 Western Grebes were at Pace Point 5 Mar (CS, MWe); the Westerns lingered through at least 9 Mar (MT, MWe) and were likely the same 2 that were originally found at Britton Ford 23 Dec (JRW). One to 2 Red-necked Grebes were at *Owensboro*, *Daviess*, KY 26–29 Mar (ph. SA); one was above *Kentucky Dam* 29 Apr (ph. HC, KOS) through 7 May (JBr, BY, MY), where a Western Grebe was noted 6 May (†JBr). An Eared Grebe at S. Holston L. 30 Apr (RC) was late.

An early Anhinga was unusual away from the Mississippi R. in *Fayette*, TN 30 Mar (RDn). Numbers of northbound Double-crested Cormorants appeared to be reduced in Kentucky this spring. Approximately 600+ American White Pelicans were still on L. Barkley, *Trigg*, KY 3 Mar (KBr). American Bitterns were reported in above-average numbers, mostly from e. Tennessee, with 8 reported from six locations 5 Mar–23 Apr; a count

of 5 at Sauerheber 8 Apr (DR, KOS) represented a new high count for Kentucky. Least Bitterns arrived at Standifer Gap, where they breed in large numbers, 14 Apr (DPa); up to 2 were at *Kyker Bottoms*, *Blount*, TN, where they are unusual, 13 May+ (JeA et al.); and one to 3 were reported from three Kentucky locales in May (BP, DR). Single Tricolored Herons—always rare in the Region but especially in spring—were at *Old Hickory L.*, *Sumner*, TN 1 May (†CG) and *Chickasaw N.W.R.*, *Lauderdale*, TN 21 May (MTOS). A White Ibis was at *Brainerd Levee*, *Hamilton*, TN 27 May (KW).

There were two reports of Glossy Ibis in Tennessee: 6 at Standifer Gap 2 May (DAb, DPa) and 2 at *Chickasaw N.W.R.*, *Lauderdale* 21 May (DPa, MTOS).

Nesting Ospreys continue to return to Kentucky earlier and earlier; this year, birds appeared on L. Barkley, *Trigg* 7 Mar (HC), a new record-early date. Single Mississippi Kites in *Knox*, TN 13 May (SH) and *Monroe*, TN 18 May (WJ) were unusual away from the Mississippi floodplain. An ad. Northern Goshawk, always rare in the Region, was reported from *Blount*, TN 1 Apr (CM et al.). A light-morph ad. Swainson's Hawk at Sauerheber 8 Apr (ph. DR et al.) will become a first confirmed record for Kentucky when accepted by its B.R.C. There were several reports of w. forms of Red-tailed Hawk in Kentucky, the most noteworthy of which were 2 ad. Harlan's Hawks in w. *Hopkins* 12 Mar (ph. BP) and an ad. dark-morph *calurus* over e. *Jefferson* 30 Mar (MMn). A juv. Golden Eagle was found



This light-morph adult Swainson's Hawk over western Henderson County 8 April 2006 provided a long-overdue first confirmed record of the species for Kentucky.

Photograph by David Roemer.

electrocuted in Owen, KY in early Apr (BSn, *fide* BSm). Merlins were reported in much lower numbers than during the previous year in Tennessee, with only 2 reported 3 & 29 Apr; in Kentucky, 4 reported at three locales 1 Mar–7 May (m.ob.) was fairly typical. Peregrine Falcon numbers were average in Tennessee; in Kentucky, only 3 birds were observed in non-breeding areas 10 Apr–11 May (EM, GL, DR).

RAILS THROUGH NIGHTJARS

Kentucky's only King Rail was a bird heard at Sauerheber 8 Apr (DR, KOS). Virginia Rail numbers at Standifer Gap peaked 14 Apr with 5 (DPa). Seven pairs of Virginias were seen/heard at two Muhlenberg, KY sites during May, although the only evidence of nesting that could be found included defensive calling and an empty nest (BP); the species has not been confirmed breeding in the state. A Common Moorhen at Kyker Bottoms, Blount, TN 13–29 May (JW, JeA et al.) was uncommon for the Region; the only reports for Kentucky were at traditional breeding locales in Henderson (CC) and Union (BP). Sandhill Crane migration through the Region was essentially complete by the first week of Mar, the latest being 5 over Laruc, KY 15 Apr (SB, BBC) and one in Daviess, KY 27 Apr (ph. BL).

Shorebird migration was nearly devoid of extremely interesting dates, peak counts, or vagrants. Overall, the migration of most species appeared to be delayed by about a week. Two Baird's Sandpipers at Ensley 31 Mar (MT, JRW) offered further evidence of a small, but apparently annual, early-season movement that occurs prior to a slightly larger peak in late Apr and early May. A Long-billed Dowitcher at Britton Ford 9 Mar (MT) was very early. A few peak counts of interest included 170+ Greater Yellowlegs in w. Fulton, KY 22 Apr (RDn); 113 Solitary Sandpipers, a new state high count, at Chaney L., Warren, KY 19 Apr (DR); ca. 500 Semipalmated Sandpipers in Muhlenberg, KY 29 May (DR, TD); and 234

Dunlins in w. Henderson, KY 19 May (DR).

Black-necked Stilts are rare vagrants away from the Mississippi R., so one in Cumberland, TN 29 Apr (J&AM) was noteworthy. Even more surprising, because of the possibility of breeding, was a pair at Duck River Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., Humphreys, TN 17 Apr and 24 May (ph. CFr). Willet migration was highlighted by a flock of 75 at Ft. Loudoun L., Loudoun, TN 30 Apr (KDE); 18 at Kentucky Dam Village 29 Apr (HC, KOS); and 11 at Reelfoot L., Lake/Obion, TN 8 May (RK). A flock of 20 Marbled Godwits in Muhlenberg 21 Apr (ph. RDn) represented a new high count for Kentucky. Two to 5 Western Sandpipers—generally rare and occurring across only the w. portion of the Region in spring—were reported on three occasions at two w. Kentucky locales 9 Apr–2 May (HC, CC, ph. BP). At least 2 Baird's Sandpipers at Brainerd Levee, Hamilton, TN 17–21 May (BWa, Cfg, JJ, †KC et al.) were noteworthy not only for their presence so far e. but also for so late in the season. One to 2 Wilson's Phalaropes were reported at four Kentucky locales 22 Apr–27 May.

Two to 5 Franklin's Gulls were at Kentucky Dam Village 11–15 May. A Laughing Gull was at Mud L., Shelby, TN 11 Mar (JRW); one to 5 were at Kentucky Dam Village 30 Apr–25 May, with one and 3 at the Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson, KY 1 (BY, MY) & 24 May (ph. AG, BE), respectively. The season's last Thayer's Gull was a first-year bird at Barkley Dam 15 Mar



These Marbled Godwits were part of a flock of 20 in southeastern Muhlenberg County, Kentucky 21 April 2006—a new record high count for the state. Photograph by Roseanna Denton.

(DR), while the latest Lesser Black-backed Gull was an ad. above Kentucky Dam 25 Mar (BP). Two Caspian Terns on L. Barkley, Lyon 25 Mar (BY, MY, BP) established another new early record for Kentucky. An exceptional fall-out of medium-sized terns occurred in the vicinity of Kentucky Dam 11 May, with 800–1000 Forster's/Commons at Kentucky Dam Village marina 11 May (BY, MY) and peak species counts in the immediate vicinity that day of 400+ Forster's (DR) and 280 Com-

mons (BP), both representing new state high counts. Small numbers of Black Terns were noted at scattered Kentucky locales 30 Apr–25 May. An ad. Gull-billed Tern at Kingston Steam Plant, Roane, TN 26–27 May (†TW, JC) furnished the Region's 3rd record.

Three Black-billed Cuckoos were reported from three middle and w. Tennessee counties 3–17 May; in Kentucky, one to 2 were reported at 11 locales 28 Apr–26 May. Extraordinarily early was a flightless hatchling Eastern Screech-Owl turned in to a raptor rehabilitator 19 Mar (JH); the bird originated from Campbell, KY and likely hatched around 1 Mar (*fide* JH). A pair of Great Horned Owls successfully nested in a Great Blue Heron heronry in Kingsport, Sullivan, TN (MK, m.ob.); perhaps understandably, the herons did not occupy any nests within 15–20 m of the owl nest. A few Short-eared Owls lingered through 18 Mar in Bledsoe, TN (m.ob.) and 2 Apr in Greene, TN (BBR, m.ob.). Single Chuck-will's-widows in Hickman, TN (MD) and Jackson, TN (NSL) 14 Apr were unusually early.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from e. Tennessee in above-average numbers; one to 2 were reported from four Kentucky locales 19–26 May (MWa, DR, RDv, BP). An Alder Flycatcher was at Shelby Bottoms, Nashville, TN 14 May (TW, JC); one to 5 were reported at eight locales 14–27 May in Kentucky. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers made their usual mid-May

push, with 3 reported from three locations across Tennessee 13–18 May; in Kentucky, one to 3 were reported at eight locales 14–27 May. A Western Kingbird was at Eagle Lake W.M.A., Shelby, TN 12–13 May (ViR, DPr). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers returned to now-annual nesting locations in Rutherford, TN 20 Apr (JC), Livingston, KY 29 Apr (HC, KOS), and Marion, TN 27 May (D&GH). Three were in Clifton, Wayne, TN 12 Apr (JM); singles were also reported in nw. Bourbon, KY 19 Apr



This adult Harris's Sparrow, one of four in the Tennessee & Kentucky region in spring 2006, was present in Bledsoe County, Tennessee 22 (here 27) April through 1 May 2006. Photograph by Bob Steffy.

(†MH, PK) and in Shelby, TN 11 May (JL).

A White-eyed Vireo in Hamilton, TN 6 Mar (KeC) likely represented a wintering bird. A Bell's Vireo returned to Black Bayou W.M.A., Lake, TN 7 May (RK); the species was first reported in Kentucky in Muhlenberg 26 Apr (DR). Eight Blue-headed Vireos in McCreary 13 Mar (RDn) represented yet another in a regular progression of new early arrival dates for the species in Kentucky over the past 40 years. A Philadelphia Vireo was extraordinarily early in Calloway, KY 18 Apr (KCo). Fish Crows continue to expand northward along the Tennessee R. in e. Tennessee, with reports coming from Knox, Blount, and Loudoun. A Common Raven carrying food in Hawkins, TN could represent a first county nesting record (RP); one in Polk, TN 15 Mar (LL) was a first county record since 1900.

The cool, rainy period in mid-May resulted in many reports of Purple Martin mortality in cen. and w. parts of Kentucky (*vide DW*). A Northern Rough-winged Swallow at Shelby Bottoms, Nashville 6 Mar (PC) and a Barn Swallow at Shelby Farms, Memphis 8 Mar (WRP) were record early for middle and w. Tennessee, respectively. Cliff Swallows at Barkley Dam 14 Mar (DR) were early for Kentucky. Several territorial Red-breasted Nuthatches were observed at or relatively near to the traditional Wolfe, KY breeding location in Apr (FR, VeR, BP); the latest bird in a non-breeding area was one in Madison, KY 7 May (SM, RB). A Bewick's Wren was in Rutherford, TN, which hosts a small population of this species, 13 May (TW); the species went unreported in Kentucky. Single Sedge Wrens in Ballard, KY 24 Mar (BP) and Muhlenberg, KY 26 Mar (BY, MY) were likely lingering winterers. Marsh Wrens were barely noted in Tennessee, but there were several reports from Kentucky, including 5 birds in Mar that were suggestive of lingering winterers. Thrush migration reached a very pronounced peak dur-

ing the first week of May, when an above-average fallout occurred across cen. and w. Kentucky. A single Hermit Thrush in Boone 20 May (LeM) was extraordinarily late for Kentucky. Louisville's female Varied Thrush was last seen 25 Mar (ph. D&CP); a male was in Weakley, TN 2 Apr (†DPI).

Warbler migration seemed unremarkable overall, perhaps at least in part a result of the early leaf-out. A Kentucky Warbler at Radnor 9 Apr (KBo) and a Yellow-breasted Chat in Putnam, TN 14 Apr (MO) were

both early. A Worm-eating Warbler in Lyon 5 Apr (JBe, PB et al.) and a Louisiana Waterthrush in Calloway 16 Mar (HC) both represented new early arrival dates for Kentucky. Golden-winged Warblers put in a better-than-average showing in Kentucky for the first time in several years. A male Black-throated Blue Warbler at Reelfoot L., Lake, TN 5 May (NM) was unusual for the far w. portion of the Region. Connecticut Warblers passed through in average numbers; Mourning Warblers were reported in numbers much higher than average from e. Tennessee. A Summer Tanager in Nashville, TN 7 Apr (JaA) tied the early date for the local area; a Scarlet Tanager



This male Painted Bunting in Cumberland County, Kentucky 26 May 2006 provided the state with only its second photographically documented record. Photograph from videotape by Gary Thompson.

in Linden, Perry, TN 1 Apr (AV) was also unusually early.

The male Spotted Towhee that wintered in ne. Hart, KY was last reported 24 Apr (MF, BBa). A Clay-colored Sparrow—still quite rare in the Region—was seen in Barren, KY 10 May (†DR). A Vesper Sparrow in w. Fulton, KY 26 May (BP) was extraordinarily late. Henslow's Sparrows are dramatically increasing as a breeding species in Tennessee; individuals in Maury 20 May (TE) and Washington 22 May (TM et al.) may represent the start of new colonies. A Henslow's in Jefferson 17

Mar (BP) represented a new early arrival date for Kentucky. A Le Conte's Sparrow reported at Chickasaw N.W.R., Lauderdale, TN 21 May (DPr, MTOS) would represent a record-late date for the state; the only one in Kentucky was a migrant in Jefferson 10-11 Apr (BP). Again this year, White-throated Sparrows lingered through the end of the period in Kentucky, with singles in Lee (BP) and Jefferson (BWo) 31 May. Four Harris's Sparrows were reported: singles in Bath, KY 5 Mar (CV); Bledsoe, TN 22 Apr-1 May (RS, m.ob.); Daviess, KY through 6 May (ph. BL); and Union, TN on the extraordinarily late date of 29 May (S&RS). The latest Lapland Longpurs were at least 3 in Henderson, KY 31 Mar (BP).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks have been known to visit feeders in the Region for many years, but this year they visited yards in unprecedented numbers, mostly during early May. A male Painted Bunting visited a Cumberland, KY yard 26 May (vt. GT) and will represent Kentucky's 2nd fully documented record. Bobolink numbers appeared to be below average. The only Western Meadowlarks reported were one to 2 in w. Fulton, KY 14 & 26 Mar (DR & BY, MY). A Rusty Blackbird in Greenup 20 May (SF, EKBC) represented a new late departure date for Kentucky. A flock of 12-20 Brewer's Blackbirds in Greene, TN 11 Mar-9 Apr (DM et al.) was noteworthy for far e. Tennessee (the species is rare outside of the w. part of the Region). In Kentucky, 2-15 were reported from three locales 31 Mar-12 Apr (BP, DR). A Purple Finch with conjunctivitis lingered in Putnam, TN through at least 5 May (SJS); in some parts of Kentucky, late-winter numbers continued to build into Mar, with a peak count of 80+ in Hart 25 Mar (SK); the latest report was for one in se. Jefferson 16 May (AL, *vide BWo*). After a poor winter showing, a few migrant Pine Siskins were present in Apr, with one lingering in Elliott, KY through 2 May (EM).

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Central Southern



Phillip A. Wallace

Greg Jackson reported that Alabama had a dry spring with few fronts, resulting in a slow season for birding. In Louisiana, by contrast, the fronts coincided with weekends, so birders viewed the spring migration along the coast as better than usual. One very late front in southwestern Louisiana 29 May provided Patton the opportunity to establish some late dates for migrants in that state. With no pelagic trips out of Louisiana because of the destruction of the ports by Hurricane *Katrina* (and western Florida reports now submitted to the Florida Region), there were no reports of true pelagic species for the first time in years.

WATERFOWL THROUGH GALLINULES

A count of 2500 Northern Shovelers, an excellent number, was tallied at Lacassine N.W.R., LA 4 Mar (JPK, JK, KF). Late water-

fowl included 2 Greater Scaup 16 May in *Jefferson Davis*, LA (JVR, REG, EJ) and a Surf Scoter 13 May *Oktibbeha*, MS (TS, MS). A single White-winged, rarest of the three scoter species in the Region, was seen 25 Mar at L. Dardenelle, AR (K&LN), which also hosted a Pacific Loon 3–17 Mar (ph. DS, DB, K&LN). Another Pacific Loon was in *Tishomingo*, MS 24 Mar (ph. WRP). American White Pelicans are rare in the mt. region of Alabama, so a report of 175 at L. Martin 12 May (ph. MMi) was noteworthy. Inland Brown Pelicans included an imm. at Millwood L., AR 15–22 Apr (ph. CM) and 6 at L. Logan Martin, AL 27 May (JHL, WR). A report of 6 Magnificent Frigatebirds at L. Pontchartrain, LA 30 Apr (REG, SCI, PB) was unusual in the absence of tropical weather. A Wood Stork was early at Noxubee N.W.R., MS 6 May (TS, MS); the species normally arrives in the area no earlier than mid-Jun.

There were two reports of White-tailed Kite, one from Baton Rouge 15 Apr (DL) and one from *Monroe*, AR 16 Mar (WHH). An early Mississippi Kite was at St. Gabriel, LA 11 Mar (DLD), and a late Northern Harrier was in *Jackson*, AR 15 May (DB, MA). Of three reports of Swainson's Hawk from Louisiana, the earliest was from *Vermilion* 25 Mar (REG, JVR, BJO, CL). A count of 54 Red-tailed Hawks in the rice fields of sw. Louisiana 4 Mar provided a good number (JPK, JK, KF). Another late raptor was a Peregrine Falcon 16 May in *Calcasieu*, LA (JVR, REG). A count of 70+ Purple Gallinules 3 May at Lacassine N.W.R. was noteworthy for Louisiana (JH, MJM).

SHOREBIRDS

Two ad. male Snowy Plovers behaving in a

territorial manner were found 21 Apr w. of Holly Beach, LA, near where a nest was found in 2005 (SWC, DLD, PEC), and an ad. male 28 Mar in *Prairie*, AR (KN, DB) provided the 4th state record. There were several reports of Hudsonian Godwit farther e. than usual in Arkansas, including a report of 20 in *Prairie* 17 May (DB, MA). In Louisiana, a Hudsonian on Grand I. 30 Apr (ph. DLD, SWC) was extremely unusual, and a count of 89 in *Calcasieu* 13 May (PEC, RDP, PAW, DPM) was noteworthy. White-rumped Sandpipers maxed out at 150 in sw. Louisiana 13 May (RDP, PEC, PAW, DPM) and 300 at Craig Fish Hatchery, AR 19 May (MM et al.). Farther e., 14 White-rumped 8 May (DJS) near Florence tied the maximum for the Tennessee Valley region of Alabama. A count of 275 Buff-breasted Sandpipers 1 Apr in *Vermilion*, LA (JB, DBo, JS) provided the 2nd highest count ever for the state, and one at Craig Fish Hatchery 27 May (JN, MM) provided the latest ever spring record for Arkansas. A report of a Ruff, rare in the Region, came from *Jefferson Davis*, LA 20 Apr (tJPK, JG). A significant grounding of shorebirds at Grand I., LA 30 Apr (SWC, DLD) included 2000 Short-billed Dowitchers. Not to be outdone, 2000 Long-billed Dowitchers showed up at Lacassine N.W.R., LA 4 Mar (JPK, JK, KF). A very early, or possibly wintering, Wilson's Phalarope was also at Lacassine N.W.R. 12 Mar (DLD, SWC, BMM et al.).

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Franklin's Gulls were a little farther e. than usual, with two reports from e. Arkansas and one from Guntersville, AL 17 Apr (LBR). An imm. Great Black-backed Gull at Dauphin I.

15 Apr (JRW, SWM, m.ob.) was a good find. Alabama got a new inland spring maximum for Forster's Tern when 95 were tallied 14 May at Decatur (GDJ, DGJ). Two Least Terns at Grand I. 12 Mar (DBO, JB) were very early, as were 5 Black Terns on the same day in *Cameron* (SWC, PAW, PEC et al.).

The bird of the season was a White-crowned Pigeon discovered and identified by Lillie Easterling at her feeder in coastal Gautier, MS 29 Apr. This is the first for the state, and the Region, although there are records from the panhandle of Florida. After delighting many birders, this well-documented bird was last seen 10 May. A more quotidian White-winged Dove at Guin 4–5 Apr (DW, *fide* JJ) provided only the 3rd record for the mt. region of Alabama. Good counts of Common Nighthawks were 110+ at Baton Rouge 11 May (REG) and 75–100 at Magnolia, AR 23–25 May (SC). Neal reported 32 nesting attempts by Red-cockaded Woodpeckers at Ouachita N.F., AR this spring, the most since records have been maintained at the location.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH MIMIDS

Late Eastern Wood-Pewees included 6 from coastal *Cameron* 29 May (DP). There were numerous reports of Western Kingbirds from Arkansas and from the coast, including 2 at Ft. Morgan, AL 11 May in the extreme e. edge of the Region (RAD, LRD, BT, BMM). Lacasine N.W.R., LA hosted 3 early Eastern Kingbirds 12 Mar (DLD, SWC, BMM et al.), and a count of 1000 Easterns in Yell, AR 14 May (K&LN) was astounding! There were up to 2 Gray Kingbirds at Grand I. 22 Apr–6 May (vt. PAW, BMM, DPM, CCS et al.) and 3 at Ft. Morgan, AL, where the species has been rare since 1997, 6–11 May (RAD et al.).

Red-eyed Vireos made a good showing at Grand I., with 150 tallied 22 Apr (PAW, CCS, DPM), and a single Black-whiskered Vireo was there 29 Apr (†JB). Cliff Swallows were early, with 6 in *Tishomingo*, MS 10 Mar (WRP) and one at Dauphin I. 11 Mar (RAD, LRD, BT). The Sargents had the luxury of viewing a Cave Swallow in hand when they banded one at Ft. Morgan 8 Apr (RRS, ph. MBS, DBE, FB, m.ob.). Expert opinion will be solicited to determine the subspecies, but measurements indicate that the bird is one of the smaller Caribbean-basin subspecies rather than *pelodoma*. Another Cave Swallow was seen just across Mobile Bay at Dauphin I. 28 Apr (JFP). A Rock Wren from the winter season was last seen at Millwood L., AR 26 Mar (CM). Gray Catbirds must have been crossing the Gulf in large numbers at the end of Apr, with counts of 240 and 308 on Grand

I. 26 Apr (DPM) and 30 Apr (SWC, DLD), respectively.

WARBLERS

Up to 2 Golden-winged Warblers were in *Craighead*, AR 30 Apr–2 May (DB et al.), and one was seen in *Oktibbeha*, MS 13 May (TS). Two Blue-winged Warbler × Golden-winged Warbler hybrids were reported from *Caddo*, LA 23 Apr (TD). A Nashville Warbler at Ft. Morgan 31 Mar (RRS, MBS) was early and unusual on the coast for this circum-Gulf migrant, while one at Mt. Sequoyah, AR 18 May (MM) was late. In addition, 5 Nashvilles 3 May at Monte Sano S.P. (JMH) provided a new spring maximum for Alabama. There were three reports of the normally more easterly Cape May Warbler from Arkansas, with the westernmost from Millwood L. 30 Apr (CM). From extreme nw. Louisiana came reports of a late Yellow-rumped Warbler and a late Black-throated Green 31 May (TD). Alabama's first Townsend's Warbler, pending acceptance, was reported from Dauphin I. 8 Apr (HEH, SW, CMc). After the initial five-minute observation, the bird could not be relocated. Prairie Warblers, rare on the coast in spring, were reported from Grand I. 22 Apr (CCS) and 30 Apr (DLD, SWC). A Blackpoll Warbler at Dauphin I. 8 Apr (BM) was early. Cerulean Warbler, a species of concern, was more widely reported than usual this spring. Most reports were of single birds, but a report of 11 from *Craighead Forest Park*, AR 29 Apr (DB) was amazing for recent years. Three late American Redstarts were grounded by a storm in coastal *Cameron* 29 May (DP). Schiefer's survey of the seven-county area around Starkville during the season produced 15 territorial Swainson's Warblers, another species of concern. A late Ovenbird was singing in Lafayette, LA 30 May (DP), and a report of 30 Northern Waterthrushes 26 Apr at Grand I. (DPM) provided a noteworthy number. There were three reports of Mourning Warbler 15–21 May in *Jackson*, AL (BH, ECS et al.), where the species is rare but regular. Another late migrant was a Canada Warbler in *Caddo*, LA 31 May (TD).

TANAGERS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

Scarlet Tanagers put in a good showing at Grand I. this spring: 125 were reported 22 Apr (PAW, CCS, DPM) and 83 on 26 Apr (DPM); an orange variant was at the same location 29 Apr (vt. PAW, BMM, CCS). A Western Tanager, rare in the Region, was reported from *Cameron* 3 May (†GJP, ph. MTP). There was one report of Clay-colored Sparrow from Louisiana in *Bossier* 26 Apr (TD) and several from Arkansas, with a maximum of 9 in *Washington* 14 May (JN et al.). The species is

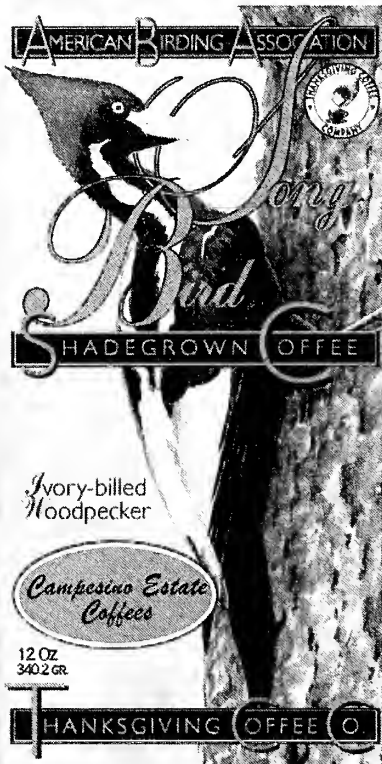
a rare spring migrant in the Region. Henslow's Sparrow, a rare and local breeder in Arkansas, was represented by up to 6 singing males in *Fulton* 22 May+ (DB). An extremely late Dark-eyed Junco was in *Cameron* 13 May (DPM). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks showed up in good numbers at Grand I. this spring, with counts of 150 on 22 Apr, 143 on 26 Apr, and 90 on 30 Apr (PAW, CCS, DPM, BMM). Another was very late in *Cameron* 29 May (DP).

A brief single-observer sighting of a Lazuli Bunting in *Caddo* 28 Apr (†TD) was exciting, and another in *Newton*, AR 15–17 May (LM, JSt, ph. SJG) provided about the 6th state record. Up to 200 Indigo Buntings at Grand I. 22 Apr (CCS, DPM, PAW) were noteworthy. There were two reports of Shiny Cowbird, one from Grand I. 30 Apr (†DBO) and one from Ft. Morgan 7 May (RAD et al.). Last but not least was a report of a Lesser Goldfinch at Rogers, AR 17 May (ph. AB); it furnished the 2nd record for the state and the first of the black-backed subspecies.

Initialed Observers (subregional editors in boldface): Marcus Asher, Fred Bassett, Dick Baxter, Phred Benham, Duane Berger (DBE), Devin Bosler (DBO), Justin Bosler, Alan Bowers, Sharon Carter, Santiago Claramunt (SCI), Paul E. Conover, Terry Davis, Donna L. Dittmann, Robert A. Duncan, Lucy R. Duncan, Karen Fay, Richard E. Gibbons, Sally Jo Gibson, J. Guillory, Bert Harris, J. Milton Harris, Howard E. Horne, William H. Howe, Jay Huner, John H. Imhof, Debra G. Jackson, Greg D. Jackson (Alabama), Erik Johnson, Jud Johnson, Joe P. Kleiman (Louisiana), Joanne Kleiman, Dan Lane, Charlie Lyon, Steve W. McConnell, Cindy McDonald (CMc), Bailey McKay, Lessia Marshall-Rosenberger, Melissa Middlebrooks (MMi), Charles Mills, Mike Mlodinow, Mike J. Musemeche, David P. Muth, B. Mac. Myers, Joe Neal, Kenny & LaDonna Nichols, Brian J. O'Shea, Max Parker (Arkansas), Wayne R. Patterson, Dave Patton, Gary J. Pontiff, Matthew T. Pontiff, John F. Porter, R. Dan Purrington, William Ratliff, J. Van Remson, L.B. Reynolds, Martha B. Sargent, Robert R. Sargent, Jacob Saucier, Dan Scheiman, Marion Schiefer, Terence Schiefer (Mississippi), Damien J. Simbeck, Eric C. Soehren, Curt C. Sorrells, Jack Stewart (JSt), Betsy Tetlow, Phillip A. Wallace, Sarah Whitfield, Jeff R. Wilson, Don Woolridge. I received many more reports than I could include, and I would like to thank those observers whom I could not cite specifically. 🌱

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Cameron D. Eckert

Spring is the season for birders in Northern Canada: reports from observers throughout the Region this spring were full of the profound excitement that greets the wave of avian diversity that washes over the north country. In the Yukon, the weather folks described the spring as "average," but to most Yukoners, it felt cold. However, deep and lingering snow in the alpine areas and a few spring blizzards produced excellent birding. In Northwest Territories, after the warmest winter on record, spring ended up having slightly below-normal temperatures in March in the Mackenzie Valley; April and May temperatures averaged slightly above normal. Precipitation was above average in the southern half of the Northwest Territories for the entire period. Arrival dates of some early migrants may have been slightly later than average, but some later species seemed a bit early.

WATERFOWL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

In s. Yukon, unusually high numbers of Greater White-fronted and Cackling Geese, and numerous flocks of Snow Geese, were noted through the season (m.ob.). The Yukon's long-awaited first Ross's Goose, an ad., was with 16 Snow Geese at Shallow Bay 4-11 May (ph. CE, m.ob.). A single Brant at Shallow Bay, s. Yukon 15 May (ph. CE) was record early; as usual, small flocks were seen at various wetlands in the Whitehorse area through late May (m.ob.). In Northwest Territories, the first report of Snow Goose was a flock of 28 at Ft. Simpson 30 Apr (DT). Both Snow and Greater White-fronted Geese were seen at Norman Wells, NWT 1 May (BL). A white goose lingering in Ft. Simpson 10-24 May (EC, vt. DT, m.ob.) caused much local interest; it was found to be a first-year Snow Goose. In Nunavut, the first Canada Goose reports from the Baffin region were flocks of

about 20 birds at Frobisher Bay 1 May and Iqaluit 7 May (MM). At Arviat, Nunavut, the first big movement of Canada and Snow Geese was noted 11 May (LJS). At M'Clintock Bay, s. Yukon, swan numbers peaked 20 Apr at 1001 Trumpeters and 515 Tundras (JJ). A female *Anas* that mostly resembled American Black Duck at Shallow Bay, s. Yukon 5 May appeared to have some genetic material from Mallard (ph. CE); there is as yet no accepted record of an American Black Duck in the Yukon. A male Mallard x Northern Pintail hybrid was at Judas Cr., s.

Yukon 24 May (JH et al.). Eurasian Teal sightings, all of single males in s. Yukon, came from Shallow Bay 7 May (BD, HG, YS), M'Clintock Bay 13 May (CE), and Tagish 17 May (CE, JJ). In Northwest Territories, Long-tailed Ducks and Surf Scoters were present in large numbers on the Mackenzie R. near the Liard R. mouth during the last week of May (JB). An outing in search of Blue Grouse at Montana Mt. near Carcross, s. Yukon 28 Apr was successful, with 5 seen (DK et al.).

Two Horned Grebes were feeding on a very small, ice-free pond 9 May near Rabbitkettle L., Nahanni National Park Reserve (ph. DT, SCam), and a Red-necked Grebe was heard there 16 May (DT, SCam), despite there being only a small fringe of open water present. A Sharp-shinned Hawk was observed taking juncos from a feeder in Norman Wells, NWT 30 Apr (RPo). Feeder-hunting was also observed in Ft. Simpson, NWT, where a Merlin succeeded in taking Snow Buntings 26 Apr and 4 May (HP, DT). A fantastic shorebird migration in the Whitehorse area, s. Yukon in May yielded an impressive 30 species. A sensational late-May fallout at Judas Cr., s. Yukon provided a remarkable opportunity to hear the bizarre songs of high Arctic breeders such as Stilt and White-rumped Sandpipers and Red Knot, and Buff-breasted Sandpipers were seen doing their frenetic trance-like breeding displays. Southern Yukon shorebird highlights included 9 Pacific Golden-Plovers during 5-20 May at Shallow Bay, M'Clintock Bay, and Carcross (CE); a loose flock of 26 Spotted Sandpipers at Lewes Marsh 20 May (CE, PS); a Ruddy Turnstone at Shallow Bay 14 May (CE); 3 Red Knots at Judas Cr. 30 May-2 Jun (ph. CE, PS, DM); 600 Semipalmated and 900 Pectoral Sandpipers at Judas Cr. 29 May (CE); higher-than-normal numbers of White-rumped Sandpipers, with high counts of 6 on 29 & 31 May at Judas Cr (ph. CE, PS); above-average counts of Stilt Sandpipers, such as 19 at Shallow Bay 28 May and 12 at Judas Cr. 29

May (ph. CE); 4 Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Judas Cr. 29 May, 9 there 30 May (ph. CE), and 6 at the Whitehorse airport 31 May (WN); and a high count of 25 Wilson's Phalaropes at Swan L. 24 May (HG). A Hudsonian Godwit, rare in sw. Yukon, was at Haines Junction 6-7 May (CD, LD, ph. JB). Two leucistic shorebird species seen in s. Yukon this spring were a Semipalmated Sandpiper at Tagish 17 May (CE, JJ) and a Pectoral Sandpiper at Judas Cr. 29 May (ph. CE). In Northwest Territories, single Black-bellied Plovers were seen along with the more common migrant American Golden-Plovers at Norman Wells 27 May (DW) and Colville L. 29 May (SD). Shorebird surveys along the Mackenzie R., NWT in late May suggest it is a good year for breeding boreal shorebirds; Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpipers, and Wilson's Snipe were all found to be common and widespread (VJ). Shorebird highlights from Northwest Territories included 5 Upland Sandpipers near Wrigley 23 May (VJ); migrant Whimbrels including one at Ft. Simpson 22 May (NL, RPi, HP, DT), 2 there 24 May (DT), and 3 at Norman Wells 24 May (RPo); 2 Hudsonian Godwits at Ft. Simpson 22 May (DT), one at Tulita 22 May (VJ), and one at Colville L. 30 May (OB); 6 White-rumped Sandpipers along the Mackenzie R. s. of Tulita 22 May (VJ); 3 Stilt Sandpipers at Colville L. 28-29 May (OB, SD); 2 Buff-breasted Sandpipers at the Ft. Simpson airport 24 May (DT, SCat), and 2 at Norman Wells airport, which had an unfortunate collision with a jet 29 May (RPo); up to 2 Short-billed Dowitchers (*hendersoni*) at Colville L. 28-31 May (SD, OB, CS); and a flock of 100 Red-necked Phalaropes on the Norman Wells sewage lagoons 22 May (VJ).

GULLS THROUGH FINCHES

A wet blizzard in the Whitehorse area, s. Yukon on 13 May grounded high numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls: 2000 at M'Clintock Bay (CE), 760 at the Whitehorse sewage ponds (HG), and 1000 at Carcross (CE). Mew Gulls staged a strong migration in s. Yukon, with flocks of 2000 at Shallow Bay 11 May (CE, PS), 800 at M'Clintock Bay 13 May (CE), 1000 at Carcross 13 May (CE), and 620 on the Yukon R. in Whitehorse 13 May (MB). A nest-building pair of Ring-billed Gulls in Whitehorse, s. Yukon 19 May (ph. CE, PS) provided the first sign of breeding in the territory; however, the nest was not successful. The first gull reported in Ft. Simpson, Northwest Territories was a Ring-billed Gull 21 Apr (DT). Herring Gull migration peaked in s. Yukon in late Apr, with high counts of 850 at M'Clintock Bay 19-20 Apr (JJ) and 2000 at the Whitehorse landfill 26 Apr (CE). Glau-

cous-winged Gulls were thin this spring in s. Yukon; a first-year bird was in Whitehorse 25 Apr (ph. CE); and another was in Carcross 2 May (CE). The first Glaucous Gulls (200) arrived at Iqaluit, Nunavut around 7 May (MM); a high count of 30 Glaucous Gulls was made at Colville L., NWT 28 May (OB, SD, CS). Arctic Tern migration was still underway late in the season, with 150 on Marsh L., s. Yukon 29 May (CE).

A single Snowy Owl was noted at Arviat, Nunavut 12 May, and 2 were there 24 May (LJS). Uncommon in the Region were a Barred Owl calling at Ft. Simpson, NWT 3-4 Apr (LMC, DT) and a Long-eared Owl on the Ft. Simpson, NWT owl survey 22 Apr (DT). Five Short-eared Owls were noted between Haines Junction and Beaver Creek, sw. Yukon 18 Apr (KA). A Boreal Owl was spotted in a front-yard spruce tree in Ft. Simpson, NWT 22 Mar (JR, DT); this was the most common species on the local owl survey, with 3 heard 22 Apr (DT). Casual in s. Yukon was a Northern Saw-whet Owl heard near Marsh L. 12 Apr (JJ). A pair of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers at Dawson, cen. Yukon 24 Apr+ (ph. FB, PB) was at the edge of the species' range. Two Red-breasted Sapsuckers frequented a suet feeder at Haines Junction, sw. Yukon 3-9 Apr (ph. RJ). Observations of sapsuckers at Shallow Bay, s. Yukon during May found that Yellow-bellied Sapsucker × Red-breasted Sapsucker hybrids were far more frequent than pure Yellow-bellieds (ph. CE). A female American Three-toed Woodpecker with a pale bill was a curious sight at M'Clintock Bay, s. Yukon 17 May (ph. CE, JJ). A Northern Flicker at Ft. Simpson, NWT 29 Mar (NL) was early. A Pileated Woodpecker seen 2 Mar at km 765 of the Mackenzie Hwy., n. of Wrigley (SCat), was beyond its typical range.

Four Eastern Kingbirds at Norman Wells, NWT 31 May (RPO) were at the n. edge of their range. An Eastern Phoebe banded at Teslin, s. Yukon 27 May (ph. BS, JH, WN) provided the first local record. Rare at Norman Wells, NWT were a Blue-headed Vireo 24 May and an American Crow 3 May (DW). In s. Yukon, heavy snow conditions in alpine ar-

reas resulted in high numbers of migrant Horned Larks in the lowlands (m.ob.). Very unusual was an apparent Boreal Chickadee × Mountain Chickadee hybrid banded at Teslin, s. Yukon 20 May (ph. BS). In Northwest Territories, Mountain Bluebird reports included one s. of Enterprise 6 Apr (RPi), one at N'Dulee Crossing 10 Apr (NL, DA), and 2 at Liard R. crossing 13 Apr (SCat, MC). Bohemian Waxwings were common in late Apr and early May at Rabbitkettle L. (KS, MC, DT, SCam); 170 were seen there 9 May.

The two Yukon banding stations provided a concise account of warbler migration; the most common warblers at Albert Creek banding station, se. Yukon during 22 Apr-4 Jun (TMK) were: Wilson's Warbler (387), Yellow-rumped Warbler (364), Yellow Warbler (306), Orange-crowned Warbler (214), Northern Waterthrush (89), Blackpoll Warbler (62), and Tennessee Warbler (53). At Teslin, the most common warblers 22 Apr-11 Jun (BS) were Yellow-rumped (63), Wilson's (54), Yellow (50), Orange-crowned (25), and Blackpoll (21), followed by Northern Waterthrush (14). A second-year male Black-and-white Warbler banded at Albert Cr. 21 May provided the 3rd record for the station (TMK); one was at Norman Wells, NWT 23 May (DW). In Northwest Territories, warbler migration was in full swing 12 May, when 55 Orange-crowned and 140 Yellow-rumped Warblers were counted passing through the Rabbitkettle L. area (DT, SCam).

An American Tree Sparrow at Mayo, cen. Yukon 8 Apr was early (MOD). A Sooty Fox Sparrow frequenting a Whitehorse feeder 22-23 Apr (ph. CE, PS) provided the Yukon's first record away from its limited breeding grounds in the Coast Mountains. Golden-crowned Sparrow is rare e. of the mts. in Northwest Territories; one at a feeder 2 May (ph. DW, RPO) furnished Norman Wells' first record. The first Harris's Sparrow arrived at Arviat, Nunavut 14 May (LJS); the species was found to be locally common around Colville L., NWT in May (OB). Several thousand Dark-eyed Juncos flocked to feeders in Norman Wells, NWT during a snowstorm 29 Apr (RPO, m.ob.);

among these was a leucistic individual that stayed until at least 2 May (vt. DW, ph. RPO). A male Oregon Junco frequented a Whitehorse-area feeder 25 Apr+ (LK, JH, BD, HG). Massive flocks of thousands of Lapland Longspurs were seen in the Shallow Bay area, Yukon 4-5 May (CE; BD, HG). Small flocks of Snow Buntings were in Iqaluit, Nunavut by 10 Apr (MM). A male Brewer's Blackbird at M'Clintock Bay 13 Apr (JJ) provided the Yukon's only report this season. In Northwest Territories, Rusty Blackbird arrivals included one on 23 Apr in Ft. Simpson (DT) and 2 in Norman Wells 29 Apr (RPO). A Common Grackle was at Norman Wells, NWT 5 May (RPO). A flock of up to 80 Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches were noted in Dawson, cen. Yukon 9 Apr (ML, JF). A male Purple Finch at Mayo, cen. Yukon 29-30 Apr provided a first local record (MOD). Numerous newly fledged Common Redpolls seen from Whitehorse, s. Yukon e. to Ft. Simpson, NWT 6 May+ were indicative of widespread breeding in lowland areas as a result of the heavy snow conditions in the sub-alpine areas this spring.

Contributors (subregional editor in bold-face): Danny Allaire, Ken Anderson, Jeff Ball, Olivier Barden, Julie Bauer, Fred Berger, Palma Berger, Malkolm Boothroyd, Scott Cameron, Steve Catto, Edward Cholo, Marcel Cholo, Samuel Denault, Wilson Dimsdale, Boris Dobrowolsky, Claude DuLac, Libby DuLac, Cameron Eckert, Jack Fraser, Helmut Grünberg, Jim Hawkings, Jim Hyash, Jukka Jantunen, Vicky Johnston, Rita Jux, Dan Kemble, Lee Kirkpatrick, Nic Larter, Maria Ledergerber, Benji Louison, Mark Mallory, Doug McRae, Lauren Muir-Cressman, Ted Murphy-Kelly, Wendy Nixon, Mark O'Donoghue, Heather Passmore, Roger Pilling, Richard Popko, John Renaud, Carl Savignac, Ben Schonewille, Pam Sinclair, Yammy Stote, Douglas Tate (Northwest Territories), Lisa-Jo van den Scott, Dave Wilderspin. 🌐

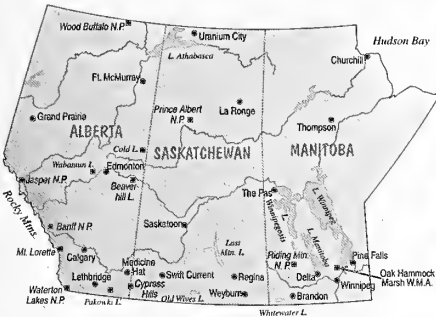
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Rudolf F. Koes | Peter Taylor

Temperatures in March and April ranged from cool in the west (Alberta) to well above normal in the east (Manitoba). Accordingly, nesting activity for waterfowl was delayed in the west but early in the east. In the latter province, trees leafed out weeks ahead of schedule. Regionwide, observers lamented the general lack of migrants, with shorebirds, flycatchers, vireos, *Catharus* thrushes, and *Zonotrichia* sparrows being particularly scarce. It was thought (or hoped!) that placid weather conditions allowed the birds to fly over, without having to drop in at traditional stopover areas.

On the positive side, both Alberta and Manitoba birders were treated to a host of extreme rarities, including at least three new species for the Region (pending review by provincial records committees).

Abbreviations: Ft. Whyte (Fort Whyte Centre, Winnipeg, MB); Oak Hammock (Oak Hammock Marsh W.M.A., MB); Wascana (Wascana L. and Marsh, Regina, SK); White-water (Whitewater Lake W.M.A., MB).

GEESE THROUGH DIURNAL RAPTORS

Snow and Ross's Geese were almost completely absent in se. Manitoba, reflecting a major westward shift in their migration path during the past few years. Up to 5 Trumpeter Swans were in the Pinawa, MB vicinity 6-30 May (PT, m.ob.). There were 12+ reports of Eurasian Wigeon in Alberta, involving 16 birds, 24 Mar-10 May (TK, DK, m.ob.). Farther e., 3 were at Wascana 5 Apr (SW, BE) and one near Regina 12 Apr (GK), while a Eurasian Wigeon x American Wigeon hybrid was near Stavely, AB 29 Apr (TK). A Common Loon at Gull L., MB 4 Apr was very early (AE, PF, RN, JP). A Great Egret strayed to Wascana 11 Apr (JC, m.ob.). Manitoba hosted 5 Snowy Egrets, including a northerly bird near The Pas 25 May (BPI, EB, ph.). A Little Blue Heron was at Whitewater 31 May (KD), and Cattle Egret numbers at this hotspot had climbed to 47 by 25 May (AC, LdM, RKo). Notable at Ft.



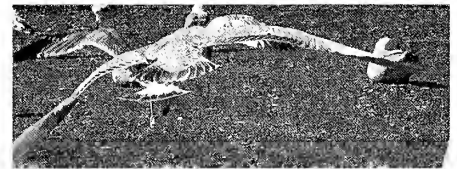
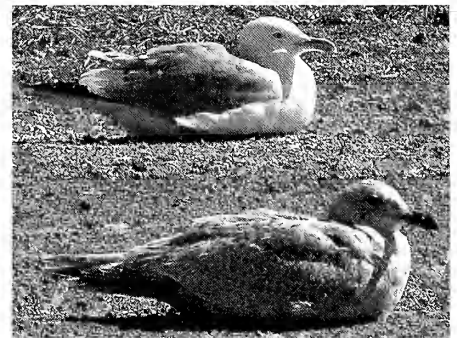
This Black Vulture, photographed at Wanless, in western-central Manitoba, 11 May 2006, furnished a first record for the province. Photograph by Darren Beecham.

Whyte were a Green Heron 24 May (AE et al.) and a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 5 May (ph. AA). Six White-faced Ibis visited Oak Hammock 6 May (G&SG), with at least one remaining through the period, and up to 2 were at Whitewater 14 May+ (m.ob.).

A Black Vulture photographed at Wanless, MB 11 May (RL) was a potential first for the province, but details on the sighting have not yet circulated. At the Windygates, MB hawkwatch, Bald Eagles totaled 923 in 34 days of observation between 11 Mar and 18 Apr, with a provincial record-high peak of 245 on 1 Apr (A&DSc et al.). A Red-shouldered Hawk was seen on the St. Adolphe, MB hawkwatch 13 Apr (GHI et al.). The 31-day tally of Red-tailed Hawks at Windygates was 7112, peaking at 3244 on 1 Apr (A&DSc et al.), while 79 Golden Eagles passed the watch on 21 days during the same time span (A&DSc et al.). At Mt. Lorette, AB, 2918 Golden Eagles were counted between 12 Feb and 17 May. While this was the highest total since 2003, it required 1214 hours, 47% above average (PS et al.). Five active Golden Eagle nests were noted at L. Diefenbaker, SK 24 Mar (DZ).

RAILS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Sora at Oak Hammock 22 Apr was early (RKO). An unbanded yearling Whooping Crane, discovered by birders 9 May but apparently present since late Apr, thrilled observers near Niverville, MB into Jun. It became probably the most-watched bird ever in the province (CS, m.ob., ph.). A Black-necked Stilt at Purdue Marsh, SK 22 Apr was a good find (GT), but even better was Manitoba's first nest of the species at Whitewater 23 May (KD, m.ob.). Three American Avocets were n. of their usual range near The Pas 28 Apr (DR). A concentration of 1500 Lesser Yellowlegs near Shepard, AB 30 Apr was notable (TK). Whimbrel counts of 800 in the Rolling



This gull, photographed at the PR 227 dump near St. Ambrose, Manitoba 17 May 2006, was thought to be a Herring Gull x Glaucous-winged Gull hybrid. The regional editors would appreciate receiving expert opinion on this tentative identification. Photographs by Peter Taylor.

Hills, AB area (BPa, BV) and 660 in the Taber, AB area (LBe), both 14 May, were impressive. An American Woodcock at Redcliff, near Medicine Hat 7 Apr was a first for Alberta (BT, m.ob., ph.). It was inadvertently flushed by an overly eager television cameraman and could not be relocated. Some 75,000 Wilson's Phalaropes massed at Reed L., SK 14 May (GK).

A Parasitic Jaeger at Manitou L., SK 7 May



This American Woodcock at Redcliff, near Medicine Hat, Alberta 7 April 2006, was nearly 1000 kilometers west of its normal range. Representing the first confirmed record for the province, it departed when a television cameraman prodded it to see if it was alive! Photograph by Brad Thicksen.



In a season that saw many rare gulls in Alberta, this Western Gull at Calgary on 4 April 2006 may have been the rarest. The identification was based on the overall heavy build, the heavy bill, dark eyes, large domed head, and drooping "skirt." If accepted, it would be a first for the Prairie Provinces. Photograph by Terry Korolyk.



Alberta's second Black-throated Sparrow visited a Bears paw yard 28 and 29 May (here) 2006. It appeared following four days of weather disturbances moving up to the province from the American Southwest. Photograph by Terry Korolyk.

was rare (B&HSc). Calgary, AB hosted a smorgasbord of rare gulls: an Iceland Gull 29-30 Mar (RW, m.ob.), a Lesser Black-backed Gull 28-30 Mar (RB, RS), a Slaty-backed Gull 28-30 Mar (BCL, ET, MM, m.ob.), a Western Gull 4 Apr (potentially a Regional first) (TK, m.ob., ph.), and a Glaucous-winged Gull 8 May (RW). Elsewhere, a Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Wascana 6-12 Apr (BLu, m.ob.), a possible Herring Gull x Glaucous-winged Gull hybrid was at the PR 227 dump in s. Manitoba 17 May (PT, RKO, ph.), and a Glaucous-winged Gull was at Edmonton, AB 1

May (DN, TT).

New locations for Eurasian Collared-Doves were Crystal City, MB (ph. BTr), Winkler, MB (LBr), and Grenfell, SK (DC). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Assiniboine Park, Winnipeg 27-28 May was seen by many (BCa, m.ob., ph.). Snowy Owls lingered well into spring, with singles reported as late as 15 May near Regina (BLu, SW) and 21 May at Oak Hammock (GB). A Chimney Swift battling fierce headwinds at Robsart, SK 23 May and 4 the next day at Estevan, SK were well w. of their usual range (AC, LdM, RKO).

A cooperative male Broad-tailed Hummingbird frequented a Portage la Prairie, MB feeder 16-29 May (CB, m.ob.). Seen, heard, and photographed by many, it provided the first record for the Prairie Provinces. A Lewis's Woodpecker at Ravenscrag, SK 25 May was rare (RD, JS, *vide* PS). The wintering Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Winnipeg was seen as late as 21 Mar (MK). At Headingley, MB, 1460 Northern Flickers streamed westward along the Assiniboine R. in two hours 16 Apr (BSh).

PASSERINES

A House Wren at Winnipeg 19 Apr was early (CC). At least 2 Townsend's Solitaires visited Winnipeg 17 Mar-7 Apr (GW, m.ob.), while single birds were noted near Elie, MB 11 Apr (DSt) and Saskatoon, SK 23 Mar (*vide* NS) and 19 Apr (SS). Northern Mockingbirds were well represented, with sightings at Winnipeg 15-21 Mar (CM, m.ob.) and 31 Mar (KE), Grand Beach, MB 28 Apr (RKO, GG, HL, PT), Kinbrook Island P.P., AB 12 May (B&Lla), Wild Horse, AB 26 May+ (RKn, GHr, HT), and Calgary 29 May (TB, m.ob.).

An Orange-crowned Warbler at Spruce Woods P.P., MB 10 Apr was very early (L&RJ). A Prothonotary Warbler at Ft. Whyte late Apr-6 May was about the 6th for the province (AM, RP, m.ob., ph.), while an undocumented report of Worm-eating Warbler came from Delta, MB 30 May (JL, *vide* KD). Amazingly far out of range was a Swainson's Warbler at Beaudry Park, near Winnipeg 8 May (ph. CA). A first for the Region, the bird unfortunately did not linger. A Field Sparrow at Regina 31 May-1 Jun was a good find (TH, m.ob.). There was a flurry of Lark Bunting sightings in Manitoba 19-30 May, with reports from Miniota, Oak Hammock, Pierson, and Broomhill. A Black-throated Sparrow at Bears paw, near



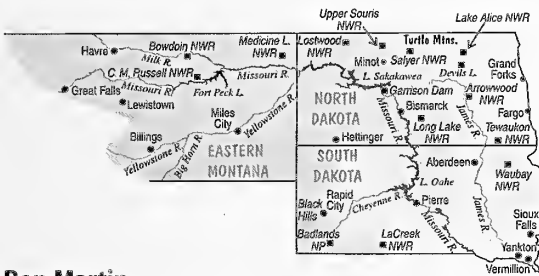
This male Black-necked Stilt was first found on 23 (here 26) May 2006 at White-water Lake, Manitoba. On 24 May, a female was discovered on a nearby nest, which later produced at least three young. This represents the first confirmed breeding of the species in the province. Photograph by Christian Artuso.

Calgary 28-29 May was the 2nd confirmed for Alberta (CL, m.ob., ph.). Between 6 and 22 Apr, the Houstons banded 343 Dark-eyed Juncos in their Saskatoon yard, the highest number in 40 years of banding. An early Smith's Longspur was near Oak Hammock 12 Apr (AE, PF, RN). A Painted Bunting was photographed at Bashaw, AB 4 May (R&YKi); its appearance fits a pattern of spring overshoots in the Region. An Eastern Meadowlark was noted near Sandilands, MB 25 May (CS).

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Temperatures and precipitation were near the averages for the season with the exception of April, which had above-average temperatures. Some areas of the Dakotas remained quite dry. There were no major weather events, and migration was rather lackluster. Waterfowl moved through quickly, and there were numerous early shorebird sightings. However, the bulk of shorebirds moved through perhaps a bit later than usual. Warbler migration was uninspiring.

The season provided a good number of vagrants and casual species in North Dakota. Possible first state records included an Anhinga in North Dakota, Great Black-backed Gull in South Dakota, and Smew and Blue-winged Warbler in Montana. Second state sightings were a Yellow-throated Vireo in Montana and Great Black-backed Gull in North Dakota.



Barn Owl sightings are on the rise in the Northern Great Plains. This bird was a good find in Dunn County, North Dakota 1 May 2006. Photograph by Jack Lefor.

GEESE THROUGH HERONS

Thousands of Cackling Geese were in McLean, ND 24 Mar (REM). Still on the hypothetical list in South Dakota, a Mute Swan was in Stanley 8 Mar (p.a., RDO). In Montana, a Bewick's Swan was among Tundra Swans 25 Mar at Freezeout L. (MS). Providing

about the 16th report for North Dakota, a Eurasian Wigeon was documented in Stutsman 8 Apr (p.a., SS). Six American Black Ducks were reported from the Dakotas, with an additional two reports of hybrids from North Dakota. Four Cinnamon Teal were noted in South Dakota, and seven reports were received from North Dakota. Casual in spring, 2 Surf Scoters were in Great Falls 22 Mar (AN). Long-tailed Ducks were in all three states; latest dates were 15 Apr in Traill, ND (REM), 17 Apr in Grant, SD (BU), and 6 May at Benton Lake N.W.R., MT (SK). A potential first for Montana, a male Smew was at Medicine Lake N.W.R. 12 May (p.a., PG, MC). Horned and Eared Grebes were early 18 Mar in Yankton, SD (RD), and a Clark's Grebe in Roberts 17 Apr tied the earliest date for South Dakota (BU).

A possible first for North Dakota, an Anhinga was seen soaring with Sandhill Cranes 9 Apr in Kidder (p.a., REM, SDL). Tying the earliest date for South Dakota, a Great Egret was in Day 27 Mar (WS). Casual in Montana, a Green Heron was near Laurel 12 Apr (p.a., BH).

HAWKS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Rare migrants in the Dakotas, 3 Red-shouldered Hawks were observed. One was at Turtle River S.P., ND 28-29 Mar (p.a., TGD), and singles in South Dakota were in Moody (p.a., JSP) and Roberts (p.a., MO), 25 Mar and 12 May, respectively. Late Gyrfalcons were reported 20 Apr at Ft. Peck, MT (CC) and 28 Apr in Sully, SD (KM). The only Yellow Rails reported were 19 on 16 May in Grand Forks, ND (EEF). Reports of both Virginia Rail and Sora 9 Apr in Union, SD furnished the earliest recorded date for both species in the state (BFH). Very early for North Dakota, 3 Sandhill Cranes were at Long Lake N.W.R. 8 Mar (JW, CDE).

Marking the first report for North Dakota in 70 years, a Mountain Plover was videotaped 9 Apr at a Greater Sage-Grouse lek in Slope (p.a., AVN). Four Mountain Plovers were s. of Glasgow, MT 21 Apr (JC). The earliest for South Dakota, a Willet was in Beadle 7 Apr (BFW), and a Marbled Godwit was in Hand 31 Mar (BFW). A very rare migrant in South Dakota, 2 Red Knots were in Kingsbury 20 May (JSP, RFS). Also very rare in South Dakota, a Western Sandpiper was noted in Sully 14 May (RDO). Stilt Sandpipers were early 9 Apr in Union, SD (BFH) and 16 Apr in Burleigh, ND (HCT). American Woodcocks were displaying again this spring in Burleigh, ND. Nesting has not been confirmed in the area (HCT, CDE, BB).



A subspecies considered casual in Montana, this Bewick's Swan was with Tundra Swans at Freezeout Lake, Montana 28 March 2006. Photograph by Dan Casey.



This first-year Great Black-backed Gull at the Bismarck, North Dakota Landfill 8 April 2006 provided the second record for the state. Another individual of this species was found later the same day in an adjacent county. Photograph by Ron Martin.



Representing the second record for Montana, this Yellow-throated Vireo was at Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge 27-28 (here 27) May 2006. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore.

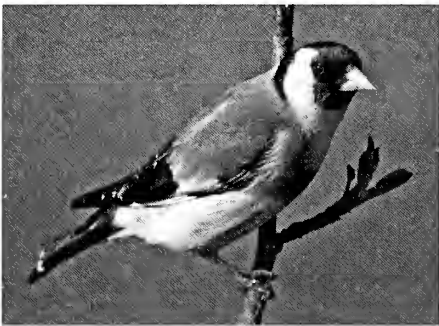
GULLS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS

About the 15th report for North Dakota, an ad. Little Gull was at the Fargo lagoons 15 May (p.a., CDE, REM). A new high count for spring, 1350 Bonaparte's Gulls were in Kidder and Logan, ND 8 Apr (REM, CDE, HCT). In Pierre, SD, a gull thought to be a Franklin's Gull x Ring-billed Gull hybrid was photographed 30-31 Mar (RDO); this combination is rarely reported. A Mew Gull was at Pierre, SD 23 Mar-2 Apr (RDO). Probably the same Iceland Gull reported in the winter season remained through 24 Mar in Pierre, SD (p.a., RDO). This was the 4th reported in the state. Spring Glaucous Gull reports continue to proliferate. The species was reported from two South Dakota counties, and two May reports in North Dakota included one 21 May in Kidder (HCT) and one through the end of the season in Grand Forks (EEF). On the



Furnishing about the eleventh record for North Dakota, this Sage Thrasher in Fargo 21 May 2006 was one of two reported in the state in the spring season.

Photograph by Patrick Beauzay.



This exotic European Goldfinch was a one-day wonder in Burleigh County, North Dakota 7 May 2006.

Photograph by Allen Nass.

heels of the first state record last spring, 2 Great Black-backed Gulls were noted in North Dakota. Singles were photographed in *Burleigh* and *Logan* 8 Apr (p.a., REM, CDE, HCT). A potential first for South Dakota, a Great Black-backed Gull was in *Sully* 8-9 Apr (p.a., RDO, KM). The earliest record for South Dakota, a Caspian Tern was in *Hughes* 14 Apr (KM).

Providing the 5th report for North Dakota, a White-winged Dove was photographed in *Fargo* 30 Apr (p.a., MO). Still on the increase, Barn Owls were reported from four South Dakota counties in May, and a single was in *Dunn*, ND 1 May (p.a., JPL). Encouraging were four e. river Burrowing Owl reports from North Dakota. In South Dakota, Burrowing Owl was reported well to the e. in *Hamlin* 17 Apr (*fide* DB). Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were recorded in three counties in the Black Hills of South Dakota in late May. A rare migrant in North Dakota, a Whip-poor-will was observed migrating northward at dusk in *Richland* 19 May (CDE).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH THRASHERS

American Three-toed Woodpeckers were excavating a cavity in *Lawrence*, SD 25-26 May (DS). A Western Kingbird was very early in *Hughes*, SD 13 Apr (p.a., RDO). Marking the

2nd sighting in Montana, a Yellow-throated Vireo was photographed at *Bowdoin N.W.R.* 27-28 May (p.a., SD, PS). Accidental in spring in North Dakota, a Gray Jay was in *Grand Forks* 1-12 Apr (p.a., EEF, DOL). Unusual in ne Montana, a Common Raven was in *Valley* 10 Apr (JC); one in *Pierce*, ND 16 Apr could indicate nesting, as the species nests in nearby *McHenry* (REM).

A Sedge Wren was early 25 Apr in *Hughes*, SD (KM). A late Townsend's Solitaire was in *Mott*, ND 1 May (DNS). Casual in Montana, a Northern Mockingbird was at *Ft. Peck* 27 May (JL). Furnishing the first North Dakota reports in six years, single Sage Thrashers were in *Fargo* 21 May (p.a., DPW, DWR) and in *McHenry* 28 May (SSH); these represented about the 11th and 12th reports for the state. The earliest reports of the species in Montana came from *Carbon* 1 Apr (BJ), while in South Dakota, Sage Thrashers were noted in *Butte* 14 & 20 May (EK, DC, MS).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A potential first for Montana, a Blue-winged Warbler was reported from *Bowdoin N.W.R.* 23 May (p.a., CM, MM, JM). A rare spring migrant in the Dakotas, Black-throated Blue Warblers were in *Fargo* 16 & 19 May (REM, CDE) and in *Hughes*, SD 2-6 May (EDS). Casual in South Dakota, a Townsend's Warbler was in *Lawrence* 27 May (p.a., DS). Casual in North Dakota, a Pine Warbler was at *Grand Forks* 24 Apr (DOL). Record early for North Dakota was an Ovenbird 14 Apr in *Bismarck* (MAG). Hooded Warblers were reported 24 May in *Brown*, SD (p.a., DAT) and in *Fargo*, ND 24-25 May (p.a., DPW). Other casual warblers reported in South Dakota included a Prothonotary Warbler 22 May in *Minnehaha* (p.a., PB) and a Worm-eating Warbler 19 May in *Walworth* (p.a., DC). A Common Yellowthroat was early in *Stanley*, SD 21 Apr (KM). Out-of-range Western Tanagers were in *Hughes*, SD 4 May (EOS) and in *Adams*, ND 5 May (p.a., REM, JPL). The Green-tailed Towhee that wintered in *Walsh*, ND was still present 31 Mar (*fide* DNS). About the 10th report for South Dakota, a Green-tailed Towhee was in *Harding* 11 May (p.a., KM).

Usually reported only in the summer season, a Henslow's Sparrow was early in *Barnes*, ND 8-10 May (p.a., JL). A nice peak of 60 Fox Sparrows was tallied in *Grand Forks*, ND 6 Apr (EEF). Constituting about the 8th report for North Dakota, a Gray-headed Junco was in *Stutsman* 9 May (p.a., LC). Rare as spring migrants, 4 Smith's Longspurs were in *Wells*, ND 22 Apr (REM). Northern Cardinals continue to spread in far e. North Dakota: a peak of 4 was noted at *Fargo* 17 May (CDE). An-



This possible Franklin's Gull × Ring-billed Gull hybrid was in *Pierre*, South Dakota 30 and (here) 31 March 2006. Photographs by Ricky Olson (perched) and Doug Backlund (flight).

other species usually reported only in the summer season in North Dakota, Dickcissel was widely reported in the state by late May. Casual in North Dakota, an Eastern Meadowlark was in *Ransom* 29 Mar (BS). A European Goldfinch, surely an escapee, was photographed 7 May in *Burleigh*, ND (AN). There were only two reports of Red Crossbill from North Dakota, and no White-winged Crossbills were noted.

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Joseph A. Grzybowski | W. Ross Silcock

As has been the case over the past few years, record-early and near-record early arrival dates dominated the spring season's reports. This was particularly notable for shorebirds, whose presence—from Snowy Plovers to Long-billed Dowitchers—built into noteworthy numbers on dates earlier than typical first arrival dates. This season's report also highlights the special narrow window of shorebird migration from 10-20 May for a series of Arctic-breeding species.

Although the Region remains in a significant drought cycle, some waterbirds, such as White-faced Ibis and Black-necked Stilt, appear to be increasing. At the same time, several western Nebraska breeders, notably Western Grebe and Eared Grebes, are in a low cycle, and the California Gull presence at Lake McConaughy in Nebraska may be on the brink of extirpation.

Abbreviations: Crescent Lake (Crescent Lake N.W.R., Garden, NE); Hackberry (Hackberry Flat W.M.A., Tillman, OK); Harvard Marsh (Harvard Marsh Waterfowl Production Area); Hefner (L. Hefner, Oklahoma, OK); McConaughy (L. McConaughy, Keith, NE); Quivira (Quivira N.W.R., Stafford, KS); Red Slough (Red Slough W.M.A., McCurtain, OK); R.W.B. (Rainwater Basin, Filmore and Clay and adjacent counties, NE); Salt Plains (Salt Plains N.W.R., Alfalfa, OK); Sooner L. (Pawnee/Noble, OK); Tenkiller (L. Tenkiller, Sequoyah, OK).

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBISES

Four Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were noted in Alfalfa, OK 24 May (RSh), and a single was in McIntosh, OK 10 May (JDR, DGB)—the only ones found outside Red Slough, in extreme se. Oklahoma. Some

300,000 Snow Geese were estimated at Harvard Marsh 8 Mar (PD); a few lingered at Pawnee, NE 7-14 May (WRS, SJD) and Nuckolls, NE 14 May (SJD). Ross's Goose numbers, more modest, included 430 in Seward, NE 25 Mar (JGJ), with a straggler in Dixon, NE 11-21 May (LE, BFH, JJ, m.ob.). A neck-collared Ross's in Gage, NE 4 Mar was from Nunavut (SJD). Also rather late was a Cackling Goose in Scotts Bluff, NE 31 May (AK). Trumpeter Swans continue to appear at scattered locations in w. Nebraska, where small numbers of nesting birds occur. The last Tundra Swans leaving the Region were 5 at Quivira 4 Mar (PJ, CM, KG) and 2 in Lynn, KS 19 Mar (MC). Mottled Ducks (2-3) were documented 6-23 May at Red Slough (DA, BH, MW). A Gadwall × Mallard hybrid ("Brewer's Duck") was seen 30 Mar in the e. R.W.B. (JGJ). Noted most frequently in Nebraska, a male Eurasian Wigeon and possible female were in Scotts Bluff, NE 18 Mar (ph. KD). Cinnamon Teal were reported in better-than-average numbers this season, 60+ from Nebraska alone (fide WRS), with some noted to the e. boundaries of the Region in Lancaster, NE 5 May (LE) and Red Slough 4-8 Apr (DA, BH). A male Canvasback was at Crescent L. 28 May (LR, RH). Thirty-eight Greater Scaup were at Sooner L. 19 Mar (JWA) and 24 in Cedar/Knox, NE 22 Mar (RW); only scattered numbers appeared elsewhere. Tardy were the 2 Greater in Sumner,



Irregular in migration across much of the southern Great Plains in spring, Bobolinks were abundant 10 May 2006 in Bixby, Tulsa County, Oklahoma. Photograph by Steve Metz.

KS 13 May (GY), one in Saunders, NE 14 May (CNK), and 4 at Sooner L. 18 May (JWA). A cooperative young male Harlequin Duck remained in Cedar, NE 27 Feb-7 May (D&CN, m.ob.; ph.). Among a handful of scoters were 3 Surfs and one Black in Sequoyah, OK 19 Mar (MM), a Surf in Osage, KS 5 Mar (TH, LH), and a Black in Osage, KS 13 Mar (DG). Long-tailed Ducks were found in Harlan, NE through 8 Mar (SJD, PD), Osage, KS through 13 Mar (DS, MM, GP), and in Cedar/Knox, NE through 25 Mar (MB). Barrow's Goldeneyes, rare but more likely in Nebraska than elsewhere in the Region, were noted in Lincoln,

NE 28 Mar (TJW) and Lancaster, NE 10 Apr (†RE; female).

Seemingly threatened rangewide, 74 Sharp-tailed Grouse reported from Nebraska was good news (fide WRS), particularly the report of 36 on one lek (TJW). Greater Prairie-Chicken continues to be conspicuous in the e. R.W.B., with multiple leks of up to 30 birds (JGJ). In the core Sandhills range, large numbers of Greater were found in McPherson 3 Apr, with some 60 leks located in a 32-km route (TJW); eight leks in the Tryon area had 65 males and a total of 78 birds 21 Apr (TJW). Additional high counts were 80 in Thomas 27 Mar (RW) and 70 more in n.-cen. Nebraska 9 Mar (JJ).

Tenkiller remains the loon hotspot in the Region: 2-8 Red-throated Loons were noted there through 20 Apr, 2-4 Pacific Loons through 6 May, and up to 3 Yellow-billed Loons through 8 Apr, among the ca. 263 Common Loons (the high noted 25 Mar; JWA, m.ob.). Other single Red-throateds were found at Hefner 8 Apr (JWA), Sooner L. 16 Mar (JWA), and McCurtain, OK 2 Mar (BH), with single Pacifics at Sooner L. 16 Mar (JWA), McCurtain, OK 2 Mar (BH), and L. Ogallala, Keith, NE 25 Apr (JGJ). Eared Grebes made an early showing at Harlan, NE 8 Mar (PD). Western Grebes continue in depressed numbers, e.g., just 629 at McConaughy 15 May (SJD); almost the only others were singles in Harper, OK 8 Apr (EB) and Pawnee, KS 9-24 May (SS, DKA), and 9 at Quivira 14 May (SS, DKA). Twelve Clark's Grebes were found in Nebraska, the first 29 Apr (KD), with 6 at McConaughy 15 May (SJD).

Quite rare in the Region was a Brown Pelican 11 May in Marion, KS (NW). Neotropical Cormorants appeared in Coffey, KS 12 Mar (ML), Hefner 28 Apr-9 May (JAG), Hackberry 5-17 May (BH, L&MT), and Sumner, KS 14 May (TH, LH). Little Blue Herons at the Nebraska edges included ads. in Adams 18 Apr (PD) and Freeman Lakes 21 Apr (JGJ) and a subad. in Adams 6 May (PD). Also at the Nebraska edge was an early ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in Sarpy 7 Apr (EM), with an imm. appearing there 29 May (ph. AEK). Tricolored Herons away from Red Slough included singles at Hefner 2-9 May (JAG, R&LA, m.ob.) and in Tulsa 26 May (BC).

This was a good season for ibises. A White Ibis arrived 31 Mar at Red Slough (BH), where numbers built up to 1000 by 17 May (BH, BH III). Reports of Glossy Ibis continue to increase, and many observers commendably continue to check for hybrid characters. In Nebraska, at least 9 Glossies were reported, including one at Harvard Marsh 19 Apr (MS) and 5 there on 6 May (PD), and singles in



A nice flight of Short-billed Dowitchers occurred in the southern Great Plains in spring 2006, among them these seen 10 May at the Bixby sod farms, Tulsa County, Oklahoma. Photograph by James W. Arterburn.

Garden 3 May (JGJ, TJW), Adams 13 May (PD), and McConaughy 15 May (SJD). Oklahoma reports included singles 20 Apr–13 May at Hackberry (L&MT, m.ob.), 5 May in Blaine (JAG) and at Salt Plains (JAG), plus up to 6 at Red Slough 20–25 Apr (DA, BH et al.). Glossy Ibis × White-faced Ibis hybrids were reported from Harvard Marsh 6 May (PD) and Red Slough 20 & 23 May (DA), both singles. Numbers of White-faced Ibis were also high this season, exceeding 200 at Red Slough 22 Apr (BH, JSt, CT), 600+ at Salt Plains 5 May (JAG), 300 in Garden, NE, and “as many” in Sheridan, NE 3 May (TJW). A White-faced appeared on the exceptionally early date of 11 Mar at Hackberry (L&MT).

VULTURES THROUGH TERNS

Black Vultures continue to expand their range, with Oklahoma sightings in Comanche (EB), Cleveland (PV), and Pawnee (TJH), and Kansas reports from Cherokee (DH) and Johnson (DF). A real surprise was a White-tailed Kite spotted in Osage, OK 2 Apr (EBo, JW). Efforts to re-establish Bald Eagles in the Region have been ongoing for some time. Results from Nebraska (*vide* JGJ) and Oklahoma (AJ) show over 50 pairs in each state; over 100 young per year are fledged annually—not bad from the zero start in the DDT era. Northern Goshawks were observed 24 Mar in Rooks, KS (HA), 28 Mar in Riley, KS (LJ), and 1 Apr in Sarpy, NE (CNK). A Harris's Hawk wandered to Cherokee, OK in early Mar, exciting local birders (A&GH, JM et al.). Broad-winged Hawks drifted as far w. as Scotts Bluff, NE 30 Apr (KD) and Garden, NE 15 May (SJD). Tardy were Merlins in Leavenworth, KS 11 May (DWi) and in Dixon, NE 20 May (BFH). Peregrine Falcons have become more common in the Region as migrants, and some are now resident in urban areas such as Lin-

coln, NE, where a pair hatched 4 chicks 19 May (JGJ).

Rails normally have a hard time in droughts, but spring rains encouraged use of several marshes. A good find was a Yellow Rail 30 Apr–4 May in Douglas, KS (THo, m.ob.). King Rails were found at Red Slough (DA, BH) and Hackberry (L&MT, m.ob.). A high count of 27 Soras came from Red Slough 4 May (DA). Common Moorhens appeared at scattered locations, including pairs at Quivira 20 May (SS, MR, JR), Kingfisher, OK 16 May (GK), and Tulsa, OK 13–30 May (JC, TM), with up to 17 noted at Red Slough (DA, BH). Sandhill Crane migration is still a great event in the central Platte Valley, NE, with 200,000 noted 10 Mar (L&CF). A pair of likely resident Greater Sandhill Cranes was in Clay, NE 3 Apr (JGJ), and another Greater was in Lincoln, NE 16 May (TJW). A Common Crane was reported in a large group of roosting Sandhill Cranes near Rowe Sanctuary, Buffalo, NE 17 Mar (†KB).

A clear “zootie” was the Wilson's Plover documented 1 May in Saline, KS (RHi, RP). Among the less common shorebirds, most Piping Plovers were at McConaughy—38 on 15 May (SJD). At other breeding locations in Nebraska, one Piping was in Scotts Bluff 30 Apr (KD), 3 at two locations in the Sandhills 7–9 May (JED), and one at Crescent L. 15 May (SJD). As many as 16 were noted in Dixon, NE 20 May (BFH, m.ob.), presumably displaced by rising water levels from Corps of Engineers' Missouri River management. Most migrant Pippings were noted in Nebraska, the earliest on 12 Apr (D&JP); the only other migrants reported were singles at Hefner 28 Apr (JAG) through 7 May (R&LA) and at Quivira 14 May (SS, DKa). A healthy 65 Mountain Plover nests were monitored in Kimball, NE (*vide* JGJ).

Whimbrel graced the Region from 20 Apr (Hackberry, L&MT) through 21 May, with high counts of 21 on 17 May at Hackberry (J&MT), 26 in Coffey, KS 19 May (MK), and 18 in Washington, OK 21 May (MD). All Ruddy Turnstones passed in a narrow window from 12–21 May, with high counts for each state the same day—18 May: 28 at Sooner Lake (JWA), 21 at Freeman Lakes (JGJ), and 100+ at Quivira (DV, WC, BB). Always exceptional in spring, a Red Knot was noted at Quivira 20 May (SS, MR, JR). For Buff-breasted Sandpiper, a species of concern, counts included: 627 in the e. R.W.B. 20 May, 522 of

SA This was clearly a season of early arrivals for shorebirds, and some of the arrivals set records.

By the end of Mar, birders had found:

- **Snowy Plover** 15 Mar at Hackberry (L&MT), 16 Mar in Pawnee, OK (JWA), and many at Quivira 19 Mar (GF);
- **Black-necked Stilt** 11 Mar at Hackberry (L&MT);
- **American Avocets** 11 Mar at Hackberry (3; L&MT);
- **Greater Yellowlegs** by 26 Feb at Hackberry (69 birds; L&MT), and singles 1 Mar in Dodge, NE (D&JP) and 4 Mar in Douglas, KS (MT);
- **Lesser Yellowlegs** by 26 Feb at Hackberry (4; L&MT) and at Harvard Marsh 8 Mar (PD);
- **Solitary Sandpiper** 21 Mar at Red Slough (DA);
- **Baird's Sandpipers** 9 Mar in Douglas, KS (3; MRo) and one at Harvard Marsh 10 Mar (PD);
- **Pectoral Sandpiper** 20 Feb at Red Slough (one; DA), 2 at Harvard Marsh 10 Mar (PD), and 3 on 11 Mar at Hackberry (L&MT);
- **Dunlin** 11 Mar at Hackberry (L&MT);
- **Stilt Sandpipers** 22 Mar at Hackberry (2; VF); and
- **Long-billed Dowitchers** 26 Feb at Hackberry (65 on that date; 866 by 11 Mar; L&MT), one in Omaha 5–12 Mar (RE, CNK, L&BP), 3 at Harvard Marsh 10 Mar (PD), and 2 in Fillmore, NE the same day (JGJ).

In addition to record-early arrivals, there were also some exceptional counts of shorebirds. For Black-bellied Plover, unprecedented were counts of 400 at Quivira 14 May (SS, DKa), 320 at Sooner L. 18 May (JWA), and 165 at Freeman Lakes 19 May (JGJ). Other high counts included over 1500 American Golden-Plovers in Osage, OK 2 Apr (JW, EBo) and 714 at Freeman Lakes 15 May (JGJ), 300 Semipalmated Plovers in Omaha 12 May (CNK), and 900 Baird's Sandpipers at Harvard Marsh 17 Apr (PD). Can one imagine counting **1322** Long-billed Curlews going to roost in Finney, KS 4 Apr (T&SS, MRo, AN)? Other good counts for the Region were 100+ Black-necked Stilts at Hackberry 8 May (JAG), 200 Willets in Sequoyah, OK 29 Apr (SB), 200+ Sanderlings at Quivira 14 May (SS, MR, JR), 2000 White-rumped Sandpipers 10 May in Tulsa (JWA), 600 Pectoral Sandpipers 10 May in Tulsa (JWA), and 1000+ Stilt Sandpipers at Salt Plains 5 May (JAG). High counts of Short-billed Dowitchers included 145 in Tulsa 10 May (JWA), 25 at Quivira 14 May (SS, DKa), 54 at McConaughy 15 May (SJD), and 53 at Clear Creek Marshes, Keith, NE the same day (SJD); our understanding of this species' status in the Region is clearly changing.

which were in two fields (JGJ); 600 there 14 May (JGJ); and 321 in Antelope, NE 15 May (MB); a strong count of 153 was made in Tul-

sa/Wagoner, OK sod farms 10 May (JWA). There were 6500 Wilson's Phalaropes with (a whopping) 388 Red-necked Phalaropes at Crescent L. 15 May (SJD), with 165 Red-neckeds in *Sheridan*, NE the same day (SJD). Much rarer e. and s. in the Region, 9 Red-neckeds were in *Saunders*, NE 19 May (CNK), 4 in *Sumner*, KS 12 May (NS), and 11 at *Quivira* 14 May (SS, DKa).

For many seasons, gulls were a dominant feature of the reports—less so recently. California Gull numbers appear down at *McConaughy*; only 2 were there 15-19 May (SJD, DF); singles were at *Crescent L.* 13 May (*vide* AK) and in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 18 Mar (AK). Two Thayer's Gulls were reported: an ad. in *Hitchcock*, NE 3 Mar (SJD) and a second-year bird in *Lancaster*, NE 12 Mar (JGJ). Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls, a first-year bird in *Harlan*, NE 3 Mar (SJD) and an ad. in *Lancaster*, NE 11-24 Mar (JGJ, PEL), were reported. Glaucous Gulls were noted 3 Mar in *Hitchcock*, NE (one) and in *Harlan*, NE (2; both SJD) and until 16 Mar in *Tulsa* (JWA) and 30 Mar in *Sedgwick*, OK (SB); all were first-year birds. Somewhat exceptional were the 13 Common Terns reported in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 16 May (+SJD), with one near *Yankton*, *Cedar*, NE 10 May (NE) and 3 in *Seward*, NE 12 May (JGJ).

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

White-winged Doves appear mostly in the w. part of the Region. They establish themselves in small towns and spread from these often widely separated outposts. A large group has established itself in *Garden City*, KS (TS), with reports from nine other Kansas locations (*vide* LM). Nebraska continues to add locations, three this spring: *Scotts Bluff* 4 Apr (RSg), *Dawson* 11 May (TJW), and *Boone* 23 Apr+ (D&CN). An Inca Dove wintering at *Sarpy*, NE was last reported 19 Mar (CNK); others still on the edge of this species' expanding range were noted in *Alfalfa*, OK 29 Mar (AW) and *Sedgwick*, KS 29 May (PJ). While a Yellow-billed Cuckoo made a record-early arrival in *Otoe*, NE 16 Apr (LB), the species made a generally late and weak showing in numbers this season. Black-billed Cuckoos, still hard to come by, were found in *Butler*, NE 20 May (LE) and *Otoe*, NE 21 May (L&CF), and in *Otoe* 31 May (5 birds; L&CF). Greater Roadrunners participating in the northward march were in *Rush*, KS 4 Apr (DW, BHa) and *Pawnee*, KS 25 Apr (GE).

The report of a calling Flammulated Owl at Valentine N.W.R. headquarters, *Cherry*, NE 24 May (TH) would make a remarkable record, one of few for the Region. Only the 2nd for Kansas was a Broad-billed Hummingbird photographed 26 Apr in *Johnson* (p.a.,



This Harris's Hawk in Cherokee County, eastern Oklahoma in early March represented a genuine vagrant so far north and east of typical range. Photograph by Jeri McMahon.

CH). Two *Selasphorus*, exceptional in spring, were a Broad-tailed and Rufous in *Finney*, KS 26 Apr (T&SS). Both *Archilochus* made early appearances—Black-chinned by 30 Mar in *Comanche*, OK (K&SM) and Ruby-throated by 31 Mar in *McCurtain*, OK (DA). Black-chinned numbers have increased substantially in sw. Oklahoma; a banding study showed it to be abundant in *Grady* and *Comanche*, where Ruby-throateds were common and rare, respectively (N&GB). More interestingly, a few apparent hybrids were captured in both of these counties (N&GB). Adding another data point for Red-naped Sapsucker was one in *Morton*, KS 26 Apr (BP, MP). An ex-



This Mottled Duck was carefully scrutinized for signs of hybrid derivation 23 May 2006 at Red Slough Wildlife Management Area, McCurtain County, Oklahoma. Photograph by Matt White.

tralimital Ladder-backed Woodpecker was located in *Grant*, KS 11-22 Mar (KH).

A Hammond's Flycatcher photographed at Crescent L. 13 May (KD, AK) provided Nebraska's 4th spring record. The only Cordilleran Flycatcher noted was in *Cherry*, NE 20 May (TH). The Black Phoebe that wintered in *McCurtain*, OK remained through 25 Mar (BH, m.ob.). An easterly Say's Phoebe was in *Linn*, KS 1 Apr (MM, GP, JS). Vermilion Flycatchers bred again at their outpost in *Cimarron*, OK, where 4-5 were seen 22 May (BP, MP, BH); a pair in *Morton* provided the first observed nesting effort for Kansas 8-26 Apr (KH, JRa), but the birds were gone by 6 May

(ph. M&EC, m.ob.). This, or another pair, was noted at a different *Morton* locality 2 May (KH, SG). Early for Oklahoma were single Western Kingbirds in *Payne* 8 Apr (TO) and *Pottawatomie* 11 Apr (DWn). An excellent tally for Eastern Kingbird was the 287 at sod farms in *Tulsa* and *Wagoner*, OK 6 May (JWA).

Numerous passerines made early arrivals this season. Among them were single White-eyed Vireos at *Red Slough* 16 & 30 Mar (DA) and a Yellow-throated Vireo in *McCurtain*, OK 25 Mar (DA, MW). A major easterly surprise was a well-documented Plumbeous Vireo in *Tulsa*, OK 27 Apr (PS, JL). A Steller's Jay in *Grant*, KS 1 Apr (KH) was unexpected; this species is a casual winter visitor to the w. edge of the Region. Fish Crows are gradually expanding their range in se. Kansas, with reports this season n. to *Linn* 8 Apr (AM, TSW) and w. to *Sedgwick* 6 & 14 Apr (PJ, TH, LH). While Chihuahuan Ravens are routine in *Morton*, KS, most unexpected was a pair of Common Ravens at the Point of Rocks area 4 Apr-11 May (MRo, AN, KG, TC).

Purple Martins arrived in *McCurtain*, OK by 16 Feb (*vide* BH). Tree Swallows were n. to *Douglas*, KS by 1 Mar (GPa). All three states in the Region had very early Northern Rough-winged Swallows: 4 Mar in *McCurtain*, OK (DA), 13 Mar in *Douglas*, KS (BA), and 2 Apr in *Cass*, NE (TJW). A Barn Swallow 22 Mar in *Lancaster*, NE (LE) was also quite early. Unexpectedly far n. and w. was a singing Tufted Titmouse in *Cherry*, NE 25 May (CSp, TH). Very early was a Rock Wren in *Dundy*, NE 5 Apr (TJW), and another was well e. of normal in *Pushmataha*, OK 14 Mar (C&BG). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet wintering in *Scotts Bluff*, NE remained until 15 Mar (P&DD). Record early was a Swainson's Thrush in *Sarpy*, NE 18 Apr (EBd). The 40+ Hermit Thrushes in a *Morton*, KS shelterbelt 22 Apr would have been a sight; associating with them was a male Varied Thrush (SS, DKa). Extralimital Curve-billed Thrashers included one in *Scott*, KS 16 Mar (*vide* TS) and another in *Custer*, OK 9 Mar (BL). Three American Pipits in *Clay*, NE 10 Mar (PD) were very early, while one in *Tulsa*, OK 13 May (JC et al.) and 2 in *Dixon*, NE 20 May (JJ) were rather late. A Sprague's Pipit in *Pawnee* 21 Mar (SS) was record early for Kansas.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Blue-winged Warbler appeared far w. in *Morton*, KS 6 May (MT, CH, SP, MRo), with another, still exceptional, in *Sedgwick*, KS 7 May (PG). Among the seasonal handful of Golden-winged Warblers were 2 in *Richardson*, NE 14 May (SJD, WRS) and singles in *Douglas* 9 May (EW), at *Red Slough* 25 Apr

(DA), and in *Johnson*, KS 10 May (JS). More Tennessee Warblers pushed westward, with 6 in *Cherry*, NE 20 May (TH) and 7 at *McConaughy* 15 May (SJD). Northern Parulas numbered 15+ out w. in *Kay*, OK 9 & 13 Apr (C&DO, GL); another was well w. of normal 21 Apr (K&SM) in *Comanche*, OK, where a Magnolia Warbler was noted 12 May (JAG, SH). The only Cape May Warbler reported was in *Washington*, NE 21 May (JJo). A Regional rarity was a Black-throated Gray Warbler in *Morton*, KS 26 Apr (BP, MP). Only a few Blackburnian Warblers were reported, 2 each for *Nebraska* (*vide* WRS) and *Oklahoma* (*vide* JAG), one being quite westerly at *Crescent L.* 15 May (SJD). Yellow-throated Warblers also arrived earlier than usual, with 2 at *Red Slough* 13 Mar (DA), 6 in *Cherokee* and *Labette*, KS 31 Mar (JS, GP), and 4 in *Sarpy*, NE by 8 Apr (RS). Palm Warbler, a rare migrant, was reported 19 Apr–10 May in *Oklahoma* and 27 Apr–21 May in *Nebraska*, including one w. to *Cherry* 20 May (TH). This was “a great spring” for Blackpoll Warblers in w. *Nebraska*, with 37 counted in the Panhandle 15–16 May (SJD). Black-and-white Warblers popped up very early in *Cleveland* (DK) and *McClain*, OK (P&BM) 11 Mar. Prothonotary Warblers also showed up early, with one in *Delaware*, OK 29 Mar (VH); one at *McConaughy* 27 May (DF) was well w. of usual. A Worm-eating Warbler in *Morton*, KS 6 May (MT, CH, SP, MRo) wandered w. of the expected range. Occurring in the Region only in *McCurtain*, OK, as many as 8 Swainson’s Warblers were on territory at *Little River N.W.R.* 7–14 Apr (MRe). Two Ovenbirds in *Richardson*, NE 23 Apr (WRS) were very early. Record early were Louisiana Waterthrushes in *LeFlore*, OK 15 Mar (JAG et al.) and *Cass*, NE 29 Mar (RW). Also pushing the season were Hooded Warblers 31 Mar in *McCurtain*, OK (BH) and 8 Apr in *Sarpy*, NE (EM, CNK), with westerly birds at *Crescent L.* 15 May (SJD) and *Coffey*, KS 8 May (TMa).

The Region’s 2nd Hepatic Tanager was in a shelter belt in *Morton*, KS 21 Apr (PJ). An easterly Western Tanager was in *Cowley*, KS 14 May (TH, LH). An Eastern Towhee was a rare find as far w. as *Custer*, OK 9 Mar (BL). A Brewer’s Sparrow as far e. as *McConaughy* 24 Apr (JGJ) was unusual, as were 2 in *Morton*, KS 5–7 May (MT, CH, SP, MRo). Lark Sparrows that appeared at two locations in *McClain*, OK 12 Mar (P&BM, LMa) were very early. Two male Lark Buntings were unexpected as far ne. as *Dixon*, NE 25 May (JJ). A singing Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow at *Valentine N.W.R.*, *Cherry*, NE 29 May (TH) was the westernmost spring record and added to our limited understanding of the species’

spring migration in the Region. Six single Fox Sparrows arrived across *Nebraska* 4–5 Mar (SJD, LE, NE), rather early. Probably wintering were Lincoln’s Sparrows in *Omaha* 28 Feb–2 Mar (PS) and *Kearney*, NE 3 Mar (NE); quite late were 2–3 in *Comanche*, OK 30 May (VF). A Smith’s Longspur in *Pawnee*, KS 21 Mar (SS) was a tardy and westerly surprise.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks occur in the w. parts of the Region with some regularity in spring; singles were as far w. as *Valentine N.W.R.*, *Cherry*, NE 21 May (TH) and *Lincoln*, NE 15 May (TJW). Lazuli Buntings are becoming rather regular in the e. parts of the Region in recent years; 15 were reported in the e. third this spring, including rather early sightings in *Washington*, OK 18 Apr (DR) and



This cooperative Harlequin Duck, the fourth for *Nebraska*, delighted many through 7 May (here 4 March) 2006 above *Gavin’s Point Dam*, *Cedar County*, *Nebraska*.
Photograph Paul Roisen.

Buffalo, NE 26 Apr (EH). The 10th *Nebraska* record of Painted Bunting was a second-year male in *Phelps* 2 May (RG, EV); others farther n. and w. than usual were in *Russell*, KS 18–27 May (MR) and *Stafford*, KS 18 May (DV, WC, BB). Bobolinks made a real show in the Region this spring, but in a narrow window (2–12 May); an estimated 2000–3000 were in *Sumner*, KS 12 May, with only a few still present two days later (NS, KG, GY, TH, LH). A Bronzed Cowbird at *Hackberry Flat* 6 Mar (KM) was the Region’s 2nd acceptably documented. Perhaps the rarest bird of the season was a second-year male Brambling in *Buffalo*, NE 8 Apr (KS); if acceptably documented, it is the 2nd for *Nebraska*. Pine Siskins with a dependent fledgling in *Finney*, KS 10 May (T&SS) had probably nested locally; a nest with 2 young was found in *Cheyenne*, NE 14 May (AS). A Lesser Goldfinch was in *Comanche*, OK 19 May (VF), and 2 were located in *Finney*, KS 26 Apr+ (T&SS).

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The entire spring was exceedingly dry in the western half of the state. A number of Trans-Pecos locations, including Alpine, Ft. Davis, and El Paso, had an inch of precipitation or less between November 2005 and May 2006. Effects of these conditions on birds were not immediately apparent but are expected to result in diminished breeding success for the summer season. Farther east, precipitation finally relieved dry conditions in May. Up to 15-25 cm of rain fell over much of South Texas during the month of May, while a deluge of 51 cm fell on portions of Kleberg County 29-30 May.

Migration in the west was generally lackluster, as the dry and clear conditions were often favorable for migrants. Numbers of common migrants, e.g., Wilson's Warbler, were still moving through in good numbers at the end of the period. The severe drought may have resulted in many western birds moving eastward, including a notable increase in Cassin's Sparrows east of the Balcones Escarpment. The late fronts that produced heavy rains along the coast in late April and May grounded large numbers of migrants for brief periods.

The highlight of the spring was a well-documented Pacific Golden-Plover near Edna, Jackson County in mid-April. Although this sighting clearly overshadowed other rarities of the season, the second coastal record of Yellow-billed Loon at Corpus Christi and the second documented record of Short-tailed Hawk from the Trans-Pecos were also excep-

tional. Yet another appearance of a Slate-throated Redstart in Big Bend's Chisos Mountains in early May suggested that species may be a more regular spring overshoot than previously appreciated.

WATERFOWL THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were noted as numerous in e. Texas, with reports from Morris, Henderson, and Angelina. Very unusual in w. Texas, 4 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were a great find at Imperial Res., Pecos 10 May (ph. BFi, CG). A Greater Scaup near Freeport, Brazoria 29-30 Apr was late (CTL, RW). Surf Scoters were reported in low numbers along the U.T.C. Notable by their absence were White-winged and Black Scoters. Single Long-tailed Ducks were at McFaddin N.W.R., Jefferson 1 Mar (AMa) and at the Texas City Dike, Galveston 17 Mar (SL). A late Common Goldeneye put in an appearance at Hornsby Bend, Travis 30 Apr (EC). Also late were 2 Hooded Mergansers at Gene Howe W.M.A.,

Apr-4 May (GB, m.ob.). A Red-billed Tropicbird was seen regularly from fishing boats offshore from South Padre I., Cameron early May+ (fide ScC, ph. PM). Unusual for late winter was a Masked Booby off the jetties near Packery Channel, Nueces 3 Mar (BFR). Not usually seen far from the coast during the spring, L. Travis, Travis hosted 2 Brown Pelicans 5 Mar (TG); one was at Buffalo Springs L., Lubbock 23 Apr (CSt). Magnificent Frigatebirds arrived on the coast exceptionally early, with individuals noted at six locations between Aransas and Galveston 11-15 Mar (m.ob.).

HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS

Quite unexpected was a Little Blue Heron near Marfa, Presidio 26 Apr (ML). A few Tricolored Herons were well inland, with up to 4 at Richland W.M.A., Freestone 30 Mar-11 Apr (PBa), one in Temple, Bell 21-24 Apr (RPi), and another at Hornsby Bend, Travis 8 Apr+ (m.ob.). Richland Creek W.M.A., Freestone/Navarro hosted an unprecedented



Least Grebes are expanding their range up the Texas coast, and recently there have been a few documented nesting attempts on the Upper Coast. In spring 2006, a pair nested unsuccessfully at Pearland, Brazoria County (here 22 April). Photograph by Michael Lindsey.

Hemphill 20 May (BRo).

Reports of Pacific Loon included 2 at L. Buchanan, Llano 11-17 Mar (TFe) and one at Lometa Res., Lampasas 22 Mar (BFR). A first for the Coastal Bend, a Yellow-billed Loon had a short stay in the Laguna Madre, Corpus Christi, Nueces 25-27 Mar (†MR, SCo et al.). Least Grebes continued their good showings from the winter in both the Austin area and on the U.T.C., though a single bird in Temple, Bell 5 May furnished a first county record (J&ES, fide RPi). Another Least Grebe was at Rio Grande Village, Big Bend, Brewster 27

count of 500+ White Ibis 10 & 12 May (PBa, MD, CSh, HH). Inland Glossy Ibis included one on L. Kirby, Taylor 3 May (LBI) and one in Waco, McLennan 29 Apr-7 May (JMu, FB). Unusual away from the coast in the spring was a Roseate Spoonbill at L. Livingston, San Jacinto 12 May (GR). Three Black Vultures accompanied a large flock of Turkey Vultures over Lubbock, Lubbock 9 Apr (AHe, AvH), representing the first multiple-bird sighting of this species on the high plains. The Greater Flamingo first discovered in Sep 2005 lingered in Aransas until at least 30 Apr (m.ob.); it was observed frequently from the tour boats that seek Whooping Cranes.

White-tailed Kites continued to show signs of range expansion throughout the state. The first 2

White-tailed Kites for Angelina were recorded this spring, with single birds near the Angelina County airport 30 Mar and 21 Apr (NB, JWi). Other reports included one near Way-side, Armstrong 28 Apr (ph. RM), a first Panhandle record; a pair near Girard, Kent 25 Feb-5 Mar (JWY, AHe); one 14 km n. of Sierra Blanca, Hudspeth 11 Mar (CBr); and up to 3 in the high Davis Mts., Jeff Davis 27 Mar+ (JaP, m.ob.). Out-of-range Harris's Hawks were at Ft. Davis, Jeff Davis 24 Mar (ML) and Hornsby Bend, Travis 20 Apr (BLY). Providing only the 2nd record for the Trans-Pecos, a

Short-tailed Hawk was on the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* 23 Apr–5 May (†ML, KB). More expected was a well-studied Short-tailed Hawk at Santa Margarita Ranch, *Starr* 25 Apr (†BG, Bly), and a pair was seen in display flight at Bentsen, *Hidalgo* 30 Apr (†MI et al.). Extralimital White-tailed Hawks included one along the Brazos R., *Washington* 28 Mar (DVo) and another at Granger L., *Williamson* 23 Apr (TFe). There were several of Zone-tailed Hawk sightings in cen. Texas, with the easternmost being one in Salado, *Bell* 7 Mar (RPi). A Prairie Falcon on the Katy prairie, *Harris* 6 Mar was one of very few recent area records (MLi).

RAILS THROUGH TERNS

One of very few documented records for the Trans-Pecos, a Purple Gallinule lingered on a pond in Musquiz Canyon, *Jeff Davis* 6–20 May (RT, ph. ML). Purple Gallinules were also noted in cen. Texas, with five different reports, the earliest being from 23 Apr (*fide* EC). A Pacific Golden-Plover was well studied in flooded rice fields near Edna, *Jackson* 12–13 Apr (p.a.; ph., †MR, SCo, RW, MCo); this exceptional sighting provided a first record for Texas. Rare for ne. Texas were 2 Snowy Plovers at L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 23 Apr (RR, RKi). Migrating Piping Plovers were detected inland at Pflugerville, *Travis* 21 Apr (TFe), Cactus Playa, *Moore* 22 Apr (BP), in Waco, *McLennan* 29 Apr (FB, JMu, EH, KHa), and on Kirby L., *Taylor* 6 May (LBI). Up to 16 Mountain Plovers near Pantex, *Carson* 21–23 Mar (JR, DWa) made a county first. Eight Whimbrels were at Greenbelt Res., *Donley* 14 May for an unusually high inland count and a rare Panhandle record (ph. BP). Eight Hudsonian Godwits were at a wastewater treatment pond in se. *Jones* 13 May (JaP, LP). A Ruddy Turnstone on L. Buchanan, *Llano* 4 May provided a 2nd record for the Edwards Plateau (TFe). A Surf-bird was on Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* 12–15 Mar (†TB, MA), the 9th record for the state. Much rarer in the w. half of the state, up to 4 White-rumped Sandpipers were noted at Balmorhea L., *Reeves* 27 May–2 Jun (MR, SCo, ML). A Dunlin was at Cactus Playa, *Moore* 11 Apr (BP)—one of fewer than a dozen records for the Panhandle. A rice field in *Waller* held an estimated 1000+ Buff-breasted Sandpipers 21 Mar (KeH), representing a significant percentage of the known population of this species. A Red-necked Phalarope put in an appearance at L. Kirby, *Taylor* 17 May (LBI).

A Laughing Gull near Utopia, *Uvalde* 20

Apr (MH) provided a rare Hill Country record. An early Franklin's Gull was in Temple, *Bell* 4 Mar (RPi); 280 were seen flying northward over San Bernard N.W.R., *Brazoria* 30 Apr, probably displaced eastward by a late-season cold front (RW); and 200 at a Houston landfill, *Harris* 18 May was a noteworthy tally (MR). An ad Little Gull was present at White Rock L., *Dallas* 6–17 Mar (CRu, ph. BG). A late Bonaparte's Gull was at Granger L., *Williamson* on 23 Apr (TFe), while one at Big Bend's Santa Elena Canyon 1 Mar (MF) was a first for the park, and one at McNary



In recent years, White-tailed Kites have been documented in many unexpected locations across Texas. This individual near Wayside, Armstrong County was found on 28 April 2006 and represents the first to be documented in the Panhandle.

Photograph by Ray Matlack.

Res., *Hudspeth* 29 May–9 Jun (JPa) was notably late and provided a very rare summer-period record for the state. California Gulls were found at Buchanan Dam, *Burnet* 17 Mar (TFe) and White River L., *Crosby* 13 May (BBE). A first-winter Thayer's Gull was at L. Texoma, *Grayson* 6–17 Mar (BG et al.). Lingered Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the U.T.C. included singles at Quintana, *Brazoria* 6 May (CTL) and Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* 26 May (JSt). Glaucous Gulls were noted at the Bolivar Ferry landing, *Galveston* 17–19 Mar (WB) and at Elliott Landfill in Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 25 Mar (MR). An ad. Great Black-backed Gull was at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* 14 Mar (ph., †SG), while the previously reported first-winter bird at San Luis Pass, *Galveston* lingered until 4 Mar (JSt). A Common Tern made a brief stop at Braunig L. in San Antonio, *Bexar* 7 May (MR). Very early for the Panhandle was a Forster's Tern at L. Marvin, *Hemphill* 5 Mar (LSa).

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Common Ground-Dove in *Palo Pinto* 16 Mar (PBi, BG) was rare for the Region. Details of a pair of Ruddy Ground-Doves at *Uvalde*,

Uvalde 5 May (MH) will be reviewed by the T.B.R.C.; another pair was reported at Boquillas Canyon, *Brewster* 31 May (†ChS). A Mangrove Cuckoo was at Weslaco, *Hidalgo* 19–30 May (†YA, JPi et al.), providing just the 10th record for the state. A rare migrant for the South Plains, a Black-billed Cuckoo was at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 6 May (BBE). The substantial number of wintering Burrowing Owls in the Blackland Prairies continued through Mar, with sightings of up to 6 in *Bell* and *Williamson* (TFe, BSt, RPi), while one was reported in w. Temple, *Bell* on the bizarre date of 16 May (SSn). A late Long-eared Owl was in Lubbock, *Lubbock* 9 May (BBE). An inexplicably early Common Nighthawk was seen at Mansfield Dam, *Travis* 6 Mar (TG).

A Green Violet-ear was present in Spicewood, *Travis* 5–11 May (†LSc, EC). One in the Davis Mts., *Jeff Davis* 16 May+ (†M&ME) was only the 2nd for the Trans-Pecos; the previous record comes from the same yard! Four Broad-billed Hummingbirds were seen in the state this spring: a female in the Davis Mountains Resort, *Jeff Davis* 25–30 Mar (M&ME) and single males at L. Brownwood S.P., *Brown* on 8–9 Apr (LBr), in the Christmas Mts., *Brewster* 9 May+ (COJ et al.), and at Midland, *Midland* 26 May (C&NH). A male White-eared Hummingbird appeared in the Davis

Mountains Resort, *Jeff Davis* 12 Apr+ (†ML), for the earliest arrival date ever for Texas, and a female appeared nearby 28 May+ (†M&ME). A Buff-bellied Hummingbird took up residence along Avenue A in San Antonio 25 May+ (DE). A Lucifer Hummingbird along the Pecos R. in n. *Terrell* 1 May (ph. BSa) was well e. of known locations in the state. Significant for the w. side of the state in spring were single Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at Panther Junction, Big Bend N.P. 28 Apr (R&AD), Lubbock, *Lubbock* 28 Apr (CB), and Alpine, *Brewster* 18 May (ML). More interesting were single gravid female Ruby-throated Hummingbirds captured in *Real* and *Bandera* 6 May (BO); this species is not known to nest in the Hill Country. Adding to the mystery were a male and an apparent female present through the spring near Utopia, *Uvalde* (MH). Extreme drought conditions were apparently responsible for the unprecedented numbers of Rufous Hummingbirds utilizing feeders in numerous sites in El Paso through the season. A Lewis's Woodpecker was reported in San Antonio, *Bexar* 16 Apr (CF). In the Trans-Pecos, the Lewis's from the winter season at Guadalupe Mountains N.P. lingered through

most of May (*vide* JWo), while another was in the Davis Mts. 16 Apr (ML). A Golden-fronted Woodpecker in extreme n. *Presidio* near Valentine 22-23 Mar (C&JM) was well away from areas of regular occurrence. A courting pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers at L. Tanglewood, *Randall* 5 Mar (TJ) was far w. of this species usual haunts in the Panhandle. A Downy Woodpecker was reported from Midland 25 Mar (m.ob.). Of note was a Hairy Woodpecker at Abilene, *Taylor* 19 Apr (LBI). Two Northern Flickers seen on the Katy Prairie, *Harris* 5 May were interesting, as this species is a rare nester on the U.T.C. (SG).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

An Acadian Flycatcher at Arapaho Park, *Dallas* 29 Apr (RR, GC) was considered a rare migrant away from the species' nesting range farther east. A Cordilleran Flycatcher in *Kenedy* 16 May (BFR) represented an exceptional spring record for South Texas. Once again, Buff-breasted Flycatchers were found in small numbers this spring in the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* 16 Apr+ (†ML, KB et al.). A Black Phoebe at Crossbar Ranch, *Potter* 10 Mar (RM) was rare for the Panhandle in early spring. A pair of Eastern Phoebes was found nesting in *Bastrop* 26 Apr (BFR). Rare in East Texas was a male Vermilion Flycatcher in *Nacogdoches* 8 Mar (D&JG). Two Dusky-capped Flycatchers present since Dec along Cannon Rd., *Hidalgo* were still present 6 Mar (†TFu). In the Davis Mts., three pairs were located 13 May+ in areas where they have been present the past two years (†ML, ME), and another was seen near Mt. Livermore 28 May (SCo, MR). A Great Crested Flycatcher at Houston, *Harris* 11 Mar (JK) was the 2nd earliest for the U.T.C. Wandering Great Kiskadees were observed in *Guadalupe* 2 Apr (SSc), in *Coryell* 29 May (SSu), near Waco, *McLennan* 20-22 Apr (KA), and in *Shelby* 8 May (D&TP), the latter being only the 2nd for the entire Pineywoods region. A Piratic Flycatcher was found and heard calling at Bentsen S.P., *Hidalgo* 20-28 Mar (†DDa et al.); it represents the 3rd Texas record. A flycatcher photographed 29 May at Houston's Bear Creek Park, *Harris* was thought to be either a Piratic or Variegated Flycatcher (DDi, ph. MQ), though a firm identification may not be possible. A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher spent 18-22 Apr at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* (ph. WW et al.), while another was at South Padre I., *Cameron* 13 May (ph. W&GC et al.). A Tropical Kingbird at Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 27 Apr was noteworthy away from the traditional nesting site at Cottonwood Campground (JD). A Thick-billed Kingbird was reported from Big Bend's Dugout Wells 27

May (†HW). Far more than usual for the Pineywoods were six reports of Western Kingbirds this spring (MHW et al.). A great find was a Gray Kingbird at McFaddin N.W.R., *Jefferson* 29 Apr (SM, ph. JHa); it is only the 5th to be documented in the state. A lone female Rose-throated Becard was found nest-building at Santa Ana N.W.R., *Hidalgo* 20 May+ (m.ob.).

A Northern Shrike was in *Hemphill* 5 Mar (LSa). A nesting pair of Bell's Vireos found in the Turkey Creek drainage, *Motley* 13 May (AHe) provided a rare breeding record for the



Short-tailed Hawk was first documented in Texas in 1988, but there are now nearly 30 state records. This light-morph adult in the Davis Mountains from 23 April (here) through 5 May 2006 provided the second record for the Trans-Pecos. Photograph by Mark W. Lockwood.

South Plains. A Black-capped Vireo was reported from a Calallen, *Nueces* yard 21 Apr (VS). A Yellow-throated Vireo at Rio Grande Village 13 Apr (W&EH) was rare. The Plumbeous Vireo present throughout the winter at Rosehill Cemetery in Corpus Christi, *Nueces* was singing 1 Apr (MCo), and another was present in San Antonio, *Bexar* 6-9 May (AG et al.). A Hutton's Vireo in w. El Paso 7 Mar (BFI) was noteworthy. At least 5 Yellow-green Vireos were found this spring, mostly along the coast from Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* to South Padre I., *Cameron*. It was a banner season for Black-whiskered Vireos along the coast. On the U.T.C., at least 4 and possibly more were involved in a series of sightings 9 Apr-28 May from Sabine Woods, *Jefferson*, Sea Rim S.P., *Jefferson*, and Smith Oaks in High I., *Galveston*. On the Lower Texas Coast, single birds were seen at South Padre I., *Cameron* 23 Apr (ScC, ph. PWe) and 11-12 May (PWa, ph. ScC). A Blue Jay was seen in the Flour Bluff area of Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 27 Apr (BiS). A Western Scrub-Jay near Gordon, *Palo Pinto* 17 Mar (BFR) provided a first record for the Region. At least three pairs of Tamaulipas Crows were at Brownsville 15 Mar+ (MG, BMC, m.ob.). A Fish Crow found on the e. side of Houston, *Harris* 18 May (ph.

MR) was w. of its normal range. Five Tree Swallows were exploring snags at Greenbelt L., *Donley* 14 May (BP); this species is a very rare breeder in the Panhandle. Early swallows included a Barn Swallow at L. Meredith, *Moore* 19 Mar (BP) and a Bank Swallow at Brazos Bend S.P., *Fort Bend* 10 Mar (JSt).

CREEPERS THROUGH WARBLERS

A lingering Brown Creeper on w. Galveston I., *Galveston* 9 Apr (JSt) was late and rare for the immediate coast. A House Wren at Brazos Bend, *Fort Bend* 5 May (JBa) and a Golden-crowned Kinglet in Houston, *Harris* 31 Mar (JSc) were late. Ruby-crowned Kinglets lingered well into spring in many locations; among the most noteworthy was one on w. Galveston I., *Galveston* 12-13 May (JSt). Marking the continuing range expansion of Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, a pair was found nesting at Midland, *Midland* 15 Apr (MCR et al.) and had fledged young by 15 May (RMS, SSC). A Western Bluebird was noted at Palo Duro Canyon S.P., *Randall* 11 Mar (BSu). A Veery and a Gray-cheeked Thrush at San Gabriel W.M.A. 7 May (TFe) provided rare *Williamson* records. Single Hermit Thrushes lingered at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* and High I., *Galveston* through 26 Apr (CRI, BBa). The long-staying Clay-colored Robin in Lake Jackson, *Brazoria* was noted again 7 Apr (TM); also of note was one at Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 17 Apr (MCo). The Rufous-backed Robin found near Utley, *Bastrop* in the winter was last seen 7 Apr (BFR). Following the banner winter for Varied Thrush in the state, yet another was at Big Bend's Cottonwood Campground 14 Mar (†ADo). A Long-billed Thrasher was banded along the Pecos R. in n. *Terrell* 6 May (BSa), well up the drainage from the species' known range. Two Crissal Thrashers in Midland 13 Apr (m.ob.) were in the same area as noted in the winter. Two Sprague's Pipits in *Armstrong* 22 Apr (JeM) provided a rare Panhandle record. Equally rare in the Panhandle were a male Phainopepla at Clarendon, *Donley* 24-25 Apr (VM, MNR) and 2 males in *Potter* 30 Apr (RKA).

An Orange-crowned Warbler in El Paso, *El Paso* 24 May (BZ) was notably late. Tropical Parulas made news in many areas of the state. Extralimital records included singles at Panther Junction in Big Bend 2 Mar (R&AD) and Brazos Bend, *Fort Bend* 28 May (JSt et al.). More expected records, indicating the continued colonization of the Edwards Plateau, included one returning to Hamilton Pool, *Travis* 9 Apr (RiK), a singing male near Utopia, *Uvalde* 10 Apr-21 May (MH), a singing male near Concan, *Uvalde* 10 Apr (MH), and 2 singing males at Concan 26 Apr (DM). West-

erly Chestnut-sided Warblers included one at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 6 May (BBE, AHe, AvH) and another at Panther Junction, *Brewster* 19 May (MF, R&AD). Also of note was a Magnolia Warbler at Big Bend's Rio Grande Village 26 May (HW). A late migrating Black-throated Gray Warbler was in El Paso 24 May (BZ). A Golden-cheeked Warbler was out of place along the Medina R. in s. *Bexar* 18 Apr (MMS). A Hermit Warbler at Sea Rim, *Jefferson* 17 Apr (ph., WW, LBa) was a spectacular find, while a lowland migrant in El Paso 30 Apr (ph., JPa) was also of interest. A Yellow-throated Warbler was discovered at Hot Springs, Big Bend N.P. 20 Apr (DS), and a male returned for the 2nd year to the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* 22 Apr+ (ML, KB). A Grace's Warbler was in El Paso 13 May (JPa); the species is a rare migrant in the lowlands. Prairie Warblers of note included singles at South Padre I., *Cameron* 8 Apr (BZ) and Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 30 Apr (MCo, WS). A Blackpoll Warbler in Midland, *Midland* 6 May (AW, SSt) provided a first county record since 1998. Single Prothonotary Warblers were noted at White River L., *Crosby* 13 May (BBE) and South Llano River S.P., *Kimble* 21 Apr (RH, LL). An early-arriving Swainson's Warbler was discovered in Corpus Christi 21 Mar (MCo). Always a nice find in the w. half of the state, Worm-eating Warblers were found in the Chisos Basin, *Brewster* 20-23 Apr (DS), Park Chalk Bluff, *Uvalde* 28 Apr (ph., A&CM), and Lubbock, *Lubbock* 14 May (AHe). An Ovenbird was foraging around Boot Springs in the Chisos Mts. of Big Bend 15 May (KL). A MacGillivray's Warbler made news on South Padre I., *Cameron* 11 May (MG). A Connecticut Warbler was reported at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 5 May (†SY); there are only eight accepted records for the state. The male Gray-crowned Yellowthroat that has been present at the Sabal Palm Sanctuary, *Cameron* since Feb remained until 3 Jun (CBu, m.ob.). Hooded Warblers made a noticeable push westward, with 3 at Lubbock 23-27 Apr (AHe, CIM, JoB, PK) and singles at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, *Llano* 19 May (PD) and Big Bend's Boot Spring 28 May

(CA, GC, BG). Of particular interest were Canada Warblers in the Trans-Pecos, in El Paso 23 May (DA), and at Cattail Falls in Big Bend 30 May (BG). A highlight of the season was a Slate-throated Redstart in Boot Canyon, *Brewster* 2 May (ph. J&LW).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Only rarely observed as a migrant in the lowlands, single Hepatic Tanagers were in El Paso 17 (JSp) & 20 May (JPa). There was a major influx of Cassin's Sparrows in Central Texas, with multiple singing males in *Williamson* 23 Apr-31 May (TFE, BSt) and singles in *Hill* 29



The migration route of Baird's Sparrows appeared to be pushed slightly eastward this season. Three individuals were documented in the central portion of the state, including this bird that was at Austin, Travis County on 21 April 2006. It provided the first record for the Hill Country, which was quickly followed the next day by another in nearby Burnet County. Photograph by Eric Carpenter.

Apr (DDC, DL), *Guadalupe* 28 Apr (fide SSc), and *Bell* 28 May (RPi). Even more surprising were one or 2 at Alazan Bayou, *Nacogdoches* 18 Apr (DWO); there are only three previous records for East Texas. A Brewer's Sparrow was e. of the normal migration route in Spring Branch, *Comal* 22 Mar (BD). A Black-throated Sparrow in sw. *Stephens* 8 Apr (RR) provided a rare record for n.-cen. Texas. Savannah Sparrows lingered well past the normal departure time in several locations. Most noteworthy among these were 12 at Anahuac N.W.R., *Chambers* 18 May (JK), one in *Kenedy* 22 May (BFR, GP), and singles in n. *Brewster* 30 May (BSi) and near Comstock, *Val Verde* on the same day (MG). Baird's Sparrows apparently strayed well eastward of the known migration path this spring: singles were found

in se. *Young* 4 Apr (†BFR), at Austin, *Travis* 21 Apr (†PS, ph. EC), and at Balcones Canyonlands N.W.R., *Burnet* 22 Apr (†BRE, CSe et al.); more expected was one at Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 4 May (†JL, KHO). Two Le Conte's Sparrows were a nice find at Palo Duro Canyon S.P., *Randall* 25 Mar (KS). A lingering Fox Sparrow was at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 8 Apr (BBE). A rather late Song Sparrow was found in *Jones* 13 May (JaP) but was eclipsed by one at Midland 23 May (BLU, RMS). A Lapland Longspur at Fairfield Lake S.P., *Freestone* 7 Mar (BFI et al.) provided a county first.

A female Crimson-collared Grosbeak was seen briefly at Weslaco, *Hidalgo* 20 May (†MG). Two Pyrrhuloxias were well n. of their expected range at Palo Duro Canyon S.P., *Randall* 1 Mar-4 Apr (KS). A Black-headed Grosbeak in *Dallas* 7 May (PA) was a nice find for n.-cen. Texas. An early Indigo Bunting was at a College Station, *Brazos* 16 Mar (ER), while a Lazuli Bunting on w. Galveston I., *Galveston* 30 Apr (ph., AMu) provided a rare spring record for the U.T.C. A male Varied Bunting took up residence in nw. *Hidalgo* 16 Apr-17 May (L&JMc, GL). An extraordinary movement of 800-1000 Painted Buntings was observed in ne. *Kenedy* 4 May (BFR).

Single Common Grackles were at Cottonwood Campground, *Brewster* 29 Mar and 28 Apr (MF), where this species is rare; interestingly, there are exceedingly few records of the species from Mexico, just a few m away. A male Bronzed Cowbird at The Woodlands, *Harris* 9 Apr-11 May (LC) provided a county first. This species continues to increase on the South Plains: a male near Tokio, *Terry* 11 Apr (AHe) and 2 at Cochran County Park, *Cochran* 20 May (AHe) provided new county records. Two Audubon's Orioles were near Bandera, *Bandera* 21 Feb+ (LH), and 3 were near Lost Maples State Natural Area, *Bandera* 12 Apr (BZ, KZ), adding to an interesting number of records from the s. Edwards Plateau. Baltimore Orioles wandered to Cottonwood Campground 2-7 May and Rio Grande Village 2 May (KHO, JL). A male Scott's Oriole was a surprise at Wolforth, *Lubbock* 26 Apr (LW). An ad. Pine Siskin tending a fledgling in Amarillo, *Potter* 27 May (KS) represented a rare breeding record for the state. A singing male Lesser Goldfinch at Port Aransas, *Nueces* 11 May (MCo) and another at Packery Channel, *Nueces* 20 May (MCo) were on the barrier islands, where rare. Also of note were single Lesser Goldfinches at two

SA Up to 3 Rufous-capped Warblers, including an apparent mated pair, were present at Neal's Lodge at Concan, *Uvalde* this spring (m.ob.). The mated pair was first noted 17 Mar when they were duetting in song. They remained in the area for the remainder of the season; however, confirmed nesting, which would be a first for Texas, was not documented. A Rufous-capped Warbler was seen briefly in this same location in spring 2005; and an apparently unmated male was found near this spot 11 Apr (MH).

w. Houston, *Harris* locations, the first present 3-7 Apr (*fide* PF) and the other 19-27 Apr (PWr).

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Colorado & Wyoming



**Tony Leukering | Bill Schmoker
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Hopes of a reasonably normal climatic season melted as quickly as the winter's snowpack when the Region experienced a hot, dry spring. Colorado's temperature ranking was classified "above normal" by NOAA, while Wyoming's temperature average ranked "much above normal" for the season. By 30 May, the U.S. Drought Monitor (<http://drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>) showed most of Wyoming with abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions, while Colorado graded from abnormally dry in the northwestern corner of the state to extreme drought conditions in the southeastern plains.

Colorado tallied a new icterid for the state list (pending acceptance of the photographed bird), and both states posted impressive if short-lived pulses of shorebirds, including a

few species in unheard-of numbers. A superb flight of Veery and Gray-cheeked Thrush upstaged the season's lackluster warbler migration (excepting Blackpolls). Several other species with few enough previous records to count on one hand kept birders busy and will undoubtedly engage both states' records committees as documentation is received.

Abbreviations: Bonny (Bonny Res., *Yuma*); Brush Hollow (Brush Hollow Res., *Fremont*); Cheraw (L. Cheraw, *Otero*); Cherry Creek (Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*); Chico (Chico Basin Ranch, *Pueblo/El Paso*); Crow Valley (Crow Valley Campground, Pawnee National Grasslands, *Weld*); Jumbo (Jumbo Res., *Logan/Sedgwick*); Table Mt. (Table Mt. Wildlife Habitat Management Area, *Carbon*, WY); Tamarack (Tamarack Ranch S.W.A., *Logan*). "West Slope" denotes locations west of the Rockies. Due to reporting biases, all locations



The hip-pocket vagrant trap at Last Chance, Washington County, Colorado can be well worth the detour: among the noteworthy birds found there this season were two Varied Thrushes, including this female on 12 May 2006. Photograph by Glenn Walbek.

can be assumed to be in Colorado except that each Wyoming location is noted as such the first time it appears in the text.

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBIS

A small pond in Sedgwick hosted 150 Greater White-fronted Geese 2 Apr (SL), a large number for Colorado. Now that Trumpeter Swans have become regular in Colorado, the only out-of-the-ordinary spring report was of a single bird at Silt, Garfield 18 Mar (A. Dahl). The male Eurasian Wigeon at Alamosa N.W.R., Alamosa 1 Apr (BKP, L. Edwards) may also have been found a few counties to the n., at Buena Vista, Chaffee, the next day (RH, SY). In Colorado, an apparent male Mexican Duck (currently considered the *diazii* subspecies of Mallard) was found at the northerly location of Walden Res., Jackson 20-21 Apr (MJI, BG, ph. C. Sheely); there are three previous specimen records for the state. Oddly, for spring, all three scoter species were reported in the Region, with an imm. male White-winged a holdover from winter in Adams (m.ob.) through at least 7 Mar and 2 Blacks at Cherry Creek 9 Apr (GW). Three reports of Long-tailed Duck were more than usual; one at Mack, Mesa 2 Mar (R. Lambeth) was on the West Slope, where rare. Spring Barrow's Goldeneyes were in typical locations, though the 28 in Buena Vista 2 Apr (RH, SY) provided a high count for Chaffee.

SA Though the Region's birders tend to get out pretty often in May, most of us missed out on the best shorebird ground-
ing of the season 16-17 May, as that period fell mid-week. Dinsmore visited Table Mt. on the 16th and recorded a large number of shorebirds, with a few species of more-than-passing interest. Among these were 18 Black-bellied Plovers, a Snowy Plover (present through the 19th), a Hudsonian Godwit, 132 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 78 Pectoral Sandpipers, 511 Stilt Sandpipers, 6 Short-billed Dowitchers, 147 Long-billed Dowitchers, and 47 Red-necked Phalaropes. Then, Dinsmore traveled to the s. and, with Ely, found an unprecedented 19 Short-billed Dowitchers at Brunner Res., Broomfield on the 17th (ph. DAL), with 8 still there the next day. Also on the 17th, Peterson visited Bonny and found 12 Black-bellied Plovers, 72 Lesser Yellowlegs, 27 Sanderlings, 200+ White-rumped Sandpipers, 42 Pectoral Sandpipers, 3-4 Dunlins, 723 Stilt Sandpipers, and one Short-billed Dowitcher. Interestingly, no Whimbrels were reported in those two days, though four of the season's 14 reports of the species fell in the period 14-15 May.

Continuing the recent spate of nesting records, a female Hooded Merganser was spied with 11 downy young near Ryan Gulch Res., Larimer 29 May (D. Hall).

Two tardy Sharp-tailed Grouse were seen 2 Apr at Tamarack (SL), a wintering location at which the species is not known to breed. Rare in spring, an alternate-plumaged Red-throated Loon was a nice find at Pueblo Res., Pueblo 29 Apr (BKP). Of the 14 spring reports of Common Loon, only one was from the West Slope, an alternate-plumaged bird at L. Cata-mount, Routt 24 Apr-5 May (FL). Two Horned Grebes at Chico, Pueblo 25 Mar (BKP) provided a first record for this well-worked site. Single Red-necked Grebes were one-day wonders at Saratoga L., Carbon, WY 30 Apr (FB) and at Jumbo 8 May (HA); the species is rarer in spring than in fall in Colorado but still nearly annual. The Brown Pelican in Larimer 27 May (N. A. Komar) may have been the same as that reported not too far away in Greeley, Weld 29 May (NP); age/plumage was not described in either case.

Records of migrant American Bitterns are rare in the Region, as most are seen at or near known breeding sites; one at Lathrop S.P., Huerfano 7 May (RM) was clearly a migrant. Rare ardeids in Wyoming included a Great Egret far n. at Glendo Res., Platte 16 Apr (CM) and 2 Green Herons at E.K.W. 6 May (CM); one still present on 16 May). An ad. Little Blue Heron, first found at Belmar Park, Jefferson 19 Apr (K. Schofield, ph. BS), stayed in the area until at least 10 May. It was joined at East L., Jefferson by another ad. 3 May (DF) and may have accounted for a sighting of the species in Denver 11 May (CC). Reports of Cattle Egrets in the mts., where rare, included singles in Chaffee 13-14 Apr (RH), Spring Park Res., Eagle 27 Apr-6 May (D. Filby), and in Chaffee 11 May (RM); the only West Slope report of the species came from Routt 6 May (FL, VZ). An ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron played hide-and-seek at Rocky Ford S.W.A., Otero 19 Apr+ (SO). The ciconiiform of the season was an ad. White Ibis w. of Red Lion S.W.A., Logan 10-15 Apr (L. Johnson, N.

Hill) that would provide the state's 5th record. Glossy Ibis continue to be found in Colorado in high numbers, with 12 reports this spring, 15 Apr-29 May (m.ob.). There were also two reports of Glossy Ibis x White-faced Ibis hybrids: 4 at Cañon City, Fremont 12 Apr (MP; one still there 22 Apr) and one at East L., Jefferson 2-7 May (T. Mitchell).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Late on the plains on 20 Apr, a juv. Northern Goshawk at Chico (BM, BKP) may have been the same one seen there in Jan. A juv. Red-



An exceptional shorebird gathering at Table Mountain Wildlife Habitat Management Area, Goshen County, Wyoming 16 May 2006 included this Hudsonian Godwit. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore.

shouldered Hawk was reported from Lamar, Prowers 10 May (JK, GW), a date that seems late for a migrant. The high count of Broad-winged Hawk at the Dinosaur Ridge hawk-watch, Jefferson was 5 (all light-morph ads.) on 20 Apr (TL).

Spring Regional reports of American Golden-Plover are relatively scarce, so one bird photographed by Mountain Plover oglers e. of Ault, Weld 13 May (J. & S. Mammoser) was of some interest. Wyoming got into the action, too, with an alternate-plumaged bird at Table Mt. 19 May (DF). Pale plovers were almost found more often outside the small Regional breeding areas than inside them, with the most far-flung Snowy Plovers being 3 at Bonny 16 Apr (NP, A. Boyce) and singles at Saratoga L. 26 Apr (ph. R. Gorrell), Brush Hollow 28 Apr (RM; first county record), Cheney Res., Mesa 2-4 May (D. Wright), Table Mt. 16-19 May (SD), and Bonny 26 May (TL). Wandering Piping Plovers included 2 at Red Lion S.W.A., Logan 5 May (TL et al.) and singles 5 km w. of Red Lion S.W.A. 8 Apr (HA), at Table Mt. 29 Apr-19 May (DF), and at Brush Prairie Ponds S.W.A., Morgan 8 May (E. Steele).

Just the 14 reports made it a good spring for Whimbrel in Colorado, but the amazing 240 at Adobe Creek Res., Bent/Kiowa 1 May (DN) was Regionally unprecedented (by an order of magnitude). Two Hudsonian Godwits graced

the Region, single birds at Table Mt. 16 May (ph. SD) and Duck L., *Larimer* 27-30 May (NK, ph RHo). Ruddy Turnstones are annual in spring and fall, at least in Colorado, but Nelson's efforts at monitoring Piping Plovers and Least Terns in the Arkansas R. valley in se. Colorado enables him to visit a considerable amount of reasonable habitat. This spring, he encountered 3 at Neegrande Res., *Kiowa* 15 May, with one (still?) there four days later. Single Ruddy Turnstones were also found at Boulder Res., *Boulder* 4 May (T. Heinrich) and at Cheraw 21 May (LS, TL). Pushing typical early arrival dates were single White-rumped Sandpipers near St. Vrain S.P., *Weld* 4 May and Red Lion S.W.A. 5 May (both TL). A whopping 13 Dunlins (seven reports) were seen this spring, with the most noteworthy being the alternate-plumaged bird in Wyoming at Saratoga L. 5 May (FB) and 4 each at Cheraw 26 Apr (J. Drummond) and Bonny 17 May (MP). The 250 Red-necked Phalaropes spinning on Duck L. 19 May (DE, E. Zorawowicz) must have been a nice sight and provided a relatively high single-site count.

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

An ad. Laughing Gull loafed at Pueblo Res. 4-13 May (BKP), the only one of the season. The only Mew Gulls reported were those at and near known wintering sites in *Pueblo* (3) and *Boulder* (one). Two Glaucous Gulls (ages unreported) at Glendo Res. 2 Apr (CM) were fairly late, but an ad. at Cherry Creek was quite late 30 May (B. Brown); ads. are, moreover, relatively rare in the Region, and late birds are almost invariably first-cycle birds. A third-cycle Great Black-backed Gull that visited the JTL Ponds, *Natrona* 15-18 Mar (ph. G&JL) provided only the 2nd Wyoming record. Another, larger, bird present at the same time may have been a second-cycle Great Black-backed Gull, but the identification was not certain. Two extralimital Least Terns were reported, one each at Cañon City 15 Apr (RM) and Chico, *Pueblo* 25 Apr (ph. BKP), the latter a first local record.

The comings and goings of Colorado's Band-tailed Pigeons are poorly known, so the 50 in Beason's yard in Paonia, *Delta* 24 May were of interest. Of the 22 reports of White-winged Dove, only one was of multiple birds: 2 in Casper, *Natrona*, WY 15-16 May (A. & W. Hines). The only reports of Inca Dove came again from the small, resident colonies in Rocky Ford, *Otero* and Lamar. Single Greater Roadrunners were seen out of range twice: n. of Salida, *Chaffee* 4 Apr (G. Mihalik) and at Castle Rock, *Douglas* 24 May (K. Huffstater). A Western Screech-Owl at Chico, *El Paso* 31 May provided a first local record and nearly



Colorado's fifth (and probably most cooperative) White Ibis loitered near the Red Lion State Wildlife Area, Logan County, Colorado 10-15 (here 15) April 2006.

Photograph by Bill Schmoker.

defines the n. limit of the species' range in e. Colorado. The population of Burrowing Owl on Colorado's Western Slope has declined considerably, so an ad. noted at Cortez, *Montezuma* 23 May is encouraging. Surveys conducted by the U.S.D.A. Forest Service in the Spanish Peaks area, *Huerfano/Las Animas* turned up 2 singing Boreal Owls 2 Mar (*fide* L. Semo), thus extending the known range a bit eastward. If correctly identified, a Lesser Nighthawk reported from e. of Colorado City, *Pueblo* 31 Mar (B. Hahn) would be of interest and some three weeks early. A singing Whip-poor-will of the nominate (e.) subspecies satisfied happy listeners at Chico, *El Paso* 19-21 May (T. VerCauteren, LS, m.ob.).

Many observers commented this season on the decline of Lewis's Woodpecker popula-

tions in e. Colorado, even along the Arkansas R., where formerly fairly plentiful. However, observers in the Teton, WY area reported that the species' local populations are increasing. Red-bellied Woodpeckers w. of normal included one at Crow Valley 1-7 May (DAL) and another at Pueblo, *Pueblo* 7 May (M. Yaeger). Red-naped Sapsuckers were found in late Mar at two or three sites in *Prowers* (L. Paulson, DAL, VT), well out on the e. plains, where quite rare in spring.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS

Two singing Eastern Wood-Pewees were noted this spring, one each at Lamar 5 May (BKP) and the CF&I Ponds, *Pueblo* 13 May (P.

Sandstrom-Smith). Though rare, the species is reported somewhere in Colorado nearly every spring. After Colorado birders broke the block on Yellow-bellied Flycatcher by finding the state's 2nd and 3rd state records last fall, the 4th was found, like the 3rd, in a mist net, this one at Chico, *El Paso* 24 May (ph. BG, m.ob.). All 6 Alder Flycatchers reported this spring were found at Chico, *El Paso/Pueblo* 14-25 May, with 2 there 20-21 May (BG, LS, TL, BKP). The two breeding flycatchers of piñon-juniper woodlands in Colorado, Gray Flycatcher and Ash-throated Flycatcher, have differing vagrancy patterns in e. Colorado, with Gray being more common in spring and Ash-throated more common in fall. This spring did not buck the trend, as we received 15 reports of presumed overshooting Gray Flycatchers in e. Colorado, a number higher than usual, and only three of Ash-throated. All reports of Grays originated from in or near the Front Range urban corridor from *Pueblo* to *Larimer*, spanning 24 Apr-16 May. Two of the Ash-throated reports came from out on the plains, with singles at Last Chance, *Washington* 19 May (GW et al.) and Crow Valley 22 May (JR); the other was at Belmar Park 16 May (MC).

If correctly identified, the farthest extralimital reports of Black Phoebe and Eastern Phoebe came from Crow Valley 9 Apr (D. Smith) and Boulder, *Boulder* 6 May (R. Siebert), respectively. Of the 6 Vermilion Flycatchers found, 2 were at Chico, *El Paso*: a male 18-19 Mar and a female 21 Apr (both

SA An ad. male **Broad-billed Hummingbird** found at a feeder in Colorado Springs, *El Paso* 13 Apr was captured for banding that day (F. & T. Engelman) and provided a 3rd Colorado record. Incredibly, the bird was already wearing a band, having been banded in New Iberia, LA the previous Dec! This bird was last observed in Louisiana in Mar. Still more remarkably: the first Colorado record of the species, a female present in fall 2002, had also been banded in Louisiana the previous winter! The bird supplying the 2nd state record was not captured and photographs do not show the legs, so we know not whether that one, too, was banded.

BKP). The others were a male in s. *Baca* 5-10 Apr (J. Ogle) and single females in Campo, *Baca* 17-26 Apr (*fide* MJI, BG), *Chaffee* 26 Apr (RM), and Chatfield Res., *Douglas* 28-30 Apr (JK). The only out-of-range Great Crested Flycatchers reported were at Chico, *Pueblo* 20 May (BG, TL, LS), a first there in spring, and at Prewitt Res., *Washington* 28-29 May (DAL). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was slightly out of range at Hasty, *Bent* 16 Apr (BG, MJI), and another was well out of range and provided a first local record at Estes Park, *Larimer* 23 Apr (S. Rashid).

Of the rarer migrant vireos, we received reports of 5 White-eyed, 2 Yellow-throated, 5 Cassin's, one Blue-headed, and 2 Philadelphia's, all on the e. plains or along the e.



This Gray Vireo was one of two present at Little Firehole, Sweetwater County, Wyoming on 29 May 2006; this photograph represents the first firm evidence of the species in the state. Photograph by Dave McDonald.

foothill edge, where expected, though Cassin's should certainly be migrating in spring through the Western Slope. The Blue-headed was at Chico, *El Paso*, where banded 15 May (BG), providing the first acceptable local record. Carolina Wrens at Lamar and Tamarack no longer raise eyebrows quite so high (though a pair nested at Lamar this year [DR, m.ob.]), but one at Colorado City 2 Apr (D. Silverman) was well w. of normal. Out-of-place Bewick's Wrens included 2 different birds at Chico—12 Apr in *Pueblo* (BKP) and 14-20 May in *El Paso* (BM)—and one at Estes Park 13-21 Apr (J&SR). A male Eastern Bluebird was w. of normal at Casper Mt., *Natrona*, WY 24 May (CM, JL), particularly for so late in the season. Conversely, as many as 4 Western Bluebirds at Chico 25 Mar–8 Apr (KL) were on the plains, where quite rare.

Oddly, the only Varied Thrushes of the spring were both singles out on the plains at Last Chance: a male 7 May (LM, G. Goodrich) and a female 12 May (N. Erthal, LM et al.). Colorado's 2 wintering Long-billed Thrashers were present into Apr, with the Denver bird's last date being the 3rd and

Chico's the 19th. A Curve-billed Thrasher was quite a surprise n. of normal at Lakewood, *Jefferson* 19 May (MC).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

With few exceptions—among them the second-strongest Blackpoll flight in recent years (coincident with the Gray-cheeked Thrush flight)—the warbler migration was mediocre, with only 36 species being found in Colorado. Lucy's Warblers returned to Yellow Jacket Canyon, *Montezuma* for at least their 3rd year (m.ob.), but only a single

Nashville Warbler was reported. All but one of the 8 Black-throated Gray Warblers reported from Colorado's e. plains were at Chico 1-13 May (m.ob.); the other was not far away at Clear Springs Ranch S.W.A., *El Paso* 30 Apr (BKP). "Eastern" warblers in the mountains were mostly found in *Chaffee*, with a male Black-throated Green and a female Blackpoll 11 May (RM) and a female Black-and-white 23 Apr (NP) at Frantz L., and, at Sands L., a female American Redstart 19 May (RM) and a Northern Waterthrush 9 May (VT). The only other montane "eastern" warblers were an imm. male American Redstart at Curecanti N.R.A., *Gunnison* 18 May (JBn) and a Northern Waterthrush at L. DeWeese, *Custer* 24 May (RM). Wyoming's only out-of-range warbler was a Black-and-white Warbler at Fontenelle Dam, *Lincoln/Sweetwater* 21 May (R. Steenberg). Finally, Wilson's Warbler put on its best spring showing on the plains in recent memory (it is abundant there in fall).

An imm. male Summer Tanager at Sands L. 5 May (SY) was in the mts., where quite rare, and provided a first *Chaffee* record; another was in Laramie, *Albany*, WY the next day

(*vide* D. McDonald). Chico's wintering Eastern Towhee carried until at least 19 May, providing unexpected amusement, as it was seen and heard mimicking many local species, such as Blue Jay, American Robin, and Curve-billed Thrasher (BM, m.ob.). Another Eastern Towhee that may have wintered locally was heard singing 7-25 Apr in Boulder (ph. R. Byers). Finally, an out-of-range and out-of-season Eastern Towhee was reported from Crow Valley 22-23 May (JR). A singing Canyon Towhee was a bit n. of normal, at least on the plains, at Chico 8 Apr–20 May (KL, m.ob.).

An amazing 3 Field Sparrows were reported from Front Range counties this spring, with individuals at Dixon Res. 24 Apr (N. Komar), at Chico, *Pueblo* 11 May (BG), and at Chico, *El Paso* 20 May (b. TL). Single Black-throated Sparrows were outside their small e. Colorado breeding range near Two Buttes Res. in *Powers* 27 Apr (MP, BKP) and at Denver 29-30 May (P. Vance, N. Lewis). The annual e. Colorado Sage Sparrow vagrancy season (an above-average 5 this spring) was bookended by the two northernmost reports, both in *Larimer*: one in a Loveland yard 10-13 Mar (ph. C. Kogler, m.ob.), the other in Estes Park 13 Apr (J&SR). A Red Fox Sparrow was quite a nice find at Chico 5 Apr (MP et al., ph. BM); most Regional records are from fall and winter. A presumably wintering Harris's Sparrow was in Crawford, *Montrose* until 15 Mar (VZ); West Slope records are relatively scarce. The only out-of-place Northern Cardinals were single birds (sex unreported) e. of Casper, *Natrona*, WY 10 Mar (*vide* DF) and at Louviers, *Douglas* 23 Apr (T. Halverstadt). A Varied Bunting, originally identified as an Indigo Bunting, was reported from Arvada, *Jefferson* 14 May (†CC); the Colorado B.R.C. will have to ponder this one, as there are no state or Regional records.

Bobolinks are not often found in Colorado away from breeding areas, so the migrants found at Chico, *Pueblo* 17 (J. Drummond et al.) & 20 May (BKP et al.) and at Arvada 18 May (DF) help to define the migration season for the species locally. At least one Eastern Meadowlark of subspecies *lilianae* returned to a Lesser Prairie-Chicken lek e. of Campo, *Baca*, where recorded for the past four years, singing there 29 Apr (MP). A brilliant orange ad. male Hooded Oriole brightened feeders at a residence in Grand Junction, *Mesa* 26-30 May (ph. J. & M. Hill) and provided the first state and Regional record. Baltimore Orioles away from Colorado's far e. plains included singing imm. males at Chico, *El Paso* 10 May (MP) and Last Chance 13 May (TL, LS) and, even farther w., a female at the Soapstone

SA The *Catharus* flight in Colorado in mid- to late May was unprecedented in the relative abundance of Veeries and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, two species whose primary migration routes take them e. of our Region; oddly, Swainson's Thrush numbers were not elevated, though Gibbons did band a russet-backed Swainson's at Chico (19 May) for the 2nd year in a row, providing Colorado's 3rd record. Some 31 Veeries were reported on the e. plains (one of those in Wyoming) 9-27 May, apparently of both e. and w. subspecies, with Gibbons banding 4 at Chico 10-16 May (including a bird referable to *salicicola* of the West on the 10th); a typical spring sees five to 10 reports of Veery on the Colorado plains.

The Gray-cheeked Thrush story this spring was nothing short of incredible! A whopping 35 were reported (2 of those in Wyoming), 11-28 May, with 24 of them being found 14-17 May. Eight reports were of multiple birds, with the maximum being 6 at Chico (4 in *El Paso*, 2 in *Pueblo*) 15 May; Gibbons banded 6 in *El Paso* 15-16 May! At least 3 were at the Ft. Lupton cemetery, *Weld* 14 May (ph. TL; with the only other *Catharus* being 9 Swainson's Thrushes), with at least one still there the next day, and 3 were on a private ranch elsewhere in *Weld* 19 May (GW et al.). A typical spring sees one or two Regional reports! Interestingly, a single Wood Thrush was found in the Region this spring, that at Chico, *Pueblo* on the last day of the season (BM).

Ranch, Larimer 24 May (CW). A wintering Bullock's Oriole × Baltimore Oriole hybrid was in Lamar until 28 Mar (DR), and a Purple Finch wintering at Rocky Ford S.W.A. from 4 Nov was last seen 26 Mar (SO). Lesser Goldfinches reported from unusual locales include 2 at the Stulp residence, *Prowers* (singles on 9 & 30 May; JS) and a black-backed male from Chico, *Pueblo* 20 May (BG); both locations are on the plains, where the species is a fairly rare migrant.

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Idaho & Western Montana



David Trochlell

Spring 2006 temperatures varied widely across the Region, but most locations experienced record-high temperatures in May and above-average precipitation for the season. Bird migration was generally considered mostly uneventful but did include some notable early and late arrivals.

Abbreviations: Camas (Camas N.W.R., Jefferson, ID); L.M. (Lee Metcalf N.W.R., near Stevensville, MT); latilong (area encompassed by one degree latitude and one degree longitude used in mapping bird distribution in both Idaho and Montana).

GEESE THROUGH GULLS

Greater White-fronted Geese were noted in locations where they are considered extralimital: 2 were in *Flathead*, MT 13 Mar (BR), and a single was in *Kootenai*, ID 29 Mar

(SS). A total of 9 Cackling Geese (mostly *minima*) stopped in n. Idaho 9-11 Mar (TG, CS), but even better finds were single *taverneri* and *hutchinsii* near Somers, MT 19 Mar (DC). Eurasian Wigeons were scarce, with only 3 noted in Idaho and one in w. Montana. Although Long-tailed Ducks are not annual in spring, a commendable season total of 6 came from n. Idaho, and 2 were recorded in w. Montana. Pacific Loons are very rare in spring, so one at Sandpoint, ID 4 Mar (MH) and a late one in *Elmore*, ID 23 May (MC, RLR) were especially noteworthy. Apparently Great Egrets are increasing in Montana, as evidenced by one in *Powell* 1 May (JB) and 2 at L.M. 24 May (WT). If accepted, a Little Blue Heron discovered in *Madison* 22 Apr (ph., †D&MW) will represent w. Montana's 3rd record. Following hard on the heels of last summer's first Idaho report at Camas was the discovery of up to 3 Glossy Ibis in *Jefferson*, ID 28 Apr–27 May (DCI; ph., †CW). Also present there were several possible Glossy Ibis × White-faced Ibis hybrids (ph., †CW). Bringing in a 2nd record for Idaho's Latilong 2 was a White-faced Ibis near Cataldo 23 May (SS).

Broad-winged Hawks, rare in spring, were seen near Missoula, MT 22 Apr (one; NK) and n. of Howe, ID 7 May (2; †J&CO). Quite impressive was the concentration of 100 Rough-legged Hawks in *Beaverhead*, MT 18-20 Apr (DC). The only Gyrfalcons reported were a few winter holdovers in *Lake*, MT in Mar (JB, DH). Two unusually early American Golden-Plovers near Lennup, MT 12 Apr (MD) represented a 2nd local spring record. Especially rare in spring were 2 Whimbrels at

Camas 5 May (†BD), a Stilt Sandpiper at Camas 13-18 May (JC), a Short-billed Dowitcher at L.M. 3 May (WT), and 6 Short-billeds in *Fremont*, ID 11 May (†CW). Interesting rare larids included a Mew Gull in *Kootenai*, ID 9-22 Mar (LH), a Thayer's Gull in *Flathead*, MT 18 Mar (DC), a Glaucous-winged Gull in *Owyhee*, ID 12 Apr (RLR), and single Glaucous Gulls in *Gooding*, ID 11 Mar (LB) and *Owyhee*, ID 12 Apr (RLR).

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

Eurasian Collared-Doves made an unprecedented range extension, with at least a total of 12 reported from seven new s. Idaho locations and a pair discovered in Deerlodge, MT. Barn Owls are rare and local in Montana, but at least 10 were reported in the Mission Valley in mid-Apr (DH), and several pairs reportedly nested and fledged young. Montana Snowy Owls were unusually late: singles were near Red Lodge 2 Apr (BJ), Bozeman 12-14 Apr (PW), and in the Mission Valley 13 Apr (DH). Barred Owls continued to wander out of range in Idaho, with 2 in *Blaine* in early Mar (PWP) and one in *Gem* 24-25 Mar (MW). Two Black Swifts at Camas 27 May (JC) provided a local first. Two Black-chinned Hummingbirds in Eagle, ID 17 Mar (GW) were record early. Earliest local record by three weeks was a Red-naped Sapsucker near Bozeman, MT 13-14 May (AK). If accepted, an Alder Flycatcher in *Jefferson* 28 May (†CW) would be a first for Idaho. Single Eastern Phoebe, not annual in Idaho, turned up in *Jefferson* 14-15 Apr (ph., †MH) and in *Bonner* 28-31 May+ (†BB). An unprecedented gathering of kingbirds was observed near Gardiner,

MT 28 May (MD): 31 Western and 137 Eastern Kingbirds were counted. The same area hosted a mind-boggling fallout of an estimated 7500 Mountain Bluebirds 7 Apr (MD). A total of four Idaho Blue Jay reports was about average for the season.

If accepted, A Bewick's Wren in Ravalli 6 Mar (WT) will provide Montana's 5th record. Single Northern Mockingbirds made an appearance near Oakley, ID 28 Apr (LR), Camas 22 May (JC), and Red Lodge, MT 28 May (BJ). Rare warblers of the season included a Chestnut-sided Warbler at Camas 30 May (DCI, CW), a Blackpoll Warbler near Helena, MT 13 May (CC), single Black-and-white Warblers in Jefferson, ID 12 (RM) & 18 May (JC), and a total of 3 Ovenbirds at Camas 19-

24 May (JC, DCI). A Summer Tanager at Camas 10 May (†JC) was the Gem State's 8th. Rare anywhere in the Region, an Indigo Bunting at Red Lodge, MT 27 May (BJ) provided a local first. The only Rose-breasted Grosbeak was near Hailey, ID 30-31 May (JS), where many precedents have occurred. A Baltimore Oriole discovered in Valley 18 May (†LB) will be Idaho's 5th, if accepted. A male Brambling that graced Bellevue, ID 8-16 Apr (ph., †KC) is expected to provide Idaho's 3rd record. Also noteworthy in Bellevue was a wandering Lesser Goldfinch 24 Apr (KC) that represented a local first.

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Great Basin



Rick Fridell

Several observers commented on a fairly slow spring migration in the Great Basin. Mojave Desert area species, typically found only in the southern portion of Nevada and southwestern Utah, were observed outside of their expected ranges, including Common Moorhen, White-winged Dove, Anna's Hummingbirds, Costa' Hummingbird, Lucy's Warbler, and Hooded Orioles. In addition, Utah's first confirmed nests of both Anna's Hummingbird and Painted Redstart were located in Washington County. Even in a slow spring, the Great Basin Region had its fair share of rare and vagrant sightings, highlighted by Yellow-billed Loon and Broad-billed Hummingbird in Nevada and Red-throated Loon and Heermann's Gull in Utah.

Abbreviations: Antelope I. (Antelope Island S.P. and Causeway, Davis, UT); Bear R. (Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Box Elder, UT);

Corn Cr. (Corn Creek Unit, Desert N.W.R., Clark, NV); H.B.V.P. (Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, Clark, NV); L. Mead (Lake Mead N.R.A., Clark, NV); Lytle (Lytle Ranch Preserve, Washington, UT); Miller's R.A. (Miller's Rest Area, Esmeralda, NV); Ouray (Ouray N.W.R., Uintah, UT); Pyramid L. (Washoe, NV); Red Hills (Red Hills G.C., St. George, Washington, UT); Zion (Zion N.P., Washington, UT).

WATERFOWL THROUGH VULTURES

Large concentrations of waterfowl capitalized on the unusually wet conditions at Quichapa L., with up to 21 species observed, including Tundra Swan, Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross's Goose, and others rarely found in arid Iron, UT (SH). Several drake Eurasian Wigeons were observed this spring: at Bear R. 26 Mar (BO), Farmington Bay W.M.A., Davis, UT 2 Apr (J&KB), and Stillwater N.W.R., Churchill, NV 2 Apr (BHe). An exceptionally high concentration of over 50 Blue-winged Teal was at Bear R. 8 May (SC). Rarely observed in the Region in the spring, a Surf Scoter was photographed 25 Apr at Spring Mt. Ranch S.P., Clark, NV (KeC, *fide* CTi). Equally surprising was a female Long-tailed Duck 13 Apr at Chicken Creek Res., Juab, UT (MWe). A late male Barrow's Goldeneye lingered in Lemmon Valley, Washoe, NV until at least 28 May (J&GA). A Red-throated Loon was a major surprise 17 May at Willard Bay

S.P., Box Elder, UT (ph., †KE et al.). A Yellow-billed Loon observed 3 Mar at Pyramid L. (p.a., JT, MMA et al.) was unfortunately not relocated. A Red-necked Grebe also made a very rare spring appearance 20-23 May at Willard Bay S.P., Box Elder, UT (BHu, †KP, ph. BC et al.). An American Bittern was found at Corn Cr. 22-26 May (J&MC, GS).

HAWKS THROUGH TERNS

Surprisingly, 2 White-tailed Kites were reported from Nevada this spring: one observed briefly, flying over Mesquite, Clark, NV 19 Mar (DA), while the other lingered at Corn Cr. 15-19 Apr (ph. RSa, ph. BG, CTi, JBr). A Common Black-Hawk was photographed 3 Apr at the unusual location of Searchlight,



Of the two White-tailed Kites reported in Nevada in spring 2006, this one lingered 15-19 (here 19) April 2006 at Corn Creek, Desert National Wildlife Refuge, Clark County. Photograph by Bob Gotschall.

Clark, NV (TK). Nevada also supplied the only reports of Red-shouldered Hawks, with individuals at Reno, Washoe (5 Mar; FP) and Fallon, Churchill (2 Apr; BHe). A single Broad-winged Hawk was reported 23 Apr flying over Veyo, Washington, UT (LT), and 5 were photographed 25 Apr near Grandeur Peak, Salt Lake, UT (†JL). Broad-winged Hawks are rare-but-regular migrants through the Region. After an increase in observations over the past few years, the only Zone-tailed Hawk reported this spring was at Corn Cr. 22 Apr (SW). An albino American Kestrel was observed 22 Apr at the UNR Football Stadium, Reno, Washoe, NV (EK). Common Moorhens observed 10 May at Fallon, Churchill, NV (MMe et al.) were n. of their expected range.

Shorebird reports in the Region were lower than average, however, a few significant sightings were submitted. As usual, Antelope I. led the way, with the American Golden-Plover there 21 Apr (TA et al.) one of the more noteworthy vagrants. Whimbrels were found at Carson L., Churchill, NV (22 Apr; GS) and Bear R. (9 May; RW). Additional reports from Antelope I. included Utah's 15th documented Ruddy Turnstone 7 May (†KP) and up to 4 Red Knots 7-14 May (J&KB, KP et al.). A Sanderling made a rare ne. Nevada spring appearance 6 May at Big Soda L., Churchill (MMe et al.). A White-rumped Sandpiper observed 19-20 May at Deseret Ranch, Rich (GB, MS et al.) would be only Utah's 6th record if documented and accepted. Up to 8 Stilt Sandpipers were at Bear R. 10-21 May (BO, J&KB), and a single Stilt Sandpiper was photographed 21 May at Fish Springs N.W.R., Juab, UT (ph. CN, TN). Short-billed Dowitchers made a good showing this spring in Utah, with single birds at Chicken Creek Res., Juab (6 Apr; BHu, TA et al.), Panguitch L., Garfield (2 May; RF), and the Virgin R. near Hurricane, Washington (15 May; MF, RF). Utah's 3rd documented Heermann's Gull made a brief appearance at Sand Hollow S.P., Washington, UT (ph. RF). An ad. Mew Gull was a great find at Virginia L., Washoe, NV 8-12 Mar (FP et al.), and a first-year Glaucous-winged Gull was reported from Pyramid L. 4-19 Mar (MMa, SSn, DN). Least Terns were found at the Provo Airport Dike, Utah, UT (20 May; JB) and at H.B.V.P. (27 May; *vide* JBr).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

White-winged Doves were observed n. and e. of their typical range at three Utah locations, including several at Bluff, San Juan 1 Mar+ (LG et al.), 2 at Leeds, Washington 9-28 Apr (CS), and 2 at Wahweap, L. Powell, Kane 6 May (TA). Long-eared Owls continued at



This male Broad-billed Hummingbird, first observed 16 December 2005, remained at a Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada residence well into the spring. It was last observed 31 March 2006 (here 21 December 2005). Photograph by Scott Page.

Corn Cr. through the spring, with a high count of 13 there on 14 May (CTi et al.). Breeding Long-eared Owls were also observed at two additional Clark, NV locations this spring (Spring Mt. Ranch S.P. and Wheeler Camp Spring, J&MC). Six Black Swifts observed 29 May flying over St. George, Washington, UT were a nice surprise (SSu, KrC, RF). The only Vaux's Swift in the Region was observed at Gunlock S.P., Washington, UT 21 Apr (LT). The Broad-billed Hummingbird first reported 16 Dec (SPe) lingered at a Las Vegas, Clark, NV residence until 31 Mar (PG, ph. SPa). After several years of increasing ob-



Reports of Common Grackles are increasing in the Great Basin. This individual visited Miller's Rest Area, Esmeralda County, Nevada, 27 (here) through 29 May 2006. Photograph by Martin Meyers.

servations in Washington, Utah, the first nesting Anna's Hummingbirds were documented at Silver Valley, Leeds 3 Mar+ (CS, CoP) and at Red Cliffs R.A. 12 Mar (RF). An Anna's Hummingbird was also observed n. of expected range in Verdi, Washoe, NV 25 Mar (CTh). Reports of northerly Costa's Hummingbirds included a male 22 Apr at Fernley, Lyon, NV (DSe) and a nesting pair at Lida, Esmeralda, NV 28 May (GS).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

An Eastern Phoebe photographed at Corn Cr. 2 Apr (DeS, ph. DaS et al.) and an Eastern Kingbird located 16 May at Pahrnatag N.W.R., Lincoln, NV (DH) were far from typical range. Three Purple Martins were observed 14 Apr flying over the H.B.V.P. (JR, PM). Nesting Western Bluebirds in a yard in Ely, White Pine (10 Apr+; AQ) were very unusual for e. Nevada. Varied Thrushes were observed 22 Apr at Pahrnatag N.W.R., Lincoln, NV (B&BD) and 29 Apr at the Big Cottonwood Ranch, Beaver Dam Wash, Washington, UT (RD, RF). Gray Catbirds were found at two atypical Utah locations: Lucin Pond, Box Elder 19 May and Black Rock, Millard 21 May (both CN, TN). A Brown Thrasher was sporadically observed at Corn Cr. 2-17 Apr (BG, RS et al.), and another was briefly seen at Hardware Ranch, Cache, UT 22 May (StP).

A Lucy's Warbler at the Dyer Pond, Esmeralda, NV 20 May (RSt, DG, GS) was slightly n. of expected range. The only Chestnut-sided Warbler report came from Como Springs, Morgan, UT 8 May (ChP). A Hermit Warbler lingered 13-22 May at Lida, Esmeralda, NV (GS, RSt, DG), and a Palm Warbler was photographed 23 Apr at Corn Cr. (SPa, ph. GP). Black-and-white Warblers were reported from several locations including Garr Ranch, Antelope I. (23 Apr; J&KB), Corn Cr. (9 May; DH), and Indian Cr., Dyer, Esmeralda, NV (28 May; GS). American Redstarts in Nevada were at Dyer, Esmeralda 13-14 May (GS) and Miller's R.A. 21 May (RSt, DG, GS), and in Utah, a banded male returned to the Jordanelle Wetlands, Wasatch for the 8th consecutive summer 21 May+ (JB, MMu), and a first-year male was seen at Lytle 29 May (SSu, RF). Ovenbirds were found at Lucin Pond, Box Elder, UT 19 May (CN, TN) and at the Circle L Ranch, Dyer, Esmeralda, NV 29 May (GS). Six Northern Waterthrushes were observed 12-22 May in five Utah counties (Box Elder, Juab, Millard, Utah, and Washington). Surprisingly, the only Nevada report was from Dyer Pond, Esmeralda 13 May (GS). A female Hooded Warbler was photographed at Dyer, Esmeralda, NV 29 May (GS). A pair of Painted Redstarts was observed again this year along the North Fork of the Virgin R., in Zion. The birds were first reported 18 Apr (†R&LM), and a nest was located on the canyon wall in a hanging garden 7 May (KrC, ph. RF).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

A Black-throated Sparrow found 30 Apr at the Jordan River Parkway, Salt Lake, UT (PF et al.) was far n. of typical breeding range. A wayward female Lark Bunting was found during a late spring snowstorm in Central, Wash-

ington, UT 13-15 Mar (LT). An ad. male Lark Bunting was observed 27 May near Benson, Cache, UT (BR). Utah's 10th documented Clay-colored Sparrow was photographed 8 Apr at Cottonwood Wash, San Juan (†TA et al.). Two Swamp Sparrows were observed in Nevada: 19-20 Mar at the H.B.V.P. (JBr et al.) and 3 May at Dyer, Esmeralda (ph. GS). The only White-throated Sparrow reported during the season was at Willard Bay S.P., Box Elder, UT 5 Mar (J&KB). By contrast, Harris's Sparrows made a strong spring showing, with 2 in each state. Harris's Sparrows were found in Nevada at Rye Patch Res., Pershing 3 Mar (MMA, SSn, DN) and nw. Reno, Washoe 1-4 May (FP); Utah birds were at the Jordan River Parkway, Salt Lake 19 Mar-22 Apr (PF, J&KB) and w. of the Great Salt L., Box Elder 19 May (CN, TN). Up to 9 Chestnut-collared Longspurs were observed at Horse Ravine, Lemmon Valley, Washoe, NV 26 Mar (FP). A Painted Bunting in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, UT 10 May (p.a., †HL) would be a long-over-

due state first. A male Bobolink was found at Fish Springs N.W.R., Juab, UT 21 May (CN, TN). Common Grackles were observed away from typical locations at the Dugway Proving Grounds, Tooele, UT 5 May (CZ) and Miller's R.A. 27-29 May (MMe et al.). Hooded Orioles are occasionally seen n. of their typical breeding areas, and the trend continued this season, with reports of ad. males visiting feeders in Reno, Washoe, NV 6-12 Apr (J&GA, FP).

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New Mexico



Sartor O. Williams, III

The statewide drought deepened to historic proportions during spring 2006, while climatologists proclaimed the recent period the warmest on record; whatever the long-term consequences of these events may be for birds, the short-term impacts seemed negligible this season. Meanwhile, birds and birders were active, and numerous rarities were documented, including two

(Black Rail and Vaux's Swift) not previously verified for the state.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (Bitter Lake N.W.R.); Bosque (Bosque del Apache N.W.R.); G.B.A. (Gila Bird Area, Grant); N.R.T. (n. Roosevelt migrant trap w. of Melrose); P.O. Canyon (Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mts.); R.G.V. (Rio Grande Valley); R.S. (Rattlesnake Springs area, Eddy).

WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

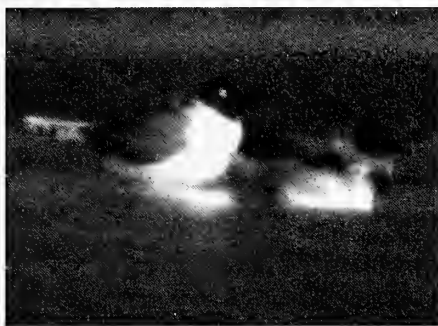
Surprisingly late was a Greater White-fronted Goose at B.L.N.W.R. 7-10 May (JP, JO). A Tundra Swan lingered at French L., Colfax until 17 Apr (ph. DC); farther s. were an ad. at La Joya 15 Mar (DH) and 2 imms. at Socorro until 25 Mar (JO, JP). Unexpected was a pair of Wood Ducks in a tree at Boone's Draw 5 May (CGL). The popular Eurasian Wigeon at Albuquerque was last seen 12 Mar (ph. JO). Single Barrow's Goldeneyes were at French L. 2-18 Mar (ph. DC) and L. David, San Miguel 19 Mar (WW). West of usual haunts was a Horned Grebe at Acomita L., Cibola 5 Mar (BN, CR); late were 4 at Stubblefield L. 9 May (ph. EW). High counts for Eared Grebes were 950 at Stinking L. 13 May (DS) and 400 at Stubblefield L. 1 May (DC). Early for the nw. were 49 American White Pelicans at Bluewa-

ter L. 5 Mar (CR); persecution of pelicans continued in Eddy, including one found shot at L. Avalon 5 Mar (SW). Surprising were two Double-crested Cormorant nests at Clovis 27 May (CR), a Curry first; only 12 Double-crested nests and no Neotropical Cormorant nests were in the San Marcial area 2 May (RD).

Up to 3 American Bitterns were noted at B.L.N.W.R. 1 Mar-29 Apr (GW, WW, JP, CR) and provided the only reports. Early Least Bitterns were singles at Bosque 22 Apr (DH) and B.L.N.W.R. 29 Apr (JP, CR); in May, vocal Least were at those two sites plus Clabber Hill Ranch in e. San Miguel and the Fort Sumner area (m.ob.). Four Great Blue Heron nests on the Navajo R. n. of Dulce 13 May (DS) established a new breeding locale; two nests were at Mule Creek, Grant 13 May (EL), where not recently reported. Continuing their expansionist trend, Great Egrets were n. to Colfax (DC) and Quay (CR) and w. to Grant (EL, RS) and Hidalgo (fide AC). A Tricolored Heron at Bosque 2 May (GF) furnished the lone report. Annual in recent years, single Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were at Luis Lopez 30 May (ph. JO), B.L.N.W.R. 24 May (J. Montgomery, GW), and Tatum 11 May (JP). An ad. White Ibis entertained many at B.L.N.W.R. 26 Apr-11 May (GW et al., ph. CGL, ph. JO). Now an expected spring mi-

grant, Glossy Ibis reports were single ads. at Ute L. 26-27 Apr (ph. DC), Clovis 10-11 May (JP, NP), Portales 11 May (JP), Socorro 5 Apr (ph. JO), and Belen 22-25 Apr (ph. JO, PL, JP), plus an apparent hybrid at Belen 24 Apr (PL, ph. JO), and one or more ads. at Bosque 2-18 Apr (m.ob., ph. JO).

New Mexico's breeding Osprey population numbered 18 pairs by Apr, with 17 in n. Rio Arriba and one in McKinley (DS). White-tailed Kites continued at two Hidalgo locales, with 3 s. of Hachita 3 Mar (ph. CGL) and one in the s. Animas Valley 13 May (AC). Very early was a Mississippi Kite near Clovis 15 Apr (BO), and another was at Albuquerque 29 Apr (BN); May brought multiple reports from nine counties from the R.G.V. eastward, including 6 diving on phalaropes at Tucumcari L. 15 May (WW) and a high 15 at B.L.N.W.R. 6 May (CGL). A Bald Eagle pair was nesting in n. Rio Arriba 7-12 May, but the nest was abandoned by 29 May (DS). Prior to 2006, there were no unquestioned Gray Hawk reports in New Mexico away from Grant and Hidalgo, this due largely to confusion with Broad-winged Hawk, a regular migrant through cen. and e. New Mexico. This season, however, produced a well-described ad. Gray Hawk at R.S. on 24 Apr (DG) and again 8 (JP) & 28 May (SW). In the R.G.V., there was a possible Gray Hawk near San Marcial 13 May (JO), an apparent ad. on Las Animas Cr., Sierra 22 Apr (R. Ketchum), and another possible one at Mesilla Park 13 Apr (JN); in the sw., singles were at the Lower Gila Box 29 May (RF, MW) and in Guadalupe Canyon 13 May (NM-C, RAR). Common Black-Hawk returned n. to Cochiti, where singles were seen on 9 Apr (WH) and again 1 (MLW) & 13 May (WH), and a pair was along the Pecos R. at Santa Rosa 27 Apr (RF); in the e., one was on the R. Peñasco near Mayhill 29 Apr (CR), and a nest was along the R. Bonito near Lincoln 1 May (WW). Two Harris's Hawks were w. of Tularosa 29 Apr (CGL). What was described as a light-morph ad. Short-tailed Hawk was at R.S. 24 Apr (DG), and a possible one was reported there in early May; the species was first found in New Mexico in 2005. The earliest report of Swainson's Hawk came 18 Mar, near Roswell (SW). Unverified in New Mexico, an imm. possible White-tailed Hawk was near Otis 22 Apr (SW). Zone-tailed Hawks in unusual locales included singles at Mesilla 11 & 16 Mar (CGL, J. Douglas), Percha 28 May (ph. BZ), Bosque 16 Apr (ph. WH), and R.S. 8-10 May (JP, ph. JO); a pair was incubating n. to Mills Canyon 17 May (HS). Nicely documented was a Harlan's Hawk near Mesilla 4 & 7 Mar (MS, ph. JZ, CGL). An aerial survey for Golden Eagles in ne. New Mexico located



Dwarfed by surrounding Franklin's Gulls, this Little Gull at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, Socorro County 1 April 2006 provided New Mexico's fifth record, but it followed the fourth by less than a year. Photograph by Jerry R. Oldenettel.

41 active nests plus nine additional occupied territories 13-18 Mar (DS); prompting the survey was concern for eagles because of rapidly proliferating wind farms. A Crested Caracara was e. of Hermanas 25 Mar (RM), and another was at San Marcial 15-16 Apr (JP et al., ph. JO, ph. WH); these 2, together with one at Rodeo in Dec, constitute a remarkable surge in records. Single unbanded subad. Aplomado Falcons were on Otero Mesa 12 Apr (ph. RR) and w. of Columbus 25 May (SOW).

RAILS THROUGH OWLS

A vocal Black Rail heard by many at Clabber Hill Ranch below Conchas Dam 12-26 May (m.ob., v.r. JO) may (finally) provide the state's first verified record. Black-bellied Plover made a good showing in the east 29 Apr-27 May, including 6 each at Stubblefield L. 13 May (DC) and Brantley L. 10 May (JO). Two American Golden-Plovers were at Deming 5 May (LM). Snowy Plovers peaked at 279 at B.L.N.W.R. 24 May (GW); high count at Brantley L. was 16 on 25 May (RD). Semipalmated Plovers peaked at 23 at Stubblefield L. 26 Apr (DC). Solitary Sandpipers where seldom reported were one at Carrizozo 20 Apr (JO) and 2 near Hope 12 Apr (WW). Rarely detected in spring, single Upland Sandpipers were heard at B.L.N.W.R. 26 Apr (GW) and Boone's Draw 30 Apr (JP). Single Whimbrels were at Stubblefield L. 26 Apr (DC), Vermejo Ranch 13-14 May (ph. DC), San Antonio 6 May (S. Santa Ana, M. L. Arthur), and B.L.N.W.R. 25 Apr (GW, JO). Always a treat, 2 Hudsonian Godwits were at Stubblefield L. 22 May (ph. DC), and one was at Bosque 30 Apr-2 May (m.ob., ph.). A remarkable 51 Sanderlings were at Springer L. 13 May (ph. DC); elsewhere, singles were at B.L.N.W.R. 26 Apr and 3 May (GW) and Brantley L. 30 Apr (CR). Small numbers of Semipalmated Sandpipers were in the east 20 Apr-19 May

(m.ob.); one at Bosque was westerly 24 & 29 Apr (MB, JO). White-rumped Sandpipers arrived 15 May; high counts were 8 each at Tucumcari L. 15 & 27 May (JB, WW, JP, JO) and Springer L. 19 May (DC). Noteworthy for the Jemez Mts. were 4 Stilt Sandpipers at Bandelier N.M. 15 May (SF, ph. S. King).

A Laughing Gull at Clovis 11 May (JP) was joined by another 23 (ph. JB) & 27 May (CR). An ad. Little Gull at Bosque 1 Apr (ph. JO) was the 3rd to be verified in New Mexico. A Heermann's Gull at the I-10 rest area in s. Grant 28 Mar (ph. J. Toll) provided New Mexico's 6th overall record. High count for Least Terns at the new Brantley L. colony was 20 on 24 May (RD); single Least's wandered to Bosque Redondo (JP) and Jal L. (JO) 27 May. High count for Black Terns was 80 at Sunner L. 12 May (JP). Five Band-tailed Pigeons were early at Emory Pass 31 Mar (JP). Eurasian Collared-Doves were conspicuous statewide; nests were found in saltcedar at Radium Springs (MS, JZ) and cottonwood at R.S. (DG). An Inca Dove chick at Radium Springs had fledged by 8 Mar (MS, JZ). Single Common Ground-Doves were at Bosque 17 May (JB), Clanton Cienega 19 May (AC, NM-C),



Taking a break at the eastbound I-10 rest area in southern Grant County 28 March 2006, this Heermann's Gull provided New Mexico's sixth record. Photograph by Jerry W. Toll.

and Mesilla Park 14-15 Mar (CGL); one at Las Cruces since Dec laid (but abandoned) single eggs 27 Apr and 13 May (DG). A pair of Ruddy Ground-Doves was s. of Mesilla 2-5 Mar (CGL, MS, ph. JZ, ph. JO).

Early Yellow-billed Cuckoos were singles at Cerrillos 7 May (LS) and Bosque 9 May (DH) and 2 at R.S. 15 May (SW); noteworthy were one in Canadian R. saltcedar at Mills Canyon 18 May (HS), 2 near Santa Rosa 21 May (WW), and one at Sumner Dam 26 May (JO). One to 2 Whiskered Screech-Owls were at the Indian Cr. trailhead 12-13 May (CGL, DU), the 2nd consecutive year for the species at that Animas Mts. locale; in the Peloncillo Mts., nine Whiskered territories were located in Skeleton Canyon 2-3 May (SOW, CLH).



Although reported almost annually in New Mexico, Harlan's Hawk is rarely well documented in the state. This one was near Mesilla, Doña Ana County 4 March 2006. Photograph by James E. Zabriskie.

Late was a Short-eared Owl at Vermejo Ranch 13 May (DC). Up to 3 Northern Saw-whet Owls responded to audio lures at Sugarite S.P. 13-14 Mar (CAH).

NIGHTHAWKS THROUGH SHRIKES

Several Lesser Nighthawks were n. to Clabber Hill Ranch 15 Apr (WW). Early were 2 Common Poorwills found injured on a road at Carlsbad Caverns N.P. 14-15 Mar (MLW); one was singing in P.O. Canyon by 25 Mar (CDL). Far n., a Whip-poor-will was singing w. of Dulce 13 May (DS), only 5 km s. of the Colorado line; others in the n. included singles at Bandelier N.M. 4 & 11 May (SF) and one at Doc Long Campground, Sandia Mts. 29 Apr (BV). A Chimney Swift was w. to Clines Corners 5 May (CR). Two apparent Vaux's Swifts were documented at Percha 24-25 Apr (PL, ph. JO, MS, ph. JZ, JP, MB); if photographs and other materials prove definitive, another species can be added to the state list. Broad-billed Hummingbirds n. of their Guadalupe Canyon stronghold were up to 6 in Skeleton Canyon 3 May (SOW, CLH), and singles in P.O. Canyon 13 May (CDL), Cliff 16 Apr (SW), and L. Roberts 2 May (JD-M); one that wintered at Carlsbad was still present Mar-May (SW). Other noteworthy hummers included a Blue-throated in Guadalupe Canyon 13 May (NM-C, RAR), one to 2 Magnificents at Cliff, Silver City, L. Roberts, and Cherry Creek Campground 8 Apr-29 May (m.ob.), up to 15 Lucifers in P.O. Canyon 22 & 30 May (CDL), a male Anna's at Santa Fe 7-31 May (Lois Herrmann), and a Costa's Hummingbird at Las Cruces 16 May (DG). Early Broad-taileds were a male in P.O. Canyon 1 Mar (CDL) and 2 at L. Roberts 2 Mar (JD-M). Previously unexpected anywhere in New Mexico in spring, both Calliope and Rufous Hummingbirds were much in evidence this

season, with single Calliope at L. Roberts 14 Apr (JD-M), Silver City 12 May (*fide* DB), and Deming 7 May (LM), plus 2 in P.O. Canyon 15 Apr and one there 7 May (CDL); multiple Rufous (especially ad. males) passed through P.O. Canyon 2 Mar-21 Apr (CDL) and Radium Springs 16 Mar-23 Apr (MS, JZ), and singles were noted at Luis Lopez 6-7 Apr (JO), Las Cruces 2 Apr (DG), L. Roberts area 6 & 30 Mar (*fide* DB), with 2 at Silver City 12 Apr (*fide* DB).

A colony of 7 or more Lewis's Woodpeckers was in pine snags at Sugarite S.P. 16 Mar and 20-21 May (CAH). A pair of Gila Woodpeckers was in the G.B.A. 15 Apr-29 May (RS), where scarce. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was in e. *San Miguel* s. of Mosquero 16 Mar (ph. MM); late was a Red-naped at N.R.T. 10-12 May (JP). An Arizona Woodpecker nest in an agave stalk at P.O. Canyon had nestlings until 10 May, when they apparently fell prey to a Sonoran Whipsnake (CDL). Very early was an Olive-sided Flycatcher at N.R.T. 20 Apr (WH). An apparent Greater Pewee was e. to R.S. 17 May (DG); within expected range,



Ruddy Ground-Dove has occurred annually in New Mexico since 2002. This pair was near Mesilla, Doña Ana County 2-5 (here 4) March 2006. Photograph by James E. Zabriskie.

singles were singing at Cherry Creek Campground 30 Apr (D&MZ) and 29 May (BZ), and 3 were in the Animas Mts. 13 May (CGL). Providing an unexpected *Doña Ana* first was a Buff-breasted Flycatcher at Mesilla Park 7 May (ph. JN). Early was a Black Phoebe n. to Stubblefield L. 18 & 23 Mar (DC). An Eastern Phoebe pair was nest-building at Tucumcari 16 Apr (BO); another on Pajarito Cr. near Tucumcari 6 May (CR) was suspected of breeding. The Ash-throated Flycatcher that wintered at Caballo Dam was last seen 18 Mar (JP); the earliest migrant was one at Redrock 31 Mar (JP). Unexpected in spring in the se., an Eastern Kingbird was at Cass Draw, *Eddy* 14 Apr (BO). Very early was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Carlsbad 27 Mar (T. Hines); beyond normal range were singles near Sumner L. 6 May (JP), Galisteo 22 May (L. Howard),

and Rodeo 2 May (S. Kennedy). An imm. Northern Shrike at Sugarite S.P. 14 Mar (CAH) provided the lone report.

VIREOS THROUGH PIPITS

Single singing White-eyed Vireos were at N.R.T. 5-6 May (ph. CGL, JB, JP) and Aguirre Spring, Organ Mts. 21 Apr (M. Powell). Far n. was a singing Bell's Vireo at Conchas Dam 10-22 May (CR, NP, MB, JP, WW); another was on Otero Mesa near Alamo Mt. 21 Apr (DG). A probable Gray Vireo was heard in Piñon Canyon, Los Pinos Mts. 20 May (HS), a new locality for the species; up to 5 were in Helm's Valley, s. Oscura Mts. 9 May (CGL), where also present in 2005. Single Yellow-throated Vireos were at N.R.T. 30 Apr (DH) and 12-13 May (JP). A Cassin's Vireo at Mesilla Park 8 Mar (CGL) likely wintered locally; earliest migrants arrived at multiple locales 10-15 Apr (m.ob.). At least 2 Hutton's Vireos were singing at Aguirre Spring 9 Apr (DG) and 21 May (CGL). Early was a Warbling Vireo in the Peloncillo Mts. 8 Apr (CDL). Red-eyed Vireos made a good showing, with singles s. of Mosquero 12-13 May (MM), Santa Rosa 21 May (WW), N.R.T. 7 May (NP, MB, JEP), Cedar Crest 16 & 21 May (CMB, JP), San Andres Spring 18 May (MEW), and Ropes Spring, San Andres Mts. 26 May (b., ph. MEW, DG). Three Pinyon Jays were e. to Ragland Hill, *Quay* 28 May (CR), where possibly regular. A Black-billed Magpie was s. to Cerrillos 15 May (LS).

Migrant Purple Martins included 3 over the Pecos R. at Ribera 24 Apr (WW) and 2 over Las Cruces 30 Apr (DG). At Whites City, Cave Swallows were nesting beside Cliffs on a hotel portal 29 Apr (BF). Two Black-capped Chickadees were s. to Galisteo 30-31 May (JB). Mexican Chickadee is casual in the Peloncillo Mts., so noteworthy was one in Clanton Canyon 2 Apr (CRB). Red-breasted Nuthatches where seldom reported included 2 in the Oscura Mts. 29 Apr (CGL) and, in the San Andres Mts., one in San Nicholas Canyon 20 Apr (CGL) and 2 in San Andres Canyon 18 May (MEW). A vocal Winter Wren in Cimarron Canyon 1 Mar (DC) had wintered locally; one in the G.B.A. 17 Mar (RS) provided the only additional report. Fire, and the understory clearing resulting from threat of fire, have obviously benefited breeding Eastern Bluebirds in the middle R.G.V.; this season found nesting pairs at Albuquerque 3 May, where a male was feeding a fledgling 17 May (DH), at Los Lunas 27 Apr, where ads. were feeding 3 fledglings 2 Jun (DH), and near Abeytas 16 May, where 2 fledglings were fed 24 May (DH, J. Galloway). Seldom identified in migration, a Veery was at N.R.T. 16 May

(NP, MB). Early were single Swainson's Thrushes at Pep 29 Apr (JB), R.S. 29-30 Apr (D. Krueper), and Corrales 30 Apr (BV). A Wood Thrush at the Conchas L. golf course



Although Vaux's Swift almost certainly migrates through southwestern New Mexico, verification has proven elusive. It is hoped the multiple photographs and videotape of two seen and heard at Percha State Park, Sierra County 24 (here) and 25 April 2006 will finally prove definitive. Photograph by James E. Zabriskie.

13 May (JP, NP, CR) provided a local first; another visited N.R.T. 19 & 21 May (ph. MB, NP, JB). Scarce in the w., single Gray Catbirds were at Mangas Springs 11 Apr (*fide* DB) and Deming 12 May (CGL); one was in the San Andres Mts. 26 May (b., ph. MEW, DG). Late for the s. was a Sage Thrasher at Lake Valley 27 May (SOW). Brown Thrashers where seldom noted were singles at Cerrillos 29 Apr (LS) and on Otero Mesa near Hat Ranch 30 May (DG). Unusual was a Curve-billed Thrasher nest in a nest box at Rio Rancho 2 Apr (ph. M. Frenzel); far n., a Curve-billed at Aztec 25 Mar+ (W. McNall, ph. J. Rees) provided a *San Juan* first. Two Crissal Thrashers persisted at Tesuque through 17 Mar (S. Tanner). At least one Sprague's Pipit was still in n. Jornada del Muerto grasslands e. of San Antonio 25 Mar (JP); another was in grasslands near Hope 12 Apr (WW).

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS

On the warbler front, a male Blue-winged Warbler was at Socorro 14 May (sketch by PB). Two Orange-crowned Warblers at Mesilla Park 8 Mar (CGL) probably wintered locally; earliest migrants were singles in the Peloncillo Mts. 26 Mar (CDL) and near Cliff 31 Mar (LM). Lucy's Warblers returned to recently colonized R.S., where up to 5 were singing 24 Apr (DG), and others were noted through May. A good Northern Parula season found one to 2 at seven sites from the R.G.V. eastward 15 Apr–25 May (m.ob.), including one at Three Rivers Canyon, *Lincoln* 28 Apr (CR);

w. was one at Deming 26 Apr (LM). Other noteworthy warblers were a Yellow singing at Percha by 18 Mar (JP), a male Chestnut-sided at R.S. 7 May (DR), single Black-throated Blues at Sumner L. 30 Apr (J. Osterhouse), Albuquerque 3 May (DH), and N.R.T. 15 May (JB, WW), and a Black-throated Gray e. to N.R.T. 20 Apr (WH). A male Hermit Warbler was e. to Percha 22 Apr (CGL), and 4 were in the Animas Mts. 13 May (CGL). Among the rarities were a Blackburnian Warbler at N.R.T. 23-25 May (NP, GF, JB), single Yellow-throated Warblers at Katfish Kove, *Luna* 15 Apr (DB et al.) and N.R.T. 15 May (JB, WW), a male Bay-breasted Warbler at Farmington 16 May (*fide* A. Nelson), and single Blackpoll Warblers at R.S. 14 Apr (SW) and N.R.T. 2 May (BF). The Pine Warbler that wintered at Socorro was last seen 14 Mar (J. Dunn, *fide* JO). One to 2 Black-and-white Warblers were at nine sites from the R.G.V. eastward 16 Apr–28 May; w. was one in the Animas Mts. 13 May (DU). Single American Redstarts were at Quarai 13 May (*fide* HS), Socorro 10-13 May (GF, BN), and Percha 26 May (CGL), and 2 were at Galisteo 29 May (JB); at N.R.T., one or more were present 3-28 May (m.ob.). A Worm-eating Warbler was at R.S. 6 May (DR, GF); undetailed was another at N.R.T. 17 May (L. Gorbet). Single Ovenbirds were at N.R.T. 19, 21, & 25 May (NP, JB) and Boone's Draw 29 Apr (JB) and 4-5 May (ph. CGL). An apparent Louisiana Waterthrush was described at R.S. 7 May (CRB). Single Kentucky Warblers were at N.R.T. 7 May (NP, JP) and Angel Fire 10-16 May (ph. EW, ph. P. Monk, DC). Single Hooded Warblers were at Albuquerque's Kirtland A.F.B. 5 May (JP), Socorro 12-13 May (BN, ph. JO), Bosque 28-30 Apr (NP, MB, ph. JO, MS, JZ), and Roswell 3 May (window-killed; GW); another was w. to the Animas Mts. 13 May (DU), the 2nd consecutive year at that locale. Summer Tanagers were n. to the Canadian R. basin, including 3 at Mills Canyon 18 May (HS) and 10 s. of Mosquero 12-13 May (MM). Single Scarlet Tanagers were at Socorro 10 May (GF) and Luis Lopez 22 May (JO).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

A female Eastern Towhee was at N.R.T. 4-6 May (ph. CGL, JP, JB). Two Field Sparrows were near Milnesand 9 Apr (CR), where the species is likely regular in winter; another was at R.S. 6 May (GF). Black-throated Sparrows invaded the Caja del Rio area w. of Santa Fe, where 11 were singing 6 May (MR), and 3 were singing at the base of Tevilla Peak 13 May (WH). Surprising were up to 5 Grasshopper Sparrows singing in alfalfa near Cliff 23 May (MF). A Baird's Sparrow was in Bullis

Canyon grasslands sw. of Hope 12 Apr (WW). Single reddish Fox Sparrows were at Santa Fe 1 Apr (D. LaCoss) and Albuquerque 26 Mar (BV); a slate-colored one was at G.B.A. 24 & 31 Mar (RS). Late for the s. were 4 Lincoln's Sparrows at Clanton Cienega 19 May (AC, NM-C); 2 lingered at N.R.T. 28 May (CR). Also late were single White-throated Sparrows at Conchas L. 13 May (JP, NP, CR) and Tucumcari 15 May (WW). The wintering Harris's Sparrow at Luis Lopez was last seen 30 Apr (JO), while the wintering one at Bosque attained breeding plumage and was singing 1-2 May (GF); another bright ad. was at Albuquerque 30 Apr–3 May (BN). Very early was a dark-lored White-crowned Sparrow at Silver City 3 Mar (ph. DZ). Single Golden-crowned Sparrows were at Escondida 26 Apr (DH), near Gila Cliff Dwellings 4 May (*fide* DB), n. of Cliff 30 Apr and 10 May (MF, DZ), and at Silver City 22 Apr (ph. DZ). Eight Lapland Longspurs were at Ruby Ranch n. of Las Vegas 19 Mar (WW), where there were 400 Chestnut-collareds the same day; late were 6 Chestnut-collareds at Milnesand 9 Apr (CR).

Northern Cardinals continued to appear n. of historic range, including single males at Silver City 7 May (ph. DZ), Albuquerque's South Valley 4 May (DH), and Corrales 7 May (CR); singles were at Tucumcari 17 Apr (BO) and 28 May (CR), and 2 were on Pajarito Cr.



One of two reported in New Mexico this season, this Crested Caracara frequented a field at San Acacia, Socorro County 15-16 (here 16) April 2006. There are now about a dozen credible reports for the state. Photograph by William H. Howe.

near Tucumcari 6 May (CR). Single Pyrrhuloxias were n. to N.R.T. 11 Apr (SOW) and Milnesand 9 Apr (CR); in the R.G.V., a pair was at Los Lunas 12-14 Mar (T. Hill), and one to 3 were at Bosque Mar–May. The crowd-pleasing Yellow Grosbeak continued in Albuquerque's University area (m.ob.), where it was heard singing 26 Mar and 23 Apr (JP) and was last seen 1 May. A fine showing by Rose-breasted Grosbeak produced reports from 12 sites in 10 counties from the R.G.V. eastward 25 Apr–24 May, plus singles in *Grant* 8 & 13 May and 2 or more in *Hidalgo* 7-20 May (m.ob.). Most unusual was a fe-

male-plumaged Black-headed Grosbeak in the Peloncillo Mts. 3 Mar, where the first migrants did not arrive until 21 Apr (CDL). Single Varied Buntings in Slaughter Canyon 7 May (CGL) and Walnut Canyon 17 May (DG) were the only reports. Noteworthy was a male Painted Bunting at Alamogordo 7-8 May (H. Reiser); a female was w. to Guadalupe Canyon 13 May (RAR). Dickcissels in obscure locales were singles e. of Coyote, *Rio Arriba* 23 Apr (J. Wright) and in w. *Cañon* 22 May (W. Thurber).

Single Bobolinks were at Ghost Ranch 13 May (W. Picaro), near N.R.T. 15 May (A. Fenner), and at B.L.N.W.R. 17 May (GW). North and at a high elevation was a singing Eastern Meadowlark near Black L., *Colfax* 20 May (v.r. DC). Apparently persisting from winter, 4 Rusty Blackbirds were at Ute L. 15 Mar, and at least one was there 25 Mar (ph. DC); another was s. of Mesilla 3 Mar (ph. CGL). Bronzed Cowbirds continued to increase in range and numbers, including n. in the Tularosa Valley to Carrizozo (ph. JO) and Three

Rivers (CR); n. in the e. plains were one near Tucumcari 15 May (WW), 3 at Ned Houk Park near Clovis 10 May (JP), and one at Boone's Draw 10 May (JP, NP). Unseasonal was a male Bullock's Oriole found dead at Carlsbad 6 Mar (SW). A male Baltimore Oriole was at B.L.N.W.R. 6-7 May (ph. CGL, GF), and a young female was in Guadalupe Canyon 13 May (NM-C). Last of the world-famous Sandia Crest rosy-finches was a small three-species flock 13 Apr, plus a lone Black 19-20 Apr (*vide* K. Schneider); at the close of the 2005-2006 banding season 25 Mar, 221 Blacks, 44 Brown-capped, and 33 Gray-crowned had been banded (N. Cox et al.). Notable were 3 Cassin's Finches near Alamo Spring, Otero Mesa 29 Apr (DG). Late Pine Siskins included 2 at N.R.T. 28 May (CR), one at R.S. 28 May (SW), one banded in the San Andres Mts. 26 May (MEW, DG), and 5 at Katfish Kove 31 May (LM).

Initialed observers: Pat Basham, Jonathan Batkin, Matt Baumann, David Beatty, Charles

R. Britt, Celestyn M. Brozek, David Cleary, Alan Craig, Joan Day-Martin, Robert Doster, Stephen Fettig, Randy Floyd, Bernard Foy, Gary Froehlich, Make Fugagli, David Griffin, David Hawksworth, Charles L. Hayes, William Howe, Charles A. Hundertmark, Paul Lehman, Eugene Lewis, Carroll D. Littlefield, Carl G. Lundblad, Martin MacRoberts, Larry Malone, Ray Meyer, Narca Moore-Craig, Josh Nemeth, Bruce Neville, Jerry Oldenettel, Bruce Ostyn, John Parmeter, Nicholas Pederson, Ross Rasmussen, Mary Ristow, David Roemer, Rose Ann Rowlett, Christopher Rustay, Lawry Sager, Hart Schwarz, Marcy Scott, Roland Shook, Dale Stahlecker, David Utterback, Brad Vaughn, Gordon Warrick, Mark L. Watson, Mara E. Weisenberger, Steve West, William West, Elton Williams, S. O. Williams, James Zabriskie, Barry Zimmer, Dale & Marian Zimmerman. ☉

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Arizona



Mark M. Stevenson (Non-Passerines)
Gary H. Rosenberg (Passerines)

Drought conditions worsened throughout the state, ranging in status from "moderate drought" in the north and west to "exceptional drought" across much of southeastern Arizona. As a result of the dry conditions, migrants were concentrated into irrigated and riparian areas. Several Glossy

Ibis were reported, and Black-capped Gnatcatchers continued to spread. A few individual migrants of a wide variety of species appeared on both early and late dates.

Abbreviations: A.B.C. (Arizona Bird Committee), A.V.S.T.P. (Avra Valley STP), B.T.A. (Boyce-Thompson Arboretum), C.S.L. (Cow Springs L.), G.W.R. (Gilbert Water Ranch), H.R.P. (Hassayampa R. Preserve), L.C.R.V. (lower Colorado R. valley), N.I.R. (Navajo Indian Reservation), P.L.S.P. (Patagonia Lake S.P.), S.P.R. (San Pedro R.), Sweetwater (Sweetwater Wetlands, Tucson), Whitewater (Whitewater Draw W.A.).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANE

The wintering Fulvous Whistling-Duck in Scottsdale was last reported on 31 Mar. A Greater White-fronted Goose at C.S.L. 23 Apr (CL) was a first for spring on the N.I.R. Canada Geese with goslings at G.W.R. 6 May (C. Ross) and near Tempe Town L. 13 May (D. Stuart) represented 6th and 7th *Maricopa* nesting records. Mexican Ducks were reported n. to *Maricopa* again, with one in Arlington 25 Apr (TC) and a pair with juvs. at Rio Salado 28 May (TG). At P.L.S.P., a Common Merganser stayed on into summer (SH). A late

migrant Red-breasted Merganser was on Fountain Hills L. 4 May (ph. KR).

Tucson's 2 Least Grebes were present throughout the season (m.ob.); none were reported elsewhere. Late were 4 Western Grebes at Willcox 6 May (DS), one there 21 May (DS), and one that stayed into summer at P.L.S.P. (J. Yerger). At Roosevelt L. and San Carlos L., a die-off of *Aechmophorus* grebes noted in Apr (J. Estis) had apparently ended by May. Clark's Grebes were seen singly at A.V.S.T.P. 6 Mar (J. Bock), Willcox 27 Apr (KK), and Saguaro L. 13 May (TC). "Quite a few" were on Alamo L. 4 May (TC), where they are not known to nest. American White Pelicans at Willcox 1 Apr (P. Santinello) were early migrants. Accidental in spring, single Brown Pelicans were at P.L.S.P. 28 Apr-2 May (SH) and Tucson 23 May (DS). Neotropical Cormorants continue to be numerous in greater Phoenix. Numbers reported at P.L.S.P. peaked at 6 (SH), and one strayed n. to Dead Horse Ranch S.P. 15-21 Apr (P. Rhoads, P. Norton). At Greer, up to 100 Double-crested Cormorants and 30 nests were seen on 19 Apr (TC); cormorant nesting is a recent phenomenon in the White Mt. region. No fewer than 40 Double-crested Cormorants were at Willow Creek Res. 17 May (TC); the species had

been considered uncommon at best in the Prescott area.

A new heronry of nearly 60 Great Blue Heron nests was active along the Gila R. near Dysart Rd. in Phoenix in Mar (TC). Casual in spring, an ad. Little Blue Heron was a good find at Rio Salado 26 May+ (TG). Cattle Egrets were seen in high breeding plumage in the Arlington Valley 20 Apr (PD). Arizona joined other w. states in having multiple reports of Glossy Ibis this spring. Singles were at Rio Rico 23 Apr (ph. SF, DS), Holbrook 7 May (KP, ph. L. Gardella), and Willcox 21 May (ph. O. Niheuis). If accepted, they would double the number of Arizona records. At least one of these birds showed plumage features not described by field guides; the range of normal variation in this species is not well described. All documented Arizona reports of Glossy Ibis will be reviewed by the A.B.C. White-faced Ibis arrived on the early dates of 22 Mar at Tumacacori (DT) and 31 Mar at C.S.L. (CL).

Furthering the recent increase in reports of White-tailed Kites, up to 14 were seen in s. Arizona. A real surprise was one near Becker L. 8-31 May (C. & S. Wood, ph. H. Bond); there are scant few records from n. of the Mogollon Rim. Nesting kites were noted at two sites along the upper S.P.R. in Apr (MM, EW), where one nest failed. A Mississippi Kite near Bowie 20 May (B. Zimmer) was away from known nesting areas. The Arizona range of Gray Hawk has been expanding slowly. One was seen again n. to H.R.P. 10 Apr-5 May (M. Lawrence, *vide* TC). In eastside Huachuca Mt. canyons, a pair attempted to build a nest in lower Ramsey Canyon in Apr (J&MH), one was seen in lower Miller Canyon 7-14 May (C. Melton), and 2 were over Beatty's on 28-29 May (W. Howe). These and another above the head of Sycamore Canyon, Santa Cruz 16 May+ (DS) were away from typical habitat. A Harris's Hawk in Sierra Vista 24 Apr (EW) was also away from typical habitat. At H.R.P., a single Red-shouldered Hawk was noted through May (TC). Reports of migrant Broad-winged Hawks were above average, with singles at Morgan City Wash 9 Apr (TC), near the mouth of Tonto Cr. 16 Apr (†T. Magarian), at Sheeps Crossing in the White Mts. 20 Apr (TC), and in Oak Cr. Canyon 26 Apr (C. Holm). In the Chiricahua Mts., single Short-tailed Hawks were seen 13-20 Apr in S. Fork (A. Grenon et al., *vide* RW) and 17 May+ in Barfoot Park (DJ), where they have been regular in small numbers since 1999. A Swainson's Hawk was reported from Hereford on the early date of 13 Mar (MM). Crested Caracaras were reported again from the Santa Cruz Flats and from Sahuarita 31 Mar (E. Post), Amado

11 Apr (D. Barker), and Patagonia 2 May (T. Army), all away from their core range. A lone Sandhill Crane was seen again at Luna L. 30 May+ (J. Videle).

PLOVERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Shorebird habitat was in short supply statewide due to the prolonged drought. Even so, birds did not seem to be very concentrated in the available areas. Casual spring migrants, single Black-bellied Plovers were at Willcox 6 Apr (REW) and El Mirage 16 Apr (BG). The only Snowy Plover reported was at Willcox 12 May (KK). In appropriate nesting habitat near Springerville, up to five pairs of Mountain Plovers were noted 30 Mar+ (T. Bayless, TC). A Solitary Sandpiper at Yuma 4-17 Mar (ph. HD et al.) was a month early. A Willet in Flagstaff 6 Apr (JC) was also early. Whimbrel is a casual migrant away from the Yuma area, so 15 among curlews at Paloma Ranch on 16 Apr (BG) and 4 in Arlington on 23 Apr (PD) were surprising. Sanderling reports comprised 2 at C.S.L. on 28 Apr (CL), one at Willcox 30 Apr-3 May (SH), and 6 at Willcox 2 May (†M. Smith et al.). Semipalmated Sandpiper is casual in spring; the only documented report came from A.V.S.T.P. 1-7 May (ph. DS). A report of 2 White-rumped Sandpipers at Willcox on the very early date of 25 Apr (†J&MH) will be reviewed by the A.B.C.; they are essentially unknown in the West before mid-May. A Dunlin at A.V.S.T.P. 1-6 Mar (PK) may have wintered locally, while singles at Willcox 2 May (M. Smith et al.) and G.W.R. 11-12 May (D. Pearson et al.) were migrants. Stilt Sandpipers are casual spring migrants in Arizona. Singles were reported from Palo Verde 16 Apr (BG), Arlington 20 Apr (C. Green), and G.W.R. 21-25 Apr (M. Moore). Record early on the N.I.R., a Long-billed Dowitcher was at C.S.L. 6 Mar (CL). Thirty Red-necked Phalaropes at Gila Bend S.T.P. 13 May (T. McCarthey) was a large flock for spring. A Red Phalarope at Willcox 23-24 Apr (KK, ph. R. Carlson) was a casual migrant.

Migrant gulls were relatively sparsely reported. A Heermann's Gull at Amado S.T.P. 26 Apr (KK) was casual. Outstanding was a Sabine's Gull at Willcox 31 Mar-6 Apr (R. Laager, ph. P. D. Hulce), likely the earliest of the few spring records for the state. Least Terns put in another good showing, with 10 reported, all in May in the south. Given that the species is considered casual in spring, the tally of 53 Black Terns at Willow Cr. Res. 16 May (TC) was a surprise.

The novelty of Eurasian Collared-Doves has long since worn off in Arizona, but one found at the Grand Canyon South Rim Village 13 May (C. Tepper) and one in a ponderosa

pine forest on A-1 Mt. 17 May (C. Nunes) were away from typical habitat. The winter plethora of Ruddy Ground-Doves spilled over into spring. Two males were n. to Montezuma Well 12 Apr (JC et al.). The latest reports included up to 2 along the S.P.R. s. of Hwy. 90 (SH, R. Romea), 2 at Red Rock (D. Jenness, m.ob.) through May, and a pair at Kino Springs, where singing was heard and one was collecting nesting material 14 May (ph. DS). There are no prior nesting records for se. Arizona, and a nest has yet to be found in the United States. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo along Willow Cr. 29 May (CST) provided one of few local records in the past decade.

A Northern Saw-whet Owl was heard 13 May at Slate Creek Divide (TC), where they are seldom detected. A few early Lesser Nighthawks were seen in Tucson beginning 16 Mar (C. Danforth, L. Camburn). A Common Poorwill was early in the Huachuca Mt. foothills 13 Mar (EW), and a migrant in a Tolleson yard 16 Apr (BG) was unusual, as they are seldom seen away from nesting areas. At the Oro Blanco Mine site near California Gulch, up to 3 Buff-Collared Nightjars were present 2 May+ (M. Kehl, KK, DS). Also early were single Vaux's Swifts at Phoenix 6 Apr (E. Latturmer), Willcox 6 Apr (C. Cathers), G.W.R. 8 Apr (B. Winterfield), and Tucson 14 Apr (J. Bock).

Hummingbird numbers remained down in se. Arizona; Beatty served only one-third the expected amount of nectar in Miller Canyon, and Jasper noted numbers of Blue-throated down 75% in the Chiricahua Mts. Two Broad-billed Hummingbirds in Morgan City Wash 9 Apr (TC) were n. of their range. A pair nested again at B.T.A. 5 May+ (D. Green), and a nest was found 2-26 May in Portal (DJ), where the species is rare. White-eared Hummingbirds returned to eastside Huachuca Mt. canyons 14 Apr+, with one in Ramsey Canyon 14-23 Apr (R. Romea, ph. L. Williams) and up to 3 in Miller Canyon (TB). Reports of a single male at several locations in Madera Canyon 25 Apr-25 May (J. Gebler, J. Murray, ph. J. Prudente) may have involved more than one individual. A Berylline Hummingbird captured at Ramsey Canyon Preserve 12 Apr (*vide* R. Romea) had been banded there the year before. Higher up the canyon, one was seen 16 Apr (JH). Hybrid hummingbirds resembling Berylline Hummingbirds were seen again in Ash and Miller Canyons (W. Wallraven, TB). Violet-crowned Hummingbirds were nesting in a Bisbee yard on the incredibly early date of 12 Mar (M. Turisk); nests are seldom seen before mid-May in Arizona. A Violet-crowned strayed n. to Tucson 31 May (H. Hope). A Plain-capped

Starthroat reported in Florida Wash below Madera Canyon on the early date of 28 May (†J. & D. Chappel) will be reviewed by the A.B.C. Lucifer Hummingbirds returned to eastside Huachuca Mt. canyons in numbers in early Apr (MJB, TB, RB, J&MH, P. Sockness), and a few were in the Portal area (*vide* DJ). Calliope Hummingbird is rare in the L.C.R.V.; one was seen in Yuma 1 Apr (HD), and 2 more were there 22–26 Apr (ph. HD). Late Calliope were seen in Portal 26 May (M. Decker) and Paradise 28 May (J. Lewis).

Up to 6 Elegant Trogons were found in Humboldt Canyon, Patagonia Mts., but nest sites continued to elude searchers (T. Arny, M. Brown, J. Stewart). Rarely seen in the lowlands in migration, a male trogon was along the upper S.P.R. 5–7 May (R. Thompson, I. Field). Single Green Kingfishers at three separate locations along the upper S.P.R. (T. Chormock, MM, SH) were the only ones reported. A female Williamson's Sapsucker at B.T.A. 23 Apr (ph. M. Van Dewater, P. Lowe) was a surprising lowland migrant, and a male was a late migrant in the Chiricahua Mts. 18 May (REW). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker put in a rare/late appearance in lower Miller Canyon 14 May (ph. C. Melton). Rounding out the late sapsuckers, a Red-naped was in the Chiricahua Mts. 25 May (DJ). Downy Woodpeckers are seldom seen s. of the Mogollon Rim; reports came from the Santa Catalina Mts. 16 Mar (†D. Palmer) and Slate Creek Divide 13 May (TC). A Hairy Woodpecker in the Patagonia Mts. in May (M. Brown) was away from known nesting areas.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS

A Western Wood-Pewee in French Joe Canyon 8 Apr (EW) was early for se. Arizona. A singing Pacific-slope Flycatcher in Morgan City Wash 18 Mar (TC et al.) and Cordilleras reported from Carr Canyon 9 Apr (EW) and Sabino Canyon 10 Apr (WR) were perhaps the earliest ever reported from s. Arizona. Unusually early, and casual at best away from known breeding areas in the state, a Buff-breasted Flycatcher was reported at Peña Blanca L. 15 Mar (DT). Multiple pairs of this species were again found in the Santa Rita and Chiricahua Mts., as in recent years. It is always difficult determining whether Eastern Phoebe found during the spring represent wintering individuals; this season, singles were in Hereford 12–24 Mar (MM, RH), at San Bernardino N.W.R. 16 Mar (REW), and at Tubac 22 Mar (BM, SJ), with only the Tubac bird reported during the previous fall and winter. A calling Dusky-capped Flycatcher in the Bradshaw Mts. 28 May (CST) was n. and

w. of this species' normal breeding range in the state. Tropical Kingbirds were reported with frequency along the S.P.R. near Sierra Vista, and in particular, near Dudleyville and Winkleman. One at Dateland 12 May (ph. KR) and one in Yuma 19 May (C. Fultz) were both away from known breeding areas in the state. Slightly out-of-range Thick-billed Kingbirds included one in California Gulch 30 Apr (GHR), one returning for the 4th summer at H.R.P. 3 May+ (TC; ph. KR), and one in Miller Canyon 17 May (DS, JC). Rare to casual in the state in spring, Eastern Kingbirds were reported from Willcox 20 May (G. Smith), Ganado L. 20 May (CBa, BJ), and from Carr Canyon 30 May (M. Seaford, *vide* MM). Usually casual in the state at this season, no fewer than 5 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were found this spring; s. of Rodeo, NM 2 May (S. Kennedy); at Amado 7 May (J. Yerger et al.), with likely the same bird there 23 May (KK et al.); in Marana, seemingly paired with a Western Kingbird, 10–28 May (K. Schonhorst, PK et al.; ph. GHR); at Dudleyville 17–24 May (C. Allen et al.); and in Flagstaff 30 May (K. Satterfield, CL). Arriving much earlier than usual, a male Rose-throated Becard was at the Patagonia Roadside Rest 16 Apr+ (R. Wolcott), with 2 reported there only 18 May (MK et al.). Elsewhere, one male was reported incredibly early at Tumacacori 28 Mar (GB) near where one recently wintered, and one was along Proctor Rd. below Madera Canyon 15 May (†B. Fitch).

Gray Vireos are seldom reported, and even less frequently documented, during migration away from their breeding grounds in the pinyon-juniper zone across cen. Arizona. This spring saw an unusually high number of reports from lowland desert areas and oases; one was in Madera Canyon 12 Apr (DP), one was singing in Sabino Canyon 28 Apr (WR), with a different individual there 3 May (WR), one was singing in Montosa Canyon 10 May (v.r. DS), one was singing at Wenima W.A. near Springerville 16 May (D. Roten), and one was at Rimmy Jim Tank n. of Flagstaff 23 May (JC, CL). The severe drought that is plaguing Arizona is thought, by some, to be causing this phenomenon. Now casual in spring, Red-eyed Vireos were reported at Tumacacori 26 Apr (KK) and at Portal 25 May (W. Howe). Seemingly out of place, an American Crow was at Granite Cr. near Prescott 18 May, with a pair there exhibiting breeding behavior 24 May (CST). A very early Bank Swallow was at A.V.S.T.P. 1 Mar (PK).

The Carolina Wren discovered near Portal in fall (only a 3rd Arizona record) was present through May (*vide* DJa). A House Wren at the H.R.P. 5 May (TC) was late at such a low ele-

vation, as was one along the S.P.R. near Hereford 24 May (MM). Similarly, a Winter Wren reported from South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon 20 May (T. Staudt) was well s. of where recently found breeding in cen. Arizona. A Marsh Wren at Kino Springs 10 May (DS) was late for s. Arizona.

A single Ruby-crowned Kinglet near Onion Saddle 19 May and 2 near Rustler Park 20 May (DS) were likely late migrants, as this species does not breed in the Chiricahua Mts. The Black-capped Gnatcatcher saga continues in s. Arizona. This spring, a pair was located in Brown Canyon in Mar (GB), creating speculation as to whether they have been present there for the past 10 years. Potentially "new" birds included one reported from near Peña Blanca L. 8 Apr (†S. Schuette), and one or 2 n. to Pima Canyon 5 May (†PK). Continuing Black-capped included at least a pair (along with at least one hybrid) at P.L.S.P. through much of the season, a pair reported off and on at Proctor Rd. below Madera Canyon (m.ob.), and up to 3 at Montosa Canyon 18 Mar (RH), with 2 ads. and 2 juvs. there 30 May (MK). Caution should be exhibited when identifying this species in Arizona, as mixed pairs (with Black-tailed Gnatcatchers) and hybrids are again being reported.

An Eastern Bluebird at Madera Canyon 8 May (B. Clock) was away from known breeding areas in s. Arizona. Two Townsend's Solitaires at Paradise 5 May (P. D. Hulce) were quite late for spring in the Chiricahuas. A Rufous-backed Robin at Ramsey Canyon 10–21 Apr (JWo et al.; ph. C. Easter, C. Wright) may have been a holdover from the winter, as there are few true spring records. The individual wintering at the B.T.A. was last reported 19 Mar (C. Wise-Gervais). An ad. American Robin with fledglings at Wickenburg 13 May (N. London) provided only a 3rd breeding report from *Maricopa*. Casual in spring, single Varied Thrushes were reported from Montezuma Well 12 Mar (T. Fritzing, *vide* B. Hirt) and from Sumerhaven 1 May (P. Don). Gray Catbird is a casual visitor anywhere away from the breeding areas in the White Mts.; individuals were in Ash Canyon 2 May (ph. JWo), Oak Cr. Canyon 15 May (P. Kegley et al.), and at Flagstaff 30–31 May (CL). A Brown Thrasher returned to an Ash Canyon yard 24 Mar (RB), probably the same individual that was seen there in fall; the bird that wintered at the B.T.A. was last reported 15 Apr (ph. M. Weber).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Blue-winged Warbler reported near Woods Canyon L. on the Mogollon Rim 13 May (p.a., †K. Penland) would represent a first n. Arizona

record. A rather late Nashville Warbler was at Florida Wash 31 May (RH). Eight Northern Parulas, a few more than usual for a spring, were reported between 10 Apr and 16 May. A Chestnut-sided Warbler, casual in the spring, was at Sweetwater 15-16 Apr (W. & P. Pollock; ph. G. West). The Prairie Warbler that frequented the G.W.R. during the winter was last reported 13 Mar (B. Winterfield). Also casual in the state, Palm Warblers were reported from Tucson 14 Mar (A. Core), Granite Dells near Prescott 22-24 Apr (S. & S. Burk, CST, B. Pranter), and at Mittry L. 23 Apr (ph. HD). A Worm-eating Warbler was window-killed in Mesa 26 Apr (ph. J. Stickney, *vide* JW). Five Ovenbirds reported between 29 Apr and 31 May were a few more than usual, as were the 15 Northern Waterthrushes reported during the spring. Hooded Warbler reports included singles near Hereford 26 Apr (G. Pruzansky, D. Crane), San Bernardino N.W.R. 1 May (REW, RAR), South Fork near Springerville 20 May (N. Miller), and from Cameron Seep 23 May (JC, CL). The warbler of the season was the Canada Warbler at Rio de Flag, Flagstaff 23-24 May (ph. C. Nunes, ph. JC), providing a first n. Arizona record and only a 5th for the state overall. The drought in se. Arizona was the likely cause of 7 Red-faced Warblers and a plethora of Painted Redstarts in the lowlands. The Rufous-capped Warbler found in upper Sycamore Canyon during the winter remained there all spring (m.ob.; ph. HD, GHR).

The first-of-season Summer Tanager was reported quite early this spring at Tumacacori 15 Mar (GB). Of the three reports of Scarlet Tanager received, only one came with details, an ad. male along the Verde R. e. of Paulden 11

May (†S. Burk, S. Goodman, K. Koehler). This species is casual at best in the state. The male Flame-colored Tanager had returned for a 3rd year to Madera Canyon by 31 Mar (C. Lansky, m.ob.), and although there were initial, unconfirmed reports of a female, by the end of May, it appeared to be paired with a female Western Tanager. Beware of hybrids in 2007! At least one Flame-colored Tanager × Western Tanager hybrid remains in upper Miller Canyon, seen there 2-28 May (ph. GHR).

A "courting" pair of Chipping Sparrows on Mt. Ord 13 May (TC) may have represented a first *Maricopa* nesting record. Of the eight late-Mar and Apr reports of Clay-colored Sparrows received, only two were documented, one in Tucson 10 Apr (MP, ph. MMS) and one from Kingman 23 Apr (ph. J. Porter). A Swamp Sparrow at Whitewater 13 May (EW) was very late. White-throated Sparrows were a bit more numerous than usual. More unusual were Harris's Sparrows at Fairbank 8 Mar (M. Ali), Oro Valley 17 Apr (D. Forrester), and in Patagonia 12-13 May (C. Cathers; ph. RB). A small flock of 7 McCown's Longspurs at Prescott 3 Apr (CST) provided a first local record. Still casual in the state, the Lapland Longspur reported from Reservation Tank e. of Flagstaff during the winter was still present 4 Mar (C. Nunes, CL).

A singing male Pyrrhuloxia was at the extraordinarily high elevation of 2400 m in the Santa Catalina Mts. 2-10 May (M. Ali). As in recent springs, no fewer than 20 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported, most from mid-to late May. A Painted Bunting in Overgaard 14 May (ph. K. Penland) was the only one reported; they are casual in spring and more so

n. of the Mogollon Rim. A male Dickcissel in Kirkland 10 Feb-12 Apr (ph. C. Doherty) provided one of only a few Feb records for the state. At least one male Bobolink, casual in spring, was at the Kachina Wetlands 12 May (ph. G. Botello), and another was reported from Roosevelt L. 20 May (J. Shook). The Streak-backed Oriole at G.W.R. was only sporadically reported after 22 Mar (m.ob.). Baltimore Orioles were at Rimmy Jim Tank n. of Flagstaff 19 May (†CBa, BJ) and Canyon de Chelly 26 May (R. Carlson). A female Purple Finch, casual in the state, was at Cameron 23 Apr (ph. C. Nunes). A male Evening Grosbeak was noted 22 Apr in the Santa Catalina Mts. at Willow Canyon (B. Bickel), where this species is not known to nest.

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Abbreviations: North Gulf (North Gulf of Alaska). Referenced documentation specimens (*) are on file at the University of Alaska Museum. Italics indicate especially unusual locations or dates for the noted species.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

Casual in spring, single Ross's Geese associating with Snows were reported from new locations, at Seward 25 Apr–10 May (CG, DWS, RAM) and at Hyder 12 May (LD). The main coastal Brant push seemed a little late, with numbers still being noted to the s. into late May, e.g., hundreds at Gustavus 27–28 May and others off Ketchikan 25 May (SCH, AWP). Normally in mid- to late May, Brant are seen in smaller flocks of presumed non-breeders, which take their time moving northward. Two different Cackling Geese were at Gambell 4 & 8 Jun (Wings). Aleutian Cacklings were the first arrivals at Shemya 23

showing across the Region, highlighted by an Aleutian peak of 33 from Shemya 20 Apr (MTS, LES) and singles in Glenallen 20 May and to the n. at Mentasta the next day (AL, BD, DR, KL). Mallards are surprisingly rare in the Bering Sea, so a pair at Gambell 4–5 Jun (Wings) was casual for spring for St. Lawrence I. Always rare, drake Cinnamon Teal appeared 21 May at Juneau (ph. PS et al.), where regular recently, and at Kodiak 28 May (ph. RAM). More unusual was a handsome male Cinnamon Teal × Blue-winged Teal hybrid at Juneau 18 May (ph. PS). Three Northern Shovelers were rare at Gambell 4–8 Jun (Wings), as were up to 11 in Shemya ponds 20 Apr–15 May (MTS, LES), where singles are occasional. Single Eurasian Teal were described from Juneau 25 Apr and 5 May (PS) and at Hyder 12 May (LD).

Several coastal sites produced the average scattered extralimital *Aythya*, including Ketchikan's first-ever spring Canvasback 7 May (RN, *fide* SCH) and a female-type Tufted Duck at Kodiak 2 Mar (RAM), in addition to that area's wintering drake, which was last recorded 11 Apr (ph. RAM, HG). Juneau's Pt. Bridget vagrant trap produced a female King Eider on 16–19 May (ph. PS, ND, MS). Most of the stray eiders in the Southeast are detected between late fall and winter. This season's peak scoter aggregation, an annual phenomenon tied to spawning herring, was an estimated 15,000 Surfs near Ketchikan 21 Apr (SCH, AWP). Smews were in above-average numbers in the cen. Aleutians, with up to 6 for the season at Shemya 1–21 May (MTS, LES) and 2 imms. at Adak 10–21 May (H.L.N.T., V.E.N.T.). Two Hooded Mergansers were discovered near Talkeetna 27 Apr–1 May (CM), at the outlet of Fish L., for the 10th year in a row. Another drake Hooded was reported without details from farther e. on the L. Louise Rd. 26 May (RW, BF). There are occasional spring or summer records from the s. Interior. Gambell observers identified 2 Common Mergansers of the nominate subspecies at Gambell 7 Jun (Wings). Two groups of 3 Ruddy Ducks in the Fairbanks area 7 (A.B.O., JW) & 15–18 May (LD, NH) and a pair on Kenny L. in the s. Interior 21 May (AL, BD, DR, KL) made one of this migrant's best spring showings in the Region.

Arctic Loons were well represented at both ends of the Bering Sea, with up to 3 off Adak 24 May (V.E.N.T.), a season peak of 6 off the Gambell seawatch 6 Jun (Wings), and at least 5 onshore at Shemya 22 Apr–19 May (MTS,

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Coverage-wise, spring 2006 turned out to be one of the best ever for this vast and varied Region. Bird tours blanketed the Bering Sea outposts, including late May at Adak, where at least three tours revealed just how good the central Aleutians can be for Asian birds. The Bering Sea islands, whose spring season excitement seems so tied to the passage of weather systems, were less productive in that regard this spring. Only one sizeable anticyclone appeared responsible for a mid-May fallout, which must have factored in a new record for North America from isolated Buldir Island in the western Aleutians. Elsewhere the season was described as more like springs of the past, or *La Niña*-like, with a few warm spells otherwise overshadowed by a cool, cloudy, and slowly evolving season. Indeed, except for a near-record week of 70-degree temperatures in mid-May, the Region was at or below norms for temperature and precipitation: through much of the north, persistent freezing conditions, a deeper, more southerly sea-ice peak than in the past few years, slowly thawing coastal tundra, a lingering snowpack, and late ice-outs on larger rivers and lakes were the rule. Very few record-early local arrivals were submitted, and most locales noted average to late arrivals. As is always the case, it is difficult to make a logical cut-off between the spring and summer season, so this time I included most of the Gambell highlights, which extended into June. Documentation of rarities continues to be sporadic; I encourage all observers to submit descriptions of all rarities, including those photographed or videotaped.



This Stonechat—of the Siberian *maura* subspecies group, sometimes split as Siberian Stonechat—furnished the seventh or eighth record for Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska. This nonadult male was found by Phil Davis on 24 May 2006 (here) in the Gambell boatyard and was last seen 26 May. Photograph by Tom Getz.

Apr, where the spring peak was over 600 on 10 May (MTS, LES). It was only in the early 1980s that *leucopareia* Cacklings were still undetected in the w. Aleutians away from their only stronghold at Buldir I. A flyby Tundra Swan over Shemya 23 Apr (MTS, LES) was rare for the w. Aleutians.

What was likely a restless drake Wood Duck that had wintered somewhere in Southeast was located near Juneau 10 Mar–27 Apr (RM et al.), providing one of very few spring records. Eurasian Wigeon made a strong



This Long-billed Murrelet in transitional plumage, found by West Serafin and Forrest Davis, is the first documented for the Aleutian Islands. Good documentation permits the species to be moved to the regular Aleutian checklist list from the hypothetical list. Found in Sitkin Sound, Adak Island on 17 May 2006 (here), the bird showed a gleaming white throat and long bill, features that distinguish Long-billed from Marbled and Kittlitz's Murrelets, also present at Adak. Photographs of this individual represent the only ones known of a Long-billed in this plumage.

Photographs by Phil Davis.

LES). Two Pied-billed Grebes near Cordova 4-7 May (DJ, *fide* AL) were rare and well n. of most previous spring reports, which are typically from s. Southeast. Another Manx Shearwater was documented in the North Gulf, just w. of Sitka on 25 May (ph. GM). We now have close to a dozen records of mostly singles scattered across the e. North Gulf between Baranof I. n. to the shelf edges between Middleton and Kodiak Is., mostly between the end of May and early Sep. Brandt's Cormorants were late to leave their only regular winter site in the Ketchikan area, where 16 were tallied s. of town 21 Apr (SCH, AWP) and 3 imms. located 20 May (ph. SCH, AWP) were the latest ever. Since this species reaches the edge of its breeding range on larger islets off the Southeast coast, n. of Ketchikan, winter birds there possibly originate from breeding sites on either side of Dixon Entrance. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service crew arrived at Buldir I. 25 May and found 7 heron corpses over the next two weeks: 2 Great Egrets of the subspecies *modesta* (first Alaska specimens), North America's first Intermediate Egret (*), and 4 Black-crowned Night-Herons (*fide* ILJ). Although there had been a large low-pressure system across the w. Aleutians earlier in the month, it is not certain when they arrived. Buldir has been the site of previous spring such finds, the last of which was a Little Egret of the nominate subspecies in 2000. There are now seven taxa of Asian herons documented by specimen from the w. Aleutians (*fide* DDG).

Raptors seemed concentrated and on the

early end of average arrivals. An Osprey hunting around Adak 18-23 May (H.L.N.T., V.E.N.T.) was rare for the Aleutians. Swainson's Hawks followed from as a sporadic and very local spring migrant, with Interior sightings of singles at the Gunsight Mt. hawkwatch 26 Apr (CF, PF) and in Fairbanks 5 May (A.B.O., DDG). Casual for Southeast was a dark morph photographed at Juneau's Pt. Bridget 25 May (ph. PS). Shemya produced yet another Eurasian Kestrel 21 May (ph. MTS, LES); there is a nearly even spring/fall split of the Region's records. A late-season



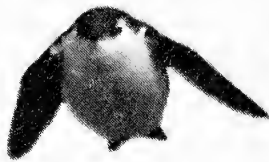
Well out of range and habitat was this subadult Ivory Gull in Anchorage, Alaska, where it favored a local ribs-and-seafood grill 23-30 (here 23) May 2006. Photograph by R. E. Gill.

cold spell froze a Virginia Rail into ephemeral flowing waters in Juneau 14 Mar, where it succumbed two days later (*; RA); there are only a few previous records, most from late fall/winter, including one to the n. at Gustavus. Other single migrant Virginia Rails were recorded in Juneau 22 May (PS, ND) and in the same sedge marsh as last summer's bird in Gustavus 28 May (BP). In Juneau, a Sora 22 May was followed by 3 on 28 May (DR et al.), the season's only report.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

A large mid-May storm that moved across the w.-cen. Aleutians was responsible for most of the rarer Asian shorebirds recorded, and there were several early or extralimital finds along the North Gulf Coast and on the Mainland. Very early Black-bellied Plovers arrived at s. sites such as Kenai 1 Apr (one bird; TE); 2 near Sitka 14 Apr (MLW, MET) must have wintered nearby. Pacific Golden-Plovers were also on the early end, with an arrival 16 Apr at Gustavus (ND) and one 28 Apr at Ketchikan (SCH, AWP). At Adak, a Lesser Sand-Plover 16 May (H.L.N.T.), a Common Greenshank 18 May (H.L.N.T., V.E.N.T.), a Gray-tailed Tattler 23 May, and 5 Common Snipe 18-25 May were highlights (H.L.N.T., V.E.N.T.); a Wilson's Snipe was described from the same Adak marsh with Commons 18-25 May (H.L.N.T., V.E.N.T.). At Shemya, a Far Eastern Curlew was photographed 12 May and a Black-tailed Godwit 17 May (ph. MTS, LES). Wood Sandpipers blanketed Shemya 13-17 May (MTS, LES), and up to 200 were on Adak 16 May (a local record; H.L.N.T., V.E.N.T.), while up to 12 were at Gambell 25 May-5

Jun (Wings). Gambell shorebird notables also included 4 Common Ringed Plovers 5-7 Jun (Wings, vt. PEL), a Common Greenshank 31 May-2 Jun (V.E.N.T., vt. PEL), a Black-tailed Godwit 22-28 May (GK, H.L.N.T.), a Little Stint 31 May-1 Jun (W.B.A., vt. PEL), a Long-toed Stint 24 May-3 Jun (DDeS, vt. PEL), a Least Sandpiper 29 May (V.E.N.T., vt. PEL), and 2 Wilson's Snipe 28 May-6 Jun (Wings). Gambell has the most spring Little Stint reports for the Region.



St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, recorded its second Violet-green Swallow at Gambell 31 May 2006. Photograph by D. Porter.

Most amazing was the Ruff fallout at Gambell that began with a female 28 May; by the afternoon of the 31 May, an active, displaying flock of 31 birds had assembled (W.B.A., PEL). Although Gambell has occasionally produced small Ruff flocks, this year's was Alaska's largest. A Killdeer pair in Ketchikan produced two clutches: a nest with eggs or young from the same pair was located 12 Apr and again 30 May (CF). An Upland Sandpiper at Kenny L. 21 May was at the s. extremes of its Interior passage (AL, BD, DP, KL), while a tardy, record-late northbound Marbled Godwit was at Kodiak 26-27 May (RAM). A Red Knot provided a rare Interior record in Fairbanks 20 May (LD, A.B.O.), while a Sanderling at Kenai 1 Apr (TE) was extraordinarily early and must have wintered on the North Gulf Coast. Extralimital North Gulf coast or s. Bering Sea coast Buff-breasted Sandpipers, once unheard of in spring, were found at Cape Romanzoff 26 May (LD) and at Valdez 29 May (BM), both singles, while 10 was peak in Fairbanks 30 May (A.B.O.). Apart from the usual scattering of Aleutian-Bering Sea islands reports, up to 11 Black-headed Gulls between Gambell (6) and nearby Savoonga (5) 17 May (BB) was a record count from St. Lawrence I. Larid highlights otherwise followed suit from previous spring seasons, with significant finds focused in the Ketchikan area and from a scattering of Bering Sea locales. Another Mew Gull nest was discovered at Jordon L. on Revillagigedo I. 24 May (AWP), where there have only been a few located at this end of the Region. California Gulls made their best-ever spring showing in Ketchikan, with an early arrival 30 Mar followed by a peak count of 100 on 30 Apr and again 18 May (SCH, AWP). Rare anytime in the Region, 2 Iceland Gulls were described by the observers and photographed in the Juneau area 12 & 14 May (ph. PS, RJG.). Fairbanks contributed yet another Ring-billed Gull, an ad. 20 May seen along the Tanana R. (LD), where there are about three previous spring reports. Of the widely reported Slaty-

backed Gull, one in Kenai 1 Apr (TE) and 3 around Kodiak 6 Mar-5 May (ph. RAM) were least expected. Rare in the Interior, especially in spring, were single Glaucous-winged Gulls at Fairbanks 20 May (KR, LD) and se. to Delta Junction 28 May (NH). Although this coastal species moves up some the larger North Gulf Coast watersheds (Copper, Gulkana) during peak salmon spawning, it is rare farther inland. A flock of 100+ Sabine's Gulls encountered 10 km off Sitka 23 May (ph. JS) indicated the standard timing and pelagic nature of this North Slope breeder's spring passage route. Similar pelagic finds were noted off Kodiak in the same time frame (JBA, RAM). Totally out of the blue, and actually just plain odd, was the second-year Ivory Gull that frequented a barbeque restaurant up Anchorage's Campbell Cr. 23-30 May (*fide* REG ph., m.ob.). Its favored perch was on top of the adjacent 10-m sign. There are two prior spring records from the n. half of Cook Inlet. Caspian Terns seemed widespread and very early, including one in Ketchikan 20 Apr (SCH), the Region's earliest ever, one 28 Apr at Juneau (GVV, PS), 2 w. to Cape Romanzof 26 May (LD), and one in Anchorage 29 May (CC, TT). The large gull colony at Gull I. in Icy Bay included five Caspian Tern nests with eggs and at least 7 ads. 26 May (MK, *fide* GVV), at a site where nests had been found previously.

Very unexpected in the cen. Aleutians was a Long-billed Murrelet, mostly in breeding plumage, documented at Adak 17 May



Still not annual in the Aleutians, this Far Eastern Curlew was photographed at Shemya Island, Alaska 12 May 2006. Photograph by Michael T. Schwitters.

(H.L.N.T.). This represents the Aleutians' first record; a recent spring record from St. Paul I. is the only comparable Alaska report. Extremely rare in s. Southeast, especially in spring, a Parakeet Auklet was described from Dixon Entrance 1 May (MS), possibly near where it had wintered. A flock of 1500+

Whiskered Auklets in the tide rips of Little Tanaga Strait 21 May (V.E.N.T.) was an excellent count in the heart of its cen. Aleutian range and probably included the bulk of the local breeding population amassing near the colonies.

CUCKOOS THROUGH PIPITS

One of the Region's earliest-ever Oriental



One of Alaska's southernmost and earliest Manx Shearwaters was this individual, substantiated off Sitka 25 May 2006. Photograph by G. Meyer.

Cuckoos was found dying on the Shemya runways 20 May (ph. MTS, LES). Western Screech-Owls were reported in normal numbers, with singles calling in Sitka, where regular, 14 Apr and 29 May (MLW, MET), farther n. at Gustavus 25 Apr (ND, PV), and again at last year's site in Seward all Apr (CG et al.). Probably wintering Northern Pygmy-Owls were still at Sitka 16 Mar (MLW, MET) and Gustavus 20 Mar (ND, PV). None were seen in Mar at Ketchikan, where they were abundant earlier in the winter. An adventurous Long-eared Owl managed to find a research vessel about 70 km sw. of St. Lawrence I. 19 May (ph. EL); there are three previous substantiated Alaska records of this species, which is rare n. of se. British Columbia, and there are a few mid-May records from the Yukon Territory. Short-eared Owls, unusual in Mar, were noted at Gustavus 18 Mar and in the alpine meadows above Anchorage in "early Mar" (DW); these birds may well have wintered locally, as spring arrivals are usually not detected until mid-Apr.

Boreal Owls were relatively widespread to the North Gulf coast, with one at Sitka 27-28 May (MLW, MET), one in Gustavus 3 & 15 Mar (ND, PV), and one at Kodiak, where they are known but were more common this Apr (*fide* RAM). Northern Saw-whet Owls seemed in unusually high density at Gustavus 1 Mar-20



Casual in southeastern Alaska, this dark-morph Swainson's Hawk was spotted 25 May 2006 at the Juneau area's Point Bridget vagrant trap. Photograph by P. Suchanek.

May (*vide* ND); one on territory at Kodiak 28 Mar–2 Apr (ph. RAM) provided an overdue first island record.

A feeding "group" of Red-breasted Sapsuckers that was forced into downtown Sitka for several days in mid-Mar (MLW, MET) by exceptional cold and snow was no doubt composed of winter birds and provided a good picture of how regular and common they can be. Kodiak finally got its first Olive-sided Flycatcher 24 May (SS, ph. RAM). Another Sky-lark surfaced at Gambell 4 Jun (Wings, vt. PEL), where surprisingly regular. Two Horned Larks on the beach near Gustavus 22 Mar (ND) had to be winter birds moving, as spring migrants are not noted until well into Apr. Rare in the w. half of the Aleutians, a Tree Swallow wandered to Adak 22 May (V.E.N.T.), while a Violet-green Swallow moved offshore to Gambell 31 May (PEL, ph. DP), the 2nd for St. Lawrence I. Nearly record early for Ketchikan was a Tree Swallow 9 Apr (SCH, AWP). Possibly record early was a Northern Rough-winged Swallow 12 May at Hyder (LD), where this rare visitor to the Southeast has occasionally nested. The season's only extralimital Barn Swallow was a Nearctic bird w. to Cape Romanzof 30 May (LD).

Another Stonechat, probably a second-year male, surfaced 24–26 May in the beach debris at Gambell (H.L.N.T., ph. TG), where essentially all of the Region's few spring reports have been made. Mountain Bluebirds staged early arrivals across the breadth of the Region's e. front in one of its best showings ever. Earliest arrivals were 15 Apr in Juneau (PR, GVV) and 16 Apr in Fairbanks (AS), with daily maxima of 8 in Hyder 12 May (LD) and 30



This young male Smew was photographed 21 May 2006 at Clam Lagoon, Adak Island, Alaska; it or another had been present 12–14 May near the airport on the island. Photograph by John Puschock.

in Skagway staging and moving northward towards the Interior 16 Apr (CE)—this ties the state's record high count. At the w. edge of what is considered its spring arrival zone, 2 Mountain Bluebirds were noted near Gunsight Mt. in the cen. Talkeetna Mts. 23 Apr (PF, CF). It was a quiet thrush year in the Bering Sea, with just 4 Eyebrowed Thrushes from Shemya for the season 17–21 May (MTS, LES) and one at Gambell 3–6 Jun (H.L.N.T., Wings), where historically casual but more regular recently. Ketchikan's wintering White Wagtail was last noted at its parking lot home 1 Mar (SCH).

WARBLERS THROUGH SISKINS

Warblers made little news across the Region, with Blackpoll Warblers detected in North Gulf coast locations 28 May: at Gustavus (one; ND, PV) and Juneau (4; GVV et al.). Because Blackpolls enter the Region through the Interior, they are rare on the North Gulf in spring and typically detected in early Jun. Ketchikan's winter Western Meadowlark and Common Grackle departed their haunts 23 Mar and 18 May, respectively (JFK). A second-year male Yellow-headed Blackbird dropped into remote Eagle on the upper Yukon R. 25–28 May (SH, *vide* LD); this may constitute the Region's earliest of very few spring records (most are found in summer). Three Brown-headed Cowbirds in Gustavus 29–30 May (JL) were early, while another in Ketchikan 19 May (JFK) was deemed a passage bird at N. Pt. Higgins. Bramblings were late and in low numbers in the Aleutians, but 6 at Gambell 28 May–8 Jun (H.L.N.T., Wings) made a good St. Lawrence I. tally, while 2 at Cape Romanzof 25

May (LD) were unusual for the s. Bering Sea coast. A female-plumaged Common Rosefinch was flushed out of the Gambell middens 8–10 Jun (Wings, PEL). Given that White-winged Crossbills remained very localized and mostly absent from North Gulf Coast forests, the six nests located in Gustavus Feb–15 Apr (ND) made a remarkable count. Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins, if mentioned, tended to be local and scarce. Fledgling Pine Siskins in Gustavus 6 Apr (ND, PV) seemed very early but indicative of just how early resident finches initiate breeding.

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British Columbia



Donald G. Cecile

March had a cool first half and a milder second, with minimal precipitation except over the Northeast and along parts of the coast. April was unsettled and showery over the first half of the period, with a drier ending. May started cool and unsettled but soon turned summery. This lasted until the final week, when the ridge of high pressure crashed. The southeastern corner got the worst of it during this time, as rapid mountain snowmelt combined with heavy rain leading to widespread lowland flooding. The last few days of the period saw a cold front descend from the Yukon, bringing a return to winter for the northern fringe of British Columbia, much to the peril of early nesters.

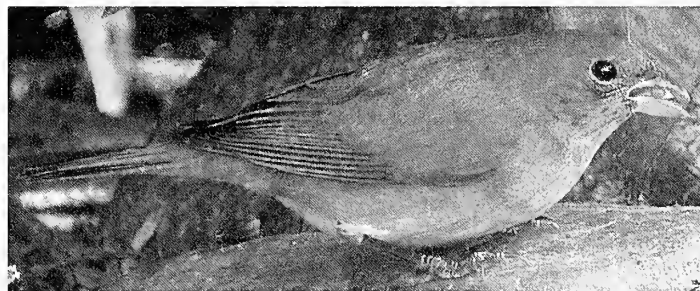
LOONS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A Ross's Goose, seen on both sides of the British Columbia/Alaska border, at Hyder, was with 106 Snow Geese 12-13 May (ph. LD), as it kept to the periphery of the flock. A Bewick's Swan remained in Delta through 25 Mar (ph. CCl, WA). A King Eider was seen from the tip of the Iona South Jetty among a flock of scoters 14 Apr (GP). Rare in spring in the interior, an imm. Yellow-billed Loon and a molting Pacific Loon were on Kalamalka L. 17 Mar (CS), holdovers from the winter. A late Yellow-billed was near Robson Bight (famous for its attraction to Killer Whales) 8 May (GLM). A single ad. Clark's Grebe was a surprise find in Kelowna at the mouth of Mission Creek 8 May (CC). The best concentration of migrating American White Pelicans was from Skaha L. Pentiction 21 Apr, when 85 touched down (BH). A Brown Pelican was discovered in the Alert Bay municipal dock 26 May (JT) and was behaving as though sick or injured; a

flock of 22 off Lennard I. near Tofino was the largest reported 26 May (IC). Double-crested Cormorants were found in very small numbers in the s. interior, with a peak of 3 flying away from the Grant I. gull colony 19 May (DGC, EN). As usual, a few solo Great Egrets were located in s. sites: at Oliver 14 May (BL) and at Cowichan Bay 6 May (DM). The only report of White-faced Ibis involved a sizeable flock of 10 at Elizabeth L. 23 May (DN).

An astounding 500 Bald Eagles were found at a site that produces garden mulch using fish entrails near Beaver Cove, n. Vancouver I. (GLM, DMO); on 7 May, the same observers returned to this location and found more than 700 eagles. They watched one alder tree snap as 20 Bald Eagles tried to perch in it, and another 30 eagles were dispersed from its base as the tree snapped. Swainson's Hawks away from their s. interior haunts included one over Mount Douglas, Victoria 3 May (RTo); one at Contact Creek 20 May (RD, BF) was extremely far n. and w. in the province.

Very rare in spring migration in the interior, a Black-bellied Plover was at Stuart L. 27-28 May (GL, RR). The trend of early arriving northbound shorebirds on the outer coast



This second-year Painted Bunting visited a Victoria, British Columbia feeder 21 (here 24) March through 4 April 2006. Photograph by Ted Ardley.

continued this spring: a Pacific Golden-Plover was at the Long Beach G.C. 27 Apr (AD), while at Tofino, 4 Greater Yellowlegs were seen 31 Mar (RC), 3 Marbled Godwits 4 Apr (AD), and 15 Short-billed Dowitchers 5 Apr (GB). The only spring report of Bar-tailed Godwit came from the n. of Vancouver I., with a single at the Quatse Estuary in Port Hardy 24 Apr (GLM). Rare in spring in the interior, a Sanderling was at the mouth of Mission Cr., Kelowna 6-7 May (RyT).

GULLS THROUGH FINCHES

A visit to the Grant I. gull colony (host to four species of nesting gulls) furnished a record-early egg-laying date of 13 Apr for California Gull and 14 Apr for Ring-billed Gull (DGC, EN). While Iceland Gulls can be found anytime from Nov through Apr, there is often an increase in sightings during their northward movement in Mar/Apr, as evidenced by the

singles in Mud Bay, Kelowna 4 Mar (RyT, CC) and at Little River, e. coast of Vancouver I. 7 Apr (m.ob.). Vernon's Lesser Black-backed Gull was again relocated at the mouth of Vernon Cr. 4 Mar (BP), a holdover from winter. Adding to the winter influx of coastal Slaty-backed Gulls, a subad. was at Kye Bay, Comox 12 Mar (ph. JJ), then later found at Qualicum Beach 17-20 Mar (m.ob.); another ad. was at Willow Pt., Campbell R. 17 Mar (JJ); and a third-winter bird was at Little Qualicum Estuary 22 Mar-2 Apr (ph. GLM et al.). Very rare in the province away from the Creston Valley, a single Forster's Tern was at Swan L., Vernon 27 May (RyT, TF).

Eurasian Collared-Doves are resident in Cawston, but in recent years they have been observed from as far away as Kelowna and Whistler; it is not known whether these are from the Cawston population or from farther south. One was in West Sechelt (m.ob.), another in Comox with a flock of Band-tailed Pigeons 16 May (ph. MJ), and another was in Kelowna 26 Apr and 7 May (MB, JA). Kamloops birders were surprised by a late lingering Snowy Owl 9-29 Apr (*vide* RH), which furnished a first Apr record for the Kamloops

area; other singles were in the Highland Valley near Kamloops 22 May (*vide* RH) and in the Lac du Bois area n. of Kamloops 29 May (KW). At least 3 Snowy Owls also remained late along the Boundary Bay dike through 10 Apr (CP), and a

single remained at Sea I. through 11 May (MMN). Black Swifts can be found in large migrating flocks in late May just ahead of stormy weather. On just such an occasion, a record-breaking 1100 were tallied while feeding over Swan L., Vernon 22 May (DGC, DB). A Calliope Hummingbird, very rare along the coast, furnished a 6th Victoria area record 23 May (RTo) at Mount Newton.

A Black Phoebe was discovered 28 Apr at a pond on the campus of Trinity Western University, Langley (†SO, ph. MW et al.), furnishing a 6th provincial record, and an Eastern Phoebe was at the Rocky Point B.O. in Metchosin 7 May (GD), a first record for the Victoria area. Say's Phoebes are annual spring visitors to the s. coast in late Apr-early May, and at least 3 were found, including an early one at Chesterman Beach 20 Mar (AD), furnishing the 2nd record for the w. coast of Vancouver I. An Ash-throated Flycatcher

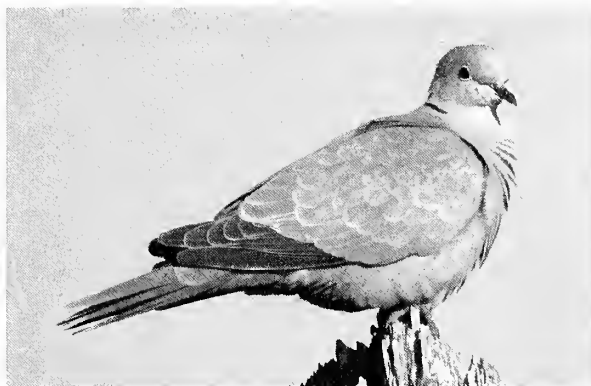
provided a 3rd Rocky Point B.O. record 24 May (GD). Record early by nearly a full month, an Eastern Kingbird was found along the Grey Canal Trail in Vernon 8 Apr (CG). A Clark's Nutcracker, very rare on the island, was in a trailer park in Port Alberni 22 Mar (RM). A very early Barn Swallow was with a few Violet-green Swallows in Kelowna 18 Mar (RyT).

A male Western Bluebird was investigating a nest box in Mackenzie, where casual, 15 May (ph. VL). For some unknown reason, there was an unprecedented spring coastal invasion of both Mountain Bluebirds and Townsend's Solitaires, with most sightings from Vancouver I. and the Lower Mainland. A Northern Mockingbird was at Carmanah Point Lightstation 31 May (ph. JE); another was in Osoyoos 2 May (CS). Sage Thrashers returned to the s. Okanagan again this spring, with the first report of a singing male at White L. 19 May (CC) and another located at Chopaka 27 May (CC). Once again, the species was confirmed breeding—a nest with 2 young was documented at Chopaka 30 May (RC). A singing Nashville Warbler was a rare coastal sight 11 May in Victoria (RTo). Very rare in the province, a Hermit Warbler was found on Mt. Tolmie, a well-known vagrant trap in Victoria 21 May (BG et al.); it made the 2nd record for the Victoria area. Single Palm Warblers were at Radar L., Dawson Creek 15 May (BF et al.) and at Steamboat 18 May (TS, BT). Arriving rather early, a Yellow-breasted Chat was at one of its preferred s. Okanagan spots 7 May along famed Rd. 22, Oliver (RC). An extremely early or possibly wintering Vesper Sparrow was in Kelowna 13 Mar (CC, DW, NK). Rare on Vancouver I., aside from the few that are known to nest at the Nanaimo Airport, a Vesper was in Duncan 17 Apr (AT), but most out of place was a single on the Long Beach G.C. 21 Apr (AD). A Black-throated Sparrow, casual in the province, arrived with Savannah Sparrows and was later heard singing 27–28 Apr in Gibson's (ph. AS et al.). A wintering Harris's Sparrow remained rather late at a feeder near Kelowna through 25 Apr (TF). A Black-headed Grosbeak at New Hazelton 13 May (RS) furnished a first record for the locale and one of the most northerly records in the province.

A second-year Painted Bunting at Brentwood Bay, Victoria 21 Mar–4 Apr (JG et al.) furnished a 2nd provincial record and had probably wintered locally. A male Dickcissel was at Jordan R. 27–28 May, a highlight of the Victoria Natural History Society field trip (GT, MR et al.). The province's best-known and most reliable Bobolink colony contained 20 males 22 May (DGC, DB). Casual away

from the Peace R. area, a Common Grackle was in Tofino 31 Mar (AD). A male Bullock's Oriole made a brief appearance in Prince George, well n. of its s. interior breeding range, 17 May (m.ob.). Baltimore Oriole, a bird of the Peace R. area, was well away from its summer haunts along the Jordan R. 30 May (RTo). Duncan's Brambling remained until 18 Mar (GeD, ph DM), furnishing a 6th Victoria area record. Remarkably late, a singing Common Redpoll was in Kelowna 7 May (CC et al.), especially remarkable given the species' relative absence this winter. Cassin's Finches were unusually prevalent in the cen. interior, with a mid-Mar influx that included singles in Prince George 16 Mar (JB et al.) and Fort St. James 19 Mar (RR). Following their winter absence, Evening Grosbeaks began returning in very small numbers 16 Apr to Vernon (PB).

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Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to make occasional appearances along the southern coast of British Columbia; this individual was photographed in Comox 16 May 2006. Photograph by Malcolm Jolly.



Continuing from the winter season, this Brambling remained at Duncan, British Columbia through at least 18 March 2006 (here 28 January); it was the sixth for the Victoria vicinity. Photograph by Derrick Marven.

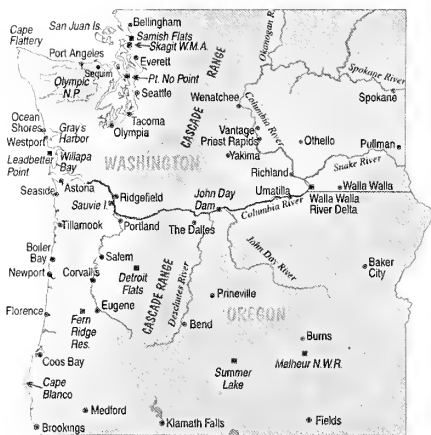


This Black-throated Sparrow was photographed 28 April 2006 at Gibson's, on the Sunshine Coast of British Columbia. Photograph by Arnold Skei.

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Oregon & Washington



Steven Mlodinow | David Irons
Bill Tweit

This spring produced a potpourri of interesting events, with something for everyone. Range expansions and irruptions dominated, but there was also a reasonable assortment of rarities, strange hybrids, record shorebird numbers, numerous lingering waterfowl, and a plethora of eastside passerines gone west. Unlike the birding, the weather was unremarkable in both temperature and precipitation.

Abbreviations: F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Res., Lane, OR); Lower Klamath (Lower Klamath N.W.R., Klamath, OR); Malheur (Malheur N.W.R., Harney, OR); N.S.C.B. (N. Spit Coos Bay, Coos, OR); O.S. (Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor, WA); P.N.P. (Pt. No Point, Kitsap, WA); P.S.B. (Port Susan Bay, Snohomish, WA); P.T. (Puget Trough, WA); S.R.M. (Sandy River mouth, Multnomah, OR); W.V. (Willamette Valley, OR); W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla, WA). *Eastside* and *westside* indicate east and west of the Cascade crest, respectively.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAILS

A lingering Emperor Goose at Astoria through 19 Mar yielded the spring's lone sighting (L. Cain). Following recent trends, 3 Blue Geese were on Fir I., *Skagit* 2 Mar–10 Apr; 2 were also at more traditional locations in se. Oregon during early Mar. Peculiar hybrid geese again appeared in e. Washington. Two Snow Goose × Canada/Cackling Goose hybrids near Sprague, *Lincoln* 3 Apr were likely the same birds seen during Feb in *Walla Walla* (GS); size and plumage seem to indicate Blue Goose × Canada Goose, though several backcrosses are also possible. Another similar hybrid stopped near Corfu, *Grant* 19 Mar (SM, DSc, BSc, BF). Fewer-than-normal stray Ross's Geese were detected, with 4 in e. Washington and one in w. Oregon, including

late singles at Philleo L., *Spokane* 18 May (MW, GS) and River Bend, *Pend Oreille* 20–21 May (T. Little); quite late, but within range, was a Ross's at Burns 28 May (DP). Two blue-morph Ross's Geese were near Burns 9 Apr, providing the Region's 3rd record (JW, ph. K. Rollins). Ten Dusky Canada Geese (*B. c. occidentalis*), rare in the P.T., visited Nisqually 4 Mar (SM). Two apparent Richardson's Geese (*B. h. hutchinsii*) were at McNary N.W.R., *Walla Walla* 19 Mar (†SM, DSc); unlike other recent pale-breasted Cackling Geese, these birds bore the structure typical of *hutchinsii* rather than *taverneri*. Rare in e. Washington, 2 *B. h. minima* were near Corfu 19 Mar (BF, DSc, BSc, SM), and one was at Waukon L., *Lincoln* 19 Mar (GS). Eight Aleutian Cackling Geese (*B. h. leucoparica*), rare to very rare in the P.T., were at Nisqually 8 Apr (SM, S. Terry). Single Black Brant, rare away from salt water, were seen at Brownsville, *Linn* 11 Mar (R. Hoyer) and Baskett Slough, *Polk* 27 Mar (JW).

A number of Trumpeter Swans lingered, the latest of which were singles at Kent, *King* through 21 May (G. McWethy, CW) and PS B. 14 May+ (SM); the last usually depart in early Apr. Additionally, the long-staying Trumpeter at Turnbull N.W.R., *Spokane*, the sole

wick's Swan appeared near La Conner, *Skagit* 23 Mar and may have been one of the individuals present in *Skagit* this winter (†TA).

The Falcated Duck remained near Eugene through 20 Mar (AC). A record 210 Eurasian Wigeons gathered on the Samish Flats, *Skagit* 2 Mar (TA), while a cumulative 34 in e. Washington was nearly double the norm, and an exceptional 11 were in se. Oregon near Klamath Falls 5 Mar (M. Rudolph). A number tarried well into May, the latest of which enlivened St. Andrews, *Douglas* 26 May (SM). Single Eurasian Wigeon × American Wigeon hybrids at Richland 24 Mar (ph. DG) and Clarkston, *Asotin* 26 Mar (ph. L. Hamrin) were apparently the first for e. Washington. Six Eurasian Teal were detected, 2 of which were at Lower Klamath 14 Apr (KS); they have been found annually of late on the eastside. Five Eurasian Teal × Green-winged Teal intergrades were noted. Both totals are exceptionally low. By season's end, several dozen pairs of Redhead were at F.R.R., where this species has bred since 2003 (DI); elsewhere on the westside, this species is an uncommon migrant and exceptionally rare breeder. A Ring-necked Duck × scaup hybrid courted a female Lesser Scaup at Edison, *Skagit* 30 Mar (SM, TA), while others inhabited Eugene 2



In spring 2006, Eurasian Collared-Doves escalated their movement into the Pacific Northwest dramatically, with no fewer than 48 found in Oregon and Washington, mostly east of the Cascade Mountains. A year ago, Oregon and Washington had about 30 records combined. These particular collared-doves were the only ones found in western Washington, inhabiting Point No Point, Kitsap County, 12–15 (here 15) May 2006. Photograph by George Gerdtz.

remnant from a prior introduction attempt, returned this year with a mate 15 Mar+, and nest-building ensued (GS, JA, MW). Tundra Swans also dawdled, the latest of which were 5 at Ridgefield 18 May (J. Sullivan) and singles at Keechelus L., *Kittitas* 17–18 May (TA) and Ellensburg 20 May (S. Gerstle). A Be-

Mar–7 Apr (DI) and Meares L., *Tillamook* 28 Mar (JW). Five Tufted Ducks, all on the westside 11 Mar–27 Apr, trebled the spring average. A Tufted Duck × scaup hybrid was studied at Desert Aire, *Grant* 11 Mar (SM, BT, BLB); its size, structure, and companions (2000 Greater Scaup) strongly suggest that

one parent was Greater Scaup. Now virtually annual on the eastside in spring, 2 Long-tailed Ducks were near Vantage 26 Mar (J. Danzenbaker). Wild Turkeys seem to be expanding their range. At Lyons Ferry, Franklin, where first noted last fall, a hen plus brood was found 7 May (DR), 2 were seen at Iowa Beef, Walla Walla 7 May (DR), and up to 8 were in Washtucna, where they apparently initially arrived last fall, providing Adams's first record (BF).

The 1500 Red-throated Loons passing Boiler Bay 24 Apr (PP) yielded the Region's best spring tally since 2002. Not annual during spring on the eastside, a Pacific Loon appeared at E. Wenatchee, Douglas 5 Mar (CW). A Washington-record 50,000 Pacific Loons passed O.S. on the somewhat late date of 20 May (KA), while peak passage at Boiler Bay was 15,000 on the more typical date of 1 May (PP). Three Yellow-billed Loons 26 Mar–11 Apr was near normal. Six Clark's Grebes inhabited Vancouver L., Clark 13 May (SM); otherwise, only 2 were found in w. Washington through 22 Apr. There were five organized pelagic trips off Oregon and Washington this spring, plus a NOAA research cruise that was off Washington's coast 14–31 Mar. Laysan Albatrosses are nearly annual during spring, but this year's 7 was the most since 2000: 2 were off Washington during Mar (SMi), 4 were off Newport 18 Mar (GG), and one was off Charleston, Coos 21 May (GG). An astonishing spring tally of 500 Black-footed Albatrosses was garnered off Charleston, Coos 21 May (GG). A first-year Short-tailed Albatross over Perpetua Bank 18 Mar provided Oregon's 10th modern-day record (GG); most Regional records are Sep–Jan. A dark gadfly petrel (*Pterodroma* species) was about 60 km off O.S. 30 Apr (TG); Washington has about seven records of such, all late Apr–late Sep, with only Murphy's Petrel having been definitively identified. Fulmar and shearwater numbers were low. Northern Fulmar averaged fewer than 30 per pelagic trip, the Pink-footed Shearwater total was below 40, and Sooty Shearwater numbers averaged only about 2000 per trip. For the 6th consecutive spring, a Flesh-footed Shearwater was detected, this time off Newport 18 Mar, about six weeks early (GG). Most remarkable was a Buller's Shearwater near Kydaka Pt., Clallam 19 Mar (SMi, A. Richards, J. Plissner); there are fewer than 10 Washington records outside Aug–Nov and only two prior records from Washington's inland marine waters. A record 11 Manx Shearwaters were reported this spring, with 2 off Westport 22 Apr (†BT), 3 at Ft. Canby, Pacific 14 May (TG), 4 off Westport 20 May (†BT), and singles at Boiler Bay 2 Apr and 2 May (PP).



Populations of Wild Turkey in southeastern Washington and northeastern Oregon seem to be exploding. On 30 November 2002, a record-high 310 were found along Upper Dry Creek, Umatilla County, Oregon, and as of September 2005, the species had established itself in Franklin County, Washington at Lyons Ferry. These two males, in company of six females (here 28 May 2006), apparently first arrived at Washtucna last fall, furnishing a first record for Washington's Adams County. Photograph by Steven G. Mladinow.

American White Pelicans are now expected in the W.V., with 76 reported from seven locations from Eugene to Steigerwald L., Clark. Farther n. on the westside, where still rare, 6 were along Hood Canal, Mason 27 May (fide B. Shelmerdine), and 3 visited Sequim Bay,

where in the P.T. 25 May+. Only 4 White-faced Ibis were noted in Washington, including an early bird near Cheney, Spokane 7–8 May (CC, JC).

The Region's first spring Broad-winged Hawks since 2000 were seen at Malheur 27 Apr (M. Marsh) and Baskett Slough 28 Apr (B. Tice). Now annual on the westside, single Swainson's Hawks were observed along the New R., Coos 3 May (TR) and S. Prairie, Pierce 11 May (CW). Four Ferruginous Hawks were detected on the westside during Mar; a decade ago, this species was a megarrarity w. of the Cascades. Washington's 3rd Crested Caracara feasted on a dead racoon near Porter, Grays Harbor 28–29 May (ph. B. Moody, S. Holloway), while Oregon's 3rd appeared near Blodgett, Benton 7 Mar and then reappeared near Corvallis 11 Mar (M. Monroe, J. Jabousek), only to be followed by that state's 4th caracara at Floras L., Curry 28 Mar (DL, KC); this Regional incursion is coincidental with a similar phenomenon in coastal California. A Prairie Merlin (subspecies *richardsoni*) adorned Yakima



Washington's fourth Great-tailed Grackle returned to Liberty Lake, Spokane County 30 March 2006 (here 14 April); it has appeared intermittently there since approximately 1 January 2004. Photograph by Ron Dexter.

Clallam 31 May (B. Boekelheide). Brown Pelicans are exceptionally rare in the P.T. prior to Jul; this year, one appeared at Sandy Pt., Whatcom 15 Apr, an early date anywhere in Washington (H. Flores), to be followed by a shocking 14 at P.N.P. 24 May (VN) and 8 else-



Washington's sixth Lesser Black-backed Gull, photographed here at Moses Lake, Grant County on 12 March 2006, remained until 18 March. The state's first record was documented only in January 2000. Photograph by Doug Schonewald.

19 Mar (ph. DG); this subspecies is likely more numerous in the Region than the few reports would suggest. An unremarkable 6 Gyrfalcons this spring included a late bird at Coulee City, *Grant* 16 Apr (DSc). Single Prairie Falcons, rare during spring on the westside, were found at Finley N.W.R. 3 Mar (S. Seibel) and Coburg, *Lane* 7 Mar (B. Combs). If accepted by the Washington B.R.C., a Common Moorhen, seen briefly but well along Dodson Rd., *Grant* 16 May, would furnish Washington's first record (†BF); the timing is consistent with the species' occurrence in Oregon. A Common Moorhen at Black Butte Ranch, *Deschutes* 10 Apr was about Oregon's 14th and only the 2nd not from May–Jun (†D. & G. Marshall).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

For the first spring since 1995, no golden-plovers were found in Washington, and only one, a Pacific at N.S.C.B. 13 Apr (TR), appeared in Oregon. A gathering of 1800 Semipalmated Plovers at Bandon, *Coos* 3 May likely set an Oregon record and fell just short of the Regional spring record of 2000 set on 3 May 1986 at O.S. The only westside Black-necked Stilts were birds returning to F.R.R. 7 Apr+, where a maximum of 10 was recorded (S. Gordon, DI). Throughout the Region, yellowlegs of both species were estimated at only 20–40% of their usual numbers. Solitary Sandpiper numbers were near normal, with 29 on the westside and 7 on the east, mostly 23 Apr–8 May; the maximum was 6 near Kent, *King* 1 May (MB). For the 6th consecutive spring, Willets appeared in e. Washington: 2 near Corfu, *Grant* 7 May (R. Sanders), with one remaining through 10 May (BF). Two Upland Sandpipers at Bear Valley, *Grant* 28 May were at a traditional breeding site,

providing hope that this species persists as a breeder species in the Region (J. Carlson); another near Hines, *Harney* 29 May was a vagrant, the first such bird in several years (DP). Oregon's 10th Bristle-thighed Curlew adorned Clatsop Beach 22 May (ph. DB); the weather pattern in the third week of May was similar to the one that produced the unprecedented incursion during May 1998 and might have produced similar results had it occurred earlier in the season. A Whimbrel near Kittitas 23 Apr furnished the first eastside spring record since 2003 (D. Essman), and 2500 at Starr Ranch, *Curry* 3 May set a Regional spring record

(R. McKenzie). Three Long-billed Curlews, rare on the interior westside, visited the W.V. 9 Apr–7 May (*vide* HN). A Hudsonian Godwit at Duley L., *Okanogan* 9 May (†M. Spencer) and 2 at Ocosta, *Grays Harbor* 21 May (†M. Bartels) furnished the Region's first spring records since 2002. A gathering of 180 Marbled Godwits at Lower Klamath 14 Apr was unprecedented for the eastside (KS); Marbleds are not annual on the interior westside, so 4 in the W.V. and PT. 8 Apr–12 May were noteworthy.

Tallies of 55 Red Knots at Tillamook 7 May (WG) and 40 in *Lane/Lincoln* 30 Apr (DI) su-



This American Three-toed Woodpecker at Wauconda, Okanogan County, on 23 May 2006 appears to be, at least in part, of the subspecies *dorsalis*. Only *P. d. fasciatus* had been known to occur in Washington/Oregon, and Washington's birds were assumed to be among the darkest members of that subspecies. Note, however, the unmarked center of this bird's back and its resemblance to the bird on the front cover of *North American Birds* 49 (4). Photograph by Tom Munson.

perceded any recent Oregon counts. It was a boon spring for Semipalmated Sandpipers, with 8 in Washington and 4 in Oregon 22 Apr–28 May; highlights included maxima of 3 each at Brady, *Grays Harbor* 28 Apr (J. Skirletz) and P.S.B. 11 May (SM, DD), plus

very rare eastside spring records of one at Iowa Beef, *Walla Walla* 8 May (MB) and 2 at Wasco, *Sherman* 13 May (DB). A stunning 400,000 Western Sandpipers passed Bandon, *Coos* 2 May (DL, KC); this exceptional number of Westerns, and the influx of Semipalmated Plovers noted above, seemed tied to strong nw. winds prevalent 2–3 May (KC). Ten Baird's Sandpipers 28 Apr–28 May was about twice the norm. A total of 34 Pectoral Sandpipers 5–18 May represented the 3rd "irruption" out of the past four springs. Maxima included 11 near Cheney, *Spokane* 17 May (*vide* CC) and 10 at P.S.B. 18 May (DD, SM); oddly, all but one were in Washington. A Dunlin at Sprague, *Lincoln* 27 May was about three weeks late for the eastside (DSc). Very rare in spring, a Ruff appeared at P.S.B. 18 May (†SM, †DD). Short-billed Dowitchers, very rare during spring on the eastside, included one at Hatfield L., *Deschutes* 3 May (C. & M. Miller), one at Iowa Beef 10 May (BW), and 6 near Burns 18 May (O. Schmidt).

A Parasitic Jaeger, very rare during spring in the P.T., was at Everett 20 May (SM); singles off the Washington coast 20 & 21 Mar were about six weeks early (†SMi). Not annual during spring, a Long-tailed Jaeger was off Westport 20 May (BT), and 3 were off Charleston, *Coos* 21 May (GG). Four Franklin's Gulls in e. Washington 2–29 May was not atypical; one was also on the westside, where not annual in spring, at Jeff's Head, *Kitsap* 30 May (BSW).

No longer annual during spring, a Little Gull was at Bainbridge I., *Kitsap* 16 Apr (BSW). An estimated 8500 Bonaparte's Gulls passed the New R. mouth, *Coos* 4 May (TR). Washington's 14th Iceland Gull stopped at Wallula, *Walla Walla* 19 Mar (†DSc, †SM); the state's 6th Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Moses L., *Grant* 12–18 Mar (ph. DSc), while the Coulee Lakes bird, first found in Oct 2004, reappeared at L. Lenore, *Grant* 26 Mar–23 Apr (DSc, †BT, ph. DP); all but one of Washington's records have been from the eastside. Washington's 10th Slaty-backed Gull was at Tukwila, *King* 1 Mar (ph. C. Cox), and one at

Portland 22 Mar was about the 11th for Oregon (†IT); almost all Regional records are Dec–Mar. A goodly 11+ Glaucous Gulls were noted, the latest of which was at Neah Bay, *Clallam* 14 May (B. Boekelheide). An apparent Glaucous-winged Gull x Herring Gull hybrid

SA This season saw unprecedented numbers of live Parakeet Auklets concurrent with unprecedented mortality in Rhinoceros Auklets. The NOAA cruise, 14–31 Mar, encountered 48 live and one dead Parakeet Auklet, with 34 off *Clallam*, 5 off *Jefferson*, 6 off *Pacific*, and 3 off *Tillamook* (SMi). Most were near the shelf edge, but several were within 15 km of shore. Eleven more were off Westport 22 Apr (†BT), and 2 were about 30 km off La Push 28 Apr (TG); the previous Regional record was 5! Simultaneously, a large-scale die-off of Rhinoceros Auklets occurred from the Columbia R. mouth s. to *Curry*. The 100+ found dead near Ona Beach, *Lincoln* during Mar was nearly ten-fold greater than the prior monthly record for this transect, which has been run weekly for nearly 30 years (B. Loeffel). One bird found dead in *Coos* had been banded in Alaska Jul 2005 (R. Namitz), and most were emaciated first- or second-year birds (MP).

was at Coulee Playland, *Grant* 1 Apr (†GS); this is only the 2nd record for e. Washington, though this hybrid is likely overlooked there. Offshore, good numbers of Sabine's Gulls were encountered during May, with a maximum of 250 off La Push, *Clallam* 13 May (SH). In the P.T., where extremely rare during spring, 3 Sabine's were off Kingston, *Kitsap* 28 May (M. Dufort), and 12 were there 30 May (BSW). Few Arctic Terns were seen offshore, with a peak of 20 off La Push 13 May (SH). Five Forster's Tern at Ankeny N.W.R. 15 May (M. Kleinbaum) and 3 in Portland 25 May (KT) represented an above-average spring for the westside. A Black Tern, rare during spring in w. Washington, was near Snohomish 14 May (C. Riddell), and 2 were at Fir I., *Skagit* 24 May (M. Axelson).

Washington's 13th and 14th Thick-billed Murres were off Westport 15 Mar (†SMi) and about 12 km off Ft. Canby, *Pacific* 1 May (TG), respectively; most antecedent Regional records are Dec–Feb. A Long-billed Murrelet near Slip Pt., *Clallam* 23 Mar would be about the 9th for Washington (†SMi). Two ad. Ancient Murrelets with a chick off Westport 20 May provided further evidence that this species has become a regular breeder in Washington (BT); additionally, 15 were off La Push 13 May, a month after migrants have typically departed (SH).

Not annual in Washington, a Horned Puffin was near Cape Flattery, *Clallam* 19 Mar (J. Plissner, SMi). Somewhat more regular in Oregon, single Horned Puffins were about 40 km off Clatsop Spit 1 May (TG) and at Seaside, *Clatsop* 7 Apr (ph. DB). Perhaps related to the Rhinoceros Auklet die-off, a dead Horned Puffin was near Yaquina Bay 7 Mar (B. Loeffel), and 4 were at Clatsop Beach in early Mar (MP).

Several reports of Band-tailed Pigeons from w. *Klickitat*, *Yakima*, and *Kittitas* during May added to an increasing number of records from these areas, implying that small numbers nest e. of the Cascade crest; more unusual was a Band-tailed farther e. near Goldendale, *Klickitat* 27 May (KK, MB, MH) and one near Redmond, *Deschutes* 23 Apr (G. Concanon). In w. Washington, a stunning 1300 gathered near L. Whatcom 6 May (J. Meche).

At least 39 Snowy Owls were found this spring, split nearly evenly east/west, including an amazing 7 lingering into May, about two months later than normal. The latest eastside Snowies were near Waterville, *Douglas* 23–30



Snowy Owls lingered after this winter's irruption as never before, with seven in Washington lasting into May and this bird, Oregon's latest ever by more than a month, near Umapine, Umatilla County on 24 May 2006. Photograph by MerryLynn Denny.

May (M. Spencer) and Umapine, *Umatilla* 24 May (MLD). On the westside, the last appeared near Edison, *Skagit* 12 May (T. Breckenridge). A Great Gray Owl near Jasper, *Lane* 6 Apr was utterly unexpected at about 350 m in the W.V. foothills (L. Colburn). A Common Poorwill at Seattle 20–25 May provided only about the 10th record for w. Washington, most

of which have come from Sep–Oct (ph. L. Kittleson, †A. Sedgley, †S. Hoskin, †A. Thurber). A gathering of 440 Black Swifts at St. Andrews, *Douglas* 26 May was e. of that species' normal range and the 2nd highest count ever for the eastside (SM). Not annual on the coast, single White-throated Swifts were at the New R., *Coos* 13 May (TR) and Gearhart, *Clatsop* 15 May (MP). The Anna's Hummingbird at Clarkston, *Asotin* remained until 13 Mar (C. VandeVorde), while one at Powell Butte 18 May was only *Crook's* 3rd (CG). A Costa's Hummingbird, seen 2–4 May, frequented the same Lyle, *Klickitat* feeder that produced the state's 6th record in May 2005 (†K. Kagarise); none were reported from Oregon for the first spring since 1995. Approximately 75 Calliope and 50 Rufous Hummingbirds crowded feeders in Dixie, *Walla Walla* 13 May (M&MD), both tallies likely Washington records. A pitiful 2 Calliope Hummingbirds were found on the westside, with singles at Portland 7 May (S. Leaptrott) and Cascade Head, *Lincoln* 24 May (PP). Single Broad-tailed Hummingbirds visited Frenchglen, *Harney* 27 May (HN) and Malheur 28 May (CG); their pattern of occurrence in Oregon remains somewhat enigmatic.

A Lewis's Woodpecker, not annual in w. Washington during spring, inhabited Everett 12–14 May (L. Hart). Rare w. of the Cascades, 3 Red-naped Sapsuckers were found in the W.V. and P.T. 7–20 Apr. Two American Three-toed Woodpeckers near Big Meadow L., *Pend Oreille* 15 May showed characteristics of subspecies *dorsalis*, not known to occur in Washington (†GS). A similar bird was found at Wauconda, *Okanogan* 23 May (ph. T. Munson); these could well be intergrades between *fasciatus* and *dorsalis* or even "pure" *dorsalis*. A Yellow-shafted Flicker at Davenport, *Lincoln* 14 May was rather late (†JA).

PASSERINES

An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Brookings, *Curry* 14 Apr was about three weeks early (D. Munson). Willow Flycatchers arrived about 10 days early, with many mid-May sightings; the earliest was at Hanford Site, *Benton* 6 May (BL, NL). Eight Least Flycatchers 21 May+ was probably a Regional spring record; the maximum was 3 at Turnbull N.W.R., *Spokane* 27 May (M. Frobe). A Dusky Flycatcher, not annual in the P.T., was near S. Prairie, *Pierce* 7 May (CW), while 2 total in the W.V. was subpar (DI). Washington's 8th Black Phoebe returned to Auburn, *King* 31 Mar+ (M. Bartels).

SA As of 1 Jun 2006, Washington had but six records of Eurasian Collared-Doves and Oregon about 24. No fewer than 48 were found this spring, almost equally divided between the two states. This exponential increase included breeding in *Harney* (R. Vetter), *Klamath* (N. Schankar), *Adams* (fide DSc), and *Klickitat* 3 May (D. Lichtenwald), all locations on the eastside. Only 14 of the spring's collared-doves were on the westside, with 8 on the Oregon coast, 2 in w. Oregon's interior, and 4 at P.N.P. (BSW, ph. G. Gerdts). We can only speculate about this species' ultimate abundance in the Region, but given recent events, it appears that Eurasian Collared-Doves will soon be commonplace.

Washington's 7th Eastern Phoebe was at Lyons Ferry, *Franklin* 29 May (+CW), while Oregon's 8th and 9th, respectively, were at Sutherlin, *Douglas* 10 Mar (+M. Hamm) and Fields 27–29 May (ph. KT); most records are from May–Jun. Say's Phoebes showed well one the westside, with 8 in Washington and 15+ in Oregon, including one over a month late at Tulalip Bay, *Snohomish* 17 May (M. Reed), plus groups of 4 each at Eugene 27 Mar (V. Arnold) and Portland 28 Apr (IT). An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Mt. Pisgah, *Lane* 25 May was n. of its usual haunts (P. Sherrell, D. Shrouder); most such records are from May–Jun. A Western Kingbird at Potholes S.P., *Grant* 18 Mar was a month early (DP). On the westside, both Eastern and Western Kingbirds appeared in above-normal numbers. Over 30 Westerns passed through Cape Blanco, *Curry* during the spring (TJW), while 2 at Tokeland, *Pacific* 21 May were on Wash-

a pair feeding a cowbird at White Salmon in Jun 2003 (PM); these furnish the first eastside breeding records. Single Hutton's were also found this Mar–Apr at two other w. *Klickitat* locations (C. Flick, SJ). Prior to 2001, this species was considered accidental in e. Washington, but it has been found annually since then in w. *Klickitat* (PM) and now seems somewhat established. Four Steller's Jays at Crow Butte, *Benton* 11 Mar were well away from their normal wooded haunts (MB, KK). Blue Jays showed well, with 7 scattered across the Region, mostly Mar–early Apr, with one remaining through May at Brookings, *Curry* (L. & P. Steele). Single Western Scrub-Jays near Tampico, *Yakima* 19 May (*vide* DG) and near Cle Elum, *Kittitas* 2 Apr (M. Bartels) evidenced continued range expansion. After a 25-year hiatus, Black-billed Magpies are virtually invading w. Washington, with one at Hoodspport, *Mason* 30 Apr providing the 3rd

escapee, then from whom, or from what? A Rock Wren at Shine S.P., *Jefferson* 20 May yielded the first Washington spring record w. of the Cascades in approximately 10 years (D. Watkins). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet apparently gathering nesting material on Skinner Butte (elev. 190 m), *Lane* on the late date of 28 May was most intriguing (DI); breeding at such low elevation would be unprecedented. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers continue to push northward in e. Oregon, with one near Bend 14 May (H. Garrett) and a pair at Tumalo S.P., *Deschutes* 25 May (V. Threlstein). Ten Mountain Bluebirds in w. Washington, 19 Mar–30 Apr, was approximately thrice the norm and included a rare outer-coast bird at Westport 30 Apr (P&RS); the only w. Oregon lowland sighting was *Curry's* 5th at Cape Blanco 12 Mar (L. Miller). A Townsend's Solitaire, rare on the outer coast, visited Seaside, *Clatsop* 20 Mar (DB). A Veery at Nisqually 29 May furnished about the 8th spring record from w. Washington, all but one of which have been 20 May+ (+B. Shelmerdine); equally rare was a Veery at Fields 27–28 May (TR). Five Washington and 12 Oregon Northern Mockingbirds was about twice the norm. Now annual on the westside during spring, 4 Sage Thrashers appeared in w. Oregon 5–19 May.

A White Wagtail, subspecies undetermined, was a one-day bird at P.N.P. 15 May (+VN); Washington has nine antecedent records, three of nominate *alba*, three of *lugens*, and three not identified to subspecies. A tally of 5000+ American Pipits in *Grant* and *Lincoln* 23 Apr was unprecedented for Washington (RH). A Tennessee Warbler visited Astoria 5 May (MP); though annual during northbound migration, most records are from se. Oregon 20 May–15 Jun. Unprecedented was an apparently northbound Northern Parula in Portland 9–10 Apr (G. Lillie); most records are from late May–Jun in se. Oregon. More typical was one at Malheur 21 May (O. Schmidt). A Black-throated Blue Warbler was found at Fields 28 May (CG); though now annual in Oregon, Black-throated Blues are still largely found in fall. Single Black-throated Gray Warblers, not annual during spring e. of the Washington Cascades, visited Moxee, *Yakima* 8 May (D. Brown) and Lyons Ferry, *Franklin* 29 May (CW, BT, BLB). Hermit Warbler × Townsend's Warbler hybrids, rare away from the range of Hermit Warbler, were at Hyak, *Kittitas* 17 May (TA), Coupeville, *Island* 21 May (+S. Ellis), and Washtucna, *Adams* 27 May (SM). Rare northbound Palm Warblers visited Coupeville, *Island* (C. Johnson) and Nisqually (J. Ellis), both 8 May. The only Black-and-white Warbler was at Portland 21 Apr (M. Marsh); the Region averages about 5



Prairie Merlins (subspecies *richardsoni*) are likely rare-but-annual visitors east of the Cascades in the Pacific Northwest, but identification challenges make discerning its status difficult. This one was at Yakima 19 March 2006. Note the lack of a malar stripe, the spotted primaries, and the spotting on the scapulars. Photograph by Denny Granstrand.

ington's outer coast, where not annual (M. Bartels); the westside maximum was 19 at Portland 13 May (C. Hallett). An Eastern Kingbird, very rare on the outer coast, appeared at Cape Blanco 21 May (TJW).

Single Loggerhead Shrikes near Lebanon, *Linn* 12 Mar (J. Harding) and F.R.R. 22 Apr (A. McCallum) represented a typical spring. This year, a pair of Hutton's Vireos was found with a fledgling at White Salmon, *Klickitat* 12 May (PM), and we belatedly learned of an ad. feeding young at Trout L. May 2005 (SJ), plus

record within the last year (D. Phinney). An early Purple Martin near Vantage, *Kittitas* 26 Mar provided e. Washington's 8th record away from the Bingen area (S. Downes), while 4 more visited Wapato, *Yakima* 18 Apr (*vide* AS); six of the nine e. Washington records away from Bingen have been made over the past year, likely reflecting the burgeoning Washington population.

Perhaps one of the most improbable birds ever to occur in Washington was a Verdin at Tillicum, *Pierce* 25 May+ (ph. C. Eagan); if an

per spring, mostly mid-May+. The Skagit W.M.A. Northern Waterthrush remained until 1 May (B. McGarry, R. Cash), while 2 each reappeared at Trout L., *Klickitat* 14 May+ (SJ) and near Gilchrist, *Klamath* 12 May+ (R. Armstrong), both isolated locations where this species likely bred last year. Oregon's 7th Canada Warbler overall, and 2nd for spring, tarried at Malheur 25–28 May (CG, ph. AC). The Kent, King Yellow-breasted Chat returned 13 May+ (M. Bartels); though increasing in w. Washington, this species is still rare there.

An American Tree Sparrow at Spring Creek Fish Hatchery, *Skamania* 10 Apr was the latest ever for w. Washington (G. Bletsch). A Chipping Sparrow at Edwall, *Lincoln* 21 Mar was the earliest ever for Washington (T. Mathis). A territorial Clay-colored Sparrow near Tenino, *Thurston* 29 May+ was the first such westside bird since 1999 (P. Hicks), while one at Gold Beach, *Curry* 19 May provided an extremely rare record of a westside spring migrant (TR). The season's only other Clay-colored was one that remained at Millicoma Marsh, *Coos* through 10 Mar (TR). Brewer's Sparrows at S.R.M. 16 May (IT) and Ecola S.P., *Clatsop* 25 May (†DB) were, respectively, in the W.V. (where barely annual) and on the outer coast (where not annual). Vesper Sparrows are rare, local, and declining in w. Washington and are not known as coastal breeders n. of *Coos*, Oregon. On 19 Apr, however, 11 were found in suitable breeding habitat on three islands in the Columbia R. mouth, *Pacific* (S. Pearson). A rare w. Washington migrant Vesper was at P.N.P. 14 Apr (BSW). W. Washington's 10th spring Lark Sparrow appeared near Renton, *King* 28 May (B. & B. Meyer), while w. Oregon singles at Tillamook 29 Mar–12 Apr (A. Frank, WG) and Cape Blanco, *Curry* 20 May (TJW) were away from their limited sw. Oregon range. It was a good spring for Black-throated Sparrow in e. Washington. One near Vantage, *Kittitas* 31 May was at one of Washington's few traditional nesting locations (DG, AS); unexpected were 4 at Corral L., *Grant* 24 May+ (RH), one at Steptoe Butte, *Whitman* 27 May+ (T. & C. Gray), and 3 at Juniper Dunes, *Franklin* 29 May (D. Froehlich); as is often the case, concurrent with an irruption into e. Washington there were westside sightings: at Salem 6 May (J. Rodecap) and Ecola S.P. 14 May (MP). Equally rare was a westside Sage Sparrow at Portland 5 Mar (D. Helzer). A tally of 300 Savannah Sparrows at Columbia N.W.R., *Adams* 2 May set a Washington spring record (RH). A Grasshopper Sparrow at S.R.M. 6 May+ was a first for heavily birded *Multnomah* (IT). As observer effort has increased, so has the number of e. Oregon Sooty Fox Sparrow records;

this spring, one visited Redmond, *Deschutes* 10 Apr (K. Owen). The spring's only Swamp Sparrow was a winter holdover at Bainbridge I., *Kitsap* 4 Mar (BSW). There were but 3 Harris's Sparrows this spring, including a tardy bird at Dixie, *Walla Walla* 13 May (M&MD, DG). A Golden-crowned Sparrow × White-crowned Sparrow hybrid at Monroe, *Snohomish* 11 Mar may have been the same bird as the one seen there last Nov (J. Barry, C. Cox). Golden-crowned Sparrows were unusually common and late in e. Washington, with the latest visiting Vantage 25 May (P&RS) and Wenatchee, *Chelan* 26 May (SM). The 2 wintering Chestnut-collared Longspurs near Corvallis remained through 10 Mar (R. P. Moore). A Snow Bunting at Port Angeles 26 Apr was three weeks late (BN).

Oregon's 8 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 21 May+, were split evenly between eastside and westside, while in Washington, singles were at Seattle 29 May (†N. Bogue) and Granite Falls, *Snohomish* 31 May–5 Jun (ph. M. Bell); the Region averages 8 per May. Oregon's 5th Blue Grosbeak was at Portland 17 Apr (ph. KT). An Indigo Bunting at Mukilteo, *Snohomish* late Feb–24 Apr was about the 18th for Washington but the first to have wintered, having not been detected until blue feathering appeared (ph. E. Bcegle); another Indigo at Port Townsend was seen on the more typical dates of 19–26 May (†B. & E. Kannenberg). An Indigo Bunting was also in Oregon, where annual during May–Jun, at Denman S.W.A., *Jackson* 19 May (R. Ketchum). Tricolored Blackbird is another species seemingly on the increase. *Spokane's* first Tricolored inhabited Edwall 14–18 Mar (T. Mathis), while others were found at "traditional" Washington locations such as Texas L., *Whitman* (GS), Othello, *Adams*, and Wilson Creek, *Grant* (G. Bletsch), with a maximum of 76 at Othello 16 Apr (M. Dufort). In Oregon, 100 Tricoloreds near Redmond 1 Apr provided a rare *Deschutes* record (K. Owen). A Common Grackle was at Page Springs, *Harney* 26 May (S. Wright); Oregon averages one or 2 per year. Washington's 4th Great-tailed Grackle returned to Liberty L., *Spokane* 30 Mar+ (R. Dexter); Oregon had a goodly 9 Great-taileds—6 on the eastside, where regular, and 2 on the outer coast, where very rare, at N.S.C.B. 17–19 May (TR). Adding to five prior Washington records were Hooded Orioles at Seattle 2 May+ (R. Brown, †M. Hobbs), Enumclaw, *King* 20–29 May (ph. M. Rosenberger), and Port Angeles 23–24 May (ph. A. & K. Watson); all Washington records have been late Apr–late Jul. A Hooded at Eugene 26 May was in Oregon, where not quite annual (ph. B. Carlin). Washington's 4th Balti-

more Oriole visited Vantage, *Kittitas* 28 May (†P&RS). Oregon had 4 Baltimore Orioles, bringing the state total to about 35: Creswell, *Lane* 23 Apr (H. Lown), Milwaukie, *Clackamas* 15 May (W. Kiest), Malheur 21 May (E. Scattergia), and Fields 28 May (B. Archer); most Oregon records are from the eastside mid-May–mid-Jun.

Two apparent spring migrant Bramblings graced Oregon, adding to nine previous records: Monmouth 26 Mar–16 Apr (R. Bunse) and Eugene 1–13 Apr (ph. Maitreya, M. Rudolph); virtually all Regional records are of birds that first appeared during fall or winter. A Purple Finch at Richland 15 Apr was in far e. Washington, where rare (BW), while a Cassin's Finch in the W.V. at Portland 9 Apr was equally unusual (WG). Lesser Goldfinches seem to be recolonizing *Clark*, as evidenced by a pair with fledglings at Vancouver 21 May (C. Peterson); Lessers also seem to be spreading eastward, with one at Walla Walla 29 Apr–1 May (G. Shoemaker). Evening Grosbeaks were more numerous than normal, as exemplified by 220 at Roslyn, *Kittitas* 17 May (TA).

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Kevin Aanerud, Jim Acton, Tom Aversa (Washington), David Bailey, Range Bayer (*Lincoln*), Marv Breece, Kathy Castelein, Alan Contreras, Craig Corder, Judy Corder, Mike & Merry Lynn Denny (M&MD), Dennis Duffy, Bob Flores, Chuck Gates (*Crook*), Roy Gerig (*Marion, Polk*), Greg Gillson, Denny Granstrand (*Yakima*), Wink Gross, Troy Guy, Randy Hill, Scott Horton, Mark Houston, Stuart Johnston (*Klickitat*), Ken Knittle, Bruce LaBar (BLB), Bill LaFramboise (lower Columbia Basin), Nancy LaFramboise, David Lauten, Tom Mickel (*Lane*), Craig & Marilyn Miller (C&MM; *Deschutes, Jefferson*), Scott Mills (SMi), Paul Moyer, Harry Nehls (Oregon), Vic Nelson, Bob Norton (Olympic Pen.), Michael Patterson (*Clatsop*), Dennis Paulson, Phil Pickering, Dennis Rockwell, Tim Rodenkirk (*Coos, Curry*), Barbara Schonewald (BSc), Doug Schonewald (DSc), Gina Sheridan, Kevin Spencer, Andy Stepniewski, Patrick & Ruth Sullivan (P&RS), Iain Tomlinson, Khanh Tran, Dennis Vroman (*Josephine*), Terry J. Wahl, Brad S. Waggoner (BSW), Bob Woodley, Michael Woodruff, Charlie Wright. ☺

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Scott B. Terrill

(Loons to Frigatebirds, Larids to Alcids)

Michael M. Rogers

(Waterfowl to Quail, Herons to Shorebirds)

Steven A. Glover

(Doves to Wrentit)

Luke W. Cole

(Thrashers to Finches)

One of the wettest winters on record led to a wet, slow, and late spring with "weak" migration widely reported and little in the way of exciting passerines. March and April had relentless rain and, at higher elevations, snow. This spring, Mammoth Mountain, Mono County, had the highest snow pack ever recorded, while it was the fourth wettest year since record keeping began in Humboldt County. Conversely, Siskiyou County reported a "bone dry" spring.

This spring will also be remembered for the passing of Dr. Howard Cogswell, at the age of 91. Though his name may not be recognized by newer birders, Dr. Cogswell was a noted professor of ornithology, an ecologist, and the author of *Water Birds of California*. Close to our hearts, he was also one of our earliest Regional Editors. It was Howard who not only created the notebooks we rely upon to this day but also instituted a level of rigor that we struggle to maintain, even after half a century.

Abbreviations: B.S.O.L. (Big Sur Ornithology Lab); C.B.R.C. (California B.R.C.); C.V. (Central Valley); C.R.P. (Cosumnes R. Preserve, Sacramento); FI. (Southeast Farallon I., *San Francisco*); P.R.B.O. (Pt. Reyes B.O.); S.F. (San Francisco, not State Forest); S.J.E.R. (San Joaquin Experimental Range, *Madera*); U.C. (University of California). Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are not published. Documentation of

C.B.R.C. review species will be forwarded to Guy McCaskie, Secretary, P.O. Box 275, Imperial Beach, California 91933. Birds banded on FI. should be credited to Pt. Reyes B.O. and those banded at Big Sur R. mouth to the Big Sur Ornithology Lab of the Ventana Wilderness Society.

WHISTLING-DUCKS THROUGH GROUSE

Two Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at Moro Cojo Slough, *Monterey* 24 Apr (†RF) and a single bird at Pixley N.W.R., *Tulare* 29 Apr (John Lockhart, SDS et al.) were thought to be wild birds. There have been only a few Regional records in the past 20 years. The Ross's Goose flock at Merced N.W.R., *Merced* numbered 36,000 birds 6 Mar, including 7 dark-morph birds (PJM, ADcM). An unusual inland Brant showed up at L. Almanor, *Plumas* 3–4 May (*fide* JMMC); another at Paicines Res. 25 Apr (SRv, RJA) was the first for *San Benito*. *Napa's* 3rd Brant, first reported 25 Nov 2005, wintered at Kennedy Park through 7 Apr (MBE). A hybrid goose thought to be a Brant × *minima* Cackling Goose spent the first half of Mar at Humboldt Bay N.W.R., *Humboldt* (Ana Roberts, Adam Cantor, ph. KGR et al.). Perhaps the same individual was described from a lingering goose flock near Ft. Dick, *Del Norte* 1 May (Lucas Brug). A Tundra Swan first noted at Shollenberger Park, *Sonoma* 25 Feb (LHg) lingered with the local Mute Swans through 14 May (AWgh).

The latest Eurasian Wigeon reported was at San Felipe L. 25 Apr (RJA, SRv), only the 5th record for *San Benito*. Notable concentrations of Blue-winged Teal included 13 at Pescadero Marsh, *San Mateo* 23 Mar (DLSu) and about 20 in upper Elkhorn Slough, *Monterey* 30 Mar (JPo, LGo). Northern Shovelers were again confirmed breeding se. of Gilroy, *Santa Clara* 19 May, where 4 precocial young were found accompanying 4 ads. (WGB). At least 9 Eurasian Teal were reported from three coastal counties 12 Mar–20 Apr (m.ob.). Up to 7 Redheads lingering at Mare I., *Solano* 19–26 May (RLCL, WNe) and the same number at Hayward R.S., *Alameda* through the period (m.ob.) were suggestive of local breeding. Male Tufted Ducks lingered at Berkeley Aquatic Park, *Alameda* through 8 Apr (ph. JM, Hugh Harvey, m.ob.), at Borax L., *Lake* through 9 Apr (FHa), and at White Slough, *Solano* through 27 Apr (RMu). A Tufted Duck × scaup hybrid was at Arcata, *Humboldt* 6 Apr (KMS, SFB). A pair of Harlequin Ducks was again noted along the Merced R. in Yosemite Valley, *Mariposa* 27 Apr (Lowell Young et al.). A pair was present all spring at the Monterey harbor, *Monterey* (RT, DR, m.ob.), and the res-

ident male at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* continued as well (DvWb). A pair of Long-tailed Ducks spent 5–20 Apr at the Shasta Valley W.A., *Siskiyou* (RE, m.ob.), whereas a male found 29 Mar at the Ten Mile R. mouth, *Mendocino* remained through the period (JHv, KHv, DT, m.ob.). The only other one reported was at King Salmon, *Humboldt* 24 Mar (MWa). Hooded Mergansers were again occupying nest boxes at Big Lagoon, *Humboldt*, where 6 hens were also found incubating eggs last summer (Bryan Yost, *fide* DFX). A surprising 7 inland Red-breasted Mergansers visited the Shasta Valley W.A., *Siskiyou* 7 Apr (RE). Surveys on private land near Hoopa, *Humboldt* turned up 32 Ruffed Grouse 23 Mar+ (JTz), an unexpectedly large number.

ALBATROSSES THROUGH CRANE

Laysan Albatrosses were off *Monterey* 7 Mar (*fide* JND) and 17 May (RT) and off *Humboldt* 28 May (Paul Roush). The Pt. Arena, *Mendocino* wintering bird was last reported 6 Apr (Mike & MerryLynn Denny et al.). Single Manx Shearwaters were reported on *Monterey Bay*, *Monterey* 4 May (RT), 16 km w. of Eureka, *Humboldt* 23 Apr (STu, GSL, m.ob.), and off Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo* 2 May (†RSTh). The *Humboldt* record would represent the first for that county if accepted by the C.B.R.C. Only 2 Black-vented Shearwaters were reported: off Año Nuevo, *San Mateo* 5 May (JND) and off Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* 21 May (ShJ). Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were present in *Monterey Bay*, *Monterey* throughout Apr (*fide* DR), and 2 were found dead 6 Apr on Año Nuevo I., *San Mateo* (Julie Thayer), where the species is suspected of nesting. A Black Storm-Petrel reported from FI. 1–23 Apr (P.R.B.O.) was very unseasonable, as this species normally occurs in fall, when ocean temperatures are typically warmest. A Brown Booby was reported without details from FI. 2–5 May (P.R.B.O.). First recorded in the Region in 1985, this species now occurs annually.

An ad. Little Blue Heron was found along the Feather R. sw. of Olivehurst in *Yuba* and *Sutter* 18 May (JKn), and another was along Allendale Rd. s. of Winters 21 May (Bonnie Trejo, *fide* SMcA; *Solano's* 4th), locations where they are far less expected than around S.F. Bay. A small coastal movement of Cattle Egrets (19 birds in three counties) was noted 27–29 Apr (m.ob.); an ad. at the Palo Alto Baylands heronry, *Santa Clara* 10–11 May (Hazel Holby et al.) may have been prospecting for breeding opportunities, but no breeding has been reported around S.F. Bay since 2003. The only coastal White-faced Ibis were 4 reported 29 Apr from *Monterey*, 3 at Zmu-

dowski S.B. (RF, TN), and one at the Salinas W.T.P. (JSo, RFT).

Ospreys bred again this year w. of L. Elsmann, *Santa Clara*, with an active nest observed 28 Apr+ (WGB, SCR); breeding was first detected in *Santa Clara* in 2004, continuing the range expansion observed recently in nearby *Santa Cruz*. Observations of up to 2 ad. Bald Eagles n. of Sebastopol 5–7 May (LHg, ph. Stan Moore) suggest the species may be prospecting for new nesting areas in *Sonoma*. A briefly seen ad. Northern Goshawk at L. Merced, S.F. 1 Apr (†MWE) was undoubtedly a northbound migrant. Reports from the local landowner indicate the *Sonoma* Common Black-Hawk returned in early Apr (fide Stan Moore); it was at Delta Pond 30 Apr+ (ph. Stan Moore, DgSh) and was observed carrying nesting material 1 May (ph. Stan Moore), but so far no mate has been detected. Migrating Broad-winged Hawks were seen over S.F. and nearby *Marin* 13 Apr (Steve Bauer) and 14 May (Robbie Fischer). A light-morph Swainson's Hawk over Summit Creek Rd. 4 May (SAG, FrO) was a first for *Trinity*. Coastal migrants included birds 3 Mar and 18 May in *Santa Cruz*, *Santa Cruz* (SGe, AGa, Eileen Balian), 1 & 2 May in s. *Monterey* (CKpf, CHz), 18 & 20 May in S.F. (ph. Walter Kitundu, ASH), and 21 May near Gilroy, *Santa Clara* (SCR). A pair of dark morphs was near last year's attempted nesting site at Suscol Cr., *Napa* 29 Apr (MBE).

Reports of Crested Caracaras, all coastal, continue unabated, with singles through 10 Apr near Davenport, *Santa Cruz* (DLSu; ad.); near Pt. Sur 28–29 Mar (ph. MTy, ph., †DR, RC, CHz; ad., *Monterey's* 2nd) and then later at the Carmel R. mouth, *Monterey* 10 Apr–13 May (Bud Fox, ph. DR, ph. BHL); e. of Shell Beach, *Sonoma* 23 Apr (ph. AWgh); and near Occidental, *Sonoma* 9 May (Elmer Dudik). Late Merlins included birds at Año Nuevo S.R., *San Mateo* 9 May (GJS) and an extraordinarily late female near Gilroy, *Santa Clara* 24 May (SCR). Peregrine Falcon nests with young were found on bayside transmission towers in Redwood Shores, *San Mateo* 24 May (Susan Kritzik) and n. of Moffett Field, *Santa Clara* 27 Apr–5 May (MJM, MMR). A calling Black Rail was reported from Pebble Beach 31 Mar (†Don Merit) but could not be confirmed; *Monterey* has only one previous record, from Pacific Grove 29 Sep 1967. A recently hatched Virginia Rail in a marsh with 10+ ads. at Joseph Grant C.P. 6 May (†MMR) provided the first breeding confirmation for *Santa Clara*; pairs at two locations in the San Antonio Valley, *Santa Clara* 21 May (MMR, MJM) were also likely breeding. Breeding has long been suspected in the county but was

not expected at these high-elevation locations (here about 600 m) in the Diablo Range; perhaps the wet spring played a role in this. A lingering Sandhill Crane at C.R.P. 5 May–4 Jun (JTr) may have been injured.

SHOREBIRDS

At least 17 Pacific Golden-Plovers were reported, including 6 at the Modesto S.T.P., *Stanislaus* 8 Mar (David Diller, Balduin Fischer) and 4+ in *Tulare* 19 Mar–9 May (John Lockhart, SDS). One at the Salinas W.T.P., *Monterey* 31 May–6 Jun (ph. RyT, ph. MTy, ph. Oscar Johnson) was late. At least one Mountain Plover continued e. of Sears Pt., *Sonoma* through 20 Mar (ADeM). Fourteen Solitary Sandpipers were reported in 10 inland and coastal counties 10 Apr–10 May (m.ob.). Three Willets at the Ione S.T.P. 19–23 Apr (JLx, EP, TS) were the first ever to be documented in *Amador*. Ten to 12 Lesser Yellowlegs near Cock Robin I., *Humboldt* 12 Mar (RbF, MWa) formed an unexpected concentration for spring. Two flyover Whimbrels 6 May were apparently the first for the Sierra Valley, *Plumas* (CCo, KLL, CPD). S.F. bayside Ruddy Turnstones, rare in spring, were found 2 May in *San Mateo* (MDo) and *Santa Clara* (RWR, FV; 2 birds). Four northbound Surf-birds at Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo* 28 May (RSTh) were very late. Two Red Knots along Ingomar Rd., *Merced* 28 Apr (PJM) were at a surprising inland location. Semipalmated Sandpipers were at the Shasta Valley W.A., *Siskiyou* 13 May (Jeff Anderson, Neil Schanker, RE), *Arcata* Bottoms, *Humboldt* 23 May (DFx), and *Pescadero* Cr. mouth 27 May (RSTh; 4th spring record for *San Mateo*). A staggering 300,000 Western Sandpipers were in sight at once on *Humboldt* Bay, *Humboldt* 19 Apr (DFx). The only Pectoral Sandpiper was flying northward past Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo* 27 Apr; the next day, a Rock Sandpiper landed for a few minutes at the same location (both RSTh). The *Santa Cruz* Rock Sandpiper was last noted along West Cliff Drive 9 Apr (ph. Glen Tepke, Bill Hull). A Stilt Sandpiper at *Merced* N.W.R., *Merced* 6 Mar (PJM, ADeM) was likely wintering. A male Ruff was at *Arcata* Bottoms, *Humboldt* 21 Mar (ScC). A Short-billed Dowitcher at the Ione S.T.P. 21–23 Apr (EP, JCS, JSL, TS) was the 2nd record for *Amador*. Three Wilson's Phalaropes at the Hayfork S.T.P. 4 May (ph. SAG, FrO) were the first ever to be found in *Trinity*; only 3 others were reported, in *Santa Clara* 24 & 29 Apr (MJM, MMR) and in *Humboldt* 7 May (TMcK, RHw, Dan Maxwell). Red-necked Phalaropes were widely reported in good numbers, both coastally and inland. The high count was of 21,360 off Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo*

2 May (RSTh); farther n. in *Mendocino* and *Humboldt*, the "invasion" spanned late Apr–mid-May (fide RJK, DFx). Slightly inland in *Santa Clara*, up to 500 were noted on various Alviso salt ponds 5 May (AJ), a high count for spring. Inland reports included 2 at Briones R.P., *Contra Costa* 3 May (Doug Vaughn), 2 at the Redding S.T.P., *Shasta* 4 May (BED, RoS), one at Hayfork S.T.P., *Trinity* 4 May (JLx, JSL, SAG, FrO), and 3 at Borax L. 7 May (FHa; 5th spring *Lake* record).

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

Quite rare in the Region, an ad. Laughing Gull on Elkhorn Slough, *Monterey* 4 & 29 Apr (YG et al.) was likely the same bird seen in the area in spring–fall 2005. Close by was a second-cycle Laughing Gull at Aptos, *Santa Cruz* 8–16 Mar (JPo, DVP, AGa). Franklin's Gulls are regular spring migrants in very small numbers; 5 at Elkhorn Slough, *Monterey* 5 May (TAM) was the highest number reported. A Little Gull reported migrating northward with large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls off Patrick's Point S.P. 4 May (BS) would be the first in *Humboldt* in 20 years if accepted by the C.B.R.C.; a Black Tern at the same location 11 May (BS) was the first reported in *Humboldt* in about 10 years. Slaty-backed Gulls were last detected at Venice S.B., *San Mateo* 8 Mar (AJ, RSTh), when 2 ads. and one second-cycle bird were present. Remarkably, *Alameda's* first was found at a Fremont landfill 9 Mar (AJ). Somewhat above average, 20 Glaucous Gulls (primarily coastal) were reported, with the latest 28 May at Redwood Cr., *Humboldt* (KBU et al.). The ever-increasing wintering flock of Black Skimmers at Charleston Slough peaked at 31 on 22 Apr; 8 in Alviso 27 May were at a known breeding location (both MMR, MJM; both *Santa Clara*). Elsewhere, 16 skimmers were at Redwood City, *San Mateo* 17 May (PJM), where three pairs nested last year, and up to 4 were in coastal *Monterey* (YG et al.), where a pair appeared to be nesting at the Salinas R. mouth 13 May (BTM, m.ob.). The breeding population continues to expand in the Region.

The very wet spring had an impact on Marbled Murrelets in *Humboldt*, where inland flights did not initiate fully until late Apr, weeks later than normal (fide DFx). Ancient Murrelets w. of Eureka, *Humboldt* (Owen Head et al.), off Little R., *Mendocino* (KGR), and (2) off Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo* 17 May, and off Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* 23 Apr+ (RT, m.ob.), were on the late side. Continuing from the winter season, Horned Puffins remained unusually numerous, with single birds occurring at Samoa Beach, *Humboldt* 16 Mar (fide KMS), *Monterey*, *Monterey* 10–23 Mar (RT, BTM et

al.), and at Seacliff S.B., *Santa Cruz* 9 May (CKf et al.). Most of these were beached birds that were taken to rehabilitators or found dead or moribund.

CUCKOOS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

An unidentified cuckoo at Hayward R.S., *Alameda* 21 May was completely unexpected (RJR).

The march of Eurasian Collared-Doves continued unabated, producing first county records at Old Shasta, *Shasta* 10–14 Apr (ph. B&CY), near Winters, *Solano* 21 Apr (Larry Petrie), and at Quincy, *Plumas* 29 May (CPD). One on FI. 26 Apr–31 May was an island first (P.R.B.O.). Vagrant White-winged Doves visited feeders at Marina, *Monterey* 7 May (ph. SRv) and Eureka, *Humboldt* 8–10 May (ph. BS). Burrowing Owls are considered casual migrants in *Mono*, though a pair on Hwy. 6 at the *Inyo* line 31 May is suggestive of breeding (KNN). A Great Gray Owl on Pliocene Ridge Rd. near Camptonville, *Yuba* 31 Mar–11 Apr was in marginal habitat and at an exceptionally low elevation of about 2200 m (†Jan Evers, ph. Dan Evers). Likely the same bird was present in this area 10–17 May and 30 Aug 2005. Single wayward Chimney Swifts were reported 20 May at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* (TEa, RgW, MtB, RyT) and at Bridgeport, *Mono* 27 May (TEa). Rare hummingbirds in mainland S.F. included a female Calliope in the Presidio 30 Apr (†MWE), a female Black-chinned at Mt. Davidson 1 May (†PSar), and an apparent imm. male Broad-tailed at Mt. Davidson 15 May (†PSar); Broad-taileds are accidental in the Region away from the e. Sierra. A male Costa's Hummingbird at Pittville, *Lassen* 17 Mar was in an area where they may breed (Ken Able).

An estimated 1000+ Lewis's Woodpeckers were at the S.J.E.R. 23 Mar (JND). Such numbers appear unprecedented in the 56 years of our Regional notebooks. The lone Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at Redwood Valley, *Mendocino* 20–28 Mar (ph. Bruce Gove, Cheryl Watson et al.). A Red-breasted Sapsucker 29 May at Carmel Valley Village broke the record late date for *Monterey* by a full month (RF)! A male Pileated Woodpecker at Bayview Hill 16 Apr was an unanticipated first for S.F. and the first recorded on the Peninsula n. of Woodside (Michelle Brodie, ph. MWE, m. ob.). A Western Wood-Pewee 21 May at Hayward R.S., *Alameda* was thought to furnish the first spring record for that well-worked locale (RJR). A tally of 52 Willow Flycatchers around Hoopa, *Humboldt* 24 May (JTz) appears unprecedented in the Region in spring, at least in recent decades; none were present 27 May. A smattering of coastal birds was not-

ed during the latter half of May. High one-day counts of migrant Gray Flycatchers at the S.J.E.R. included 10 on 20 Apr, 12 on 24 Apr, and 23 on 28 Apr (JND, Doug Drynan, Brian Gibson). Long considered scarce migrants away from Great Basin breeding haunts, recent work in the Sierra foothills of *Madera* and *Mariposa* suggests that such numbers may be typical. An Eastern Phoebe 14 Mar at Inverness, *Marin* was rumored to have been present for at least a month (Bob Battagin). A Cassin's Kingbird at the Simis Ranch 15 May was thought to be a first for the Mono Basin, *Mono* (KNN). Traditionally considered an uncommon migrant in *San Mateo*, no fewer than 128 Western Kingbirds were noted at Coyote Pt. this spring, including a one-day high of 42 on 20 Apr (RSTh).

VIREOS THROUGH WAXWINGS

A singing Bell's Vireo at Pixley N.W.R., *Tulare* 19–23 May continued the recent spate of C.V. records (SAL, SDS et al.). The wintering Blue Jay at Cordelia, *Solano* was last noted 25 Apr (Wayne & Dorothy Little). Two male and 2 female Purple Martins migrating over the S.J.E.R. 20 Apr provided the first *Madera* record since 1985 (JND). A Bank Swallow at Borax L. 22 May was just the 3rd ever found in *Lake* (JRW). *Yolo's* Mountain Chickadee was present at Davis through at least 25 Mar (MP, m.ob.). An Oak Titmouse at Foster City, *San Mateo* 20 Apr was a surprise find near the shores of S.F. Bay (RSTh). A Marsh Wren at the S.J.E.R. 14–21 Apr was the first recorded there in 72 years of observations (Brian Gibson, Doug Drynan, JND). A male Mountain Bluebird at Año Nuevo S.R., *San Mateo* 9 Mar was likely the same individual noted slightly s. in *Santa Cruz* 27–28 Feb (Brad Soper). A vagrant Veery on FI. 2–5 May would represent the earliest Regional record if accepted by the C.B.R.C. (P.R.B.O.). A Hermit Thrush at Pine Lake Park, S.F. 23 May was notably late (DPM).

Gray Catbirds were reported 28 May from Oasis, *Mono* (ph. JCS) and 31 May from Dye Creek Preserve, *Tehama* (†Michael Rogner). A Brown Thrasher was in Porterville, *Tulare* 14–16 Apr (†SDS, Kim Kuska); one visiting feeders in Kneeland, *Humboldt* was apparently first present in Dec 2005 but only came to the attention of local birders 25–27 Apr (Anthony Desch, GSL, ph. SMcA, ph. KGR, m.ob.). A Red-throated Pipit 26 Apr at Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* furnished the first spring record for California (ph. AJ). It was a strong spring for Cedar Waxwings in *Santa Clara* (fide WGB) and *San Mateo*, where the peak of migration, 20 May, brought 1000 through Coyote Pt. (RSTh).

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS

A singing Blue-winged Warbler at C.R.P. 28 May (†JTr) will be the C.V.'s first if accepted by the C.B.R.C. As usual, FI. hosted wandering warblers: a Tennessee 1–5 May, an American Redstart 10–12 May, a Virginia's 19–20 May, a Blackburnian 18–20 May, a Black-and-white 19 May, and an Ovenbird 19–22 May (all P.R.B.O.). Another Tennessee Warbler was at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 30 May (RyT). A Lucy's Warbler 30 Apr at Coyote Pt. (RSTh) provided just the 3rd spring record for *San Mateo*. The Northern Parula wintering at the Presidio, S.F. was last detected 4 Mar (Scot & Debbie Sunderland); others included one singing at Big Lagoon, *Humboldt* 14 May (KI), a male at Tilden Park, *Contra Costa* 22–23 May (ES, Mike McClosky), and a female at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 23 May (BLS). A well-described Hermit Warbler × Townsend's Warbler hybrid was at Wild Horse Canyon, *Solano* 27 Apr (†MBe); 2 more such hybrids were reported from *Humboldt*. Nine Palm Warblers were along the coast. A Black-and-white Warbler wintering at Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt* was last seen 7 Apr (Pat Bitton, Alexandra Lamb); one 8 Mar at Garcia R. flats, *Mendocino* (Mike & MerryLynn Denny) probably wintered as well. One 9 Apr at Laguna Grande, *Monterey* was a migrant (ELb, CKpf), as were singles 25 May at Año Nuevo S.R., *San Mateo* (GJS) and 30 May at Mt. Davidson, S.F. (PSar). The Ovenbird wintering along Putah Cr., *Yolo* and *Solano*, was last seen 9 Apr (Jim Dunn, m.ob.). At least one Northern Waterthrush wintered at Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt* through 25 Mar (JTz); the one wintering at Charleston Road marsh, *Santa Clara* was singing when last seen 14 Apr (MDo, WGB); and the one wintering at Berkeley's Aquatic Park, *Alameda* was last detected 28 Apr (m.ob.). Singing male Hooded Warblers were at Soquel, *Santa Cruz* 11 May (fide DLSu) and Tunitas Cr., *San Mateo* 27 May (RSTh). A Summer Tanager spent 20 Mar–12 Apr in Palo Alto, *Santa Clara* (ph. Carlin Otto, m.ob.), and a Scarlet Tanager was reported without details from FI. 20 May (P.R.B.O.). A Western Tanager 31 Mar at Laguna Grande set a new early arrival date for *Monterey* (DR).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

A Clay-colored Sparrow at a Richmond feeder 20 Feb–4 Mar (ph. Paula & Kevin Landdeck) furnished *Contra Costa's* 2nd winter record. A Black-chinned Sparrow 6 May at Rancho del Oso (RgW) was the first found in *Santa Cruz* since 2002. Black-throated Sparrows were out of place at the O'Neill Forebay, *Merced* 26 Apr (SBT), near the Klamath R. mouth, *Del Norte*

4–5 May (Greg Holmes, ph. KGR, RbF), and at Luffenholtz Beach, *Humboldt* 20–21 May (Chris Collins, GSL, Amy Lester, Dana Lester). The Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow wintering at San Mateo, *San Mateo* was last seen 2 Mar (DEQ). The wintering Swamp Sparrow at Harding Park, S.F. continued through 13 Apr (DvA, Matt Zlatunich), with another possible winterer at Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt* until 14 Apr (Chris Tonra, EE), and single migrants were documented 26 May near Stoil, *Tulare* (Tony Kurz) and at Hayward R.S., *Alameda* 28 May (RJR). A bumper crop of 59 White-throated Sparrows, many wintering, included *Calaveras's* 5th, 28 Apr on Chili Camp Rd. (John Lewis, Mike Skram); the latest was 23 May at El. (P.R.B.O.). A singing male Harris's Sparrow graced Laguna Grande, *Monterey* 27 Mar–6 Apr (BJW, ph. DR, ph. BHi), and another was at U.C. Santa Cruz, *Santa Cruz* 30 Apr (Ralph Berger, TN). Late but apparently healthy Golden-crowned Sparrows lingered until 26 May in *Monterey* (Laura Rodriguez) and 28 May in *San Mateo* (WGB). Lapland Longspurs in *Humboldt* included 8 at Arcata Bottoms 11 Mar (RbF) and one at Bear River Ridge 2 Apr (DFx); the only Chestnut-collared reported was at Kneeland, *Humboldt* 24–30 Apr (Chris Frolking, m.ob.).

It was an off year for Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, with just 6 reported, including *Fresno's* 4th, 19 Mar–9 Apr in *Fresno* (Penny Stewart), and one 28 May at Oasis, *Mono* (JCS). An Indigo Bunting 23 Mar at Lundy Canyon was *Mono's* earliest record (BrtM); others were at the Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 2 May (†RyT), El. 4 May (P.R.B.O.), and Arcata, *Humboldt* 29 May (ScC). The Painted Bunting wintering in Sebastopol, *Sonoma* was last seen 13 Apr (Kathy & Dave Biggs); one was near Prunedale, *Monterey* 10–20 Apr (ph. TAM, ph. DR, m.ob.).

A Yellow-headed Blackbird 21 May near Garberville (RBS, Doug Wallace, m.ob.) made an unusual interior *Humboldt* record. Great-tailed Grackles were reported in numbers from many counties, with nesting reported in *Alameda*, *Merced*, *Mono*, *Monterey*, *Santa*

Clara, and *Shasta*; a male at Sierra Valley 14 May was just *Plumas's* 3rd (Brian O'Conner), and singles at Yosemite Lakes Park 21 Apr (Joseph Oldham) and near Raymond 20 May (JND) were just the 2nd and 3rd records for *Madera's* foothills. The wintering Orchard Oriole at Fort Mason, S.F. was last detected 7 Mar (Hugh Harvey). The sole Baltimore Oriole reported was singing 26 May at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* (TAM). Two singing Scott's Orioles at Chimney Peak N.R.A., *Tulare* 15 May (SDS) were just n. of known *Kern* nesting areas, while one at Oasis, *Mono* 28 May (JCS) was less expected. Red Crossbills were only reported from *Humboldt*. There was a large and long-staying irruption of Evening Grosbeaks in the *Mono* Basin, *Mono* 25 Feb+ (KNN, m.ob.); one in the C.V. was at Davis, *Yolo* 14 Mar–2 Apr (MP, m.ob.), and 4 were in *Eureka*, *Humboldt* 10 May (GSL).

Corrigenda: In the summer issue, we reported that a Black-throated Gray Warbler nest was a first confirmed nesting record for *Mono*, but it was merely a first for the *Mono* Basin; the species nests elsewhere in the county in the White Mt. and Glass Mt. ranges (*fide* KNN). In the fall issue, we reported that the Wood Thrush on 20 Sep 2005 was the first in the Region since 1996; this statement overlooked one in *Santa Cruz* 16 Jun 2005 (acc. by C.B.R.C., *fide* DLSu).

Observers: R. J. Adams, Tim Amaral, David Armstrong, Stephen F. Bailey, Murray Berner (*Napa*), Matthew Brady, William G. Bousman (*Santa Clara*), Adam Brown (*El.*), Ken Burton, Scott Carey, Rita Carratello, Luke W. Cole (*Kings*), Chris Conard (*Sacramento* and *Yolo*), Jeff N. Davis (*Madera*), Al DeMartini, Bruce E. Deuel (n. C.V. counties), Colin P. Dillingham, Matthew Dodder, Todd Easterla, Mark W. Eaton (*San Francisco*), Ray Ekstrom (*Siskiyou*), Elias Elias, David Fix (*Humboldt*), Rick Fournier (RF), Rob Fowler (RbF), Alexander Gaguine, James H. Gain (*Stanislaus*), Steve Gerow, Yohn Gideon, Steve A. Glover (*Contra Costa*), Lois Goldfrank, Chris Hartzell, Jim T.

Havlena, Karen A. Havlena, Floyd Hayes, Rob Hewitt, Bill Hill, Alan S. Hopkins, Lisa Hug, John E. Hunter (*Trinity*), Ken Irwin, Alvaro Jaramillo, Robert J. Keiffer (*Mendocino*), Clay Kempf, Jon King, Kimya L. Lambert, Stephen A. Laymon, Earl Lebow, Robin L. C. Leong (*Solano*), Gary S. Lester, Jim Lomax, John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammoser, Blake T. Matheson (BTM), Sean McAllister, J. Mac McCormick (*Plumas* and *Sierra*), Tristan McKee, Peter J. Metropulos (*San Mateo*), Bartshe Miller, Joseph Morlan, Dan P. Murphy, Roger Muskat, Kristie N. Nelson (*Mono*), Wally Neville, Todd Newberry, Frances Oliver, Ed Pandolfino (*Placer*), Michael Perrone, Jeff Poklen, Jude C. Power (*Humboldt*), David E. Quady, Robert W. Reiling, Robert J. Richmond (*Alameda*), Don Roberson (*Monterey*), Michael M. Rogers, Kerry G. Ross, Stephen C. Rottenborn, Steve Rovell, Ruth A. Rudesill (*Sonoma*), Rob Santry, Paul Saraceni, Barry Sauppe, Doug Shaw, Shearwater Journeys, Keith M. Slauson, John Sorensen, John C. Sterling (*Modoc*, *Alpine*, and *Calaveras*), Tim Steurer (*Amador* and *El Dorado*), Gary J. Strachan, Emilie Strauss, David L. Suddjian (*Santa Cruz*), Brian L. Sullivan, Steven D. Summers (*Tulare*), Robert B. Sutherland, Ryan Terrill (RyT), Scott B. Terrill, Richard Ternullo (RT), Ronald S. Thorn (RSTh), Jim Tietz, Robert F. Tintle (RFT), Dorothy Tobkin, John Trochet, Steve Tucker, Mike Tyner, Steve Umland (*Tuolumne*), Frank Vanslager, Kent Van Vuren (*Merced* and *San Benito*), David Vander Pluym (*Mariposa*), Matt Wachs, Dave Weber, Brian J. Weed, Jerry R. White (*Lake*), Alan Wight, Roger Wolfe, Bob & Carol Yutzy (*Shasta*). Many more observers are not specifically cited; all are appreciated. 🌐

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Southern California



Guy McCaskie | Kimball L. Garrett

This spring drew raves from both coastal and desert birders for the volume of western migrants moving through the Region from late March through May, but it was one of the poorest in recent decades for quantity and quality of vagrants. Several especially impressive waves of migrants were noted during the period, including a large movement of passerines through the mountains and foothills of San Diego County 22 April to 4 May, a large movement through the Imperial Valley on 27 April, and an impressive passage of Wilson's Warblers and other songbirds on 7 May in Orange County. Especially unusual for the Region were the 30+ tideline carcasses of songbirds at Coronado, San Diego County 20 May reported by Matthew Sadowski and Thomas Myers, suggesting unfavorable conditions for migrants offshore at that time; perhaps related to this event, an especially strong nocturnal migration was noted on the nights of 17 and 18 May on San Clemente Island.

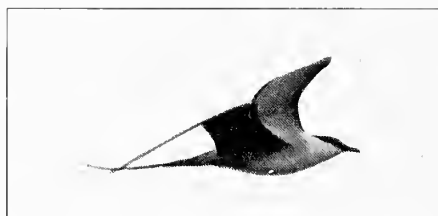
Precipitation was somewhat above normal for the period, though the total for the entire rainy season ended up well below average. The typical late spring coastal overcast was limited, and by the period's end, the expected "June gloom" was an almost complete no-show. Noteworthy records included yet another spring Laysan Albatross sighting on the southern deserts, two Upland Sandpipers, and two Broad-billed Hummingbirds.

Abbreviations: B.S. (Butterbredt Spring, s. end of the Sierra Nevada above Cantil, e. Kern); C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. Kern); E.A.F.B. (Edwards A.F.B., se. Kern); F.C.R. (Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley N.P., Inyo); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park, e. Kern); N.E.S.S. (n. end of Salton Sea, Riverside); P.P. (Piute Ponds on Edwards A.F.B., ne. Los Angeles); S.E.S.S. (s. end of Salton Sea, Imperial). Museum collections abbreviated in the text are: SDNHM

(San Diego Natural History Museum). 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 B.R.C. (C.B.R.C.) review list is forwarded to the Secretary and archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

A flock of 24 Brant near Imperial, Imperial 8 Apr (GMcC), 35 at N.E.S.S. 7 May (LS), and flocks of 11 and 15 flying northward through the Borrego Valley, San Diego 9 & 12 Apr (PJ, JMa) were along the route followed by this species migrating from the Gulf of California to the Pacific coast. An exceptionally late migrant Eurasian Wigeon was near Lone Pine, Inyo 14 May (T&JH). A flock of 61 Surf Scoters on L. Henshaw, San Diego 16 Mar (BKS) had been grounded by inclement weather when migrating from the Gulf of California to



One of three Long-tailed Jaegers found around the San Juan Seamount 96 kilometers southwest of San Miguel Island, California in late April 2006, this bird was photographed 28 April. Photograph by Walter Carnahan.

the Pacific. A Black Scoter, exceptionally rare inland, was at a fish farm near Niland, Imperial 17 May (BM). Two somewhat late wintering Long-tailed Ducks remained at Marina del Rey, Los Angeles 6 Apr (RB), and another was still present at Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo through 19 Apr (PEL).

A Red-throated Loon on Cuyamaca L., San Diego 24 Apr (MBS) was inland, where unexpected. The only reports of migrant Pacific Loons inland were of single birds near the N.E.S.S. 23 May (HBK) and near Imperial 8 Apr (GMcC). A Red-necked Grebe off Goleta, Santa Barbara 2-6 Apr (DMC) was unexpected. Pelagic trips off s. California in late Apr produced 6 Laysan Albatrosses at the San Juan Seamount 22 Apr (TMcG, JSF) and 4 there 28 Apr (TMcG); 5 Flesh-footed Shearwaters and about 15 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were seen at various locations over deep water 22-29 Apr (TMcG, JSF). A Laysan Albatross seen flying northward in the Borrego Valley 10 Apr (JB) had undoubtedly moved from the Gulf of California; it is the 9th to be found in this general area of the Sonoran Desert in spring/early summer. An imm. Short-tailed Albatross 16

km sw. of Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo 19 Apr (PEL) adds another to the encouraging increasing number of records in recent years. A Mottled Petrel, casual within 320 km of the coast, was photographed about 120 km w. of San Clemente I. 6 Apr (JDY). A dead Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel near Oceanside, San Diego 11 May (BF; *SDNHM) was unusually far south. Two Red-billed Tropicbirds, regular off s. California in small numbers, were near the "Mushroom" off Los Angeles 29 Apr (TMcG). A decomposing Brown Booby was found at the mouth of the Tijuana R., San Diego 2 May (RTP; *SDNHM). A Brown Pelican on Searles Dry L., San Bernardino 8 Apr (SCH) and another picked up at E.A.F.B. about 22 Apr (*vide* Stan Gray) were both most unusual as to the location and time of the year.

A Little Blue Heron in Marina del Rey 23 Mar-25 Apr (DB) was the only one away from coastal San Diego. Three Reddish Egrets remained in San Diego and Orange through Apr (TAB, GMcC), with one still on San Diego Bay at the end of the period (MS). The 2 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons found in Imperial Beach, San Diego in Jun 2005 were still present and attending a nest 31 May (GMcC), and another ad. was near the San Diego R. mouth, San Diego 27 Apr-29 May (TM).

HAWKS THROUGH PUFFINS

A Mississippi Kite, a casual straggler to California, was at F.C.R. 26-28 May (ERP, OJ), the 10th to be found in the state in spring. A Harris's Hawk at S.E.S.S. 5 Mar (KLG) was within the historic range of this species, and another at Borrego Springs 25 Apr (RT) was in the area where small numbers persisted Apr 1994-Feb 2002. A first-year Broad-winged Hawk on San



This Mississippi Kite was photographed on the first day of its three-day stay at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley National Park, California 26-28 May 2006. Photograph by Edward R. Pandolfino.

Clemente I. 22 Mar and 4 Apr (SWS) had probably gone undetected since its arrival in the fall, but another near Big Pine, Inyo 6 May (J&DP) was a spring vagrant. Swainson's Hawks continued to pass through the Borrego Valley through 3 May, with a total of 1600

counted since Feb (HC, PJ); elsewhere, large flocks included 90+ in the w. Antelope Valley, Los Angeles 27 Mar (MSanM), 30-35 near L. Henshaw 14 Mar (PU), and 18 near El Centro, Imperial 12 Mar (KZK). Single Zone-tailed Hawks at F.C.R. 27 May (MT) and over Norco, Riverside 5 May (HBK) were unexpected at these locations, but one near Warner Springs, San Diego 16 Apr (DM) was close to an area where this species has nested. A wintering Merlin near Lakeview, Riverside remained until the exceptionally late date of 6 May (CMcG).

Single northbound American Golden-Plovers were at S.E.S.S. 18 May (GMcC) and C.L. 20-21 May (SLS). Three wintering Pacific Golden-Plovers remained in Seal Beach, Orange through 29 Apr (TAB), and 3 more were still near Imperial Beach 9 Apr (RTP); one in alternate plumage on San Diego Bay 27 Mar (MS) was thought to be a migrant. With coastal s. California lying within the area of overlap between American and Black Oystercatchers, observers encounter a variety of black-and-white oystercatchers ranging from phenotypically "pure" Americans to Blacks that have some white feathering; identifying these birds presents a challenge. Individuals approaching "pure" American Oystercatcher were in Goleta 8 Apr (DMC), at Royal Palms Beach 4 May (DLM), and nearby Cabrillo Beach, Los Angeles 16 May (BA).

Reports of Solitary Sandpipers, scarce in spring, included early birds in Blythe, Riverside 24 Mar (RH) and Bishop, Inyo 30 Mar (J&KW), followed by 9 more scattered throughout the Region 16-30 Apr. Single Wandering Tattlers, casual inland, were at S.E.S.S. 23-29 Apr (GMcC, JMo) and 9 May (RJN). An Upland Sandpiper in Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino 18-19 May (JZ) and another at G.H.P. 4-8 Jun (RST) provide the 8th and 9th spring records for California. Two Black Turnstones at S.E.S.S. 15 May (REW) were late migrants moving northward from the Gulf of California, but another there 28 May+ (HBK) may have been attempting to summer locally; one at P.P. 26 Apr (RJN) was one of a very few ever found inland away from the Salton Sea. A Red Knot at E.A.F.B. 22-23 Apr (TEW) was the only one found inland away from the Salton Sea, as were up to 2 Sanderlings at C.L. 28 Apr-4 May (SLS). The only Semipalmated Sandpiper reported was one at S.E.S.S. 12 May (GMcC). Two Baird's Sandpipers, rare in spring, were at Owens L., Inyo 9 Apr (SLS), another was at C.L. 1-5 May (SLS), and 2 more were at S.E.S.S. 5-12 May (KLG). A Pectoral Sandpiper, also rare in spring, was in California City, Kern 23-29 Apr (MMcQ). A northbound Ruff at C.L. 16-22 May (SLS) was only the 2nd to be found in



This first-year Broad-winged Hawk, photographed on San Clemente Island, California 4 April 2006, was believed to have been present (but undetected) through the winter until first seen on 22 March. Photograph by Sam W. Stuart.

Kern in spring. A Red Phalarope at C.L. 17 Apr (SLS) was the only one found inland.

A Long-tailed Jaeger, rare in the Region's waters in spring, was near the San Juan Seamount 22 Apr, and 2 were there 28 Apr (TMcG). Single Laughing Gulls at Cayucos, San Luis Obispo 2 Mar (TME), Pismo Beach, San Luis Obispo 30 Apr (JMC), the Ventura R. mouth, Ventura 8-17 Apr (OJ), and Malibu 30 Apr (BW) were on the coast, where rare. Franklin's Gulls were scarcer than normal, with one on the coast at Playa del Rey, Los Angeles 6-9 Apr (RB) and only 16 in the interior 15 Apr-30 May. A first-summer Little Gull



This American Golden-Plover at China Lake, Kern County, photographed here on the first day of its 20-21 May 2006 stay, was one of two found in the Southern California region this spring. The fact that the primaries extend well beyond the tip of the tail, and that bird has not yet attained full breeding plumage, strongly favor American over Pacific. Photograph by Bob Steele.

was at S.E.S.S. 12-15 Apr and again 28 May+ (KLG, JMo), and another was at Salton City, Imperial 29 Apr (DE). An ad. Heermann's Gull remained around S.E.S.S. 17 Feb-5 May (KLG). A Yellow-footed Gull at C.L. 29 Apr (TEW) was the first to be found in Kern and one of a very few ever found away from the Salton Sea. A Western Gull at Lancaster 20 Apr (MSanM) was most unusual. A young Glaucous Gull on San Clemente I. 8-19 Apr (JEB) provided the first record for the island,

and single birds at Pt. Piedras Blancas, San Luis Obispo 20 Apr (RAR) and Malibu, Los Angeles 9 Apr-3 May (CT) were on the coast. A Sabine's Gull, very rare inland in spring, was at Lancaster 14 Apr (MSanM, TMcG). On 23 Apr, an Elegant Tern, casual inland, was near Seeley, Imperial, and 6 more were at the Salton Sea N.W.R. at S.E.S.S. (GMcC), with 2 remaining through 15 May (REW). A Least Tern at Marina del Rey 1 Apr (WL) was exceptionally early, and at least 3 were present inland around S.E.S.S. 12 May+ (GMcC). A Craveri's Murrelet found dead on the beach in Coronado, San Diego 19 May (MS; *SDNHM) was exceptionally early for California; the previous early date was 11 Jul 1972. A Tufted Puffin, rare in s. California waters, was 16 km off Refugio S.B., Santa Barbara 22 Apr (TMcG).

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

A pair of White-winged Doves in Brawley, Imperial 3 Mar (DRW) had undoubtedly wintered locally, as the first spring migrants do not normally arrive in this area until mid-Apr; 10 along the coast and on offshore islands 25 Apr-30 May were w. of the species' normal range. Away from the resident population near Calipatria, a Ruddy Ground-Dove present near El Centro all winter remained through 27 May (KZK). A migrant Yellow-billed Cuckoo at B.S. 4 Jun (RST) was the earliest this year. Up to 47 Short-eared Owls near Cantil, Kern 17 Mar (MSanM) was a remarkable concentration. Reports of migrant Black Swifts included an early bird over Santa Barbara 27 Apr (PAG), 50 over Carlsbad, San Diego 26 May (ZS), 10 at Huntington Beach, Orange 27 May (JEP), and 27 at Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo 27 May (BKS).

Male Broad-billed Hummingbirds near Ramona, San Diego 14-18 Apr (BC) and El Centro 20-21 Apr (GMcC) are only the 3rd and 4th to be found in California in spring, with the latter being the first for Imperial. An exceptionally early Calliope Hummingbird on Pt. Loma, San Diego 4 Mar (SES) was followed by above-average numbers along the coast and foothills, as indicated by 6 frequenting a feeder in Arcadia, Los Angeles 16 Apr (MSanM) and up to 4 in Atascadero, San Luis Obispo 8-25 Apr (RHZ). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird, casual away from known breeding locations, was frequenting a feeder in Inyokern, Kern 16 Apr-15 May (SLS).

An Olive-sided Flycatcher in Brawley 15 Apr (PEL) was the earliest ever for the Salton Sink. A Greater Pewee in Griffith Park, Los Angeles 17 Apr (RB) could not be refound, but with no records of spring migrants in California, it seems likely that it wintered in the area.

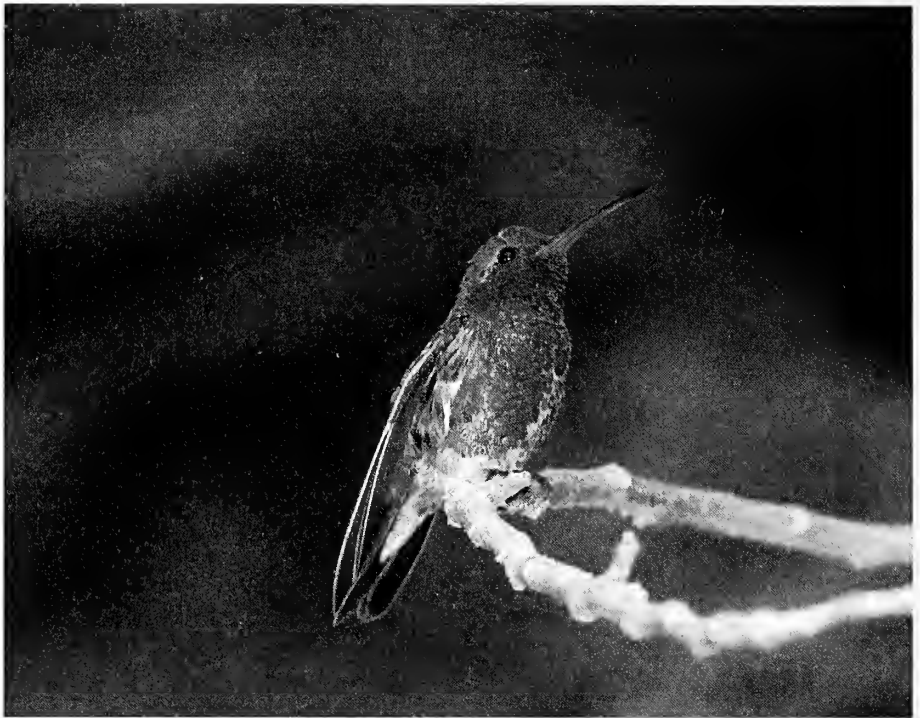


Like most "American Oystercatchers" on the coast of California, this one in Goleta, Santa Barbara County 8 April 2006 showed some admixture of genetic material from Black Oystercatcher, as suggested here by the ragged demarcation line between the black breast and white belly and by the dark flecking on the white uppertail coverts. Photograph by David M. Compton.

An intriguing report of an Eastern Wood-Pewee heard and photographed on Santa Catalina I. 12 May (JND) will be reviewed. A Western Wood-Pewee in Long Beach, Los Angeles 2-3 Apr (KSG) was exceptionally early. The earliest Willow Flycatcher was at Mojave Narrows, San Bernardino 23 Apr (SJM). Sixteen reports of migrant Gray Flycatchers in the lowlands spanned 1 Apr-13 May. A Hammond's Flycatcher in Elysian Park, Los Angeles 11-25 Mar (RB) likely wintered locally. The various wintering Eastern Phoebes remained as late as 9 Apr (in Rose Canyon, San Diego; JR); 2 in the Prado Basin, Riverside 15-27 & 22-31 Mar (JEP) might also have wintered. Say's Phoebes nested near the coast in Torrance, Los Angeles (fledglings being fed 22 May; DLM) and at Bolsa Chica, Orange (nest with eggs found on 30 May; RAE). Vermilion Flycatchers nested again in San Bernardino, with young fledging on 8 Jun (TAB; see *Western Birds* 36: 56-58). Two pairs of Brown-crested Flycatchers returned to their sole San Diego breeding outpost in Borrego Springs 12 May+ (ELK, MBS). The latest report of a wintering Tropical Kingbird was in Long Beach 26 Apr (KSG). A Cassin's Kingbird in Ridgecrest, Kern 17-21 May (SLS) and up to 2 at Westmorland, Imperial 2-12 Mar (TMcG, TE) were outside the species' regular range. The only Eastern Kingbirds reported were in Torrance 30 May (BCo) and at F.C.R. 3 Jun (V&GW). Single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were on San Clemente I. 14 May (MGH) and at F.C.R. 27-31 May (MT, AG).

SHRIKES THROUGH PIPITS

Only 3 Loggerhead Shrikes were reported countywide in Orange during the period (RAE), and numbers are similarly of concern in other coastal counties. Bell's Vireos arrived late (11 Apr) at their most important Regional site in the Prado Basin, and numbers there



This male Broad-billed Hummingbird near El Centro, California 20-21 April 2006 (here on the latter date) provided the first record for Imperial County and the Salton Sink. Photograph by Todd McGrath.

were down by a third from last year (JEP). Yellow-throated Vireos, casual in the Region, were at B.S. 14 Apr (TEW) and at Old Mission Dam, San Diego 31 May (CH). A Plumbeous Vireo in Lancaster, Los Angeles 5 Mar (JSF) was at a locality surveyed well through the winter; it was possibly a very early migrant. A Cassin's Vireo near El Centro 20-23 May (KZK) established the latest spring record for the Salton Sink. Two Hutton's Vireos on Clark Mt., San Bernardino 27 May (CC) were presumably of the sw. interior *stephensi*, a subspecies for which there are no documented records for California; 2 (presumably coastal *oberholseri*) at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino 6 May (JEP) were slightly out of range.

This was a banner spring for migrant Purple Martins, with an exceptional high count of 29 at Oso Flaco L., San Luis Obispo 28 Apr (MPB); 18 migrants were noted in Santa Barbara 26 Apr-24 May, including one several km offshore on 14 May (TMcG), and about 20 were in coastal San Diego 27-28 Apr. Two martins on San Clemente I. 24 May (SWS) established only the 2nd spring record there. Several dozen Tree Swallows were found dead in nest boxes in Saticoy, Ventura in Apr (JW), apparently having succumbed to starvation. The only known colony of Bank Swallows in the Region, near Bishop, had 75 birds 13 May (J&DP).

A pair of Mountain Chickadees attempting to nest at Lake Forest in Apr (KM) was outside the breeding range in Orange; similarly, a nest-

ing pair of White-breasted Nuthatches in Buena Park 1 May+ (DLP) was the first for that part of Orange. Two singing Winter Wrens in Pine Creek Canyon 29 Apr+ (C&RH) were at a probable breeding locality in Inyo. A juv. American Dipper along Big Tujunga Cr. just n. of Sunland, Los Angeles 21 May (MSanM) was away from known localities in the San Gabriel Mts. A Golden-crowned Kinglet on San Clemente I. 17 May (SWS) was late, as was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Costa Mesa 18 May (BEE). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on San Clemente I. 30 May (SWS) established a late record for the island. A California Gnatcatcher in Long Beach 16 Apr (JSB) was several km from the nearest occupied habitat, and a somewhat out-of-range pair fledged young at Bolsa Chica by 28 May (RAE).

A nesting pair of Western Bluebirds in Redlands, San Bernardino 17 May (AEK) was unusual for that locality but part of this species' recent expansion into urban residential areas. Late coastal Townsend's Solitaires were on Pt. Loma 3 May (SES) and San Clemente I. 30 May (SWS), and a Hermit Thrush in Huntington Beach 29 May (BED) was quite late for the coast. Eight km across a dense urban hardscape from the nearest known nesting locality, a Wrenit in the Baldwin Hills in Culver City, Los Angeles 18-23 Mar (WL) was quite a surprise; there are no historical records for these hills, despite seemingly appropriate habitat. Belatedly, we report another out-of-



Reports of Calliope Hummingbirds indicated they were more numerous than normal this spring in some parts of California. This male was one of six at a feeder in Arcadia, Los Angeles County on 16 April 2006. Photograph by Mike San Miguel.

range Wren-tit at Clark Dry L. in the Borrego Valley 27 Feb (MBS). The spring's vagrant mimids included a Gray Catbird near El Centro 18 May (KZK) and a Brown Thrasher at Deep Springs, Inyo 4 Jun (C&RH). California Thrashers in the coastal lowlands away from areas of known occurrence were at Playa de Rey, Los Angeles 14 May–3 Jun (JC) and Bolsa Chica 25 Apr–30 May (RAE). Five American Pipits near Bishop 29 May (J&DP) were late for the Inyo lowlands. A probable White Wagtail of undetermined subspecies was described from Ryan Ranch in Joshua Tree N.P., Riverside 5 May (TR); there is but a single previous spring record in the Region (a male lugens in Inyo 10 May 2003).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Nashville Warbler near El Centro 18 Mar (KZK) was the earliest ever in spring for the Salton Sink. A Virginia's Warbler at Playa del Rey 5 Mar–21 Apr (RB) was probably wintering locally. Single Lucy's Warblers, casual in the Imperial Valley, were at Wister 22–25 Mar (DRW) and near Seeley 1 Apr (GMCC). Northern Parulas were in lower-than-average numbers this spring, with 15 noted in coastal counties 18 Apr–3 Jun and 3 more on the deserts 12 May–3 Jun. A Chestnut-sided Warbler was at B.S. 4 Jun (RST). An ad. male Magnolia Warbler in Santa Barbara 18 Apr (PAG) was rather early for a spring vagrant. A Townsend's Warbler in Rovana 7–8 Apr (JLD) was the earliest ever found in Inyo by 10 days. Yellow-throated Warblers, casual in the Region, were on San Clemente I. 10–11 May (SWS) and Pt. Loma 15 May (AM). A Blackburnian Warbler was at B.S. 27 May (MMcQ, DV). Known wintering Palm Warblers remained as late as 28 Apr at Camp Pendleton (PGi) and 29 Apr in Torrance, Los Angeles (DLM), but birds thought to be spring vagrants were near Torrance 1 May (DLM) and in Goleta 4 May (HPR).

Five migrant Black-and-white Warblers were along the coast 18 Apr–13 May, and 9 were on the deserts 13–28 May. Prothonotary

Warblers were on Pt. Loma 4–9 May (PGi) and at Zzyzx, San Bernardino 26 May (SBT). Four Ovenbirds were found on the Kern deserts during the period (fide JCW). The only Northern Waterthrushes found on the coast were in Torrance 4 May (DLM) and on San Clemente I. 9 May (JEB). Kentucky Warblers were at G.H.P. 15 May (SG) and 1 Jun (K&BK) and at B.S. 27 May (CiL). A briefly seen but well-described Connecticut Warbler at B.S. 23 May (SSu) would constitute only the 2nd spring record for the Region (and the earliest for California by 12 days) if accepted. A male Hooded Warbler on San Clemente I. 9 May (SHa) was the first to be recorded on the island; others on the coast were at Pt. Loma 19–20 Apr (PGi) and at Ocean Beach, San Diego 2 Jun (GPJ), and 3 were on the n. deserts 21–28 May. Canada Warblers, casual in spring, were at G.H.P. 31 May (K&BK) and 8 Jun (AEK). A Painted Redstart at Agua Dulce Cr. in the Laguna Mts., San Diego 29 Apr+ (GLR, DPa) was probably returning from the previous summer; migrants were at G.H.P. 17–19 Apr (PEL) and 11–12 May (BK) and near Tecopa, Inyo 7 May (RC). A Yellow-breasted Chat at Wister, S.E.S.S. 16 Apr (PEL) was the earliest ever for the Salton Sink by six days.



This singing Yellow-throated Vireo was only known to be present at Mission Trails Regional Park near Santee, San Diego County, California for one day, 31 May 2006. Photograph by Trent R. Stanley.

Hepatic Tanagers had returned to their traditional nesting site in the San Bernardino Mts. at Arrastre Cr. 13 May (REW). Slightly out of range, up to two pairs of Western Tanagers were nesting at Cerro Alto Campground, San Luis Obispo 4–28 May (MLS,

TME). Clay-colored Sparrows not mentioned in the winter report were at Lakewood, Los Angeles 1–11 Mar (with 2 on the last date; RB, TEW) and in Redlands 28 Feb–2 Apr (TT). Black-chinned Sparrows are very rare migrants in the lowlands, so 7 along the coast and on San Clemente I. 1–30 May were noteworthy; the earliest arrival in breeding habitat was at Sunshine Summit, San Diego 14 Mar (PU). Black-throated Sparrows are also very rare in coastal regions; this spring, 7 were found 3 Apr–14 May. Spring migrant Swamp Sparrows were near Bishop 16 Apr (J&DP) and at F.C.R. 10 May (BKS). Several White-



This Gray Catbird near El Centro, Imperial County, California 18 May 2006 established the second record for the Salton Sink and was the first to be photographed there. Photograph by Kenneth Z. Kurland.

throated Sparrows were found in May, with the latest being in Bishop 14 May (C&RH). Breeding Oregon Juncos were found on Santa Catalina I. 13 May (JND et al.). A late Pink-sided Junco was at Cuyamaca Mt., San Diego 24 Apr (MBS), and a Gray-headed was on Clark Mt. 27 May (CC).

Seven Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were in coastal counties 7 Apr–21 May, and 10 were on the deserts 15–28 May. A Black-headed Grosbeak at La Jolla 26 Mar (THu) was a record-early arrival for San Diego, but one in Oceano 9 Mar (ChL) had likely wintered locally. The expected scattering of Indigo Buntings in May was augmented by apparent male Indigo Bunting × Lazuli Bunting hybrids 13 May at Morongo Valley (TEW) and 28 May at Desert Center (MSanM). Lazuli Buntings at Dulzura, San Diego 25 Mar (DPo) and near El Centro 31 Mar (KZK) established record-early dates for those areas.

Bobolinks are rare but regular late spring vagrants in the Region; one was in National City, San Diego 30 May (RTP), up to 2 were at F.C.R. 26–29 May (ERP), and one was at nearby Cow Creek 3 Jun (V&GW). The nesting efforts of some 4000 ad. Tricolored Blackbirds in the San Jacinto Valley, Riverside were successful this spring after Audubon California negotiated with a wheat farmer to delay harvesting (AEK); some 6000 Tricoloreds at a dairy in Cuyama, Santa Barbara 18 Apr (PEL)



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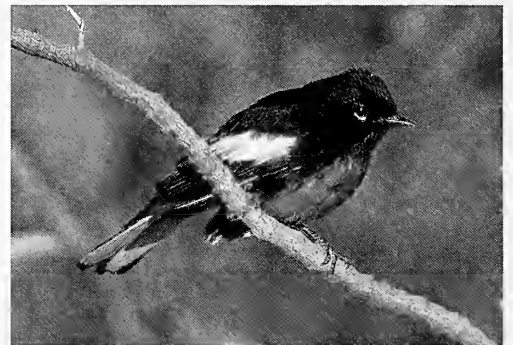
A Yellow-throated Warbler on Point Loma, San Diego County, California 15 May 2006 stopped only long enough to get a drink and was seen only by the photographer, though other birders were nearby. Photograph by Tony Mercieca.

was an impressive number, and out-of-range individuals were on San Clemente I. 29 Apr (SWS) and Afton Canyon, San Bernardino 21 May (DB). A male Bronzed Cowbird at G.H.P. 10 May (TMcG) established the 4th record for Kern. An ad. male Orchard Oriole was at B.S. 19 May (JMcM). A Hooded Oriole at Los Osos 7 Mar (JSR) was the earliest spring arrival ever in San Luis Obispo. Two Baltimore Orioles in Carpinteria 15 Mar–19 Apr (PAG) could have wintered locally; late spring vagrants were in Niland 28 May (MM, JMo) and at Laws, Inyo 10–12 Jun (J&DP).

A Pine Siskin in Long Beach 20 May (KGL) was unexpected, given the near absence of a winter flight. Six Lawrence's Goldfinches in Inyo 21 Apr–11 Jun were at the edge of the species' range. Quite unexpected was a flight of up to 200 Evening Grosbeaks on Mt. Pinos, Ventura/Kern; 4 were there 8 Apr (CH), and 125–200 birds were estimated on 22 & 25 Apr (MSanM, AEK). Two other Evening Grosbeaks were at Figueroa Mt., Santa Barbara 18 Apr (WTF), and 6 were in Bishop 19 May (J&DP).

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Roger Higson, Cher Hollingworth, Chris & Rosie Howard (C&RH), Terry Hunefeld (THu), Ginger P. Johnson, Oscar Johnson, Paul Jorgensen, Barbara Kelly, Eric L. Kershner, Howard B. King, Alexander E. Koonce (San Bernardino), Kenneth Z. Kurland, Ken & Brenda Kyle (K&BK), Walter Lamb, Kevin G. Larson, Paul E. Lehman, Cindy Lieurance (CiL), Cheryl Lish (ChL), Debbie Marlow, John Martin (JMa), Guy McCaskie (Imperial), Chet McGaugh, Todd McGrath, Jimmy McMorrin, Michael McQuerrey, Anthony Mercieca, Martin Meyers, Bob Miller, Jake Mohlmann (JMo), Katharine Monger, David L. Moody, Stephen J. Myers, Thomas Myers, Richard J. Norton, Drew Palette (DPa), Edward R. Pandolfino, Jim & Debby Parker (J&DP), Robert T. Patten, James E. Pike, Dave Povey (DPo), Dick L. Purvis, Hugh P. Ranson, Jim Roberts, Geoffrey L. Rogers, Richard A. Rowlett, Jim S. Royer, Tobin Rummel,



This Painted Redstart at Galileo Hill Park in eastern Kern County, California was photographed on the first day of its 17–19 April 2006 stay, the first of two that visited this desert oasis this spring. Photograph by Bob Steele.

Matthew Sadowski, Mike San Miguel, Larry Schmahl, Brad K. Schram, Maggie L. Smith, Susan E. Smith, Zack Smith, Susan L. Steele (SLS), Mary Beth Stowe, Sam W. Stuart (San Clemente I.), Steve Summers (SSu), Robert Theriault, Ryan S. Terrill, Scott B. Terrill, Chris Tosdevin, Tarik Townsend, Mike Tyner, Philip Unitt, David Vander Pluym, Bobby Walsh, Jan Wasserman, Walter Wehtje (Ventura), Richard E. Webster, Douglas R. Willick (Orange), James & Kay Wilson (J&KW), John C. Wilson (Kern), Vicki & Gerry Wolfe, Thomas E. Wurster, Jason D. Yakich, Roger H. Zachary, Joe Zarki. An additional 30+ observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports this season; all have our thanks. ☺

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Islas Los Coronados hosted a returning Cory's Shearwater and a Pigeon Guillemot, Ruddy Ground-Doves were found nesting at Bahía de Los Angeles, and a Gray Catbird and Red-throated Pipit were in the Vizcaíno Desert. All other highlights were in Baja California Sur, where coverage was better this season. Wood Duck and Garganey were at Estero San José del Cabo, and rare warblers included Tropical Parula, Blackpoll Warbler, and Prothonotary Warbler. Three new species were confirmed breeding: Thick-billed Kingbird, Red-winged Blackbird, and Western Meadowlark.

Abbreviations: C.P.G.P. (Cerro Prieto geothermal ponds); E.S.J.C. (Estero San José del Cabo); S.S.P.M. (Sierra San Pedro Mártir).

WATERFOWL THROUGH ALCIDS

In the Cape District, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were seen again at Lagunas de Chametla, but 11 at Salinas Punta Colorada 22 May (RAE, MJB, MJI) were at a new location. Seven Greater White-fronted Geese at Santiago 21 May (MJI, MJB, RAE) were quite a surprise but did follow an exceptional winter for the species in Baja California Sur. The last Canada Goose of the season was a lone *moffitti* at C.P.G.P. 22 Apr (ph. GDLG). A male Wood Duck at E.S.J.C. 23 May (ph. MJI, RAE) was the first to be documented in Baja California Sur, but a male was seen at the same location 14 Nov 1987 (*Monographs in Field Ornithology* 3: 192). Rare in the Vizcaíno Desert, a Mallard was at Misión San Fernando 7 May (REW). The wintering Garganey at

E.S.J.C. was last seen 27–28 Apr (ph. MaG).

Lingering Northern Fulmars were off Cabo San Lucas 22 Apr (one, HT) and near the Is. Los Coronados 30 May–6 Jun (up to 3; PH et al.). Amazing was the reappearance of last year's Cory's Shearwater at Is. Los Coronados. On 24 Apr and 8 May, the bird exhibited behavior similar to last year (HRC et al.). It was seen again on 6 Jun (ph. MJI et al.) but missed on at least seven other trips in May and Jun. The pattern of the bird's underwings matched the subspecies *borealis*. High counts of Pink-footed Shearwaters in the Gulf included 50+ near I. San Marcos 16 May (MiG) and 59 seen from shore at Pt. Arena 21 May (MJB, RAE, MJI). A visit to Gorda Bank, off San José del Cabo, 19 May yielded one Townsend's, 9 Pink-footed, 6 Wedge-tailed, and 16 Sooty Shearwaters, as well as a Masked Booby (MJB, RAE, MJI). Brown Boobies nested again at Is. Los Coronados. A pair was first seen nest-building 11–12 Feb (ph. MJB et al.), but the nest ultimately failed (HRC et al.). An impressive amount of avian biomass was concentrated at I. San Marcos 16 May, when 20,000+ Brown Pelicans were feasting on anchovies and flying to and from I. Tortuga (MiG).

A Least Bittern singing at El Rosario 7 May (REW) was at a previously unreported locality. White-faced Ibis have increased their presence significantly in the Region over the past few decades, but nesting remains unconfirmed, even in the Mexicali Valley (*Monographs in Field Ornithology* 3: 36, 178). One of 80 birds at Lagunas de Chametla 20 May carried a stick briefly (ph. MJB et al.), suggesting that situation may not last long. Two White-tailed Kites were seen near Ciudad Constitución 16 Mar (MJI). Wintering Sharpshinned and Cooper's Hawks were still in the Sierra de La Laguna 4–5 Apr (DK et al.). A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks in the Mexicali Valley near Cerro Prieto 13 Dec–13 Apr (RAE, MJI) was suspected of nesting. Apparent migrant Swainson's Hawks in n. Baja California were on the Río Colorado near Ejido Chiapas 8 (MJB, RAH) & 12 Mar (KAR, SG) and at Ojos Negros 11 May (6; REW). The latest Zone-tailed Hawks in Baja California Sur were one in the Sierra de La Laguna 3–6 Apr (DK et al.) and an imm. at E.S.J.C. 17 Mar (MJI) and 23 May (RAE); 3 others were seen in late Mar (MJI).

Five Virginia Rails and a Sora were at Santiago 17 Mar, but none could be found 21 May (MJI). The behavior of a Baird's Sandpiper near Villa Morelos, Magdalena Plain 16 Mar (ph. MJI) was consistent with a spring migrant rather than a wintering bird. The only Regional precedent for either role was a 26 Mar 2004 migrant at C.P.G.P. South Polar Skuas were widely reported, with singles in Baja California Sur at Gorda Bank 19 May (ph. MJI, MJB, RAE) and Pt. Arena 22 May (MJI, MJB), and in Baja California between I. Cedros and Is. San Benitos 28 May (PH) and sw. of Is. Los Coronados 6 Jun (ph. MJI et al.). Three or 4 Franklin's Gulls were at Gorda Bank and nearby E.S.J.C. 19 May (ph. MJB, ph. MJI, RAE). Sabine's Gull reports were limited to the e. side of the Region: one at C.P.G.P. 12 Apr (MJI, MJB) and one s. of I. San Pedro Mártir 2 May (MiG). Black Terns were seen only in the Gulf, with 4 on the e. side of I. Angel de la Guarda 30 Apr and 10+ between I. San Esteban and I. San Pedro Mártir 12 May (MiG).

A Pigeon Guillemot at Is. Los Coronados 30 May (PH) followed only four previous Regional/Mexican records, the most recent from the same location 8 Jun 1977 (DWP, previously unpublished). Craveri's Murrelets appear to have nested unusually early: 34 between Los Islotes and I. Santa Catalina 16–20

SA A number of lingering waterbirds were observed during a five-day visit to s. Baja California Sur in late May (MJB, RAE, MJI). None of the following species are known to breed in the state, although breeding seems possible for some (i.e., Cinnamon Teal, Redhead). Some of these species might still be moving at this time (e.g., Sanderling, Spotted Sandpiper), but most of the following birds were believed to have been immatures that failed to migrate and were expected to spend the rest of the summer season—in some cases their lives—at these s. latitudes.

Estero San José del Cabo 18, 19, 23 May	La Paz area 20 May
7 Cinnamon Teal	one Green-winged Teal
one Northern Pintail	17 Black-bellied Plovers
31 Redheads, including 4 "pairs"	34 Semipalmated Plovers
2 Ring-necked Ducks	16 Greater Yellowlegs
one Clark's Grebe	3 Willets
2 Sanderlings	2 Spotted Sandpipers
100 California Gulls	6 Whimbrels
	5 Long-billed Curlews
	65 Marbled Godwits
	6 California Gulls
	one Ring-billed Gull
	one Gull-billed Tern



At Estero San José del Cabo, Baja California Sur, this adult Franklin's Gull was one of three or four reported in the general area on 19 May 2006. Photograph by Mark J. Billings.

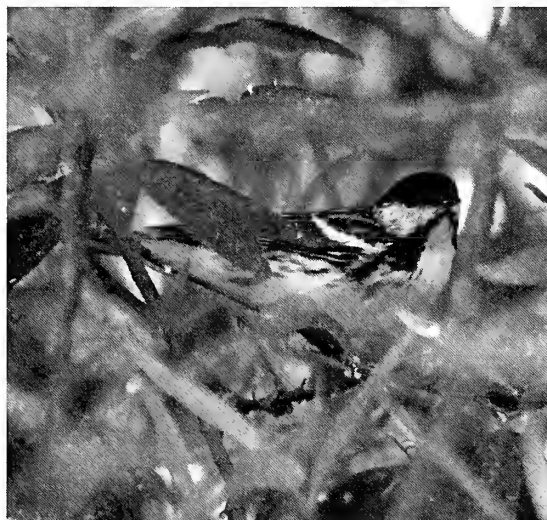
Feb included two pairs with 2 chicks, one-half and three-quarters grown, respectively (PAG), while 70 in the n. part of the pass between the mainland and I. San José 2 Mar included downy young (DAS). Literature on this species' nesting phenology in the s. Gulf was not readily available, but Nettleship (in *Handbook of the Birds of the World*, Vol. 3, 1996) reported "peak laying 2nd half of Feb and early Mar [...] nesting period extends to early Apr" and "incubation [...] probably averages 31-33 days."

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

Seven nesting pairs of Common Ground-Doves represented a high total for Bahía de Los Angeles, and 4 Ruddy Ground-Doves there through 6 Apr included Baja California's first nesting pair (MF, GF). A singing Ruddy and a singing Inca Dove at El Rosario 7 May (REW) were at the traditional boundary between the Vizcaíno Desert and the California District. Eurasian Collared-Doves continued their march toward Los Cabos, with individuals near Bahía Concepción 16 Apr (RM) and near Ciudad Constitución 20 May (MJI, MJB, RAE).

Eight northbound Black Swifts in the S.S.P.M. 11 May (†REW) provided one of very few Regional records. Calliope Hummingbirds are rarely reported in the Region, and a male at Cataviña 6 Apr (KLW) was early. Seemingly very late for Baja California Sur were 2 Red-naped Sapsuckers in the Sierra de La Laguna 5 Apr (DK et al.). Downy Wood-

peckers now winter with some regularity in the nw., but one at Cantamar 6 May (REW) furnished a unique spring record. A Hammond's Flycatcher in the Sierra de La Laguna 5 Apr (*vide* DK) provided one of few Baja Cal-



A singing male Blackpoll Warbler at Estero San José del Cabo, Baja California Sur 23 May 2006 established the first spring record for the Baja California Peninsula. Photograph by Marshall J. Iliff.

ifornia Sur records. A total of 19 Thick-billed Kingbirds at four Cape District locales 21 May included an incubating bird at Santiago (ph. MJB, RAE, ph. MJI), the first to be found nesting in the Region. Kingbirds found outside of their known breeding ranges included 2 or more calling Tropicals at Lagunas de Chametla 7 Apr–20 May (DK et al.) and a

Western at San Ignacio 2 Jun (PH).

"Solitary" Vireos in the S.S.P.M. have been confusing in the past, with tentative reports of Plumbeous but only nominate Cassin's confirmed. To confuse things further, a brightly colored pair at 2500 m on 8 May was considered possibly *V. c. lucasanus* (v.r., †REW), a subspecies heretofore considered resident in the Sierra de La Laguna. A modern high count of 200 Purple Martins was logged at Lagunas de Chametla 20 May (MJB et al.). Swallows at E.S.J.C. 18–23 May included 30 Northern Rough-winged, 5 Bank, and 6 Barn (MJB, MJI, RAE). A "seemingly territorial" Northern Rough-winged was at Todos Santos 19 May (MJI, MJB). Six Barn Swallows at El Rosario 7 May gave calls consistent with breeders, and one flew under the eaves of a home (REW), but breeding on the Region's mainland remains to be confirmed.

On 10 May in the S.S.P.M., Webster found a Red-breasted Nuthatch calling in the same area where he recorded the Region's only mainland summer record: one 15 Jun 2001. A female Varied Thrush found near Tecate 27 Jan was last seen 17 Mar (JS). A killer cat provided the Peninsula's first specimen of a Gray Catbird—and first adequately documented record of a spring vagrant (cf. *Euphonia* 1: 14–16)—at Bahía de Los Angeles 29 May (JG). Presumed migrant Sage Thrashers were at El Descanso 3 Mar (ph. MJI, ph. MJB) and on the Río Colorado n. of Colonia Carranza 8 Mar (MJI, MJB, RAH). The Region's first spring vagrant Red-throated Pipit was found 7 May at Misión San Fernando (ph., †REW).

Birds lingering in the Sierra de La Laguna 4–5 Apr included 6 Plumbeous Vireos, and 10 Audubon's, 13 Black-throated Gray, 11 Townsend's, and 8 Black-and-white Warblers (DK et al.). Can it be coincidence that the Region's first modern record of Tropical Parula—at Todos Santos 19 May (ph. MJI, ph. MJB, RAE)—comes whence C. C. Lamb (*Condor* 27: 117–118) collected birds on 3 Nov 1923 and 23 Jul 1924? A Palm Warbler was at Guerrero Negro 2 May (AG-A). Another at E.S.J.C. 27 Apr (MaG) was probably the same bird present since 21 Jan, but the same cannot be said of a singing male Blackpoll Warbler there 23 May (ph. MJI, ph. MJB, RAE), part of a pulse of migrants that day that included 2 Yellow Warblers, 2 Northern Waterthrushes, and a Wilson's Warbler. The wintering female Black-and-white Warbler at the Mexicali Zoo was

last seen 13 Apr (MJB). A singing male Prothonotary Warbler was at Guerrero Negro 2–4 May (ph. AG-A), and 2 Northern Waterthrushes were at Misión San Fernando 7 May (REW).

A Rufous-crowned Sparrow at Misión San Fernando 7 May (REW) was well away from areas known to be occupied by this non-migratory species. Later than previous Baja California Sur records was a Vesper Sparrow near Villa Morelos 16 Mar (ph. MJI). A White-throated Sparrow found near Tecate 27 Jan was last seen 16 Apr (JS). The season's only Rose-breasted Grosbeak was a male at E.S.J.C. 18 May (MJB, RAE). Red-winged Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds are not known to breed s. of n. Baja California, but scattered Apr and May records in Baja California Sur involved nearly 300 of the former—including 5 nest-building females among roughly 75 pairs 14.3 km w. of Ciudad Constitución 20 May (ph. MJI, ph. MJB, RAE)—and 37 of the latter. At the same Magdalena Plain location, 2 food-carrying Western Meadowlarks (MJI, MJB, RAE) furnished another first confirmed nesting record for Baja California Sur. The season's southernmost American Goldfinches—up to 6 at Cantamar 6–12 May—were considered probable breeders (REW).

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Héctor Gómez de Silva

NORTHERN MEXICO



WATERFOWL THROUGH PARAKEETS

On 23 Apr, a wastewater pond between the urban areas of Gómez Palacio, Dgo. and Torreón, Coah. produced the simultaneous views of several Fulvous Whistling-Ducks and Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks. Seven other species of ducks were recorded there at the time, including Ruddy Duck, another rare visitor to the subregion (RLL, WB, EC, FVP). Eight Mexican Ducks were at the Terrenate, Son. wet crossing 12 Mar, 2 were n. of Yávaros, Son. 14 Mar, several were n. of Navojoa, Son. 16 Mar, and 5 *Anas* at the Nogales, Son. border crossing included 2 drake Mallards and probably several Mexican Ducks (RW et al.). At least 9 ad. and 18 imm. Mexican Ducks were at El Playón, Angostura, Sin. 30 May (MAGB). Throughout the period, Wood Ducks continued to be registered in good numbers on the Nazas R., Dgo. (FVP et al.). Five Wild Turkeys were near Salto de Agua Llovida, Dgo. 9 May (HGdS).

At least 6 Northern Fulmars (2 dark morphs, 2 gray morphs, and a very white individual) and a *Cookilaria* petrel were seen at a seawatch from El Golfo de Santa Clara, Son. in the early morning 22 May, during a period of strong southerly onshore winds (KLG). Boobies at Farallón de San Ignacio, Sin. 16 May included an imm. Masked/Nazca as well as an apparent Masked Booby × Brown Booby hybrid that was raising a chick with a female Brown Booby (ph. MAGB). A Neotropic Cormorant was in the Cañón de Fernández S.P. on the Nazas R., Dgo. 26 Mar (RLL, FVP). A Great Egret at Ejido San Isidro, Durango 8 May was late or oversummering (HGdS).

The season continued to be a good one for Red-shouldered Hawks in ne. Durango, as one was seen 5 Mar and another 14 May in Cañón de Fernández S.P.; this rare raptor had not been seen in that area since 2001, but sight-

ings have been common since winter here (WB, FC, RLL, FVP). On 2 Apr, Bosque Venustiano Carranza in Torreón, Coah. produced an imm. Swainson's Hawk (RLL, WB, FVP). The imm. Solitary Eagle that was found 21 Feb during the El Cielo Nature Festival was seen again between Gómez Farias and Alta Cima, Tamps. 5 Mar (RJ). A flock of 1200 Surfbirds was seen at Barra de Piaxtla, Sin. 28 Mar (HB, AOI). A Wilson's Phalarope was recorded 23 Apr at a wastewater pond be-



This Palm Warbler was present at Parque Ecológico Xochimilco in Mexico City 18 (here) through 27 April 2006 and was the first record for the Distrito Federal, where the bird list tops 340 species. Photograph by Gerardo del Olmo.

tween Gómez Palacio and Torreón, and several were seen 1 May in the Cañón del Realito on the Aguanaval R., Coah. (RLL, WB, EC, FA, FVP). Ten Eurasian Collared-Doves were seen between Alamos and Yávaros, Son. 14 Mar (RW et al.), 2 were in Monterrey, NL near the exit to the airport 27 Mar (HGdS), 30 were around a farm on Camino a Bachoco, in the outskirts of Culiacán, Sin. 28 Mar (MAGB, HB, AOI, XV), one was at the toll booth in Chorros, Coah. 29 Mar (HGdS), 2 were at San Rafael and 3 at Hediondilla, both NL, 29 Mar (HGdS), and up to 3 were at Quinta Graciela, Coah. through Apr (AD). Common Ground-Doves were recorded in good numbers along the Nazas R. throughout the period (FVP et

al.). Two pairs of Military Macaws returned to Salto de Agua Llovida (a breeding site) 10 May, and a few more were present by Jun (MAM). Four (introduced) Lilac-crowned Parrots roosted in the trees next to the gas station at Santiago, NL 28 Mar, and flocks of Green Parakeets and small groups of *Amazona* flew low over San Pedro Garza García, NL 29 Mar (HGdS).

OWLS THROUGH FINCHES

A Mottled Owl was seen at Rancho San José 7 Mar (ph. MW, BW). Twelve White-throated Swifts were seen in Cañón del Realito 16 Apr, and more than 20 were there 1 May (AVJ, FVP, RLL, FA). This general area s. of Torreón continues to be a consistent source of records for this species; it is not mapped in this area by Howell and Webb (1995), but the species is widespread in the Mexican Plateau, as there are additional records from unmapped parts of Coah., SLP, and Chih. (Gómez de Silva, H. 2002. New distributional and temporal records of Mexican birds. *Cotinga* 18: 89-92). A Green Kingfisher was seen 1 May in the Cañón del Realito (RLL, FA, FVP); there is just one previous record in the area since 2000. A female Red-naped Sapsucker was at the Parrot High-rise, NL 28 Mar (HGdS). A pair of Pale-billed Woodpeckers, apparently now rare in Son., were seen 7 Mar at Rancho San José at the s. end of Sierra de Alamos (ph. MW, BW).

Two Western Scrub-Jays in oak grassland at Santa Bárbara, Dgo. 10 May (ph. HGdS) were in an area marked by a question mark in Howell and Webb's (1995) range map. In Son., Sinaloa Crows were reported to be numerous from Ciudad Obregón to Alamos 12 Mar, between Alamos and Yávaros 14 Mar, and above El Chalatón 14 Mar; 81 were at Ciudad Obregón 12 Mar, 25 between Arroyo Mentidero and Cuchujaqui 14 Mar, and there was regularly a flock of ca. 50 at Rancho Acosta in mid-Mar (RW et al.). A Brown Thrasher was reported at Yávaros 14 Mar (RW et al.). Lucy's Warbler was very common in many parts of Son. in mid-Mar, even outnumbering Orange-crowned at most sites; a large fallout of Lucy's, numbering in the hundreds, was documented at Terrenate wet crossing 12 Mar (RW et al.). An American Redstart and a Northern Waterthrush were in the Cañón del Realito 1 May (RLL, FA, FVP), and an Ovenbird was in Bosque Venustiano Carranza 7 May (FVP). A pair of Blue-gray Tanagers was seen 13 May in downtown Hualahuis, near Linares, NL 13 May (MG, AM, NS). An early Summer Tanager was recorded in Cañón de Fernández S.P. 26 Mar; the previous earliest record was 6 Apr 2003 (RLL, FVP). A male Western Tanager near Tres

Lagunas, Dgo. 9 May was rather late (HGdS).

On 1 Mar, a Black-chinned Sparrow was seen in Cañón de las Canoas, near Dinamita, Gómez Palacio, Dgo. in a mixed flock of sparrows including Chipping, Lark, Clay-colored, and Brewer's (RLL, FVP). All three records of Black-chinned Sparrow for the subregion come from the same site. A Five-striped Sparrow was reported between Río Mentidero and Cuchujaqui 14 Mar (RW et al.). Five Sierra Madre Sparrows were seen 3 Apr at Ejido Ojo de Agua del Cazador, Dgo., where the species was rediscovered two years ago (AOI, MAGB, HB, XV). Fifteen Song Sparrows were reported at the Terrenate wet crossing 12 Mar (RW et al.). A colony of Montezuma Oropendolas with 30 nests was seen in Aquismón municipal, SLP 28 May (ORR, SA).

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CENTRAL MEXICO



All localities mentioned are in Veracruz unless otherwise noted.

TINAMOUS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

Several Little Tinamous heard 6 Apr on the Pue. side of the Río Tonto were outside of known range (AM, JM). Three Muscovy Ducks were seen 19-20 May near Peña Blanca, and a pair was on the Río Uxpanapa near Cerro Nanchital 30 May (AM, JM). A pair of Long-tailed Wood-Partridge was seen on the fire tower road at La Cima, D.F. 9 Mar (HGdS) and 29 Apr (MC). A pair of ad. Bearded Wood-Partridges with 3 tawny-buff



This booby at Farallón de San Ignacio, Sinaloa, Mexico (here 16 May 2006) tended a chick with a female Brown Booby. Its features are consistent with Masked Booby \times Brown Booby hybrid, a combination that has been reported previously. Photograph by Marco Antonio González Bernal.

chicks was seen just below the museum near the hill summit in Parque Ecologico Macuiltepetl, Xalapa 5 May (SA, SJ, BM). A Least Grebe was at the lake at Almoloya del Río, Mex. 28 Apr (MC), and 2 were at Puerto del Aire 11 Mar (HGdS). Two Clark's Grebes were at Lago Nabor Carrillo (L. Texcoco), Méx. 1 Apr, as was the escaped American Flamingo that has been there for seven years (HGdS, MG, MPV, RF). Three ad. Brown Pelicans were following the Río Coatzacoalcos near Peña Blanca 23 May (AM, JM). A total of 900 Cattle Egrets was counted departing their roost in Santiago Tuxtla 8 May (SJ, BM). Twelve Black-crowned Night-Herons were roosting in eucalyptus trees at Bosque de Aragón, D.F. 1 Mar (HGdS, MPV). Five White Ibis near Peña Blanca 20 May were far inland, where unexpected (AM, JM). Many Wood Storks were discovered nesting

21 May near Peña Blanca (AM, JM). Five Turkey Vultures soared over downtown Toluca, Mex. 7 Mar (HGdS).

An ad. male Hook-billed Kite was at the UNAM botanical garden, D.F. 30 Apr (MC). A late migrating Swallow-tailed Kite was seen along the Ver. side of the Río Tonto 6 Apr (AM). A Barred Forest-Falcon heard 25 Apr on the Pacific side slightly below the highest point in the Sierra de Atoyac rd., less than 10 km from Filo de Caballo, was at high elevation at 2490 m (MC). A pair of Aplomado Falcons hunting on both the Pue. and Ver. sides of the Río Tonto 6-7 Apr was outside of known range (AM, JM). A juv.

Peregrine Falcon hunting along the Río Coatzacoalcos near Peña Blanca 22 May was a late migrant or possibly summering (AM). A second-winter Laughing Gull was at Almoloya del Río 28 Apr (MC). More than 30 Franklin's and 30 Ring-billed Gulls were at Lago Recreativo (L. Texcoco) 1 Apr, as were 2-3 Gull-billed Terns (HGdS, MG, MPV, RF). A Franklin's Gull was at Parque Ecológico Xochimilco, D.F. 4 May (AM, RW).

At least 45 Pale-vented Pigeons seen along the Río Uxpanapa near Cerro Nanchital 30-31 May were outside of known range (AM, JM). Two Eurasian Collared-Doves were observed 29 May at a farm near Tamarindo; presumably the same pair has maintained the same territory since mid-Sep 2004 (AM, JM). A pair of White-fronted Parrots was near the Río Zapopan rd. crossing at the outskirts of Santiago Tuxtla 9 May (SJ, BM); this species has been extending its range northward into cen. Ver. Fourteen Yellow-headed Parrots were encountered 19-20 May near Peña Blanca (AM, JM). Only 3 Burrowing Owls were at L. Texcoco 1 Apr (HGdS, MG, MPV, RF). Five Lesser Nighthawks were seen foraging around street lampposts in Tepapan 4 Apr (AOI, HGdS). On 30 Apr, a Chestnut-collared and 2 White-collared Swifts were flying low over the UNAM botanical garden (MC), where a Violet-crowned Hummingbird had been seen 7 Mar (HGdS). A male White-eared Hummingbird visited a feeder at a house near Bosque de Aragón 29 Apr (MGPV). A female Mexican Sheartail was near Colonia Francisco Barrios 11 Mar (HGdS). A male Broad-tailed Hummingbird was on the lower slopes of the Cofre de Perote at or near the e. edge of its range 4 May (SJ, BM).

KINGFISHERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Belted Kingfisher was late at Parque Ecológico Xochimilco 4 May (AM, RW). The 30+ Gray-breasted Woodpeckers in the botanical garden of Zapotitlán de las Salinas, Pue. 12 Mar was a high count (HGdS). A Strickland's Woodpecker was heard at Puerto del Aire 11 Mar (HGdS). Single Ladder-backed Woodpeckers were heard in an urbanized area of Mexico City between Insurgentes and Metro Etiopía, D.F. 12, 22, & 29 May (HGdS). A Northern Flicker was heard on the lower slopes of the Cofre de Perote at or near the e. edge of its range 4 May (SJ, BM). A Tufted Flycatcher was in Chapultepec, D.F. 8 Mar (ER, GdO). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was photographed at Parque Ecológico Xochimilco 27 Apr (GdO). A pair of Fork-tailed Flycatchers on the Pue. side of the Río Tonto 6 Apr was outside of



Two Aplomado Falcons spent more than four months on the beach at Tierra Colorada, Guerrero, Mexico from 3 January (here) through at least early May 2006; they apparently represent the first documented record of the species for the state. Photograph by Miguel Angel Angeles Monroy.

known range (AM, JM). An escaped White-throated Magpie-Jay was in Xola and Avenida Coyoacán, D.F. 25 May (HGdS). On 4 May, a Mexican Chickadee, several Bushtits, and a Brown-throated Wren were in the pine-fir zone, 3 Pygmy Nuthatches were in the pine zone, and a Brown Creeper, a Golden-crowned Kinglet, and an American Robin (with an active nest) were in firs on the lower slopes of the Cofre de Perote, at or near the e. edge of their ranges (SJ, BM). A White-throated Robin was at Desierto de Los Leones, D.F. 31 May (MG). A few Curve-billed Thrashers and a Canyon Towhee were noted in clearings and cultivation on the lower slopes of Cofre de Perote 4 May (SJ, BM). The 20+ Phainopeplas in the Zapotitlán de las Salinas botanical garden 12 Mar seemed more than usual (HGdS). Two European Starlings were near Almoloya del Río, a flock of 15 was at the turn-off to San Diego near Zinacantepec, Méx. 5 Mar, and 7 were along the hwy. near San Martín Texmelucan, Pue. 12 Mar (HGdS); while driving between Mexico City and Oaxaca City 13 Apr, 2 were just past San Martín Texmelucan, 7 were on the w. edge of Puebla, Pue., and 2 were at the Tehuacán toll booth, Pue. (HGdS, MG).

Single Crescent-chested and Red Warblers were in the pine-fir zone, and at least 3 Olive Warblers in the pine zone, on the lower slopes of Cofre de Perote 4 May (SJ, BM). Two Yellow Warblers, one singing, were in the lush vegetation in the zócalo of Perote 4 May (SJ, BM). A Hermit Warbler was in Chapultepec, D.F. 8 Mar (ER, GdO). A Palm Warbler found 18 Apr at Parque Ecológico Xochimilco (ED, GdO, ph.) was still there 27 Apr (RW). A late

female Black-and-white Warbler was at the UNAM botanical garden 30 Apr (MC), and a male American Redstart was there 25 Apr (MG). At Parque Ecológico Xochimilco, an American Redstart was seen 4 May (AM, RW) and a Louisiana Waterthrush 27 Apr (RW). One or 2 Canada Warblers were at Paseo de los Lagos, Xalapa 6 May (SJ, BM).

A Collared Towhee was on Cofre de Perote 4 May (SJ, BM). Two Western Tanagers were on the road to Micro-ondas Las Trincheras 10 Mar (HGdS). A Cinnamon-bellied Flower-piercer was singing near Xola and Patricio Sanz, D.F. 14 May (HGdS). Striped Sparrows and Yellow-eyed Juncos were seen both at the summit and on the lower slopes of Cofre de Perote 4 May (SJ, BM). A Northern Cardinal was at the Parque Ecológico Cuicuilco 16 Mar (HGdS), and one was at the UNAM botanical garden 11 Apr (MG). Two Orchard Orioles were at Parque Ecológico Xochimilco 27 Apr (RW). A male Giant Cowbird was slightly n. of mapped range near Colonia Francisco Barrios 11 Mar (HGdS). Two Pine Siskins were in the fir zone on the lower slopes of Cofre de Perote 4 May (SJ, BM).

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SOUTHERN MEXICO



Michael Carmody reports that in El Triunfo, Chiapas, hard hit by Hurricane Stan in early October, insectivorous birds were present in good numbers but frugivorous and nectar-feeding birds were tough to locate in March (except Horned Guan and Resplendent Quetzal). After a wet winter, the Valley of Oaxaca and adjacent areas were very dry in

March, and Rick Taylor noted no flowers and almost no hummingbirds at La Cumbre. Likewise, Carmody noted all the hummingbird species normally present in Oaxaca and Chiapas in late May but only in very low numbers. Localities are in the state of Oaxaca unless otherwise stated.

WATERFOWL THROUGH SPOONBILL

A female Wood Duck was still in Piedra Azul Dam 24 Mar (RH), continuing from the winter season when two males and one female there were the first recorded in Oax. A male Cinnamon Teal was rather far south 6 Mar at La Ventosa Lagoon among hundreds of Blue-winged Teal, 20 American Wigeons, and 3 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks (MG). A female Ring-necked Duck discovered 29 Mar near La Venta was well south of normal wintering range (AM, JM, photo). Two pairs of Crested Guan were seen 7 & 8 May at km 28 on the road to Calakmul and within the Calakmul ruins (AM, JM). A single male and a pair of Great Curassow were seen 7 & 8 May around kms 27 & 42 on the road to Calakmul (AM, JM). Dozens of Ocellated Turkey were seen between km 21 and 60 on the road to Calakmul 7 & 8 May (AM, JM). A Spotted Wood-Quail was heard in the last 2 km to Palenque ruins 9 May (AM, JM). A male and 2 female *graysoni* Northern Bobwhites were seen at 1140 m below Taxco, Gro. on the road to Iguala 27 Apr (MC).

A family group of 5 Least Grebes were at a pond at 2250 m on the road to Arroyo Guacamaya 6 & 21 May (MG, MC). A pelagic trip 9 May produced a Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel, 150 Least Storm-Petrels, and a Christmas Shearwater 16 km off Huatulco (MG), while a 24 May trip 7-10 km offshore of Puerto Angel had 2 dark-morph Wedge-tailed and 8 Audubon's Shearwaters, 4 Black and 6 Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels, and 4

ad. Masked Boobies, an ad. Nazca Booby, and 2 dark-morph ad. Red-footed Boobies (MC). Five Red-billed Tropicbirds were seen from the beach near the Acapulco, Gro. airport 18 Apr (M&BP). A Magnificent Frigatebird was high at 800 m above Arriaga, Chis. 27 May (MC). Two Neotropic Cormorants were high at 2100 m at San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chis.

28-29 May (MC); one flew over the Chan Kah Hotel, Palenque 24 May (M&BP). Single imm. Brown Pelicans were seen at Puerto Santa María, Huatulco, and at La Ventanilla 9 May (MG); this species, although normally abundant in winter, seems to be fairly rare or uncommon in late spring and summer. Several small groups of **Magnificent Frigatebirds** were observed near La Venta migrating northward past the Sierra Tolistoque 24-26 Apr (AM, JM). A **Bare-throated Tiger-Heron** was at the Chan Kah Hotel 24 May (M&BP). Twelve **Tricolored Herons** at Presa Tuxpan, Iguala, Gro. 27 Apr was a high number (MC). Two **Boat-billed Herons** were seen in the wetlands n. of La Libertad, Chis. 27 May (M&BP). A **Roseate Spoonbill** near Donaji, Oax. 26 Apr was outside of normal range (AM, JM).

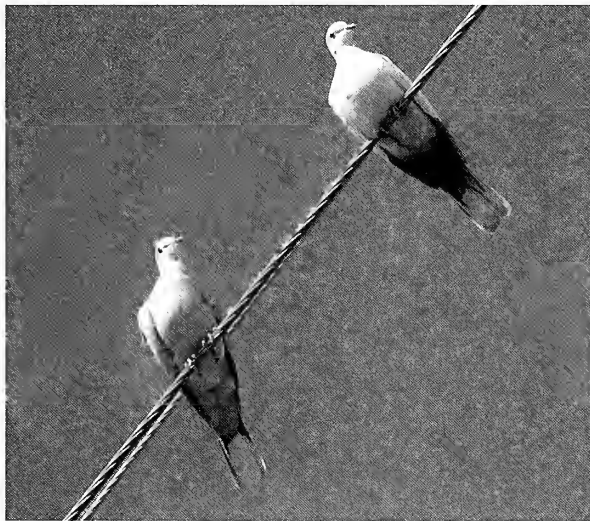
VULTURES THROUGH DOVES

Two ad. **Lesser Yellow-headed Vultures** were at the turn-off to El Carrizal near Coyuca, Gro. 24 Apr (MC). Single **Ospreys** were at Huatulco 22 May and Puerto Arista, Chis. 27 May (MC). A **Double-toothed Kite** and 2 **Black Hawk-Eagles** were above Paraíso in the Sierra de Atoyac, Gro. 15 Apr (M&BP). An ad. **White-tailed Hawk** was seen along Hwy. 95 near Tecuicuilco, Gro., about 14 km e. of the Río Mezcala 19 Apr (MC); a juv. was near Tuxtepec 17 May, outside of normal range (AM). An estimated 15,000 **Swainson's Hawks**, a species usually considered an uncommon migrant in Oax., flew over the mts. above Teotitlán del Valle at 11 a.m. on 23 Mar; it was estimated that 2% were dark morphs, and there were a few **Broad-winged Hawks** among them (JS, RK, RH). Two ad. **Solitary Eagles** flew over El Triunfo base camp, Chis. 13 Mar (MC). A **Short-tailed Hawk** and a **Black Hawk-Eagle** were at Palenque ruins, Chis. 1 May, and an **Ornate Hawk-Eagle** was at Yaxchilán, Chis. 4 May (JM, AM). A **Black Hawk-Eagle** was seen 30 Mar between 1200-1500 m elevation on Hwy. 175-N, and a **Black-and-white Hawk Eagle** was near Puerto Eligio later that afternoon (RT). An **Ornate Hawk-Eagle** was eating a **Horned Guan** it had presumably killed close to the El Triunfo base camp 13 Mar; the guan was too big to fly away with, so the hawk-eagle remained in view at very close range on a tree downslope of the trail for several minutes (MC). An ad. **Black Hawk-eagle** was soaring



This Limpkin was present at Tierra Colorada, Guerrero 1 through 4 March (here) 2006 and appears to be the first documented record for the state. Photograph by Miguel Angel Angeles Monroy.

above Pluma Hidalgo 23 May (MC), furnishing apparently the first record for the Sierra Madre del Sur of Oax. An ad. **Barred Forest-Falcon** was high at at 2350 m elevation se. of San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chis. 28-29 May (MC). Two **Aplomado Falcons** frequented beach habitat at Tierra Colorada, Gro. Jan-early May (MAAM)—one of the first records for the state and beautifully documented. A pair of **Aplomado Falcons** was seen near Tuxtepec 17-18 May (AM, JM).



These were some of the 30 or so Eurasian Collared-Doves on the outskirts of Culiacán, Sinaloa around the silos in a chicken farm on Camino a Bachoco 28 March 2006. Photograph by Humberto Berlanga.

A **Limpkin** was seen 150 m inland close to Tierra Colorada, Gro. 1-4 Mar (MAAM), a first for the state of Guerrero, and 2 were near Palenque ruins 26 May (M&BP). Six **Collared Plovers** were in the Tepecoacuilco, Gro. res., and another was at Presa Tuxpan in Iguala, Gro. 27 Apr (MC). Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were present at La Ventosa Lagoon 1 Apr (RT). A **Hudsonian Godwit** was discovered

feeding in a flooded field near La Ventosa 27 Apr (AM, JM). A **Red-necked Phalarope**, 20 **Common** and 7 **Sooty Terns**, and 2 **South Polar Skuas** were seen on a pelagic trip 7-10 km off Puerto Angel 24 May (MC); the skuas furnished just the 2nd record for the state of Oaxaca, the first being in 2002. An ad. **Laughing Gull** was at the Tepecoacuilco res. 27 Apr (MC). A **breeding-plumaged Sandwich Tern** was at Colonia Hidalgo, Chis. 26 May (MC). A **Blue Ground-Dove** was at Mazin Chico near Tuxtepec 29 Mar (RT), and 4 were on the road to Colonia Lacanjá Tzeltal, Chis. 27 May (M&BP). Omar Rocha noted a large cage full of **Eurasian Collared-Doves** in a ranch at San José de Ixtapa, Gro. and was told by the owners that an occasional dove has escaped.

MACAWS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

Two pairs of **Scarlet Macaws** flew over Yaxchilán 4 May, and a pair was seen feeding in a *Ficus* along the road to Bonampak the day before (AM, JM). Out of mapped range was the belated report of 5-6 **Scarlet Macaws** around 16° 46.6' N, 94° 17.65' W in the Chimalapas region in Apr or May 2005 (RF). Two **Mealy Parrots** were on the road to Colonia Lacanjá Tzeltal, Chis. 27 May (M&BP). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was seen along Hwy. 175-N 7 May, an uncommon but regular spring migrant in the central valley of Oax. (MG); singles at the Chan Kah Hotel 22 May and 5 near Palenque ruins 24 May (M&BP) were more expected. **Pheasant Cuckoo** sang throughout Mar and Apr at Rancho Dion above Huatulco (JC). A **Mangrove Cuckoo** was at La Ventanilla Lagoon 7 Mar (MG).

A **Flammulated Owl** was banded at Llano Grande, Oax. 10 Mar (MG, JW, SW); the species has been recorded regularly in the state since 1999, but this is the first to be banded. A **Guatemalan Screech-Owl** along the Tuxtla Gutiérrez-Malpaso Hwy., Chis. 31 May responded to playback during daylight; it was dark gray/brown with rusty "eyebrows," an unusual combination of the typical gray and rufous morphs (MC). A **Great Horned Owl** was at Teotitlán del Valle 18 May (EAM, RA). Two **Barred Owls** responded to playback 21 May at La Cumbre (MC), where the species has been reported Dec 2005-Feb 2006, here near the s. terminus

of its range. An Elf Owl was seen and 2 more were heard between Hwy. 95 and Xochipala, Gro. 17 Apr, in habitat that appeared to be adequate for breeding (M&BP). Two separate Guatemalan Pygmy-Owls, both gray-brown morphs, were seen within an hour of first light se. of San Cristóbal de las Casas 29 May (MC).

Single Northern Potoos were heard near Palenque 25 & 26 May (M&BP). An Eared Poorwill was seen along the roadway just before dawn 18 km above Nuevo Dehli, Gro. on the Atoyac Rd. 22 Apr (MC). A Buff-collared Nightjar sang mid-morning at Monte Albán 21 Mar (RH), and another responded to playback mid-morning 20 May at Yagul (MC). Two Spot-tailed Nightjars were heard 27 May on the dirt road to Ojo de Agua just s. of La Libertad (M&BP). Spot-tailed Nightjars numbered 15+ on the Uxpanapa road 31 May (MC). Six Great Swallow-tailed Swifts were seen at 800 m on the hill above Arriaga 27 May (MC). Five Scaly-breasted Hummingbirds were along the airstrip at Yaxchilán 4 May (AM, JM), and one was on the road to Colonia Lacanjá Tzeltal, Chis. 27 May (M&BP). Blue-capped Hummingbird was reported from the trail to El Vigía and Rancho Lobas, around 1100 m, in Apr, at La Soledad 8 & 23 Mar (MG) and 2 Apr (RT), and at the lowest coffee plantation on Hwy. 175-S 2 Apr (RT). A Black-crested Coquette was seen just above Valle Nacional at the jct. with the Nueva Esperanza rd. 30 Mar (RT); another was in the first half of the trail to Bonampak ruins, Chis. 3 May (AM, JM); and yet another was at Yaxchilán 4 May (JM, AM). A male Short-crested Coquette was just s. of La Siberia, between Paraiso and San Vicente de Benítez, 15 Apr (M&BP), and 2 males and a female were above Paraiso 21 Apr (MC). A female White-eared Hummingbird was in unusual habitat in Sumidero Canyon N.P. (about half-way up the road) 27 May (MC). Amethyst-throated Hummingbird was the most common hummingbird at the summit of the Sierra de Atoyac 24 Apr, with 100+ birds seen, followed by Magnificent (40+), Garnet-throated and White-eared Hummingbirds, Green Violet-ear (20+ each), and Bumblebee, Broad-tailed, and Sparkling-tailed Hummingbirds (<5 each) (MC).

MOTMOTS THROUGH MANAKINS

A Tody Motmot was at Bonampak ruins 3 May (AM, JM), and 2 called above Valle Nacional 3 May, along with a Rufous-tailed Jacamar (MG). Two Rufous-tailed Jacamars



At least 3 Mangrove Vireos were found 8 April 2006 near the research station at Pantanos de Centla biosphere reserve, Tabasco (about 15 km south of Frontera). Photograph by Humberto Berlanga.

were seen along the Templo Olvidado trail at Palenque ruins 23 & 25 May (M&BP). A Keel-billed Toucan at Puerto Eligio above 1200 m 28 Mar was high (RH). An Emerald Toucanet was at Palenque 23 & 25 May (M&BP), and a probable female Mountain Trogon was at Monte Albán 6 May (MG). In Chiapas, a Ruddy Woodcreeper was across the road from the Palenque museum 1 May (JM, AM), and one was at Bonampak 27 May (M&BP). Two Tawny-winged Woodcreepers and 5 Northern Barred-Woodcreepers were at or near Palenque ruins 23-25 May (M&BP). A pair of Rufous-breasted Spinetails at a nest along the Tuxtla Gutiérrez-Malpasos Hwy. was high at 880 m elevation (MC). A Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser was at Bonampak 27 May (M&BP). Two Buff-throated Foliage-gleaners were at Nueva Esperanza 30 Mar (RT). A Great Antshrike was heard just before Palenque ruins 9 May (AM, JM).

A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was heard at the bridge over Río Valle Nacional 30 Mar (RT), near the nw. edge of its range; another was near Palenque 24 May (M&BP). A White-throated Flycatcher was in humid pine-oak forest above Carrizal de los Bravo, Gro. 16 Apr (M&BP). Three Pileated Flycatchers were at Monte Albán 5 May (MG). A Greenish Elaenia was caught in the Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens, Oaxaca City 23 Apr (MG), a first for the city. Rare spring records of Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher came from the Palenque archaeological museum 1 May (JM, AM), near the Palenque museum 24 May, and at Bonampak 27 May (M&BP). Up to 2 Northern Royal-Flycatchers were near Palenque ruins 23-26 May (M&BP). A Stub-tailed Spadebill was near Palenque ruins 23 May (M&BP); another was rather high at 1850 m along the Palo Gordo trail of El Triunfo 14 Mar (MC). An Ochre-bellied Flycatcher was between Jaltenango

and Finca Prusia, Chis. 13 Mar (MC). Western Wood-Pewees were seen at Monte Albán and along Hwy. 175-N 5-6 May (MG). Single late Great Crested Flycatchers were seen at Palenque 1, 9, 22, & 24 May (AM, JM, M&BP) and at Bonampak 3 May (AM, JM). Piratic Flycatcher was very numerous in mid-Mar above Valle Nacional, where it was unrecorded in early Mar (MG). An ad. Fork-tailed Flycatcher was high at San Cristóbal de las Casas 29 May (MC). A Speckled Mourner was at La Cascada trail at Lacanjá, Chis. 2 May (JM, AM). A second-year male White-collared Manakin was at Palenque ruins 23 May (M&BP).

VIREOS THROUGH WEAVER FINCHES

At least 3 Mangrove Vireos were around the Pantanos de Centla Biosphere Reserve research station around 15 km s. of Frontera, Tab. 8 Apr (ph. HB, PM). An ad. White-eyed Vireo was on the Pacific coastal plain w. of Tapachula, Chis. 18 Mar (MC). A Yellow-green Vireo mist-netted in Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 23 Apr was a surprise (MG). A Golden Vireo was a first for the grounds of the well-birded Hotel Misión de los Ángeles, Oaxaca City 21 Mar (RT). Three Slaty Vireos were at Monte Albán 5 May (MG), and one was in a mixed flock of vireos and warblers at Rancho Dion, along the trail to El Vigía, at 1600 m above Huatulco 26 Apr (†JC). Two Plumbeous Vireos were singing near San Pablo Huitzó res. 15 Apr (MG, HGdS).

Barn Swallows continue to nest in San Cristóbal de las Casas; an active nest was found 28 May, and 30+ were flying over the zócalo 29 May (MC). A Gray-breasted Martin s. of Miahuatlán 23 May was entering a pipe, suggestive of nesting, but it appeared to be alone (MC). A female Purple Martin was at Presa Tuxpan 26 Apr (MC). A Happy Wren was found near Guelatao 28 Mar (RT). A Golden-crowned Kinglet was seen at La Cumbre 28 Feb (MG); the species has been recorded here on four or five previous occasions, all in winter. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet, very rare s. of Oax., was with a mixed feeding flock around El Triunfo base camp 12-14 Mar (MR, EM, MC). Veery and Swainson's Thrushes gorged themselves on fruit at Río Lacanjá 2 May (JM, AM). A Gray-cheeked Thrush was near Palenque ruins 24 May (M&BP). A Swainson's Thrush was caught in Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 23 Apr, the first record for Oaxaca City; the bander had been broadcasting flight calls of Swainson's Thrush that night and morning,

0230-0800 (MG). A Black Robin was observed on Cerro San Felipe 28 Mar (RT). Several Rufous-backed Robins were heard at Huitzó 15 Apr (MG, HGdS), and 3, plus a Clay-colored Robin, were near San Pablo Huitzó res. 15 Apr (MG, HGdS). Three Aztec Thrushes were at San José del Pacifico 16 Apr (DRF). Several singing and territorial Northern Mockingbirds were photographed e. of their known breeding range 27 Apr just s. of La Ventosa (AM, JM). A Tropical Mockingbird was near the Palenque museum 26 May (M&BP).

In Apr at Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens, 25 Nashville Warblers were mist-netted; this abundant species is usually not captured as late as Apr, but these results follow the winter's all-time high counts: Feb had more than twice the maximum number of captures of this species at this locality, which has been monitored for four years (MG). A Virginia's Warbler and a Yellow Warbler were near San Pablo Huitzó res. 15 Apr (MG, HGdS). A female Black-throated Blue Warbler seen in the Sierra Madre del Sur 10 Mar (MG, SW) provided one of very few records for Oax. A female American Redstart was at Palenque 23 May (M&BP). An ad. male Hooded Warbler was on the Pacific coastal plain near Arriaga (MR, MC). A female Mourning Warbler, first located by its call, was in humid oak forest s. of San Vicente de Benítez 14 Apr (M&BP). A Louisiana Waterthrush was high at 2550 m at La Cumbre 28 Mar (RT).

A flock of Red-headed Tanagers was heard at the alder-lined stream on the road to Arroyo Guacamaya 14 Apr (HGdS, MG), and another was seen below El Estudiante 25 Apr (RT). Three Cinnamon-rumped Seed-eaters and a Yellow-faced Grassquit were near San Pablo Huitzó res. 15 Apr (MG, HGdS). A Thick-billed Seed-Finch was on the pulloff to San Manuel road near Palenque 9 May (AM, JM). A pair of Blue Seed-eaters was feeding in the bamboo thickets along the airstrip at Yaxchilán 4 May (AM, JM). A Botteri's Sparrow was in open oak scrub near La Lagunita on the n. slope of the Sierra de Atoyac 17 Apr (M&BP). Two Cinnamon-tailed Sparrows were seen at Coralito between Tehuantepec and Santiago Astata 19 Mar (MG, RB). Single Botteri's Sparrows were near Teotitlán del Valle 24 Mar (RT), El Tequio near Oaxaca airport 8 Mar, and at several places in San Agustín Etla during Apr (MG). Six Oaxaca Sparrows were near Piedra Azul Dam 24 Mar (RT). Dickcissels were present in flocks in the Tapanatepec region at the beginning of Mar and absent there by mid-Mar (MG).

Two Lazuli Buntings were above Carrizal de los Bravo 16 Apr (M&BP). A male Bronzed Cowbird was at Bonampak 27 May (M&BP). A Baltimore Oriole and a male Black-backed Oriole were in Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens 21 Mar (RT), but the latter could not be found there 25-26 Mar (MG); this represents the first record of this subspecies from this site. A Baltimore Oriole was at Huitzó 15 Apr (HGdS, MG). A male Hooded Oriole was near Ejutla 23 May (MC). The first fledgling House Sparrow in Oaxaca City this season was noted 26 Mar (MG).

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YUCATAN PENINSULA



Ornithologists and birders visiting Cozumel Island in January noted the complete lack of certain species, but a research team led by Robert Curry in mid-April found healthy populations of the under-canopy species, with the notable exception of Cozumel Thrasher—the species they sought in particular. However, there was a possible sighting of the species by Ismael Navarro on the Cozumel Golf Course, where the species was previously reported by Rafael Chacón; another unconfirmed report was made in May by a local worker who supposedly saw the bird in the very same spot. The species is clearly near extinction. What birders did not find in April or May were species of the upper canopy. Only one Western Spindalis was seen in April, and no Rose-throated Tanagers were reported. A lack of early rains meant that American Flamingos in Ría Lagartos, currently number-

ing around 44,000, were unable to ply the hardened mud to form nests and abandoned the effort.

Abbreviations: Coz. (Cozumel I.); C.C.C. (Cozumel Country Club); H.S.A.C. (Hacienda San Antonio Chel, Yuc.); R.L.B.R. (Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve); R.S.S. (Rancho San Salvador); R.L. (Río Lagartos).

WATERFOWL THROUGH TERNS

Thirty years ago, a report of 6 female and 2 male Northern Shovelers would not be news in Yucatan, but, sadly, it is now; these were in a restored coastal lagoon at San Crisanto, Yuc. 6 Mar (BM). Red-breasted Merganser appears to be on the increase in the subregion, with 6 reported 14 Mar in front of Hotel Nuevo Yucatán, Telchac Puerto, Yuc. (MT) and a female at Uaymitún (15 km to the west) 10 Apr (RW). Black-throated Bobwhite may be more widespread due to deforestation, with 2 seen 5 May at Chicanná Ecovillage Resort at km 144 on Chetumal-Escárcega Hwy., farther s. than previously reported (MC).

About 180 Reddish Egrets (including one white morph) were counted in 50 minutes at

a large coastal lagoon system 4 km w. of Chuburná, Yuc. 28 Mar, most of these flying in an easterly direction (DB, BM); this is an extraordinarily high count. A Least Bittern in a small cattail marsh s. of San Felipe, Yuc. 8 May might have been a resident rather than a migrant (JB, MC, RH). There were many reports this spring on the growth of the 3 young Jabirus that hatched in Feb. They were photographed at the nest at Peten Tucha, R.L. 16 Mar (BS, MS), and 2 nearly fledged young were still in nest with 2 ads. 8 May (JB, MC, RH). On 6-7 May, a juv. Jabiru showed up in the Celestún, Yuc. estuary near bird island (FC). Another Jabiru was noted 18 Mar near the Usumacinta toll booth, Camp. (LT). Calakmul, Camp. is a good place to see King Vulture, and 5 were seen there 21 Apr (DB).

Three migrating Swallow-tailed Kites were seen 20 May flying northward over the estu-



This Yellow-green Vireo mist-netted in the Santo Domingo botanical garden in downtown Oaxaca City 23 April 2006 was completely unexpected in the central valleys of Oaxaca. Photograph by Manuel Grosselet.

ary at Celestún (DB), and the 3rd local record for a Mississippi Kite was provided by one at Chelem, Yuc. 13 May (AM, JM). A White Hawk was near the toll booth at Usumacinta 18 Mar (LT). An Ornate Hawk-Eagle was at Calakmul 23 Apr (DB). A wintering female Merlin was still at the harbor of Chuburná 27 Mar (DB, BM). Two Ruddy Crakes and a Sora were in the mangrove canals at San Crisanto 9 Mar (BM), and around 180 American Coots were at Celestún 30 Apr (FC, BM).

Near the beach at Celestún, an American Golden-Plover was seen 1 May and 4 on 17 May (DB). A migrating flock of 86 Wilson's Plovers was on a sandbar behind Churnburná harbor 28 Mar (DB, BM). Two Piping Plovers were among hundreds of other plovers at km 56.4 e. of Chabihau, Yuc. 13 Apr (RW). Some 85 American Avocets, half in breeding plumage, were on salt flats at San Crisanto 30 Mar and 6 Apr, with 17 there 24 Apr (BM). An active nest of Northern Jaçana found 12 Apr at C.G.C. produced 4 chicks the next morning (RC, BC, BM, RM, IN). A Solitary Sandpiper was still on Coz. 1 May (JB, MC, RH). A Long-billed Curlew and 5 Whimbrels were feeding in Churnburná harbor 22 Mar (BM, IN), and 6 Whimbrels were there 28 Mar (DB, BM). A rare Hudsonian Godwit showed up 20 Apr near bird island in the Celestún estuary, and 5 were seen at the beach near the Celestún harbor 18-19 May (DB, GT). Two Marbled Godwits and 60 Least Sandpipers were at Churnburná harbor 22 Mar; 25 Marbleds were at Chicxulub 23 Mar (BM, IN). A Semipalmated Sandpiper was reported on Coz. 1 May (JB, MC, RH). Four White-rumped Sandpipers were near Celestún 1 May (DB); 4 others were seen the same day on Coz. (JB, MC, RH), and 150 were observed 16-22 May, with numbers decreasing each day, at Celestún (DB). A Pectoral Sandpiper was on Coz. 11 Apr (BM, RC), and 10 were seen 16 May at Celestún, with one left 23 May (DB). A Stilt Sandpiper was at Churnburná 7 Mar

(BM); another was seen 16 & 30 Mar and 24 Apr at San Crisanto (BM). Around 400 Wilson's Phalaropes were in a pond near the Celestún pier 23 May (DB).

A Pomarine Jaeger was seen from boat 1.5 km w. of Churnburná 28 Mar (DB, BM). A Franklin's Gull was seen 15 km se. of El Aguacatal, Camp., out of normal range (AM, JM); another was seen 15-22 May at Celestún (DB). Churnburná, on the n. coast of Yuc., is a good place for uncommon gulls: a Ring-billed Gull was there 28 Mar (DB, BM); Herring Gulls were reported there 6 (7 birds; AD, BM), 22 (one; BM, IN), & 27 Mar (one; DB, BM) and 12 May (several; AM, JM); and a Lesser Black-backed Gull was there 22 Mar, with 2 at Chicxulub the next day (BM, IN), one of which was still there 27 Mar (DB, BM). A Gull-billed Tern was found 22 Mar at Churnburná harbor (BM, IN), where 7 Forster's Terns were seen 7 Mar (AD, BM) and one 22 Mar, plus 300 Black Skimmers (BM, IN). Three early Least Terns were present 27 Mar at Churnburná harbor 28 Mar (DB, BM).

PIGEONS THROUGH CATBIRDS

On Coz., 11 White-crowned Pigeons were seen at the C.G.C. 12 Apr (RC, BM). Some 32 Zenaida Doves were at Churnburná harbor 22 Mar (IN, BM). Mourning Dove has become a rare winter migrant on the Yuc. peninsula; 2 were at Celestún 1 May (DB), and another was at H.S.A.C. 7 May (DB, EG, BM, AM). Twelve Yellow-headed Parrots were along the Jonuta-Palizada rd. 6 May (AM, JM), and a pair was seen in s. Q. Roo 11 km w. of Francisco Villa 15 Mar, far outside the normal range (LY, PY). Four Yellow-billed Cuckoos were on territory at H.S.A.C. 28 May (BM, AM); the species is a very local nester in the n. of the peninsula. Two Chimney Swifts were reported at Rio Lagartos 8 May (JB, MC, RH), and a late Ruby-throated Hummingbird was at H.S.A.C. 7 May (DB, EG, BM). A Keel-billed Toucan was at Kabah 10 Apr, seen by the caretaker (*vide* DB); another was reported at Kiuic 20 May (DB).

Evidence of Eastern Wood-Pewee passage in early May included 2 seen 3-4 May on the Vigía Chico rd., Q. Roo; 2-5 at Calakmul 4-6 May (JB, MC, RH); 3 at H.S.A.C. 7 May (DB, EG); and 6 on 18 May at Celestún (DB). Two Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were seen 5-6 May at Calakmul (JB, MC, RH), and single Acadian Flycatchers were seen 3 May on the Vigía Chico Rd. and 6 May at Calakmul (JB, MC, RH). Single Least Flycatchers were noted 3 May on the Vigía Chico Rd. and 4 May at Calakmul; and 2 were at R.L. 8 May (JB, MC, RH). A Couch's Kingbird was heard and photographed 2 May at C.G.C. (ph. MC; JB, RH).

A Gray Kingbird was at Pok-Ta-Pok G.C., Cancún, Q. Roo 11 Apr (KK); one was at the C.G.C. 12 Apr (RC, BC, BM, IN); and 3 were at El Cedral, Coz. 1 May (JB, MC, RH). Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is reported more frequently than in the past, with one observed 7 Mar at Churnburná (BM) and 2 at Chicxulub, Yuc. 25 Mar (JM), and one there 28 Mar (BS, ph. MS). A Fork-tailed Flycatcher was at Chicxulub 28 Mar (BS, MS).

Two ad. Cozumel Vireos were feeding a fledgling out of nest on Coz. 10 Apr (BM), and a single Warbling Vireo was at Chichen Itzá 9 Mar (DB). A Red-eyed Vireo was seen 3-4 May on the Vigía Chico Rd., and up to 3 were at Calakmul 5-6 May (JB, MC, RH). The first Yellow-green Vireo was at H.S.A.C. 28 May (BM). A Black-whiskered Vireo was at El Cedral, Coz. 1 May (JB, MC, RH). Two Northern Rough-winged Swallows were on Coz. 12 Apr (RC, BC, BM, RM, IN), and 6 Bank Swallows were seen there 2 May; 10 Banks were seen 8 May at R.L. (JB, MC, RH). Barn Swallow dates were normal; 500 were at San Crisanto 20 Mar, foraging intensely, perhaps prior to passing toward Cuba (BM). White-lored Gnatcatcher was seen at inland sites such as the forest 8 km in from Churnburná 22 Mar (IN, BM); at H.S.A.C., a male was seen 7 May (DB, EG). A Veery was seen 3 May on the Vigía Chico Rd. (JB, MC, RH); the species is rarely reported during its spring migration. A Gray-cheeked Thrush was recorded 1 May on Coz. and another 8 May at R.L. (JB, MC, RH). A Swainson's Thrush was on Coz. 11 Apr (RC). In recent years, Black Catbird has been observed nesting inland; about 30 pairs were noted building nests at two sites within H.S.A.C. 28 May (BM, AM).

WARBLERS THROUGH COWBIRDS

Six Tennessee Warblers on Coz. 11 Apr was normal (RC, BM), but one at R.L. 8 May was late (JB, MC, RH). Two Chestnut-sided Warblers were at Calakmul 5 May (JB, MC, RH). Fifteen Magnolia Warblers were seen 3 May on the Vigía Chico Rd., 5 there 4 May; 2 were at Calakmul 4 May, and 5 there 5-6 May; and 10 were at R.L. 8 May (JB, MC, RH). A Black-throated Blue Warbler, more usual on the e. coast, was at San Crisanto 24 Apr (BM). A Black-throated Green Warbler was along the Vigía Chico Rd. 3 May (JB, MC, RH). One male Blackburnian Warbler was near San Gerónimo, Coz. 11 Apr (BC); 2 were seen 5-6 May at Calakmul; and one was at R.L. 8 May (JB, MC, RH). Single Bay-breasted Warblers were on Coz. 10 Apr (BC) and 1 May (JB, MC, RH); 3 were along Vigía Chico Rd. 3 May (JB, MC, RH). A Blackpoll Warbler on Coz. 11 Apr was early (BC). Two Hooded Warblers at

km 27 on the road to Calakmul 7 May were late migrants (AM, JM), as was one seen 8 May at R.L. (JB, MC, RH).

Three male Scarlet Tanagers were at San Crisanto 24 Apr, feeding on gumbo-limbo fruits (BM); others were seen 1 May on Coz., 3 May along the Vigia Chico Rd. (2; JB, MC, RH), and the same day at Uxmal (DB). A single Western Spindalis was detected on Coz. 10-13 Apr (RC, BC, BM). A Blue-gray Tanager was near San Crisanto 20 Mar (BM); this species is commonly found nesting in Mérida as well as in the coastal villages to the n., though it is not mapped here by Howell and

Webb (1995). Two Savannah Sparrows were noted at Churburná harbor 23 Mar (BM, IN); the species has become scarce in the subregion. Two Dickcissels, a late transient, were at Calakmul 6 May (JB, MC, RH), and 7 Bobolinks were seen on Coz. 2 May (JB, MC, RH). An Eastern Meadowlark was seen in a pasture at Hopelchén, Camp. 24 Apr, outside its known distribution (DB). Once more, Shiny Cowbird has shown up at Sian Ka'an, Q. Roo, where 3 males were observed at in a mangrove tree one km n. of Boca Paila 15 Mar (WS). Two Eurasian/African Collared-Doves were reported courting 23 May at Celestún (DB).

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H. Lee Jones | Oliver Komar

With this spring report, we welcome Jeffrey McCrary as our Nicaraguan records coordinator. For the first time, we have a country coordinator for Nicaragua, and for the first time national compilers have contributed from all of the Central American countries. Of special interest this period were expeditions to two poorly known areas. Kevin Easley led an expedition to Cocos Island, finding four rare pelagic species and several unexpected migrants. Knut Eisermann carried out an inventory at an isolated patch of lowland humid rain forest in southwestern Honduras, in the Río Amarillo valley near the Copán ruins, producing 19 new records for the department of Copán and a number of interesting range extensions.

This spring was notably different from spring 2004 in one respect. There were no reports of Cedar Waxwing. Thousands were reported a year ago. This was not really surprising, as no Cedar Waxwings were reported during the winter season, in strong contrast to the previous winter. Two country "firsts" surfaced this spring: a well-documented Rud-

dy Crake in Panama and a Hermit Thrush in Honduras. Other Regional rarities included Panama's second Nashville Warbler, Honduras' third White-vented Euphonia, El Salvador's third Roseate Tern and third Spotted Woodcreeper, Costa Rica's second, third, and fourth Swallow-tailed Gulls, and that country's third American Pipit. There are now several records of Swallow-tailed Gull from both Costa Rica and Panama, but until now no photographic evidence or specimen evidence has been published, and the species has not yet been added to the A.O.U. Check-list for North American birds.

TINAMOUS THROUGH VULTURES

On Cerro Pirre above Cana in e. Darién, a rarely encountered Choco Tinamou was heard 5 Apr (FT). At Indian Creek Village, Toledo, a male Ring-necked Duck was seen 8 Mar (BF). This species is rare in Belize away from Crooked Tree W.S. Since the open ocean between mainland Costa Rica and Cocos I. is rarely visited by birders, almost any pelagic species seen in these waters is worth noting. Two Pink-footed Shearwaters were seen on the trip out 30 Apr, and one was seen on the return trip 5 May (KEa et al.). This species surely passes through Costa Rican waters regularly during migration but probably in small numbers, as indicated here. Single Leach's Storm-Petrels seen on two occasions between the island and mainland 5 May (KEa et al.) are also worth noting. An ad. Red-footed Booby at Isla Uvita off Puerto Limón 15 Mar (LS, GF) was on the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica, where the species had not previously been reported.

American Bittern is rare anywhere in Cen-

tral America, so one seen in Nicaragua flying low over L. Moyuá, *Matagalpa* 9 May (LL, JM, WA, DK) was noteworthy. Not previously reported from Summit Ponds, Panama Canal Area, was a juv. Agami Heron seen 1 Apr (FT). Two reports of Green Ibis come from Panama. One was seen at the bridge over the R. Frijoles on Pipeline Road in Soberanía N.P. 6 Apr (CB), and 2 were near Chiriquí Grande, *Bocas del Toro* 19 Apr (RM, DM, KK). There are very few verified reports for the Canal Area, and it is very uncommon at the latter locality. An ad. and imm. King Vulture were seen 6 Mar (KE, CA, JLL) on the Pacific slope of Guatemala at Los Tarrales Reserve, *Succhitepéquez*, where the species is rare.

RAPTORS

Pearl Kite, still expanding its range in Costa Rica, reached new elevational heights when one was observed at 2100 m at Savegre Lodge, San Gerardo de Dota, on the Pacific slope of Cerro de la Muerte 14 Feb (MAM). Another was seen a few km n. of Puerto Armuelles in Panama 11 May (KA), possibly only the 2nd recorded in *Chiriquí*. A Crane Hawk seen in mangroves on the Bayano R. in e. *Panamá* 26 Apr (RM) was the first reported from that locality. A rarely seen Solitary Eagle was observed in flight at Cerro Azul e. of Panama City 28 Apr (OK, RoC, CA, DD, NQ). On the Caribbean coast of Honduras, Cooper's, Swainson's, and Broad-winged Hawks were observed migrating over Capiro Calentura N.P. outside Trujillo, *Colón*, in the first week of Apr (MW, GCo). The latter two species migrate principally w. of the Continental Divide.

In Costa Rica, an ad. light-morph Crested Eagle was seen perched and in flight at Tor-

tuguero N.P. 2 Apr (ph. BW, DL). In the past year, there have been several reports from this same area. In Panama, a Crested Eagle was reported at the Cana airstrip 4 Apr (FT). Crested Eagle is considered to be rarer than Harpy Eagle in most areas where the ranges of the two overlap. In Honduras, individual Black Hawk-Eagles soaring over humid broadleaf forest and coffee plantations at two sites near R. Amarillo 27 Apr and 6 May (ph. KE, CA) were the first recorded for Copán, as were 3 Barred Forest-Falcons in the same humid broadleaf forest 28 Apr and another at a forest patch nearby 6 May (CA, KE). A Crested Caracara seen near Changuinola, Bocas del Toro 16 Apr (RM, DM) provided the first provincial record.

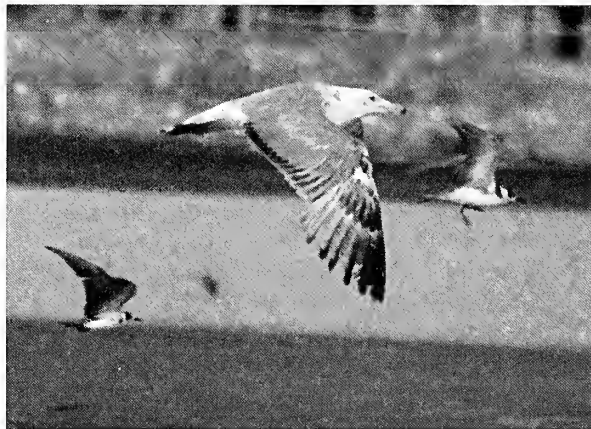
RAILS

A Ruddy Crake seen in a marsh just ne. of Changuinola, Bocas del Toro 20 Mar (†RM) was the first ever reported in Panama. The only other reports s. of n. Nicaragua are apparently two sight reports, possibly representing a single bird, from Guanacaste, Costa Rica, in early May 1955 (Paul Slud, 1964, *The Birds of Costa Rica: Distribution and Ecology*). The Panama record most likely represents a vagrant rather than a rare resident population. Also in the vicinity of Changuinola, Bocas del Toro were at least 3 Gray-breasted Crakes heard 14–16 Apr (RM, DM), only the 2nd reported for the province and the first for the Panamanian lowlands.

Rufous-necked Wood-Rails were seen and heard this spring from all three of J&MW's monitoring sites, Tamarindo, Naranjo, and Estero Iguanito, in mangroves on the ocean side of the Nicoya Pen., where seldom reported. Up to 4 Uniform Crakes were heard, and 2 seen, 13 & 18 Apr near Chiriquí Grande, Bocas del Toro (RM, DM, KK); 2 were heard ne. of Changuinola, Bocas del Toro 14 Apr, and one was heard at the same place 17 Apr (RM, DM). There are few previous reports from Panama. In Costa Rica, a Yellow-breasted Crake was seen as it was flushed on three occasions from a wet pasture in El Tigre about 3 km e. of La Selva in late Mar (KEa et al.). This very secretive species is seldom reported from Costa Rica, although it is probably widely distributed.

THICK-KNEES THROUGH JAEGERS

Two Double-striped Thick-knees in a fallow harvested rice field 5 km s. of Matapalo between Quepos and Dominical 23 Apr (PM), following close on the heels of the first record



Herring Gulls in Central America are usually first-winter birds and are rarely recorded outside of winter. Although this second-summer gull at the mouth of the Río Jiboa, found on the late date of 23 May 2006, was initially identified as a Herring Gull, it has generated much debate on the Internet. It may be a hybrid (note dark eye and large bill), and Herring Gull may not even have been one of the parents. Photograph by Tom Jenner.

from the Caribbean lowlands last fall (published in the journal *Zeledonia*), were considerably farther s. on the Pacific coastal plain of Costa Rica than previously reported—apparently the first ever recorded s. of Jaco. Suitable habitat for this species exists all along the Pacific coast down into Panamá, leaving open the possibility of an incipient southerly range expansion. A Northern Jacana seen on the Chagres R. about 3 km upstream from Gamboa, Canal Area 16 May (GA) represented the



A pocket of rainforest and associated coffee plantations in the Río Amarillo valley in the Department of Copán in western Honduras was discovered to host isolated populations of nearly 20 bird species this spring. The Black-crested Coquette (male, 2 May 2006) is an example of one of these species. Photograph by Knut Eisermann.

easternmost record for this species. In Costa Rica, an ad. Wattled Jacana was seen 13–17 Mar in the San Joaquín marsh, San Vito, Puntarenas (JZ, GF), where one bird has appeared during the spring months since 2004, when it was an imm. El Salvador's 4th Baird's Sandpiper was at the mouth of the R. Jiboa, La Paz 23 May (ph., †TJ). It was at the same

locality as El Salvador's first spring record in Apr 2005.

An ad. Herring Gull was seen between the Costa Rican mainland and Cocos I. 5 May (KEa et al.). This species is seldom seen in Costa Rica, and an ad. is an even rarer occurrence. A possible second-summer Herring Gull at the mouth of the R. Jiboa, La Paz 23 May (ph., †TJ) would be the first spring record for El Salvador, but some features suggest a hybrid, possibly Kelp × Herring. Two Swallow-tailed Gulls were seen the night of 30 Apr following a ship about three-fourths of the way out to Cocos I. (ph. KEa et al.). Later, 3 were seen with the ship near the island pre-dawn 1 May. Finally, one bird was seen around 8:00 a.m. on 5 May, about one-third of the way back to the mainland from the is-

land (roughly 6° 45' N). This is only the 2nd time this species has been reported from Costa Rica waters. The first record was of birds seen at night off the tip of the Burica Pen. at the Costa Rica–Panama border in Mar 2003. A nearby sighting in Apr 2000, however, was believed to be in Panama waters.

Four Sooty Terns seen on a rocky islet in Wafer Bay, Cocos I. 2 May (KEa et al.) were possibly nesting. This species was reported as nesting at the island 22 May 1962, when 30 nests were counted on Isla Manuelita at the n. end of Cocos, but it has not been reported nesting there since. In El Salvador, a concentration of 960 Black Terns resting on sand bars at Barra Salada, Sonsonate 7 May was noteworthy (OK, TJ, JF), only 30 of these birds were in breeding plumage. A still impressive 75 were at the mouth of R. Jiboa, La Paz 23 May (TJ). A Roseate Tern at Barra Salada 7 May (†OK, TJ) was only the 3rd recorded for El Salvador and the first for Sonsonate. Parasitic Jaeger is the only species of stercorariid reliably reported from Honduras, where it is considered a vagrant. A dark-morph ad. was documented from the beach near the mouth of R. Platano 7 Apr (†D&ES, GF, DH), and a subad. was photographed 11 Apr at Laguna de Brus, Gracias a Dios (vt. D&ES, GF, DH).

PIGEONS THROUGH OWLS

In Honduras, 3 Short-billed Pigeons found in a humid broadleaf forest 5 km nw. of R. Amarillo, Copán 24–28 Apr (v.r. KE), were substantially isolated from other known populations. In Costa Rica, up to 13 Scarlet Macaws at La Selva late Feb–Apr (m.ob.) were the first to appear at La Selva in perhaps 30 years. In addition, 3 were seen 8 Apr near Chilamate, 10 km nw. of La Selva, and 10 were seen 20

May at Boca Tapada de San Carlos, 35 km nw. of La Selva (both JZ). One can only speculate if these were resident birds or visitors from Nicaragua—or perhaps strays from a small remnant population near the n. edge of Costa Rica that had been presumed extirpated. Is the sudden appearance of these birds a positive result of conservation efforts and an illustration of biological corridors in action? Or is deforestation and poaching in Nicaragua driving these birds to the south?

In Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, Barred Parakeets are normally found in high-altitude cloud forests. It was surprising, therefore, to find the species daily (11 Apr–8 May) at 700 m in bamboo stands on the flood plain of the R. Amarillo, near the village of R. Amarillo, Copán; at least 100 were present 8 May (ph. KE, CA, OK). A Spectacled Parrotlet, typically a lowland species, was seen at Cana 3 Apr (FT), providing the first record for that e. *Darién* locality. A small population of Brown-hooded Parrots was found in humid broadleaf forest 3 km nw. of R. Amarillo 26–28 Apr and 8 May (v.r. KE), establishing the first records for Copán. Groups of one or two pairs were heard each day. In Las Alturas on the s. Pacific slope of Cordillera Talamanca, a Pheasant Cuckoo heard singing from the forest edge 6 Feb at 1500 m (JG, AO, JZ) provided the 3rd report for this area. Single singing birds were heard last year in Mar from two other areas on the Las Alturas farm.

Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoos put on a show for birders and other visitors to the Rainforest Aerial Tram bordering Braulio Carrillo N.P. 29 Mar–8 Apr (m.ob.). Up to 3 were seen together regularly from the tram, the loading platform, the parking lot, the coffee shop, and even right outside the plate glass windows of the gift shop. A persistent army ant swarm in the area around the tram enticed these rare and seldom-seen birds into the open. At least 3 Bare-shanked Screech-Owls heard calling and one seen at 1600 m about 15 km nw. of Hato Chamí 4 Mar (WA, GA) provided the first report from e. *Chiriquí*. Although considered rare in Honduras, Crested Owls were noted to be fairly common this spring in Pico Bonito N.P., *Atlántida* up to 900 m (DA). Anderson either heard or saw an individual on about 70% of visits into forested areas between dusk and dawn. To the southwest, Crested Owls were recorded on at least three territories in humid broadleaf forest 5 km nw. of R. Amarillo, a first record for Copán, 2 May (v.r. KE).



Sparkling-tailed Hummingbirds are rarely reported and even more rarely captured in El Salvador. This female was mist-netted at Montecristo National Park on 23 March 2006. Photograph by Leticia Andino.

NIGHTJARS THROUGH TROGONS

A Dusky Nightjar calling and seen at about 1700 m about 10 km nnw. of Hato Chamí, *Chiriquí* 5–6 Mar (GA, WA) established the easternmost report for this species. Easley reported seeing and hearing several White-tailed Nightjars in Apr along the road to Durika de Buenos Aires at 900 m on the s. Pacific slope of Costa Rica. This species is very seldom reported in Costa Rica, but it appears to be common here in the grasslands along the road up to what is now known as the Rosy Thrush-Tanager spot. A Great Potoo was heard 4 Mar 2 km n. of Las Mangas, *Atlántida* (MB, DA) in primary rain forest. This is the 2nd report from Honduras in the last two years. Reports of Rufous-crested Coquette, rare in Panama, included a male along Pipeline Road 31 Mar; up to 5 females at Cerro Azul, *Panamá* 2 Apr; 2 females at Cana 3 Apr; and one female at Cana 4 Apr (all FT). A male Black-crested Coquette in coffee plantations near R. Amarillo 2 May provided documentation of an isolated population in Copán (ph. KE).

Two female Violet-crowned Woodnymphs were seen near the peak of 940-m Mt. Margaret in e. *Cayo* 8–9 May (PB, GC, DT, PW, SR, IM). The species has only been recorded in Belize n. of *Toledo*, where it is rare and localized, on one prior occasion. Two female Mangrove Hummingbirds were captured at Tamarindo Mangroves (date uncertain; ph. J&MW). Stiles and Skutch list this species as occurring only around the Gulf of Nicoya and not from the w. side of the peninsula. As the species is reported closer and closer to the Nicaraguan border, it may soon lose its status as a Costa Rican endemic. A male Snowcap was seen visiting feeders at Bosque de Paz at 1600 m on the Caribbean slope of Poás Volcano 15–20 Mar (VP). This is an unusually

high elevation for this species. A Purple-crowned Fairy was at L. Moyuá, *Darío*, *Matagalpa*, Nicaragua 9 May (LL, JM, WA, DK).

A pair of Purple-throated Woodstars was seen at Cana 3 Apr (FT). This species is rare in Panama. A female Sparkling-tailed Hummingbird was mist-netted at Montecristo N.P., *Santa Ana* 23 Mar 2006 (ph. LA). The species is rarely reported anywhere in El Salvador. A second-year male Ruby-throated Hummingbird was mist-netted at Finca Corteza in San Vito, *Puntarenas* 15 Mar (AO; San Vito Bird Club) near the Panama border,

where rare and near the edge of its wintering range. A small population of Slaty-tailed Trogons (at least 2) was found in humid broadleaf forest 5 km nw. of R. Amarillo (v.r. KE) 26 Apr, which extends the range into Copán. Another 3+ were observed in shaded coffee plantations 2.5 km s. of R. Amarillo at the unusual elevation of 1100 m on 13, 14, & 23 Apr (v.r. KE).

KINGFISHERS THROUGH COTINGAS

An Amazon Kingfisher at Cana 4 Apr (FT) was the first reported from this site. An American Pygmy Kingfisher along a creek near R. Amarillo, Copán 28 Apr (KE) was unexpected and a first record for that department. Rare at Cana was a female Rufous-tailed Jacamar 7 Apr (FT). A Tawny-winged Woodcreeper in humid broadleaf forest 5 km n. of R. Amarillo 26 Apr (KE) extends this species' range into Copán, Honduras. A Strong-billed Woodcreeper at Mayflower–Bocavina N.P., *Stann Creek* 3 Mar (BF et al.) was in an area where this highly localized species in Belize had not previously been reported. A Spotted Woodcreeper mist-netted 22 Mar at Montecristo N.P., *Santa Ana* (ph. VG) represented the first record for *Santa Ana* and only the 3rd documented record for El Salvador. The species was not entirely unexpected, however, as one (conceivably the same individual) was found in Jul 2005 in the Honduras portion of the park (KE).

At least 3 Yellow-bellied Tyrannulets at R. Amarillo 23–26 Apr (v.r. KE) extend this species' range into Copán, Honduras. Another species rare at Cana was a Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet 4 Apr (FT). Unexpected along the Pipeline Road was a Yellow-green Tyrannulet heard 2 Mar (GLA). A Rufous-browed Tyrannulet 8 May (KA, TS) on the Sora–El Valle road just above the village of Mato Ahogado,

Panamá, may represent only the 2nd report from this locality. Paltry Tyrannulets were fairly common in humid broadleaf forest and in shaded coffee plantations near R. Amarillo, *Copán* (v.r. KE) on all days from 13 Apr–8 May. This appears to be an isolated population. In Guatemala, a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Rocjá Pomtilá, *Alta Verapaz* 24 May (RC) was a late spring migrant, but a Least Flycatcher there the day before was exceptionally late (EC).

Two Rufous Mourners were singing in humid broadleaf forest 5 km nw. of R. Amarillo 25 Apr, establishing a new locality for the species. It has been recorded at one other site in *Copán*. A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher 11 Mar at Lubaantun, *Toledo* (CL) was early, but a Streaked Flycatcher at Nim Li Punit, *Toledo* 8 Mar (CL) may have established the earliest spring date yet for this uncommon species in Belize. In Costa Rica, at the s. extreme of its winter range, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen in a rice field at Finca 18 in Siepre de Osa (s. Pacific lowlands in the Río Sierpe–Río Terraba delta) 17 Mar (GF). Rarely reported in Panama was a Snowy Cotinga seen 28 km n. of Punta Peña on the road to Almirante, *Bocas del Toro* 14 Apr (RM, DM).

VIREOS THROUGH PIPITS

In Guatemala, the last White-eyed Vireo of the season was reported at Rocjá Pomtilá 14 Apr (EC), and a Yellow-green Vireo at Los Tarrales Reserve, *Suchitepéquez* 6 Mar (KE) was early. At least 9 Green Shrike-Vireos at R. Amarillo 23–28 Apr (v.r. KE) extend this species' range into *Copán*, Honduras. A well-documented Brown-chested Martin was observed with a small group of Gray-breasted Martins between Palmar Sur and Ciudad Cortés in the s. Pacific lowlands along the coastal hwy. 25 Mar (†CaL, DP), and another or the same individual was found not far away 12 Apr at ca. 1000 m in San Vito (†AS). The few previous records from Costa Rica have all been May–mid-Sep. Tree Swallow is a rare migrant in Panama, so a flock seen near the Gatún Yacht Club near Colón 12 Apr (JT) was noteworthy. Providing only the 2nd record for Cocos I. (the first was in Apr 2005) was a group of 6 Cliff Swallows seen 1 May (KEa et al.).

Two Rufous-and-white Wrens found 5 km nw. of R. Amarillo 24–25 Apr (v.r. KE) established a new locality for this species in Honduras. The species is also known from the Valle de Copán about 20 km to the southwest. Another first for Cana in e. *Darién* was a Tropical Gnatcatcher seen 6 Apr (FT). Following the capture of a Slate-colored Solitaire at 150 m elevation in Pico Bonito, *Atlántida* in Feb,



Swallow-tailed Gulls have been reported twice in recent years in North American waters off the Pacific coast of Panama and Costa Rica. This bird was observed before dawn at sea between the Costa Rican mainland and Cocos Island 30 April 2006; it provided the second record for Costa Rica and the second photographically documented record for North America, the first being from Pacific Grove, California, in June 1985. Photograph by Kevin Easley.

another was mist-netted at the same location 26 Mar (MB). A slightly extralimital Hermit Thrush 3 km s. of R. Amarillo 23 Apr (†KE) was apparently the first for Honduras. Rare in e. Panama, a Wood Thrush at Cana 7 Apr (FT) was the first reported from this site; one at Rocjá Pomtilá in Guatemala 6 May (EC) was a late spring migrant. Clay-colored Robins seen at Cana 3–4 Apr (FT) were the first reported from this site.

A Gray Catbird that approached and circled a boat well out to sea en route from Cocos I. 5 May (KEa et al.) and then headed north-



From 29 March (here) until 8 April 2006, a persistent army ant swarm at the Rainforest Aerial Tram adjacent to Braulio Carrillo National Park in Costa Rica enticed as many as three Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoos at a time into the open, where they could easily be observed from the loading platform, the parking lot, the coffee shop, and even from the plate glass windows of the gift shop. The species is rarely observed in the open. Photograph by Warner Bonilla.

ward over the water was most unexpected on the Pacific side of Costa Rica. Tropical Mockingbirds are apparently more common in the Pacific region of Nicaragua than previously

reported. This species was nesting in May along the sw. shoreline of L. Managua in low brush close to shore. Additionally, a singing individual was observed on Chiltepe Pen. 20 Jun (all LL, JM, WA, DK). In Costa Rica, one visited a fruit feeder at Bosque de Paz late Feb–mid-Mar (RaC, VP). This bird was at a new location and at the highest elevation (1600 m) yet reported in Costa Rica. An American Pipit seen daily at the soccer field and along the beach at Wafer Bay, Cocos I. from 1–4 May (ph. KEa et al.) provided only the 3rd record for Costa Rica. Both previous records were from the mouth of the R. Tarcoles, one in autumn 1993 (JV) and another 28 Jan 2005 (JH, RH).

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS

Blue-winged Warbler is seldom reported on the Pacific slope of Guatemala, so 2 seen at Takalik Abaj, *Retalhuleu* 5 Mar (KE, CA) were unexpected. An Orange-crowned Warbler seen at Barra de Santiago, *Ahuachapán* 6 May (JF, TJ) was only the 4th reported for El Salvador and the first in spring. A Nashville Warbler seen near the Gatún Yacht Club, near Colón 31 Mar (JT) established the 2nd Panama record and the first from the Canal Area. A female Blackburnian Warbler at Finca Patrocínio, *Quetzaltenango* 4 Mar (KE, CA) was an exceptionally early migrant. Although there are nearly a dozen documented records of Yellow-throated Warbler in El Salvador, all have been in fall or winter. The first spring record was an individual seen at Merliot, *La Libertad* 23 Mar (TJ).

Although fairly common in winter on the cays, a Prairie Warbler at Pelican Beach, *Stann Creek* 1 Mar (BF et al.) was on the Belize mainland, where the species is seldom seen. As part of an ongoing study of Cerulean Warbler migration routes through n. Central America, 21 Cerulean Warblers were recorded in Apr on the Caribbean coast between Trujillo, *Colón* and Omoa, *Cortés*, and at Copán Ruinas, *Copán* in the interior of Honduras (MW, GC, DA et al.). Similar to last year's results, the mt. ranges facing the Caribbean had the highest densities. A Northern Waterthrush briefly visited the dining area of a boat bound for Cocos I. from the Costa Rican mainland 30 Apr (KEa et al.) before flying off over open ocean to the north. In Honduras, a late Red-faced Warbler in a shaded coffee plantation at R. Amarillo 1 May (CA) and a male Scarlet Tanager mist-netted in nearby broadleaf forest 4 May (ph. KE, CA) both furnished first records for *Copán*.

A small outlying population of Flame-colored Tanagers was discovered on top of Mt. Margaret, *Cayo* in 1994 (MM) and found

again in 1997, when 6 were counted (LJ). A short expedition to the peak 8–9 May (MM) documented a single individual, suggesting that the population is extant but perhaps not for long. The status of Golden-hooded Tanager in w. Honduras is poorly understood. Several individuals, including a pair nest-building at the unusual elevation of 1100 m, were found 23 Apr and 2 & 6 May in shaded coffee plantations 3 km s. and se. of R. Amarillo (ph., v.r. KE, CA) and 27 Apr and 8 May along the edge of humid broadleaf forest 5 km nw. of R. Amarillo (KE). These represented new localities for this tanager, although the species has been recorded at one other site in Copán.

SEEDEATERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

After an absence of reports in Belize for several years, about 6 Slate-colored Seedeaters were found in spiny bamboo along the Sibun R., Cayo 16 Apr+ (EB, DB), less than one km downstream of its confluence with Caves Branch. The following day, 2 more were found nearby at Hellgate. The Slate-colored Seedeaters at Carara N.P., Costa Rica in Feb remained until at least late Apr. A late report of ca. 6 Yellow-bellied Seedeaters seen along the Peninsula road by L. Arenal Dam 1 Feb (JJG) may have provided the first record for the Caribbean lowlands of Costa Rica. The only other place on the Caribbean side where they are known to occur is around Cartago. This record is also much farther n. and w. than any previous records. Many Nicaraguan Seed-Finches were seen in abandoned rice fields w. of Changuinola, Bocas del Toro 15–17 Apr (DM, RM, KK); there are few previous reports from Panama.

A young (molting) male Blue Seedeater captured 6 Apr and a female captured 7 Apr at El Imposible N.P. (ph. LA) provided only the 2nd and 3rd spring records for El Salvador. A Yellow-faced Grassquit near Mile 24 on the Western Hwy. 9 Apr (PB) represented a short northward range extension of this species in Belize. After two decades of rapid expansion following its discovery in Belize around 1980, the population appears now to have stabilized. A small population of Orange-billed Sparrows was found in humid broadleaf forest 5 km nw. of R. Amarillo, Copán 25 Apr (v.r. KE). This population is substantially isolated from the known range of this species near the Caribbean coast, by perhaps 50 km or more.

In Guatemala, at least one Savannah Sparrow was seen 2 Mar in grass savannah at ca. 2800 m between Momostenango and San Francisco El Alto, Totonicapán (JB, KE), where nesting has been assumed but not confirmed. Another was seen 13 Apr in the Sier-

ra de los Cuchumatanes, 2 km s. of Páquix, Huehuetenango (ph. TJ). Grayish Saltator, first reported for Panama in 2003, now appears to be fairly common around Changuinola in Bocas del Toro. One was seen on a side road off the main road between Changuinola and Guabito 21 Mar, and another was heard at a different location along the main road the same day (KK, RM). Several were seen and heard at various localities around Changuinola 14–18 Apr (RM, DM, KK). Another isolated rainforest species found in humid



An American Pipit, only the third recorded in Costa Rica, was observed on the beach at Wafer Bay, Cocos Island from 1 (here) through 4 May 2006; it was located by a birding tour group visiting the island. Photograph by Kevin Easley.

broadleaf forest 5 km nw. of R. Amarillo is Black-faced Grosbeak, of which 2 were found singing 24 Apr (v.r. KE).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH EUPHONIAS

A female Bobolink seen perched at Wafer Bay and a male seen in flight over Chatham Bay, Cocos I. 4 May (KEa et al.) were unexpected. There are several previous spring records from Cocos I. between 28 Mar and 26 Apr. It is extremely rare on the mainland in spring. On 26 Mar, at least 6 male Red-winged Blackbirds were observed at Rubelsanto, Alta Verapaz, where a lone singing male had been present this past winter (KE, CA). These recent records apparently represent a significant range expansion. At least 6 Eastern Meadowlarks were seen near the village of El Tucán Uno in s. Petén 28 Mar (KE, CA). The site is 80 km s. of a known population at La Libertad. Although PROEVAL RAXMU has been conducting monthly bird monitoring since 2001 in Rocjá Pomtilá, Alta Verapaz, Eastern Meadowlark was not recorded there until 25 May (JC).

Shiny Cowbirds were seen in fair numbers in the Cana Station clearing daily 3–5 Apr (FT). There are few if any previous records from this site. A Black-cowled Oriole seen 10 Apr (LG, LC, LM, G&HL), and a pair present

until the 17th (HL) in the R. Tarcoles mangroves on the cen. Pacific coast near Carara N.P., provided more reports of this species for the Pacific slope, where it has appeared recently in widely separated areas. Although these birds have lingered for a few weeks or a month, an established population has yet to be documented. Single Orange-crowned Orioles seen at Cana 3–4 Apr (FT) were the first records from this site. In El Salvador, the Yellow-winged Cacique colonization documented in summer 2005 was reconfirmed 7 May this year, with at least 10 nests near Los Cóbano, Sonsonate (ph. TJ, OK, JF). At the colony site, 8 ad. males and 3 females were observed, while 3 males (2 of them second-year birds) were found up to 5 km away. A male White-vented Euphonia was closely observed in Pico Bonito N.P., Atlántida 24 May (DA). Surprisingly, this species had only been reported in Honduras twice before, and neither was adequately documented.

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West Indies & Bermuda



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It has been said that the pelagic zones offer some of birding's last frontiers, and the tropics of the Atlantic and Caribbean surely hold many new discoveries, especially the waters well offshore. At Guadeloupe, extensive seawatching by Levesque and others has rewritten the status and distribution of many seabirds, and more birders and birding visitors in the Caribbean are following suit, particularly in the Bahamas. The vast numbers of Manx Shearwaters seen migrating off Guadeloupe, for instance, confirm that the spring migration route passes from eastern South America to the waters east of the Lesser Antilles before turning to the northeast. The observation of rarer tubenoses at Guadeloupe, such as Bulwer's Petrel (now four sightings 2003–2006), hint at what may pass farther offshore. A set of coordinated seawatches stretching the length of the Lesser Antilles would surely produce even more surprises.

At St. Lucia, the habitat of White-breasted Thrasher is under siege by development for a large resort. Although the planners say some areas will be protected, others feel it will be insufficient to ensure the long-term survival of this critically endangered West Indian endemic bird.

WATERFOWL THROUGH VULTURES

Eighteen Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at Reef G.C., Grand Bahama 28–29 May were without precedent (M&AA); they may have come from Florida, where the population is burgeoning, or from Central/South America (subspecies not determined). There were 14 West Indian Whistling-Ducks at Tarpon Ponds, Fresh Creek, Andros, Bahamas 6–7 May (OG); one with ducklings was observed at Rock Sound Airport 9 Apr, confirming breeding on Eleuthera, Bahamas (DC); 11 were at George Town, Exumas, Bahamas 25 May (PF); and one with ducklings was at Lee

Stocking I., Exumas 31 May (*vide* CW). On Antigua, 10 West Indian Whistling-Ducks, 400 White-cheeked Pintails, and a female Ring-necked Duck were found at McKinnon Salt Pond 19 Apr (AJ). A Snow Goose was at Four Seasons Resort, Great Exuma, Bahamas 9 Apr (PD, ph. RS), and 2 Canada Geese were at Coral Harbour, New Providence, Bahamas 11 May (M&FD). At Seymour's Pond, Bermuda, 2 Gadwalls were noted 24 Mar–4 Apr (DBW) and 2 Eurasian Wigeons 29 Dec–11 Mar (AD). A Northern Shoveler was at Harrold & Wilson Ponds N.P., New Providence, Bahamas 3 Mar (CW, GG, PF, TT), and a Northern Pintail spent the entire season near Treasure Cay, Abaco, Bahamas (EB). Single American Wigeons on Eleuthera, Bahamas were at Rock Sound 7 Apr (DC) and at Gregory Town 22–23 Apr (LG). A Greater Scaup was on Tucker's Point G.C. Pond, Bermuda 13 Mar (EA). At Le Gosier, Guadeloupe, Levesque saw the continuing male Garganey 27 Mar, plus 52 Blue-

2002 and 2003 (JM). A feeding flock of Audubon's Shearwaters off Man-o'-War Cay, Bahamas 20 May (EB) was likely a sign of local breeding success; 500 were counted 20 Apr in Exuma Sound, Bahamas (NMc). Young Audubon's fledged in this area around mid-Apr.

At Dominica, a distant White-tailed Tropicbird was seen from the s. end of the island 16 Apr (AJ); 15 were at Little Harbour, Abaco, Bahamas 10–12 Mar (PD, LL, LH); and up to 25 courted around the cliffs of Guajataca, Puerto Rico in late Mar (ESB, GLA). Four Red-billed Tropicbirds were noted breeding at The Highlands, Barbuda 20 Apr (AJ). Three ad. Masked Boobies were photographed on Booby Rock off nw. Mayaguana, Bahamas 19 Mar (OG, ph. TH), and a subad. was seen 16 km off Great Guana Cay, Abaco, Bahamas 20 Apr (EB). At Pointe des Châteaux, Guadeloupe, there were 3 Masked Boobies 14 May (AL, AM, AR). A Great Cormorant that wintered in Great Sound, Bermuda was last seen



This intergrade Sandwich Tern \times Cayenne Tern, photographed 30 March 2006 at the ferry terminal in Fajardo, Puerto Rico, is typical of birds that nest not far away in the Virgin Islands (see *North American Birds* 57: 566–572). Photograph by George L. Armistead.

winged Teal and a female Lesser Scaup. Five Masked Ducks were found near Dark Wood Salt Pond, Antigua 2 Apr (NL), very unusual here, and up to 5 were near Humacao for much of the season (J. Novogradac, m.ob.). Six Ruddy Ducks were at McKinnon Salt Pond 19 Apr, and an imm. male was near Trois Îles, Martinique 13 Apr (AJ), further evidence of expansion in the Region.

Despite the setbacks to the Bermuda Petrel program caused in 2003 by Hurricane *Fabian*, which destroyed many nest-sites, breeding success continued in Bermuda, with 38 chicks fledged by Jun 2006. This year also witnessed the return of the first chicks to have been banded as fledglings, from the cohorts in

11 Mar (AD). Up to 7 unidentified cormorants were on a large buoy near the airport in Montego Bay, Jamaica 2 Mar, with another at the water treatment plant in Montego Bay (TL, LU). At least 4 Anhingas wintered on New Providence over 2005–2006: on 4 Mar, 2 males and 2 females were seen over Cable Beach, Bahamas (OG, ph. TH), while 3 were seen at nearby ponds 20 Apr (RS, PD). Magnificent Frigatebirds on Bermuda continued until 5 Apr, with 2 over St. David's (GA).

A Gray Heron at Spittal Pond, Bermuda 22–27 Apr (DBW) provided the first live record for this species in Bermuda. On Antigua, 300 Great Egrets and 350 Snowy Egrets were counted at McKinnon Pond 21 Apr, and 2 Lit-

Table 1. Spring passage dates for pelagic species noted off the Bahamas, Dominica, Guadeloupe.

Species	No.	Date	Locations and Observers
Black-capped Petrel	1	3 Apr	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
Cory's Shearwater	1	3 Apr	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
	1	23 Apr	La Désirade, Guadeloupe
	1	30 Apr	Stocking I., Exumas, Bahamas (PF)
	3	20 May	Tilloo Cay, Bahamas (EB)
	137	May**	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
Greater Shearwater	1	May**	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
Sooty Shearwater	6	May**	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
Manx Shearwater	635	Mar*	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
	99	3 Apr	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
	21	23 Apr	La Désirade, Guadeloupe
	8	May**	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
Audubon's Shearwater	3	Mar*	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
	47	3 Apr	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
	500	20 Apr	Exuma Sound, Bahamas (NMc)
	17	23 Apr	La Désirade, Guadeloupe
	120+	20 May	Man-O-War Cay, Bahamas (EB)
	55+	May**	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
unidentified shearwater	9	Mar*	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
	20	May**	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	6	Mar*	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
	12	3 Apr	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
	27	May**	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
Leach's Storm-Petrel	4	Mar*	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
	11	3 Apr	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
	1	20 May	Tilloo Cay, Bahamas
	3	May**	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
unidentified storm-petrel	23	Mar*	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
	1	23 Apr	La Désirade, Guadeloupe
	16	May	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
South Polar Skua	1	May**	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
unidentified skua	2	May	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
Pomarine Jaeger	8	23 Apr	La Désirade, Guadeloupe
	3	3 Apr	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
	1	16 Apr	s. end of Dominica (AJ)
	1	24 May	off Manjack Cay, Abaco, Bahamas (EB)
	1	May**	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
Parasitic Jaeger	4	Mar*	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
	15	3 Apr	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
	2	May**	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
unidentified jaeger	2	Mar*	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
	10	3 Apr	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe
	2	23 Apr	La Désirade, Guadeloupe
	1	May	Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe

*16 hours total seawatching in Mar at Petite-Terre N.R. (AL)

**11 hours total seawatching in May at Petite-Terre N.R. (AL)



This road-killed Puerto Rican Nightjar was an unfortunate find near Sabana Grande, Puerto Rico 5 April 2006; the species is listed as critically endangered, though it has been found nesting (or presumably nesting) in several new locations in recent years, including the locale where this male was found. Photograph by George L. Armistead.

tle Egrets were there 19 Apr (ph. AJ), along with 400 Cattle Egrets, including some nesting. Ten Glossy Ibis were noted at Gregory Town, Eleuthera, Bahamas 24 Apr (LG), and 2 flew over Warwick, Bermuda 8 May and settled at Devonshire Marsh (AD). The species is clearly becoming more common on Puerto Rico, where nesting has recently been documented; several were at Laguna Cartagena N.W.R. and Humacao refuge through late Mar–early Apr (ESB, GLA, m.ob.). Five Black Vultures were noted on Grenada at Perseverance dump 8 Apr (AJ).

RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS

A Swallow-tailed Kite was seen at Marsh Harbour and at Treasure Cay, Abaco, Bahamas 27 Apr (EB); another was seen at Gibbs Hill, Bermuda 7-11 May (TW). A Northern Harrier was at Harold & Wilson Ponds N.P., Bahamas 3 Mar (CW, GG, PF, TT); others were on Bermuda at the airport 5 Apr and at Great Sound 7 Apr (AD), the last dates for the island this season. While banding birds at Petite-Terre Nature Reserve (hereafter, N.R.) 4 Mar, Levesque saw a Merlin fly in and out of a mist-net in pursuit of a Bananaquit. Single Peregrine Falcons in Bermuda were noted 3 May over Flatts Hill (JM) and 15 May over Morgan's Pt. (AD). Four Common Black-Hawks were seen at Vermont Forest, St. Vincent 10 Apr (AJ). A pair of Red-tailed Hawks built a nest at Morgan's Pt., Bermuda in Mar, but the breeding attempt was unsuccessful (AD); this was the first breeding attempt on Bermuda in over 100 years. A Hook-billed Kite was seen at Mt. Hartman, Grenada 8 Apr (JV).

Levesque counted 373 Common Moorhens at Le Gosier, Guadeloupe 17 Apr. An American Golden-Plover was at Stocks Harbour, Bermuda 29 Apr–11 May (EA, PW). Three Piping



Recent breeding of West Indian Whistling-Ducks on Eleuthera, Bahamas was confirmed by photographs of this family at Rock Sound Airport 9 March 2006. Photograph by David Currie.

Plovers were at Grape Bay, Bermuda 1 May (PW). On 5 May, Flamingo Cay, Ragged Is., Bahamas held 3 Semipalmated and 2 Wilson's Plovers and 15 Semipalmated Sandpipers (PF). Piping Plover was last noted on Green Turtle Cay, Bahamas 10 May (EB). Single Black-necked Stilts in Bermuda were seen at North Pond 23 Mar–5 Apr (GB) and Spittal Pond 22–27 May (PA). On 22 Mar, a wintering Eurasian Whimbrel was among several shorebirds at Guadeloupe (AL). A Whimbrel (of the American subspecies *hudsonicus*) was seen 17 Mar at Vieques, Puerto Rico, where more than 300 Stilt Sandpipers were noted at Laguna Navio 19 Mar (DG, BM). On Antigua, 60 Stilt Sandpipers were found at McKinnon Salt Pond 19 Apr (AJ). A smattering of spring shorebirds arrived in Bermuda in May, including a Stilt Sandpiper at North Pond 6 May and single White-rumped Sandpipers at North Pond and Jubilee Rd. 21 May (AD).

A Black-headed Gull was last seen 7 Apr in Hamilton Harbour, Bermuda (AD). At McKinnon Salt Pond, Antigua, Jaramillo estimated 1000 Laughing Gulls 19 Apr and noted a Lesser Black-backed Gull and about 100 Least Terns 21 Apr. There was a movement of Bonaparte's Gulls into Bermuda in Mar, with 17 seen in Hamilton Harbour 20 Mar (PW). On Martinique, a Ring-billed Gull was found s. of St. Pierre 14 Apr (AJ). In the Bahamas, 6 Great Black-backed Gulls were reported: one at Bimini 2 Mar (BP), 3 at Great Stirrup Cay (Coco Cay), Berry Is. 12 Mar (DF), and 2 near Taino Beach, Grand Bahama 29 Mar (EG). Lesser Black-backed Gull reports included 2 at Bimini 2 Mar (BP) and one at Great Stirrup Cay 12 Mar (DF). Gull-billed Terns returned to s. Eleuthera, Bahamas 23 Apr (DC, JW, RB, KP, EJ). Five Royal Terns wintered in Bermuda, most often seen at Dockyard (AD); at least 3 remained into May. Two Sandwich Terns were seen 12 May at Petite-Terre N.R. (AL); an apparent Cayenne Tern × Sandwich Tern intergrade was photographed at the ferry terminal at Fajardo, Puerto Rico 30 Mar (ph. GLA). A mixed flock of shearwaters and frigatebirds noted in Exuma Sound, Bahamas 20 Apr (NMc) also contained 25 Sooty and 20

Roseate Terns. Fifty Bridled Terns were counted at sea 8 Apr off Petite-Terre N.R. (AL).

PIGEONS THROUGH SWALLOWS

A Scaly-naped Pigeon at Petite-Terre N.R. 6 May was unexpected on that islet (AL). At Barbuda, Jaramillo noted a White-winged Dove at Coddington Lagoon 20 Apr. A

White-winged Dove at St. François 22 Apr (ARa) and 2 there 27 Apr (AL, FD, ARa) made Guadeloupe's 2nd and 3rd records. Fifteen Plain Pigeons were gathering nesting material and feeding in African Tulip Trees in Gran Sabana, Puerto Rico 6 Apr (ESB, GLA et al.), and one was perched along the hwy. just 10 km n.

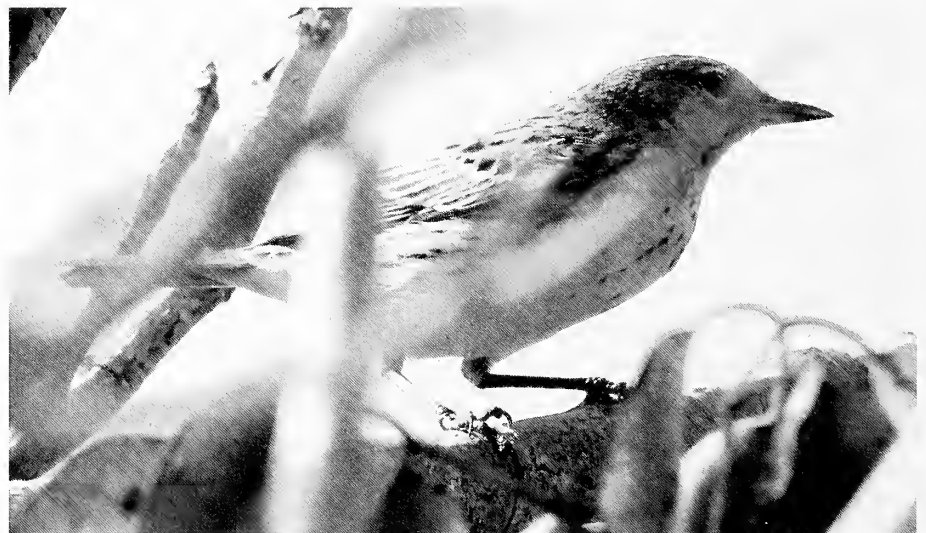


Four Aningas soaring over Cable Beach near Nassau, Bahamas 4 March 2006 made a remarkable sight. The few previous Bahamian records of the species have been of single birds. Photograph by Tony Hepburn.

of Humacao the day before (ESB). A marvelous combination of Plain Pigeon, Ashy-faced Owl, Ridgway's Hawk, and White-necked Crow was observed at Los Haitises N.P. 26 Mar (KW, DG et al.), while two days later in the Sierra de Batoruco, the same observers found the recently split Hispaniolan Quail-Dove, Golden Swallow, Hispaniolan Emerald, La Selle Thrush, Hispan-

iolan Trogon, and Hispaniolan Pewee, with the recently split Eastern Chat-Tanager observed at Cachote on the next day. Six Grenada Doves were found 8 Apr at Mt. Harman 8 Apr (AJ). On Martinique, a Bridled Quail-Dove was seen at Fond Baron Rd. 14 Apr (AJ); 6 were at Chutes du Carbet, Guadeloupe 18 Apr (AL); and 4 were seen and one nicely photographed 23 Mar on Mt. Pirata, Vieques, Puerto Rico (ph. DG, BM). This species is poorly known through much of its range but particularly in Puerto Rico. Four Ruddy Quail-Doves provided good views along the Des Cartiers trail, St. Lucia 14 Apr (SW).

Bahama Parrots on s. Abaco were counted 29 Apr–7 May; the population stands at about 3199 birds there (FRM), the increase over the 2005 census attributed to the fact that the birds were widely dispersed in 2005 after Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne, and probably to the earlier date of this year's census. At the Syndicate, Dominica, 40 Red-necked and 2 Imperial Parrots were found close to the Visitor Center 16 Apr (AJ). Single Yellow-billed Cuckoos were at the Retreat, Nassau, Bahamas 4 Apr (PM) and Winton, Nassau 15 May (LH), and 6 were at the fruit farm, Abaco, Bahamas 24 May (EB). On 8 Apr, an Ashy-faced Owl was heard at Mt. Hartman, Grenada, and another was heard calling 10 Apr at St. Vincent (AJ). On St. Lucia, 2 Rufous Nightjars were heard calling at Grand Anse 12 Apr (AJ). A Puerto Rican Nightjar, a critically endangered species, was found road-killed near Sabana Grande at the entrance gate to Susua S.E., a new location for the species, 5 Apr (ESB, ph. GLA et al.). At Pointe des Châteaux, Guadeloupe, Levesque saw and heard Antillean Nighthawk 14 May. A Common Nighthawk was over Nonsuch I., Bermuda 23 May (PW).



On 11 March 2006 (here), Lionel Levine found this female Kirtland's Warbler near Hole-in-the-Wall, Abaco, Bahamas. A male was found in the same area in November and December 1999. Photograph by Lionel Levine.



Masked Boobies do not presently breed in the Bahamas, but these two at Booby Rock, Mayaguana 19 March 2006 suggest that breeding may occur in the near future. Photograph by Tony Hepburn.

A Chimney Swift at Harrold & Wilson Ponds N.P. 13 May was the first for the park (TH, LH, KHL, WP, PD). On St. Lucia, 3 Short-tailed Swifts were in the Des Cartiers area 12 Apr (AJ). Two Blue-headed Hummingbirds were seen on Fond Baron Rd., Martinique 14 Apr (AJ). A Northern Flicker was at Devonshire Church, Bermuda 1 Mar (SD).

A Lesser Antillean Flycatcher was noted at Duclos (Petit-Bourg), Guadeloupe 14 May (AL, AR). Gray Kingbirds are summer residents in the Bahamas that appear to be arriving earlier than in the past. Brudenell-Bruce, writing in *Birds of New Providence and the Bahama Islands* (1975), indicates that Gray Kingbirds arrive in the latter half of Apr, with 31 Mar as the extreme early date. This spring, Grays were first reported in Eleuthera 4 Mar (DC, RB) and Grand Bahama 11 Mar (EG). A Gray Kingbird was found 23 May at Brighton Hill, Bermuda (DW), where there are at least 33 other records of the species 1850–2005, totaling about 37 birds; there are about a dozen previous spring reports. Levesque counted 332 Caribbean Martins at Pointe à Pitre, Guadeloupe 6 Mar. The taxonomic status of House Wren in the Lesser Antilles is still in need of review; Jaramillo and party again managed to see and document four populations this year: 4 birds on Dominica 16 Apr; 2 at Grand Anse, St. Lucia 12 Apr; 6 on St. Vincent 11 Apr; and 12 at Grenada 8 Apr. Voice-recordings were made of all four populations, and those on Dominica and St. Lucia were also photographed; these will be compared as more data on these taxa are gathered.

VIREOS THROUGH WAXBILLS

Brudenell-Bruce (1975) indicates that Black-whiskered Vireos arrive in the Bahamas in late Apr, with the earliest date 12 Apr. This spring, they were reported at Mayaguana 18 Mar (OG), Grand Bahama 24 Mar (EG), Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Is. 26 Mar (SW), Nas-

sau 9 & 14 Apr (LH, PD), and Eleuthera 16 Apr (DC). A Red-eyed Vireo was at Somerset Long Bay, Bermuda 7 May (EA); 2 were at Petite-Terre N.R. 22 Apr (AL); and one was mist-netted five days later at nearby Pointe des Châteaux (AL). A Yellow-throated Vireo at Petite-Terre N.R. 10 Apr provided only the 3rd record for Guadeloupe (AL). At Presqu'île de la Caravelle, Martinique—in one of the most threatened habitats of one of the most endangered species in the Region—3 White-breasted

Thrashers were found 14 Apr (AJ); on St. Lucia, a pair was in coastal scrub near Preslin 15 Apr (SW). Two Rufous-throated Solitaires were along the Des Cartiers trail, St. Lucia 16 Apr (SW). A Veery came to a bird bath in Jenningsland, Bermuda 16 Apr (JM, LM), while a Wood Thrush near the railway trail in Somerset provided a rare winter/spring record for Bermuda 31 Jan–23 Mar (DW). On Dominica, 2 Red-legged Thrushes were seen in the Syndicate area, and 2 Forest Thrushes were found close to the Visitor Center 14 Apr (AJ).

A Tennessee Warbler was mist-netted at Tarpum Bay, Eleuthera, Bahamas 22 Apr (DC, JW). A Nashville Warbler was along Waterloo Rd., Nassau, Bahamas 6 Mar (PD), and one was near Rock Sound, Eleuthera 29 Mar (DC). Few migrant warblers were recorded in the spring in Bermuda, but notable sightings

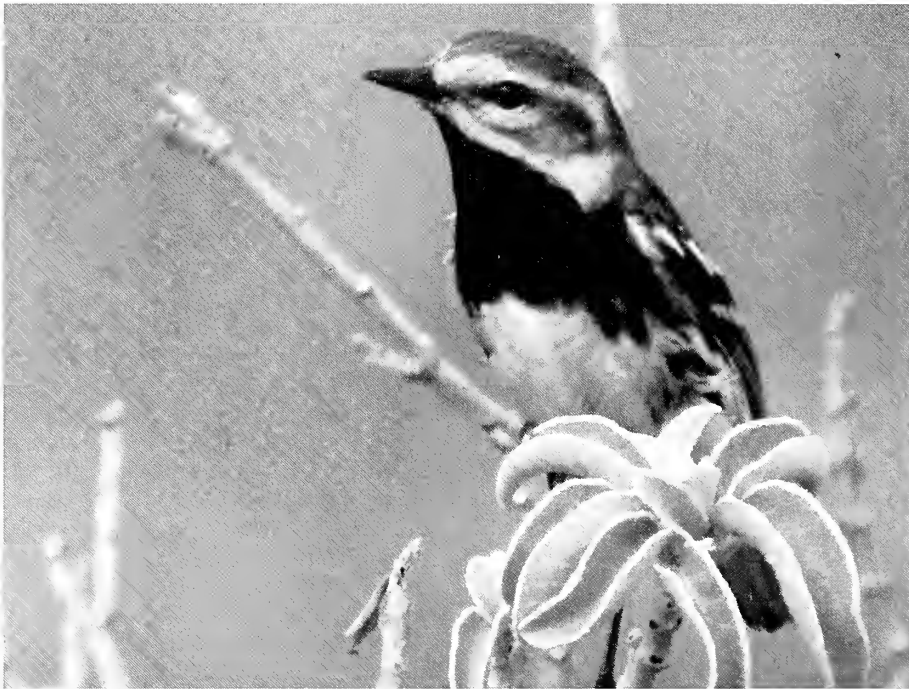


This Palm Warbler (of the nominate subspecies), the fifth for Guadeloupe, was at Petite-Terre Nature Reserve 15–18 (here 15) May 2006. Photograph by Anthony Levesque.

included a Blue-winged Warbler 20 Apr on Paget I. (AD) and Bay-breasted Warbler 7 May on Wreck Rd. (EA). Twenty-three Yellow-rumped Warblers in Mayaguana, Bahamas 17 Mar (OG) were farther s. in that country than usual. On 28 Mar and 3 Apr, a Yellow-rumped

Warbler was at Petite-Terre N.R., with a Prothonotary Warbler on the latter date (AL). Also at that location were a male Black-throated Green Warbler 5 May (male; plus a female 12–13 May); 2 Blackpoll Warblers 13–18 May (and another 17–18 May); a Palm Warbler of the nominate subspecies 13–18 May; a female Nashville Warbler 17 May (a first record for Guadeloupe); and single Magnolia and Prairie Warblers 18 May (AL). A Prothonotary Warbler was at the Rand Nature Centre, Grand Bahama 8 Apr (EG). A female Kirtland's Warbler was photographed near the jct. of Hole-in-the-Wall Rd. and Soldier Rd., Abaco, Bahamas 11 Mar (LL); it was relocated there two weeks later (EB, HA, HP). Over the past four winters, the Kirtland's Warbler Research and Training Project has banded 113 Kirtland's Warblers in s. Eleuthera (J. Wunderle et al.). The recent split of Adelaide's Warbler into single-island endemics (Adelaide's Warbler on Puerto Rico, Barbuda Warbler, and St. Lucia Warbler) has meant more attention to these former subspecies by birders. Up to 20 Barbuda Warblers were noted in scrubland habitat 20 Apr (AJ), and 12 St. Lucia Warblers were noted at both Des Cartiers and Grand Anse, St. Lucia 12 Apr (AJ). A male Connecticut Warbler was seen 18 Mar at Puerto Mosquito, Vieques (ph. DG, BM), for one of the few records from Puerto Rico. A Wilson's Warbler at La Charca, Pedernales, Dominican Republic 30 Mar furnished the 3rd country record (KW, DG, BM, Romney Bathurst).

A Summer Tanager seen in the Arboretum, Bermuda 12 Mar (AD) had certainly wintered; a migrant was at Lyford Cay, New Providence, Bahamas 4 Apr (CF). Scarlet Tanager was widely reported: one at Waterloo Rd., Nassau, Bahamas 28 Apr (PD); one at Barbuda 20 Apr (AJ); one or 2 at Petite-Terre N.R. 19–23 Apr (AL); and one at Somerset Long Bay, Bermuda 2–7 May (*vide* AD). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were even more widespread, found at: Camperdown, Nassau, Bahamas 3 Mar (2; CW, GG, PF, TT); s. Eleuthera, Bahamas 19 & 23 Apr (DC) and 2 May (2; DC, RB); Angelfish Pt., Abaco, Bahamas 22 Apr (EB); Winton, Nassau 1 May (LH); Petite-Terre N.R. 19 Apr (2; AL); Emily's Bay Lane, Bermuda 20 Apr (6; EA); Mt. Pirata, Vieques 23 Mar (2; DG, BM); and Graeme Hall Swamp, Barbados 30 Apr (EM). A molting Blue Grosbeak was carefully noted 5 Mar at the El Greco Resort Hotel, Montego Bay, Jamaica (TL, LU). Mt. Hartman, Grena-



Black-throated Green Warbler, uncommon at best in the Lesser Antilles, was detected at Petite-Terre Nature Reserve 5 May 2006 (here). Photograph by Anthony Levesque.

da, had a Yellow-bellied Seedeater 8 Apr (AJ).

Bobolinks are scarce migrants in Bermuda; singles were at Pitman's Pond 26 Apr (PH) and Brighton Hill 20 May (DW). A male Shiny Cowbird at the Retreat, Nassau, Bahamas 29 May (BG, CW) was an apparent first for that location. A Brown-headed Cowbird at the picnic grounds in Lucaya N.P., Grand Bahama 29 Mar (SR) was also probably the first for the site. A pair of Montserrat Orioles was found 19 Apr (AJ). Two male Balti-

more Orioles were at Tarpum Bay, Eleuthera, Bahamas 11 Apr (DC, JW, RB), one at Chipingham, Nassau, Bahamas 15 Apr (CW, PM), and one at Coral Harbour 4 May (CW, JWu). An ad. male Baltimore Oriole was noted from 17 Apr at Le Gosier (AL, AM), and another was seen 22 Apr at St. François, also on Guadeloupe (ARA), the 2nd and 3rd records for Guadeloupe. Three House Sparrows, including a singing male (first for St. Vincent), were at Kingstown 10 Apr (AJ). A Black-

rumped Waxbill was seen in Devonshire Marsh, Bermuda 24 Feb–12 Mar (SRd); and up to 40 Common Waxbills were noted near Trois Îlets, Martinique 14 Apr (AJ).

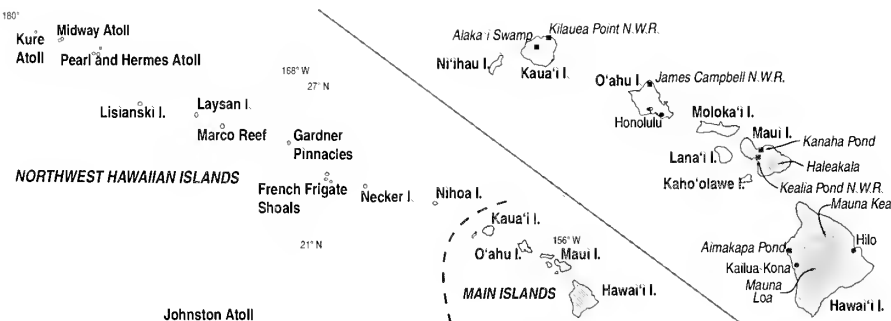
Observers. Mike & Anne Acosta, Hank Adams, Peter Adhemar, Eric Amos, Gerry Ardis, George L. Armistead, Rudy Badia, Bahamas National Trust Ornithology Group (OG), Geoff Bell, Elwood Bracey, Edward S. Brinkley, David Currie, Paul Dean, Steven DeSilva, Andrew Dobson, Monty & Franny Doyle, Frantz Duzont, Patty Foreman, David Freeland, Christine Fuller, Lynn Gape, Erika Gates, Daphne Gemmill, Gary Gray, Barry Grimecy, Lee Hannah, Tony Hepburn, Peter Holmes, Alvaro Jamarillo, Everton Joseph, Neils Larsen, Keva Hannah Lawrence (KHL), Anthony Levesque, Lionel Levine, Tim Lewis, Jeremy & Leila Madeiros, Eddie Massiah, Alain Mathurin, Neil McKinney (NMc), Pre-densa Moore, Bill Mueller, Hagen Peters, Keith Phillippe, William Pinder, Bruce Purdy, Frank Rivera-Milán (FRM), Anasthase Ramsahai (ARA), Alexandre Renaudier, Steve Rodwell (SRd), Shamie Rolle, Ron Spencer, Ted Tanna, Lori Unruh, Jay VanderGaast, David Wallace (DW), Kate Wallace, Carolyn Wardle, Paul Watson, Tim Werthler, Stu Wilson, David Wingate (DBW), Jean Wunderle (JWu), Joe Wunderle. 🌐

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Hawaiian Islands



Robert L. Pyle | **Peter Donaldson**

Very wet weather that began in late February continued through the beginning of April. There was widespread flooding, which was especially devastating on Kaua'i and O'ahu. With so much rain, it was often hard for observers to get out, and some wetland areas remained inaccessible due to the floods.

Abbreviations. H. (Hawai'i I.); HRBP (Hawaiian Rare Bird Documentary Photograph; used with image catalog number from the HRBP file at Bishop Museum, Honolulu); Hakalau (Hakalau N.W.R., 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 I.); Kanaha (Kanaha Pond, Maui I.); Kealia (Kealia Pond N.W.R., Maui I.); Kii (Kii Unit of James Campbell N.W.R., O'ahu I.); Kokee (Koke'e S.P., Kaua'i I.); K.P. (Kilauea Pt. N.W.R., Kaua'i I.); M. (Maui I.); Midway (Midway Atoll N.W.R.); O. (O'ahu I.); Ohiapilo ('Ohi'apilo Pond, Moloka'i I.); Pouhala (Pouhala Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary, O'ahu I.); Waiawa (Waiawa Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O'ahu I.); Waikamoi (Waikamoi Preserve, Maui I.).

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBIS

A number of migrant geese first reported in Dec stayed until Mar or even Apr. A Brant at Pouhala, present since Dec, remained there through at least 19 Mar (BD, KP, MW). Two Brant at Waiakea Pond, H. were still there 24 Mar, and 2 Brant on Moloka'i I. lingered there through at least 29 Apr (ADY). A single Greater White-fronted Goose remained at Honouliuli Mar+ (m.ob.). Another Greater White-fronted, present for many years, was observed at Waiakea Pond, H. Mar+ (m.ob.). Two Cackling Geese, first observed Dec 2004, remained at Honouliuli Mar+ (PD, KP).

Most bay ducks migrated by mid-Mar, while many dabbling ducks lingered well into Apr. These are normal times for the waterfowl to leave. A Cinnamon Teal was observed at Honouliuli 5 Mar (KP) and at Kealia 16 Mar (MN). A Garganey first seen at Honouliuli in Feb was last seen there 5 Mar (KP). A male Eurasian Teal was seen at Waiakea Pond, H. 6 Mar (BD), 24 Mar (DL), and 3 Apr (RD); one at Honouliuli since Feb was last reported 19 Mar (KP). These ducks are all uncommon in the Region. The Hooded Merganser, first spotted on O'ahu in Nov, was last seen 19 Mar at Honouliuli (KP). Hooded Mergansers are rare in the Region. Japanese Quail are believed to be widespread on the main islands, but these elusive birds are seldom reported. A few were heard calling 21 & 25 Mar on the n. slope of Mauna Kea, H. (KI).

Only one Black-footed Albatross was reported, near Lehua I. n. of Ni'ihau I. 21 Apr (TB, DK). Cetacean researchers working off the Kona coast of H. reported 12 total Mottled Petrels 22 & 25 Mar and 10 Apr (RB, DW). Three Hawaiian Petrels (Endangered) were seen flying inland along the coast in s. Kaua'i I. 6 Apr (DK), and one was seen flying inland in the same area 18 Apr (RD). Single Hawaiian Petrels were observed at sea off Kona 10 Apr (RB, DW) and off O'ahu I. 27 Apr (PD, RM, KP, MW). Two Newell's Shearwaters (Threatened) were seen flying inland in s. Kaua'i I. 18 Apr (RD). Two pairs of Newell's

returned to artificial nesting burrows at K.P. and one pair had an egg by 21 May (BZ). A Red-billed Tropicbird was spotted along the coast of se. O'ahu I. near a small colony of nesting Red-tailed Tropicbirds (ph. MW). The Red-billed remained there through at least 27 Apr (m.ob.). Red-billeds are rare in the Region, and the few that do appear are usually seen associating with Red-tailed or White-tailed Tropicbirds.

A Great Blue Heron was observed at Lokowaka Pond, H. 24 Mar (DL). This was probably the same bird seen there Dec and Jan. A Glossy/White-faced Ibis was seen at Kii 21 May (PD), and 2 were observed in Kane'ohe, O. 26 May (CV). *Plegadis ibis* are rare in the Region, but small numbers have been reported quite regularly over the past few years; all identified ibis have been White-faced. An Osprey was seen flying over Pearl Harbor, O. 8 Apr (PD), and a Peregrine Falcon was spotted in Waimanalo, O. 11 Mar (GA, AJ)—flying towards an offshore island full of nesting seabirds. Ospreys and Peregrines are rare but regular in the Region.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH PARAKEETS

Shorebirds departed on schedule. A flock of 300 Pacific Golden-Plovers at Honouliuli in late Apr (MS) had probably gathered there for migration. On 26 May, only one remained (PD). A small flock of Pacific Golden-Plovers was seen departing from Honolulu, O. 20 Apr, and the numbers of plovers in e. Honolulu dwindled rapidly from 26-28 Apr (MO). A Killdeer was seen at Kealia 12 Mar (RP), possibly the same seen there in Jan. The heavy spring rains interfered with Hawaiian Stilt (Endangered) nesting. One nest on Moloka'i I. was flooded 19 Mar, while stilts on O'ahu I. were forced to delay nesting due to high water levels (PD, MS). The American Avocet at Kealia, the only one ever reported in the Region, was still present 12 Mar (RP) and 5 Apr (BD). Good numbers of Bristle-thighed Curlews remained through late May, with 17 at Kii 21 May (PD) and 6 on Moloka'i I. 27 May (ADY). Many of these birds were probably overwintering. A Curlew Sandpiper, rare in the Region, was seen at Honouliuli 10 Apr (KP). A Ruff, uncommon but regular in the Region, was observed at Kealia 20 Mar (MN). We get few reports of phalaropes at sea, but cetacean researchers off Kona, H. spotted an unidentified phalarope 24 Mar and 4 Red Phalaropes 26 Mar (RB, DW).

Gulls were generally scarce, but one Laughing Gull was seen at Kawai'eale, K. 11 Mar (RP), another at Kealia 12 Mar (RP), and 3 were observed at Kealia 5 Apr (BD). Single

Franklin's Gulls were seen at Kealia 20 Apr (MN), in Kona, H. 14 May (ADY), and at Ukumahame, M. 17 May (*vide* F&KS). An Arctic Tern was reported at Kealia 20 Apr (ph. MN). Arctic Terns are rarely reported in the Region, usually as spring migrants.

Mourning Doves are uncommon in the Region, and their status is poorly known. Small numbers have been reported near Honouliuli for the past few years, and some were seen there 19 Mar (KP) and 8 Apr (PD). Singles were seen in nw. Hawai'i I. 20 Mar (H.F.T.) and 11 Apr (RP) and at Alekoko Fishpond, K. 23 Mar (*vide* DL). Seven Burrowing Parrots were seen in Kailua, H. 16 Mar (RP), and 9 Mitred Parakeets were observed in nw. Hawai'i I. 20 Mar (H.F.T.). We seldom get reports of either species, and their status remains poorly known.

PASSERINES

Greater Necklaced Laughingthrushes are believed to be widespread on Kaua'i I., but they are very elusive. A few were found in Kilauea, K. in early Mar (D&AW) and were still present through late Apr (ph. JD). Saffron Finches continue to expand their range on Hawai'i I. Saffrons are being reported regularly in areas of e. Hawai'i I., where they were seldom seen a few years ago. Small, introduced finches, including African Silverbills and Nutmeg Mannikins, were reported to be unusually scarce this spring, as they had been over the winter, in parts of nw. Hawai'i I. where they are usually abundant (DL, RD). Heavy rains certainly did not make it easier to locate these tiny birds. A small flock of Common Waxbills was seen 30 May in Pu'uana'hulu, H., a location where the only waxbills usually reported are Black-rumped (TD, MO). Commons are abundant on O'ahu but are reported sparingly on other main islands.

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First sight record of Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) in Cuba

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Abstract

This paper documents the occurrence of a male Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) on Cayo Coco, Ciego de Ávila province, Cuba on 8 November 2004. Recent trends in breeding and wintering populations and other factors that may be relevant to this record are also considered herein.

Field encounter

On the island of Cayo Coco, Ciego de Ávila province, Cuba, the author located a male Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) at the edge of semideciduous scrub forest along the north sector of the roadway that leads to the Cuatro Caminos y Los Almácigos roundabouts (22° 31.883' N, 78° 22.284' W) at 0900 EDST on 8 November 2004. This location is approximately 1400 m inland from the northern shoreline of the small island, where dense, short coastal scrub has been heavily developed for resort use. Most of the vegetated area of this island is covered with the semideciduous forest, in which the average canopy height ranges from 12 to 15 m. This forest has a significantly high floral diversity and includes several endemic taxa. Among the most numerous plant species in this location are: Gumbo-limbo (*Bursera simaruba*), Pigeon Plum (*Coccoloba diversifolia*), Wild Tamarind (*Lysiloma latisiliqua*), Horsefish Mahogany (*Lysiloma sabicu*), Black Ironwood, or Leadwood (*Krugi dendron ferreum*), Lancewood, or Sweet Torchwood (*Nectandra coriacea*), Ironwood (*Zuelania guidonia*), Mastic or False-mastic (*Mastichodendron foetidissimum*), Poisonwood (*Metopium toxiferum*), and several species of fig (*Ficus*). Bordering the forest in many areas are natural and secondary scrub-shrub communities and low coppice comprised of many plant species, including small examples of the above-mentioned taxa. Particularly, the type of vegetation where the Kirtland's Warbler sighting occurred is a secondary forest classified as low-canopy coppice woodland, in which average tree height ranges from 5 to 6 m. This forested area, as well as many others in Cayo Coco, was heavily used for charcoal production on an industrial scale during several years in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

I observed the bird closely for three minutes. Conditions during the observation were ideal, with clear skies and light wind. The temperature was approximately 27.1° C, with a northeasterly wind of about 20 km/h (Coastal Ecosystem Research Centre, Meteorological Database). The bird remained silent during the observation. It moved actively among smaller branches of smooth-barked hardwood species such as Hicaquillo (*Coccoloba retusa*) and Gumbo-limbo, wagging the tail frequently, at a height of about 2.5–3 m, gleaning insects among small branches and live leaves. It did not appear to take fruit.

I determined the bird to be a male Kirtland's Warbler based on the following features: blue-gray above with distinct blackish streaking on the back; entirely yellow below (throat, breast, and belly), with fairly heavy black streaking on the sides; thin, whitish wing bars; and a bold white eye-ring broken at front and at rear. Many features of structure and plumage ruled out Northern Parula (*Parula americana*), Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*), and MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*), species that likewise show a broken eye-ring (the latter has not yet been recorded in Cuba). The lack of yellow rump further ruled out Yellow-rumped Warbler and also Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*), which in some plumages may be confused with Kirtland's Warbler. On the other hand, the lack of horizontal black/blackish facial markings along with the yellow/yellowish undertail coverts ruled out Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*), which is a common and regular winter resident bird inhabiting different forests and scrubs of the study area. In addition to the specific field marks mentioned above, the individual looked slightly bulkier than most warblers inhabiting these ecosystems.

Discussion

Kirtland's Warbler breeds in dense forests of young Jack Pine (*Pinus banksiana*) in Michigan's Lower Peninsula, with a few breeding records from the state's Upper Peninsula; it is very rare outside of Michigan during summer but has nested or attempted to nest in southern Ontario, southern Québec, and Wisconsin (A.O.U. 1998). The known wintering

grounds lie entirely in the Bahamas, where they are found mostly November through March (extreme dates span late August through late April), although there are at least two reports from the nearby Turks and Caicos Islands (Mayfield 1992, Sykes and Clench 1998). The northern cays of Ciego de Ávila province are relatively close to these wintering grounds, about 150 km away (from Cistern Point, Andros Island). This proximity is probably also the reason that this Cuban sub-archipelago shares several species with the Bahamas (Garrido 1973), i.e., Black-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris bicolor*), Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*), Bahama Mockingbird (*Mimus gundlachii*), and Thick-billed Vireo (*Vireo crassirostris*); the vireo and mockingbird have well-established populations in the archipelago (Garrido and Kirkconnell 2000).

In the Bahamas in recent years, rather high densities of Kirtland's Warblers (up to 10/0.1 km²) have been reported, as well as an increase in the number of new sites in the Bahamas (12 new sites in which at least 30 individuals have been observed between 1 November 2002 through 8 March 2003; Currie et al. 2003). The Kirtland's Warbler Research and Training Project, working in southern Eleuthera, has banded 113 Kirtland's Warblers between October 2003 and March 2006 (J. Wunderle, pers. comm.). The stark increase in Bahamian records is likely related to the recovery of the breeding population in Michigan, from about 167 breeding pairs in 1974 to 1478 singing males in June 2006, as a result of the conservation measurements implemented by the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the U. S. Forest Service, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (Mayfield 1992, Hagner 2006; see also <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10371_10402-148280--,00.html>); the increase is probably also a product of the increase in scientific scrutiny in the Bahamas in recent years. The likelihood of a vagrant appearing on the Atlantic coast of Cuba is almost certainly greater with an expanding population rather than a declining population; and some writers have argued that vagrant passerines are probably indices of an expanding population (Veit 2000). There has been a documented record of the species from Bermuda

18 December 2004 (Amos 2005; photograph in *North American Birds* 59: 372) and at least one sight record from the Dominican Republic (Faanes and Hancy 1989). The habitat in which the Kirtland's was found in Cuba corresponds rather precisely to the species' preferred wintering habitat in the Bahamas (Sykes and Clench 1998), with many genera and species in common between the southern Bahamas and the north coast of Cuba. J. M. Wunderle (pers. comm.) notes that "many of the plant species or genera described at the Cayo Coco site are the same as those found on our Kirtland's Warbler study sites on Eleuthera. We have found that the birds regularly feed on fruit, especially the fruit of plants common in early to mid-successional sites that have been disturbed by man. Fruits of the Wild Sage (*Lantana involucrata* and other *Lantana* spp.), Black Torch (*Erithalis fruticosa*), and West Indian Snowberry (*Chiococca alba* and other *Chiococca* spp.) appear to be especially important."

Meteorological phenomena in the Caribbean such as cold fronts and tropical cyclones have been associated with the arrival of vagrants to Cuba and other Caribbean islands (Garrido and Kirkconnell 2000); the passage of a cold front through the Bahamas during the first week of November 2004 should be also be considered a possible factor for the Kirtland's Warbler's appearance on Cayo Coco.

The observation of the Kirtland's Warbler constitutes an addition to the avifauna of Cuba and addition raises the number of species of Parulidae to 35 for the northern cays of Ciego de Ávila and to 43 for Cuba as a whole (Llanes et al. 2002).

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank to Vicente Osmel Rodríguez for his work reviewing this manuscript, as well as to the Coastal Ecosystem Research Centre based in Cayo Coco, for supplying the meteorological data cited herein and for giving us the opportunity to work in such a remarkable natural setting. Paul W. Sykes, Jr., Dennis Denis, Peter Stanley Burke, and Joseph M. Wunderle kindly reviewed the manuscript and made many helpful suggestions for its improvement.

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First Record of Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*) for the Greater Antilles at St. John, United States Virgin Islands

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Abstract

An adult Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*) was found and photographed at Concordia, St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands, on 25 May and was last seen on 29 May 2003. Its neck color was compared in the field with a color print of Payne's voucher specimens used as a hybrid index and scored as 2 on a scale of 1-9, well within the range of variation for Striated Heron (1-4) and beyond the range of variation for Green Heron (*B. virescens*; 5-9). This record represents the first for the Virgin Islands and Greater Antilles, the second for the West Indies, and the northernmost for the species.

Introduction

The nominate subspecies of Striated Heron (*Butorides s. striata*) resides in continental South America and hybridizes with the nominate subspecies of Green Heron (*Butorides v. virescens*) where their ranges meet in southern Central America and on several southern Caribbean islands (Payne 1974, Voous 1986, Hayes 2002, 2006). Although not known to be migratory, it has strayed across short stretches of ocean to the islands of Cocos (Slud 1967), Bonaire (Voous 1986), and Tobago (Payne 1974, Hayes 2006), and has wandered as far north as Costa Rica in Central America (Stiles and Skutch 1989) and St. Vincent in the Lesser Antilles (Bond 1964, Payne 1974). The latter record, represented by an adult specimen taken on 18 July 1924 (American Museum of Natural History 325328), is the only previous record of the species for the West Indies. Here we document a Striated Heron in the Virgin Islands.

Field encounter

At 11:45 a.m. on 25 May 2003, we found a gray-necked *Butorides* heron in a freshwater pond at Concordia, St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands. We observed the bird foraging from a distance of 40 m until it flew away at 12:12 p.m. Recognizing it immediately as a Striated

Heron, we obtained a series of digiscoped photographs through a 25× spotting scope (Figures 1, 2). Although there was a slight tinge of rufous on the cheeks, the sides of the neck were solid gray with a slight brown wash, and the hindneck was solid pale gray, paler than the back. A rufous-bordered white line extended down the foreneck. There were long plumes on the back. There appeared to be a few white spots on the wing when the bird flew away.

The heron was subsequently observed by Laurel Brannick Trager on 28 May and by Rick Falkenberg on 29 May; on the latter occasion, it was twice chased away by a Green Heron. Subsequent attempts to relocate it at the same pond or in other wetlands of the island were unsuccessful.

Identification

The solid neck coloration and long back plumes, combined with possible white spotting on the wing coverts, indicate it was an adult or subadult that had acquired definitive adult neck coloration (Davis and Kushlan 1994, Hayes 2002). The distinctly gray sides and rear of the neck (Figures 1, 2) distinguished it from the locally breeding Green Heron, which has a rufous neck (Hayes 2002). The slight tinges of rufous on its face (Figures 1, 2) and the rufous lines on the foreneck are normal for a Striated Heron (Hayes 2002). The neck color of the bird was compared directly in the field with a color print of Payne's (1974) voucher specimens used as a hybrid index between *B. virescens* and *B. striata* and scored as a 2 on a scale of 1-9, well within the range of variation for Striated Heron (1-4) and beyond the range of variation for Green Heron (5-9; see Hayes 2002). By contrast, neck-color scores of Green Herons observed by us throughout the U.S. Virgin Islands from September 2002 through July 2003, based on the first observation or highest count of birds seen at

localities >1 km apart, averaged 7.1 (SD = 0.6, range = 6-9, $n = 35$). Neck-color scores of Green Heron specimens averaged 7.7 (SD = 0.9, range = 7-9, $n = 43$) in the Greater Antilles and 7.0 (SD = 0.5, range = 6-8, $n = 31$) in the Lesser Antilles (Payne 1974). The Striated Heron specimen from St. Vincent had a neck-color score of 3 (Payne 1974; Hayes, unpubl. photograph of specimen).

The low neck-color score strongly suggests it was neither a hybrid from southern Central America, the southern Caribbean, and northern South America—where intermediate birds with a neck-color score of 5 occur (Payne 1974, Hayes 2002, 2006)—nor an individual of the paler Bahamian subspecies (*B. s. bahamensis*), in which a few have a neck-color score of 5 (Payne 1974). Because no similarly gray-necked *Butorides* have been collected or reported in North America (Payne 1974), we believe this bird was a Striated Heron rather than an aberrantly pigmented Green Heron.

Discussion

This record represents the first of the species for the Virgin Islands and Greater Antilles (the Virgin Islands are located on the eastern bank of the Greater Antilles), only the second for the West Indies, and the northernmost record in the New World. Natural vagrancy may have been overlooked in the past and should be expected to occur elsewhere in the West Indies. Birders should be aware of the differences between Green and Striated Herons (Hayes 2002) and should be alert for the latter in the Caribbean and perhaps even southern North America.

Acknowledgments

Field work was funded by grant W-16, "Wetlands Conservation, St. Thomas / St. John," from the United States Fish & Wildlife Service. We thank L. Brannick Trager and R. Falkenberg for sharing their observations with us.



Figures 1, 2. Adult Striated Heron (*Butorides virescens*) at Concordia, St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands, on 25 May 2003. Photographs by Floyd E. Hayes.

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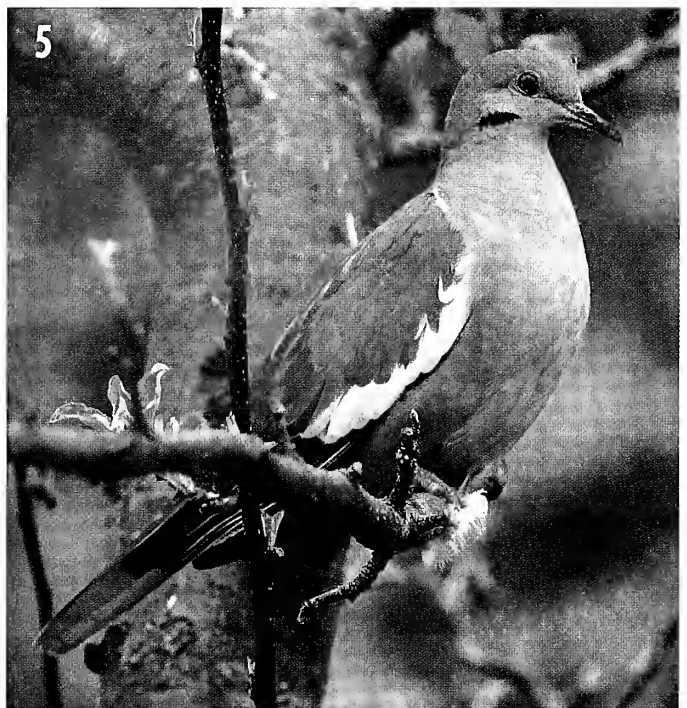
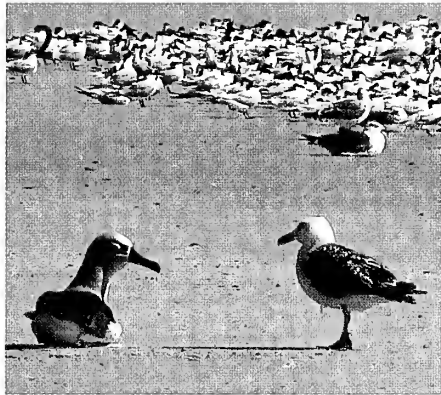
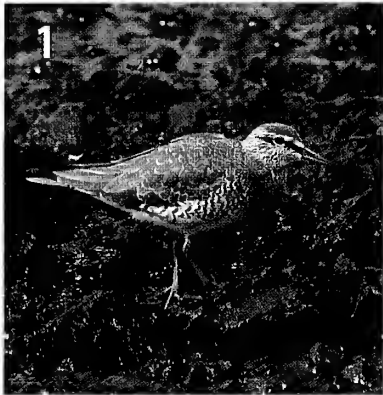
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Pictorial Highlights



1 • Gray-tailed Tattler, a rare but regular migrant through the western Aleutian Islands, was found 23 May 2006 (here) at Sweeper Creek, Adak Island, Alaska, where present through month's end. *Photograph by John Puschock.*

2 • This adult Yellow-nosed Albatross was a complete surprise on the beach near Cape Hatteras, North Carolina 11 April 2006. This individual, being studied by a Great Black-backed Gull, represented the third documented Yellow-nosed for that state. Interestingly, the second was found exactly two years earlier (to the day) at the same location! *Photograph by Joseph Byrnes.*

3 • Numbers of Wood Sandpipers at Adak Island, Alaska topped 100 by 17 May 2006; this bird was found 15 May at Contractor's Camp marsh. *Photograph by John Puschock.*

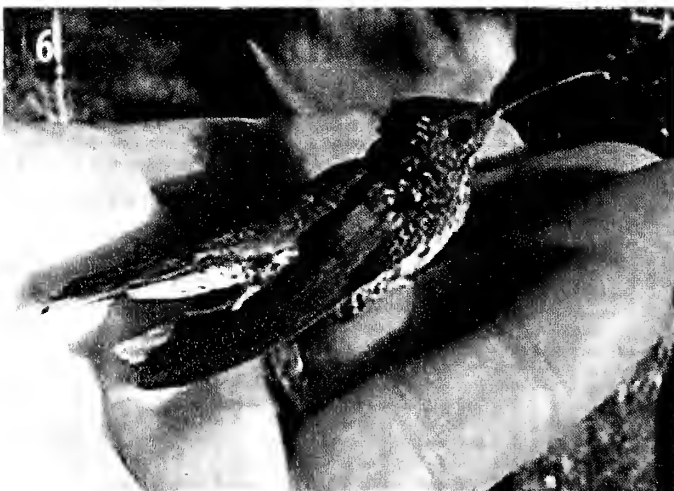
4 • The male Eurasian Siskin attended the photographer's feeder in Alma, New Brunswick, on 29 April 2006 and lingered until the following morning. *Photograph by David Christie.*

5 • This White-winged Dove at Clarendville, Newfoundland 20 May 2006 marked the fifth record for the province of Newfoundland & Labrador. *Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.*

6 • This adult Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Marana, Arizona 15 May was one of five found in the state in spring 2006 this spring, an above-average number. *Photograph by Al Tozier.*

6





1 • This Rufous-capped Warbler (here 25 March 2006) was photographed in Sycamore Canyon, Santa Cruz County, Arizona, where the species has been reported since at least November of 2005. Rufous-capped Warbler has become almost annual in the state since 1993. *Photograph by Henry Detwiler.*

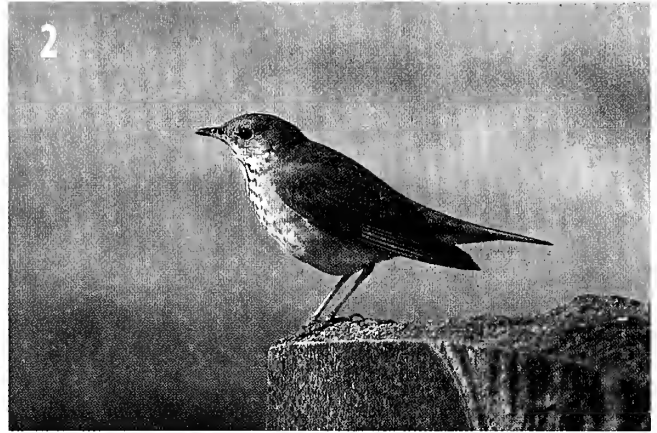
2 • A Cory's Shearwater had returned to Baja California's Islas Los Coronados for a second year by 24 April 2006 (here 6 June, with Middle Rock as backdrop). The limited amount of white on the underwings is consistent with the subspecies *borealis*. *Photograph by Marshall J. Iliff.*

3 • This Tropical Parula at Todos Santos, Baja California Sur 19 May 2006 was the first to be recorded on the Baja California Peninsula since 1924. Two of the three earlier records also came from Todos Santos. *Photograph by Marshall J. Iliff.*

4 • This Spotted Woodcreeper mist-netted 22 March 2006 at Montecristo National Park represented only the third documented record for El Salvador and the first since 1941. An individual of the species (perhaps the same one?) was found in July 2005 several kilometers away in the Honduras portion of the park. *Photograph by Victoria Galán.*

5 • Scarlet Tanager is a very rare transient in interior northern Central America. This male mist-netted in broadleaf tropical forest at Rio Amarillo 4 May 2006 substantiated the first record for the Department of Copán, Honduras. *Photograph by Knut Eisermann.*

6 • This female Mangrove Hummingbird, a Costa Rican endemic, mist-netted at Tamarindo Mangroves (date not provided) was the first recorded on the Pacific side of the Nicoya Peninsula and the closest yet to the Nicaraguan border. *Photograph by John and Maureen Woodcock.*



1 • This White-crowned Pigeon was photographed on 7 May 2006 at Gautier, Mississippi. The bird, discovered by Lillie Easterling in her yard on 29 April, delighted birders through 10 May. This is the first record of the species for the state; western Florida has a few records, but there are no other records outside Florida in the United States, other than a sight record for Texas. *Photograph by Ken Hackman.*

2 • Colorado and Wyoming experienced an unprecedented flight of Gray-cheeked Thrushes in mid-May 2006, including this bird in Fort Lupton, Weld County, Colorado, on 14 May 2006. *Photograph by Tony Leukering.*

3 • A flock of 19 Short-billed Dowitchers at Brunner Reservoir, Broomfield County, Colorado on 17 May 2006 represented an unprecedented gathering of the species in the state. Groups of more than three are remarkable in Colorado, underscoring the significance of this photograph showing nine birds of the flock. *Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore.*

4 • A Red-necked Grebe visiting Willard Bay State Park, Box Elder County, Utah 20 (here) through 23 May 2006 was the ninth documented in Utah and only the third spring record. *Photograph by Brian Currie.*

5 • This purported Northern Mockingbird × Bahama Mockingbird hybrid frequented Boca Chica Key, Monroe County, Florida for part of the winter and spring (here 1 March 2006). *Photograph by Carl Goodrich.*

6 • This White-tailed Hawk at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, New Jersey, was photographed there 25 April 2006; remarkably, this species was documented at two other locations in the East this spring, both in Massachusetts. *Photographs by Jim Gilbert.*



1 & 2 - This Kirtland's Warbler was found and photographed by Hans Spiecker 23 May 2006 at Gillson Park in Wilmette, Illinois. The last accepted Kirtland's Warbler for the state was from September 1996, also at a lakefront park on Lake Michigan. *Photograph by Hans Spiecker.*

3 & 4 - The discovery of this White-tailed Hawk in Hadley, Massachusetts 22-24 (here 24 and 22, respectively) April 2006 was followed within a mere five-day span by two subsequent sightings of the same or different individuals in New Jersey and Cape Cod. Unfortunately, only the Hadley bird was well photographed, so we will never know whether one, two, or three birds were involved. Note the broken primaries, typical of damage that is often sustained by captive birds. *Photographs by Shawn Carey (flight) and Bruce deGraff (perched)*

5 - This beautiful male Brambling visited subregional editor Kathleen Cameron's yard in Bellevue, Idaho on 8 April 2006 (here) and stayed for another eight days, allowing many birders the opportunity to see it. *Photograph by Kathleen Cameron.*

6 - This Sooty Fox Sparrow (of the *unalaschensis* subspecies group) at Whitehorse, Yukon on 22 (here) and 23 April 2006, provided the territory's first record of this subspecies away from its limited breeding grounds in the subalpine shrubs of the Coast Mountains. *Photograph by Cameron Eckert.*

7 - The white wisps over the eye and brownish tinge to the cap suggest that this bird is a Mountain Chickadee × Boreal Chickadee hybrid. Banded at Teslin, Yukon Territory 20 May 2006, this bird may well document the first recorded incidence of this hybrid combination. *Photograph by Ben Schonewille.*



1 • One of two found in New Mexico this season, this Kentucky Warbler frequented a beaver pond at Angel Fire (elevation 2565 m), Colfax County 10-16 (here 15) May 2006. Photograph by Elton M. Williams.

2 • This adult male Kirtland's Warbler furnished the twentieth record of the species for Point Pelee National Park, Ontario, on 21 May 2006; this location has more records of this species than any other site along the species' migration path. Photograph by Rosalee A. Hall.

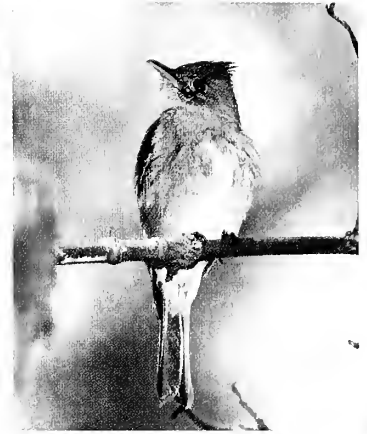
3 • This Short-tailed Albatross thrilled observers on a pelagic trip to Heceta Banks, Oregon 18 March 2006. Oregon has fewer than 10 modern-day records, and this bird furnished only the Region's second spring record, the first coming from the Puget Sound in April 1997. Photograph by Troy Guy.

4 • This year-old Whooping Crane from the Wood Buffalo National Park, Canada population frequented a marshy area near Niverville, Manitoba from late April into June (here 15 May) 2006. Whereas other recent sightings have usually involved migrating individuals and were rarely seen by more than one or two people, this bird attracted over 200 birders during its long stay. Photograph by Christian Artuso.

5 • This Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was one of several rarities that turned up at Fort Whyte Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba in May (here 5 May) 2006; it was about the 20th for the province. Photograph by Alfred Aug.

6 • This male Broad-tailed Hummingbird at a feeder in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba 16 (here 17) through at least 29 May 2006 was a first for the Prairie Provinces region and attracted birders from far and wide. The same feeder had hosted a Rufous Hummingbird in September 2004. Photograph by Larry de March.





- 1 • European Storm-Petrels were again found off North Carolina this spring, this one being off of Oregon Inlet 29 May 2006 (one of two seen that day). *Photograph by Michael L. Tove.*
- 2 • This Upland Sandpiper, one of two found in the Southern California region this spring, was at Galileo Hill Park in eastern Kern County, here photographed on the first day of its five-day stay, 4-8 June 2006. *Photograph by Kelli Heindel-Levinson.*
- 3 • In all probability, this Greater Pewee in Griffith Park, Los Angeles County, California 17 April 2006 had spent the winter locally. *Photograph by Larry Sansone.*
- 4 • Furnishing just the fourth record for Guadeloupe, this Baltimore Oriole was at Désirade Island 19-23 (here 19) April 2006. *Photograph by Anthony Levesque.*
- 5 • The highlight of the season in Texas was this Pacific Golden-Plover in transitional plumage, a bird picked out among hundreds of American Golden-Plovers near Edna, Jackson County 12 (here) and 13 April 2006. This exceptional find is the first for Texas. *Photograph by Martin Reid.*
- 6 • Marking the first record for Guadeloupe, a male Garganey (left) was with Blue-winged Teal at Le Gosier from 14 January (here) through 27 March 2006. *Photograph by Anthony Levesque.*



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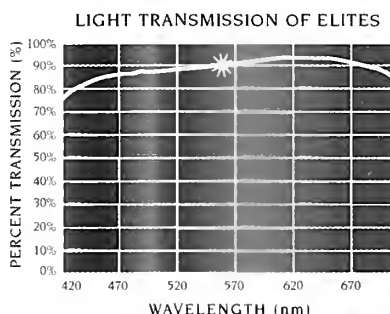
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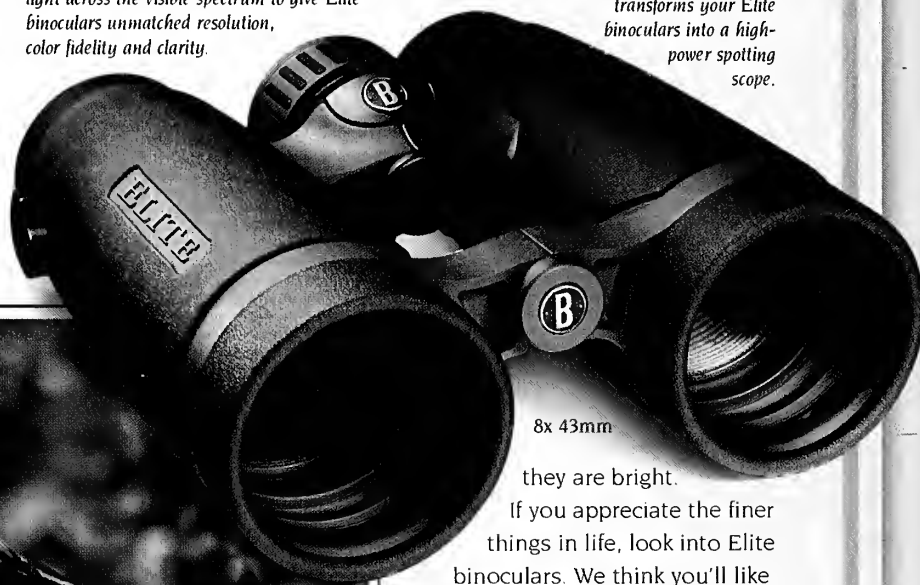
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